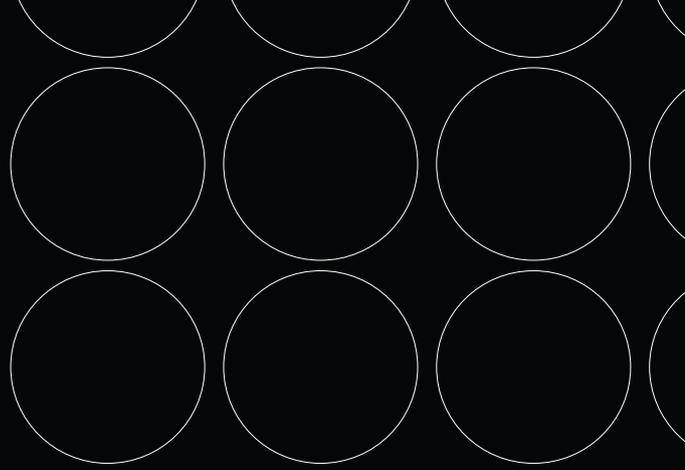
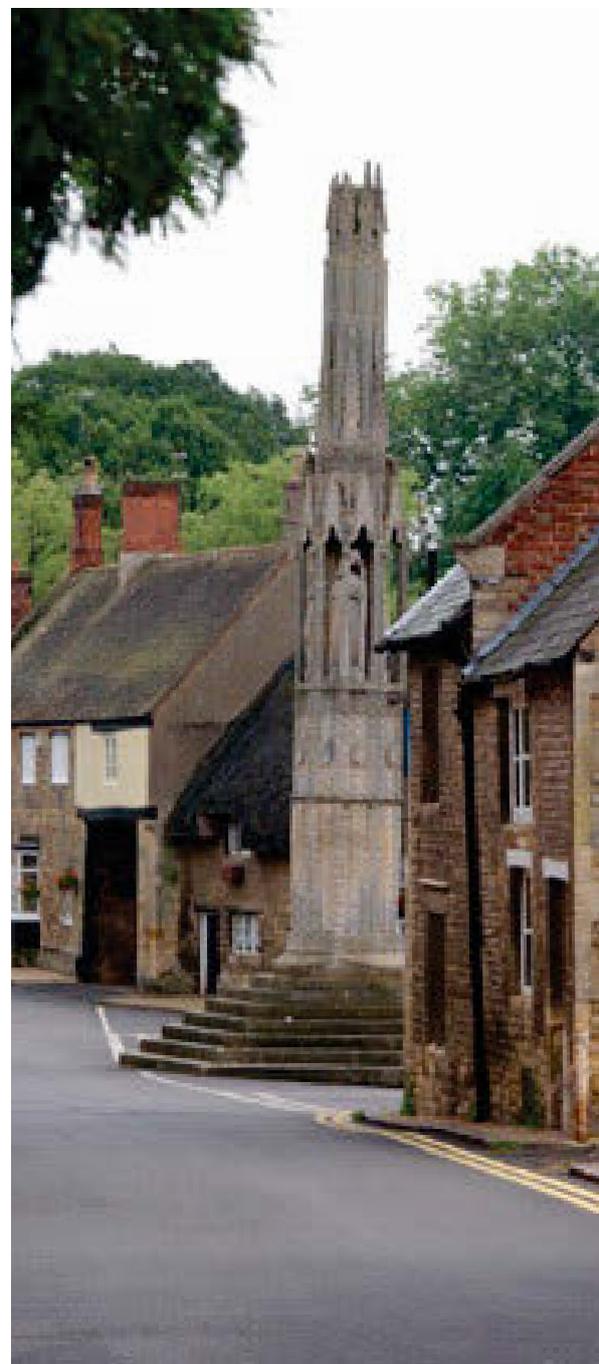


HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



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Queen Eleanor's Cross, Geddington

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 APPOINTMENT AND BRIEF

Northamptonshire County Council, Built and Natural Environment Service, together with consultants LDA Design Consulting LLP have prepared a landscape character assessment model for Northamptonshire. The overall model comprises three parallel assessments, Current Landscape Character Assessment (Current LCA), Biodiversity Character Assessment (Biodiversity CA), Historic Landscape Character Assessment (Historic LCA) which, informed by the Physiographic and Land Use assessments, have been integrated to form one overarching Environmental Character Assessment (Environmental CA), as well as being capable of standing individually.



Ridge and Furrow by the Jurassic Way

Northamptonshire Archaeology undertook the preparation of the historic model on behalf of the Landscape Character Assessment Team of Northamptonshire County Council. The work was begun in April 2003. This report has been significantly amended following an extensive peer review process, and has been edited to this final stage by the River Nene Regional Park Team for Northamptonshire County Council.

1.2 THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISATION PROCESS

The Historic Landscape Character Assessment forms part of a wider project that seeks to deliver an integrated, robust and transparent Environmental Characterisation of Northamptonshire: the Northamptonshire Environmental Characterisation Process (ECP) through the integration of three parallel studies, the Historic, Biodiversity and Current Landscape Character Assessments, to produce the county's Environmental Character Assessment (ECA).

The principal objective of the overall project is to:

- Develop key environmental baseline datasets that inform, develop and enhance the sustainable planning and management of the landscape.

Building on this principal objective, the ECA will:

- Enable the development of environmental planning guidance and joint environmental strategies, in conjunction with partners and stakeholders;
- replace Special Landscape Area local designations with a more objective character based assessment;
- inform the assessment of development proposals;
- guide the best use and targeting of initiatives and resources in respect of management, conservation and enhancement of the landscape; and
- demonstrate the value of a fully accessible GIS database to classify, analyse and model change.

Delivery will conform to the standards set out in the e-Government Metadata Framework (e-GMF, 2001) and data will be incorporated into a national internet metadata database, based on National Geospatial Digital Framework (NGDF) Discovery Metadata.

The ECA and its component assessments will be reviewed on a five year cycle to ensure that they incorporate the most up to date information, such as the results of wildlife site surveys, habitat creation or the effects of development. All three elements base their assessment on a single physiographic model, which acts as a reference for and link between each component of the Environmental Characterisation Process. A current land use dataset has also been prepared which, together with the physiographic model, provides the primary common baseline data for the three parallel assessments. The three separate assessments, which will also be published individually, have been brought together to form a single integrated Environmental Character Area Assessment and Map of the county.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.3 CHARACTERISATION IN PRACTICE

Characterisation is the process by which areas of distinctive character are classified, mapped and described, through the identification of Character Types and Character Areas. Character Types are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in several parts of the county but, wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of key characteristics and, in this report, historical land use. By comparison, Character Areas are unique and geographically discrete, sharing characteristics of the generic Character Type to which they conform.

An important feature of the character assessment process is that it is objective, with no judgment being made of a particular area's value or quality. However, attention is given to identifying characteristics that are distinctive, rare or special as well as the more commonplace.

1.4 THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment is in itself one of two complementary Historic Landscape Characterisation projects, carried out in partnership in the County. Brief details of the English Heritage funded, detailed HLC can be found in section 3.1 of this report, and the findings of this study will be published separately. The Northamptonshire HLCA seeks to analyse the general surviving historic character of the County and group areas of broadly similar character into Character Types, and then to sub-divide these into geographically distinct Character Areas.

1.5 PARALLEL PROJECTS AND SURVEYS

The Northamptonshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment has drawn on the findings of, and is complementary to, several relevant studies.



Braybrooke Medieval Fishponds

1.5.1 Northamptonshire Physiographic Model

The Northamptonshire Physiographic Model, produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of the Northamptonshire County Council Built and Natural Environment Section, was undertaken to provide a common primary baseline data set onto which the three primary environmental aspects of the Northamptonshire Environmental Characterisation Process could be based. The model provides the reference for and link between the three separate strands of the model.

1.5.2 Northamptonshire Land Use Data Model

The Northamptonshire Land Use Data Model, produced by Northamptonshire County Council Built and Natural Environment Section, provides the second of the common primary baseline data sets for the wider Northamptonshire Environmental Characterisation Process. The desk-based data is sourced down to individual field components and provides a comprehensive record of the current land use distribution and field patterns across the county.

1.5.3 Northamptonshire Biodiversity Character Assessment

The Northamptonshire Biodiversity Character Assessment is the first study of its kind to be carried out in the county. It builds on the Natural Areas approach developed by English Nature, which was developed to offer a more efficient framework for the planning and achievement of nature conservation objectives in England. It sub-divided the country into a number of Natural Areas based on the distribution of habitats, species and natural features as well as the land use patterns and human history.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.5.4 Northamptonshire Current Landscape Characterisation

The current landscape of the county is also subject to a separate parallel study: The Current Landscape Character Assessment provides a detailed record and analysis of the Northamptonshire landscape as it is today and a detailed understanding of the physical and cultural patterns that have influenced its development.

As with the Historic Landscape Character Assessment, the findings of the Current Landscape Character Assessment have been integrated with both the Biodiversity Character Assessment and other datasets to formulate the final integrated county Environmental Character Area map.



View of Lilford Park from Pilton

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The Historic Landscape of Northamptonshire has evolved over many thousands of years, and is the result of the interaction of human influences (physical, economic, and political) on the physical landscape. Section 2 discusses the latest hypothesis for the chronological evolution of the Historic Landscape of Northamptonshire and the methodological approach to the HLCA project.

Section 3 presents a classification of the 12 Historic Character Types, excluding urban areas, and the 58 Historic Character Areas. For each Historic Character Type a description of the key characteristics and principal physical and human influences has been prepared.

Section 4 of the report comprises a Glossary of key terms, followed by Section 5, which lists the Bibliography. Finally, Section 6, Acknowledgements, identifies individuals who made valuable contributions to the Historic Character Assessment.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.1 Introduction

The following summary offers a brief overview of the development of Northamptonshire's historic landscape. It outlines the main human elements and processes that have influenced the physical character of the county and is intended to serve as a background to the accompanying descriptions of the Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). Such a brief introduction inevitably misses out on the detail and complexity of the county's heritage but the works listed in the bibliography provide a useful source for more detailed descriptions and exposition.

Inevitably, any such summary is based on a subjective selection of criteria, and even using period based divisions, can perhaps be seen as enforcing a particularly view of landscape development. However, within this précis of the county's history, certain themes do emerge. Amongst them, for example, is the fact that in many periods the county is not considered a 'core' area but often stands on the periphery of activity or on the borders of cultural and regional influences. Also, throughout the millennia, the natural regions of the county have ensured a degree of internal diversification that might not be readily apparent at first sight. Of the regional areas, the importance of the Nene Valley and its agriculturally rich soils for settlement has always been significant but more generally, throughout the whole county, it is rural economy, which has often been the source of power and motivation for changes in the landscape's character and form.

2.2 Palaeolithic (C. 500,000 – 8,000 BC)

The natural landscape of the county today with its river valleys, tributary systems and plateaux of Boulder Clay geology was primarily shaped during the period of the Ice Age (known as the Pleistocene), which occurred between about 500,000 and 10,000 years ago. This 'Ice Age' in fact comprised a number of cycles of cold periods (glaciations) and intervening warm periods (interglacials). During the glaciations, rocks and other material were carried along by the ice sheets and then left behind when the glaciers retreated. These deposits became the Boulder Clay and other 'drift' deposits that now cover much of the county, whilst during the warm interglacial periods the melting floodwaters cut through these and earlier geologies to form the county's river systems. The rivers carried with them sands and gravels, which were then deposited in and along the valley floors. The cycles of warm and cold weather therefore saw the physical geography of the region change several times as Britain itself alternated between being a peninsular of, and then an island cut off from mainland Europe.

It was during the warmer and more hospitable interglacial periods that species of humans took advantage of the conditions to colonise the area that would later become the British Isles. In archaeological terms the period of the Pleistocene falls within the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), a descriptive term based upon the evidence of the stone tool technologies that these early hominid populations used. The period is traditionally broken into three stages called the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. Early hominid activity occurs in Britain from before 500,000 years ago when the ancestors of Neanderthals started to colonise the area.

Direct evidence for the later Neanderthals themselves, however, does not appear in this country until around 60,000 years ago. These periods of pre-modern humans fall into the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic.

It is not until around 30,000 years ago that modern humans (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) are thought to have arrived and displaced the Neanderthal population (*Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*). This era occupies the Upper Palaeolithic and elsewhere is associated with cave art and the use of bone and antler for tool manufacture.

Despite the appearance of humans, occupation of the country does not appear to have been continuous since some of the glaciations at their height would have been too cold to sustain their societies. There are consequently several periods of abandonment and it was not until after the last glaciation (about 10,000 years ago) that the British Isles became continually occupied until the present day.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

Despite these 500,000 years of (albeit intermittent) occupation there is relatively little evidence of Palaeolithic activity within the bounds of the modern county of Northamptonshire. A total of around 80 Lower and Middle Palaeolithic stone axes have been found, all of which came from secondary contexts, predominantly within the gravels carried along and deposited by the River Nene. Upper Palaeolithic evidence is rarer still, with only a single artifact having been found; a deer antler axe from Grendon quarry (Phillips and Kidd, 2004). The relatively small number of artefacts from the county may be due in part to the difficulty in recognising them and the fact that they are deposited in sands and gravels, which are often only exposed during mineral extraction. However, in some periods it is clear that this absence is genuine. In the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic, finds spots are much more numerous in the south and east of the county and it is possible that our region occupied a marginal position with regard to settlement for at least some of the period.

With such limited archaeological evidence it is difficult to build up a picture of the social structures which underpinned the lives of the early inhabitants of the county and it is tempting, but erroneous, to see them simply as a homogenous, unchanging group. Certainly the physical impact these people had on the county's landscape would have been minimal. Their hunting and foraging economy would presumably have seen small mobile family groups following animal trails and foraging within a home territory. These territories would probably have been based around the county's river valleys but survival would have required a deep understanding of the entire landscape and its varying resources. Although hunting and gathering can be a precarious form of survival the fact that groups lived in this way for so long (and still do in many parts of the world) shows that it is a successful strategy. Evidence from elsewhere shows that by the Upper Palaeolithic period exotic items (such as raw materials for stone tools and artistic objects) were being transported over long distances. Although the mechanisms for these movements are unknown they must have taken place as part of social exchange networks so that by the end of the Palaeolithic period we are probably looking at numbers of small family groups, operating over limited distances but with much wider social contacts.

2.3 MESOLITHIC (C. 8,000 – 4,500 BC)

The period known as the Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) is also characterised by an economy based around gathering and hunting strategies. The last of the glaciations had finished and the physical geography of the county would have been the same as today – dominated by the river valleys, upland watersheds and clay plateaux. However, as the tundra conditions passed, mixed woodland would have become established, creating a much more widely forested area than exists today, providing a more varied habitat for animals and plants.

In Northamptonshire, as in the Palaeolithic, the period is predominantly represented by the tools used by these people. The tool groups, however, represent a development on the earlier hand axe technologies. Mesolithic toolkits are more varied than their Palaeolithic antecedents and regional stylistic differences are evident. They are characterised by the use of smaller flint items called 'microliths'. The evidence for the Mesolithic starts to be found in the ploughsoil of the county and scatters of flint tools and flint debris have been found in many locations, most notably at Honey Hill near Elkington and at Duston. Northampton where large numbers of the characteristic small microliths have been found (Phillips and Kidd, 2004).

Despite the fact that these flint scatters have been located on field surfaces, very few undisturbed primary sites have been found. Exceptions to this occur at Towcester where flint scatters were located on a buried contemporary horizon and at both Northampton and Alwincle where small gullies and ditches, possibly of Mesolithic date, have been found in excavation.



Mineral quarrying at Bozeat

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE



Neolithic 'Langdale' stone axes

The social landscape of the time was presumably one of territories. Hunting and gathering would require an understanding of plant locations and animal herds. Mobility would be required in order to exploit these resources to the full. Despite the amount of woodland, especially towards the end of the period, studies have shown that the claylands on which the woodland stood were not totally avoided. The evidence from flint scatters suggests that the upper valley sides would have formed the core area for seasonal occupation but the occasional exploitation of resources on the Boulder Clay plateaux was also taking place (Clay 2002, 110). Natural clearings within woodland would have led to the growth of different plants and animal types and it has been suggested that towards the end of the Mesolithic the hunter gatherers were deliberately felling trees to open and maintain clearings in the forest (Clay 2002, 111). If so, this would be the first significant physical management of the landscape and marks the beginning of a major revolution that would lead into the farming communities which would dominate the area for the next 7,000 years.

2.4 NEOLITHIC (4,500 – 2,200BC)

It is from the Neolithic (new Stone Age) that more substantial physical remains start to survive within our county, albeit as buried archaeological sites. The stone tool technologies become more complex and the tools as well as the waste debris from their production are found both as surface finds and through excavations. These include items such as scrapers and knives as well as prestige or ceremonial items, notably polished stone axes. It is also in this period that pottery production starts and the first substantial funerary monuments and occupation sites are built. Evidence for all these artefacts and monuments have been found within the county.

The new technologies and constructional forms are set against a background reflecting a move away from the hunter gathering strategies of the Mesolithic and the introduction of farming. Initially the introduction of agriculture may have been little more than a development of the late Mesolithic trends of managing woodland clearances and herding animals. Certainly, the county would not have resembled the modern rural landscape with its large areas of neatly laid out fields. Instead, early Neolithic peoples would probably have continued a semi-nomadic way of life whilst maintaining small arable plots amongst the otherwise wooded areas (Chapman 2004, 26-7). However, as time went on the length of fallow seasons probably got less and the agricultural component of the economy would have intensified, a factor helped by the introduction of technology such as the plough.

How quickly this move towards a more static habitation occurred within the county is not at present known but what is clear is the major social change that agriculture produced. Whereas hunting and gathering is an 'opportunistic' economy, relying upon the knowledge but not the work of earlier generations, farming requires a commitment to specific areas of land over several generations. It is against this change in perception of the landscape that the archaeological monuments of this period and indeed many of those through to the present day must be viewed.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

The first surviving occupation sites in the county are the so-called causewayed enclosures. The name denotes that their oval or circular boundaries are marked-out by intermittent lengths of ditch. Originally an internal bank would also have been present. A major example was excavated at Briar Hill near Northampton and aerial photography has revealed another two at Dallington and Southwick. Rather than being a domestic settlement site, the Northampton example probably represents a central meeting place and although meeting and central places probably existed before, the more visible and permanent constructions of the causewayed enclosures make a statement about control of the landscape. Actual habitation sites were probably less substantial, leading to their archaeological remains being more ephemeral but pits and hearths from this period have been found at places such as Ecton, along with domestic refuse such as pottery (Chapman 2004, 36).

Briar Hill was maintained over many hundreds of years with the ditches being re-dug possibly once a generation (Chapman 2004, 27). This maintenance of specific lengths of ditch has led some to believe that family or kin groups might have been traditionally responsible for certain specific parts of such monuments (Bradley 1984, 28). This emphasis on kinship and tradition is also found in the other major monuments of the period: the funerary and ritual structures.

Across southern England the long barrow is the principal burial tradition of the period and unconfirmed examples are thought to exist within the county, mainly at the southwest end of the county. A single example has been excavated at Stanwick in the Nene Valley. These chambered tombs usually contain a carefully selected mixture of bones from a number of individuals and were only finally mounded over at the end of their use. The choice of human remains within these monuments is again thought to represent an emphasis on community and ancestors rather than the individual. However, Northamptonshire had its own burial tradition in this period; the oval mortuary enclosure and barrow (Chapman 2004, 29-32). Examples have been found and excavated at Aldwinckle, Grendon and Tansor. These sites began life as wooden mortuary houses enclosed within an oval ditch. As with the long barrows the final stage of their development was being sealed beneath an earthen mound. The location of the excavated examples produces an apparent regular pattern along the Nene Valley suggesting that each monument may have served an individual group or territory.

These monuments often form parts of wider ritual complexes. At Raunds a sequence of monuments including a long mound, an oval mound and a long rectilinear enclosure are part of such a complex within the base of the Nene Valley. They were designed to be conspicuous and would have played an active role in the social and economic lives of the Neolithic peoples.

Opinions differ as to whether we can spot degrees of societal ranking early in the Neolithic or whether it was a largely egalitarian society. However, by the end of the period some people believe that there are indications of conflict arising and there is a move away from emphasising the family and the community through to monuments that focus on the individual.

2.5 BRONZE AGE (2200BC – 1000BC)

The Bronze Age marks a period of great change in social organisation. The long barrows and mortuary enclosures of the Neolithic are mounded over, metalwork in the form of bronze and gold is introduced and distinctive and well made, highly decorated pottery appears. However, a degree of continuity with the past was maintained as Bronze Age burial sites are often found adjacent to Neolithic monuments: the landscapes of the dead continued to dominate the landscapes of the living.

The round barrow is the most distinctive and prominent monument of the period. Many are known in the county through aerial photography but only those at Woodford ('The Three Hills') survive as substantial upstanding monuments. The lack of these upstanding monuments is almost exclusively due to the long centuries of intense agriculture in Northamptonshire, which has seen the mounds gradually being ploughed out.

In contrast to the collective burials of the Neolithic period, these mounds represent the burial sites of apparently wealthy individuals. Excavations of such a barrow at Stanwick revealed the skulls of over 200 cattle heaped over the central burial chamber whilst at nearby Raunds the excavation recovered an individual accompanied by prestige goods including a highly decorated pottery 'beaker', jet buttons and a flint dagger (Chapman 2004, 40-1). Other excavations within the county have revealed similar prestige items including bronze artefacts, which demonstrate the presence of both long distance trade or exchange and craft specialization. However, these burials are generally not the most elaborate to be found within the county and it is probable that in the Bronze Age, Northamptonshire was at the margins of wealthier regions such as Wessex and later the Thames Valley and the Yorkshire Wolds.

In contrast to the highly visible monuments to the dead through much of the Bronze Age, the domestic settlements of the time are much less obvious. Only one possible occupation site has been excavated in the county and this was at Stanwick. Here the remains of what would have been a roundhouse set within its small field system were discovered - a reminder that the wealth of the tribal chiefdoms was being supported by a settled agricultural economy. Elsewhere, agricultural expansion saw the felling and clearing of many forested areas to create farmland and it is possible that the same is occurring within the Northamptonshire.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.6 IRON AGE (1000BC – 43AD)

The transition from the late Bronze Age into the Iron Age appears to have been a gradual process and the introduction of iron technologies may possibly have been a simple response to a shortage of bronze in the economy rather than an abrupt technological revolution (Bradley 1984, 131). By the time of the Iron Age, the large burial and ritual monuments of the Neolithic and early-middle Bronze Age had gone out of use and some centralised sites, which would subsequently develop into hillforts, were established. The millennium prior to the Roman conquest of the country would see a period of agricultural and population expansion and a consequential ordering of the landscape. In contrast to the Neolithic and Bronze Ages it is a landscape of the living, rather than the dead, which dominates the archaeological record.

The principal visible surviving monuments from the Iron Age are its hillforts. The county has at least six examples although other possible sites await confirmation. At Daventry, Borough Hill is probably one of the earliest in the county and certainly the largest since its multiple ditch systems enclose an area of some 54 ha. Other smaller examples occur at Hunsbury Hill (Northampton), Rainsborough, Guilsborough, and Irthlingborough. They occupy high ground and dominant positions and their defences were well constructed with timber strengthened ramparts.

It is likely that the hillforts represent, in their first incarnation at least, a physical response to a period of strife and unrest. Other early, defended settlement sites, the so-called 'ring forts', have also been found at Thrapston and possibly at Thenford. However, as the millennium proceeded a more settled situation emerged. Archaeological fieldwork in the county has revealed a plethora of settlement sites and attendant field systems which indicate a generally settled agricultural economy which would have exploited the majority of the county's resources, including the Boulder Clay plateaux (Clay 2002, 118). It is also thought that the middle Iron Age saw a switch from arable to a more mixed agricultural economy (Kidd 2004, 61). At Wollaston in the Nene Valley, examination during gravel extraction has uncovered a complete Iron Age landscape. This includes a sequence of land divisions, which start as linear alignments of large pits in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, which are later replaced by ditch systems. These boundaries extend for miles across the landscape and indicate a high degree of land organisation. Similar systems are known from elsewhere within the county.

Within these field systems sat individual farmsteads, typically comprising roundhouses set inside a ditched enclosure. Such middle and late Iron Age settlements, both enclosed and sometimes unenclosed, are found throughout the county. However, in some places there is evidence of the development of other forms of settlement. Excavations such as at Crick, Twywell, and Courteenhall have revealed much denser levels of occupation that suggest these sites are approaching what later might be termed 'villages'.

During the Iron Age it is these domestic settlement forms that predominate whilst the ritual, funerary and monumental aspects of the society become less obvious. The dead, especially, appear to vanish from the landscape. There are no major cemeteries and within the county only occasional isolated burials are found, often associated with settlement. These occasional burials have been seen as part of a wider process whereby possible ritualistic elements become shifted back into the domestic sphere.

The wealth that these burials represent suggests the rise of elite groups and individuals in society, probably creating what we would class today as chiefdoms. However, within such societies the acquisition, display and use of this wealth is very different from that in modern capitalist and market economies. Towards the end of the Bronze Age there is evidence of the ritual deposition of large groups of bronze and other artifacts in rivers and streams. One significant example occurs at the northern end of the Nene at Flag Fen near Peterborough but no certain examples have yet been found within the Northamptonshire county boundary. This later period of ritual destruction of items also coincides with the abandonment of the construction of round barrows and other monuments. Although still highly visible elements of the landscape, from about 1500 BC the round barrows ceased to be built and gave way to flat apparently unmarked cremation cemeteries. These sites are archaeologically very difficult to detect and, although several have been excavated in the county such as at Chapel Brampton and Kelmarsh, it is only usually through fortuitous discovery.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

For the majority of the Iron Age then, Northamptonshire appears to have been a relatively densely settled agricultural community. It was probably also in this period that the ironstone resource, which would have such a marked effect on the county's development in later years, was first exploited. The extent and character of this early industry is unknown but a number of possible quarry and smelting sites have been excavated around the Hunsbury ridge and it is likely that the ironstone and timber of Rockingham Forest and other similar areas were first exploited in this period.

By the end of the period in the first century BC the influence of the Roman Empire starts to be felt in the country. It is a period of change with growing tribalism. The south and east of Britain develop important trading contacts with Europe and enjoy an influx of prestige goods, new forms of pottery and coinage. Northamptonshire, however, seems to sit on the periphery of this activity and maintains its essentially agricultural landscape into the subsequent period of Roman domination.

2.7 ROMAN (43 AD – 410AD)

Prior to the Roman invasion, the area of Northamptonshire was a relatively densely populated, ordered agriculture landscape dotted around with small farmsteads occupied by family groups. Excavation has shown that although there was some re-arrangement of settlement in the late Iron Age and early Roman periods, generally the initial affects of the occupation did not greatly affect this rural settlement pattern. However, the impact and needs of the Imperialist market economy were to see the establishment and growth of towns and other nucleated settlements as well as an expansion of specialist production and an increase in agricultural output. In the three centuries of Roman rule, Northamptonshire would move from tribal exchange networks to become part of the global economy.



View from ramparts of the walled Roman Town at Irchester

The site of modern Corby. Minor branches to both roads are thought to have run through Nene Valley and other parts of the county. The line of Watling Street still survives in places as a green lane whilst the line of the Via Devana has been extrapolated from observations of the course of later routes such as the Gartree Road. Excavation has revealed causeways and routes across the Nene as well as the timbers of a Roman Bridge at Aldwinckle where the Via Devana crossed the river. As well as their functional aspect, the Roman roads must have had a psychological impact on the native populations. Certainly Watling Street would remain a significant landscape feature and social and physical boundary into the medieval period.

The establishment of towns in the Roman period was one of the more marked changes in the pattern of the landscape. The concept of a town was not totally alien to the native inhabitants of Britain. Elsewhere, large centralised tribal centres called oppida were developing prior to the Roman invasion and it has been suggested that one such may have existed at Duston (Kidd 2004, 57). However, the scale and composition of Roman towns, along with their stone buildings and architecture of Empire, must have been imposing to a county population used to the rural and the tribal. These places marked the first separation of urban, suburban and countryside in the county. Northamptonshire lacks the large, major towns such as were to be found at Leicester. However, the county did contain a number of small towns which developed either from existing Iron Age settlements or which sprang up along the road system. Only three of these county towns were defended by walls; Irchester, Bannaventa and Towcester.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

In the countryside, the establishment of villas would have presented a major change to the rural landscape. These stone-built residences were visibly different from the wood and wattle constructions of the native building traditions that preceded them. However, in many ways it was a change of form over substance, they were after all simply elaborate farm buildings and it is likely that in the early years of the occupation, their inhabitants were native chiefs assuming the taste and styles of the invaders. Many examples are known throughout the county from the simple to the elaborate and opulent. The fertile Nene Valley continued its long tradition of supporting agricultural communities and many of the villas are located along its length.

Although villas mark a significant change in the form of farming, smaller farmsteads continued to exist throughout the county often replacing their Iron Age predecessors. At least in the early Roman period there does not seem a massive shift of locations and excavation has shown that the exploitation of the heavy clay lands continued. Agriculture was now geared towards surplus and to some extent specialisation, for example in the Nene Valley excavations at Wollaston have revealed that extensive viticulture was taking place.

Although farming predominated throughout the county, the extension of the market economy encouraged diversification. Industry is represented in the county by pottery sites in the Nene Valley and iron working sites in the Rockingham Forest area. The scale and output of these industries is difficult to gauge and the extent of industrial manufacturing in the county has not been fully assessed. However, the excavation of kilns in the Rockingham Forest suggests that here, the iron industry may have been working on a scale that would not be seen again until the Industrial Revolution.



The physical conquest of the country was a necessity for an expanding empire, not least due to the need to increase its markets and gain new raw materials. Parts of Britain had been linked to this Empire through trade for several generations before the conquest but Northamptonshire does not appear to have benefited from this as much as some areas of southern Britain. Also unlike some other counties, there does not appear to have been a large early military presence in Northamptonshire leading some to suggest that the tribal rulers acquiesced easily to Roman rule (Kidd 2004, 62).

The initial impact of the conquest on the landscape of the county would have been the establishment of the road system and the foundation of urban centres. Although there is some indication that the road system may have developed along pre-existing routes, the imposition of a Roman communication system would have had a profound effect on the landscape. The roads served as links between towns and provided the method for effective control, communication and trade. As today, the county formed part of the principal communication corridor for the country with two major southeast to northwest routes running through it: Watling Street, the pre-cursor to the modern A5, ran from London through to Wales whilst the Via Devana linked Leicester with the Roman town at Huntingdon passing through



Reconstruction of Roman vineyards found at Wollaston

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.8 EARLY ANGLO SAXON (410 AD – 650AD)

The end of Roman Britain saw the collapse of the market economy and the resultant decline in the industry and infrastructure that supported it. It was a period of large-scale movements of peoples across the European mainland. However, the form these movements took, in relation to this country and whether we should view them as invasions, migrations or assimilations, is hotly debated. In archaeological terms what we see are apparently dramatic changes in settlement form, burial rites and the styles of pottery and other artifacts in daily use. These new cultural forms are closely linked to examples from other northern European societies of the time and, of course, the very language we use today is predominantly Germanic in origin.

The decline and collapse of the Roman economy and administration would have had a significant effect on the county's landscape. In the early 5th century AD the small towns of the county were generally falling into decay and disuse although there is evidence that they were still occupied to some degree. Similarly, in the countryside, although the villa sites had generally become equally ruinous, evidence from Nether Heyford, Brixworth and Stanwick suggests that occupation at these sites continued into the 5th century.

Industrial scale manufacturing stopped and items such as pottery returned to being locally produced, handmade wares. Stone building traditions were abandoned in favour of timber construction and in general the county reverted to a pastoral landscape. Overall it is thought that the population declined and there was a move away from the claylands with a consequent regeneration of the county's woodland (Brown and Foard 2004, 81).

The identification of Anglo-Saxon rural settlements within this landscape is more complex than in the Iron Age and Roman periods, for a number of reasons. Firstly, some of these settlements lie beneath modern towns and villages and are therefore difficult to explore archaeologically. Secondly, the small farmsteads that make up the settlements are not enclosed and generally have no attached field systems. This lack of boundaries makes them difficult to discern through techniques such as aerial photography. However, many sites have been located through recovering pottery from the ploughsoil during fieldwalking. The patterning of these sites appears to show that they favour the lighter soils of the county's River Valleys and are often situated in pairs on opposite sides of small stream valleys. Examples of these settlements have been excavated at many places including Raunds and Upton where the characteristic remains of sunken-featured buildings and post built structures have been found. In addition to these small farmsteads, early Anglo-Saxon material has also been found within hillforts at Crow Hill, Irthlingborough and Hunsbury Hill, Northampton suggesting some form of re-use of these dominant landscape features.

The most obvious examples of the change in material culture, and possibly peoples, however, occur in the cemeteries of the period. Two main rites predominate: cremation and inhumation. As in some previous periods, the cemeteries are usually located away from settlements and, therefore, finding them is often a matter of chance discovery. In Northamptonshire, the discovery of many of these Anglo-Saxon cemeteries occurred during mineral extraction in the 19th and 20th centuries and, therefore, their distribution reflects the areas' Ironstone deposits rather than presenting a true picture of their location. Burials were often accompanied by various ornamental dress items and other grave goods whilst cremations were placed in distinctively decorated urns. In other counties often one stylistic or artifact style dominates suggesting the occupation or influence of one particular group in that area (e.g. Angles, Saxons or Jutes). However, in Northamptonshire the more diverse nature of both the mortuary rituals and stylistic elements points to either a mixed population or suggests that Northamptonshire, as in some other periods, was located at the edge of other more core areas.

The small tribal groupings that made up the settlements in the county were subject to wider political forces in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. Britain was divided into a patchwork of small kingdoms vying for military and political power. The collapse of the Roman Empire meant that new alliances and trade routes needed to be established and at this time, Northamptonshire was under the sway of Mercia: a kingdom centred around what is now Tamworth.

Very little upstanding archaeology survives from the period. Although some individuals were buried under earthen round barrows, as with the Bronze Age examples, these have largely been ploughed out over the years. The influence of the period on the current landscape is perhaps more intangible. The names of many landscape features and areas probably derive from the early Anglo-Saxon period and the location of some of our present day villages can be traced back to this period. However, it was the political organisation of the landscape that probably remains the main influence of the period. This organisation developed in the middle Saxon period and went on to produce structures both physical and social that remain today.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.9 MIDDLE SAXON (650AD – 950AD)

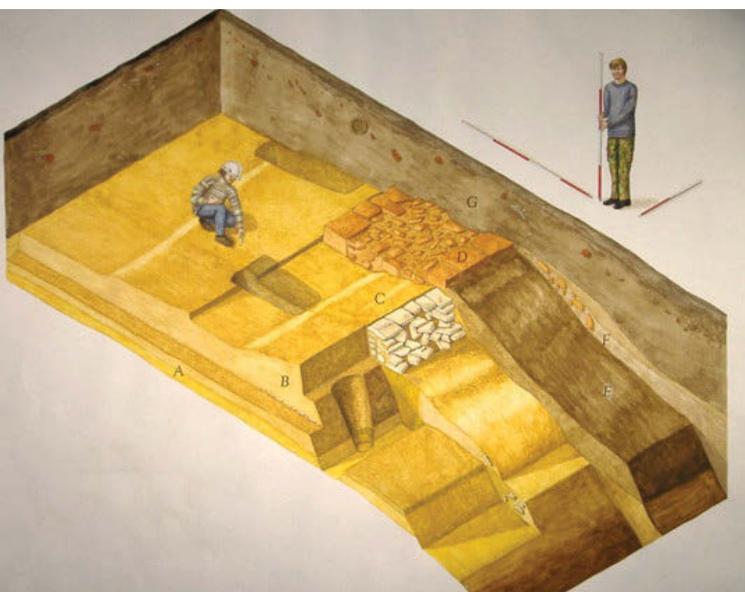
In the middle Saxon period there appears to be a shift in settlement within the county. Fieldwalking and excavation have shown that many of the small early-middle Saxon farmsteads move to new locations around the 8th century. This is not a dramatic relocation and may only be a re-ordering within established boundaries (consequently the phenomenon is often termed the mid Saxon 'shuffle'). It is many of these new locations that flourish and develop into medieval villages. Settlements start to become enclosed and the use of these physical boundaries may reflect a change in attitude towards a landscape where larger regional identities are being forged.

The movement of settlements may be connected with other social changes occurring at the time including the re-establishment of Christianity. The Mercian king Peada accepted the religion as part of a political process of alliances, which saw the expansion of his kingdom. In the archaeological record, Christianity is marked by the absence of grave goods in cemeteries and the abandonment of cremation as a rite. Initially, for the ordinary rural population at least, cemeteries appear to continue the previous pagan tradition of being positioned away from the settlements. However, by the late 7th and early 8th centuries newly established religious centres appear which would have started to attract some burials to them. These sites were part of a wider religious organisational scheme based around 'minster' or mother churches. The minster churches would have served both a temporal and spiritual function and were significant centres at the hearts of territories. Other administrative functions were performed by royal centres and the two are often to be found twinned within towns.

Such twinning of functions was the case at Northampton where an administrative centre was founded in the early 8th century around the area of St Peter's church and later expanded in the 9th century. The town stood at the centre of a prosperous road network and was part of a development of English towns at the time as national and international trade was burgeoning. Influence, power and prestige once more became displayed in the construction of monumental buildings and the importance of some minster churches was emphasised by their building in stone. In Northamptonshire two important examples remain at Brixworth and Earls Barton.

In the late 9th century Viking invasions saw the county cut in two along the line of Watling Street. Danelaw lay to the north and east and English control (now under the leadership of Wessex rather than Mercia) lay to the west and once more Northamptonshire became a border region. How much this physical division represented a psychological barrier is, however, unknown and the line perhaps demarcated more 'zones of influence' (Woodfield 1995, 56). In archaeological terms, the main physical effects of the occupation were the raising of defences around existing urban centres and the construction of new defended towns; the burhs. By about 910 Northampton itself had become headquarters to a Danish army and became a defended borough. The Danes also established a burh at Stamford on the river Welland. Apart from the archaeology of these defences, in terms of the landscape this dramatic period in the county's history has left little in the way of physical traces. The study of place-names perhaps indicates that Viking settlement was concentrated more in the north and east around the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire borders rather than the main stretches of the Nene Valley

The reconquest of the Danelaw by the kingdom of Wessex took place around 918 AD. The immediate result was to see the strengthening of defences of Towcester and Northampton and the subsequent carving out of a new county with Northampton at its centre.



Reconstruction of the sequence of defences excavated in Northampton

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.10 LATE SAXON AND MEDIEVAL (950AD – 1500AD)

The period from the mid 10th century up to the 16th century saw many changes and turbulent times – the Norman Conquest brought a major administrative change, the Black Death, and poor harvests brought with them major social upheavals. However, in terms of the landscape there is perhaps more continuity and a gradual evolution of rural settlement is evident. Many villages developed at this time, as did the agricultural system which was to last a further 800 years, and it is this period which has left the most visible earthwork remains throughout the county.

It is generally thought that the system of medieval agriculture had its origins in the late Saxon period. The middle Saxon emphasis on pastoralism had given way to a more mixed economy and some people believe that, following the re-conquest of the Danelaw, there was a major and deliberate re-planning of the countryside and the agrarian landscape.

The agricultural system, which had developed by the 13th century, was communal in practice and feudal by structure. Rather than owning individual large blocks of land, peasant farmers would farm strips of land scattered throughout the township. Because holdings were spread out in this way it was necessary for the arable land to be sown, tended and harvested collectively. The strips of land were grouped into fields and each community worked a two or three field system on a rotational basis. Pasture and meadow was similarly divided and exploited. It was the physical act of ploughing which created ridges marking out the strips of land and generally these were deemed demarcation enough. Therefore, few other forms of permanent boundary (such as the hedges employed today) were used and consequently the fields are termed 'open fields'. The ridge and furrow cultivation survives in many places throughout the county today with excellent examples at places such as Lilbourne and along the Welland valley at Ashley. The extent of ridge and furrow cultivation in the county reflects the large amounts of land that were brought under the plough in the medieval period. This reached its peak by the 14th century, when arable land often extended right to the edge of many parishes and indeed medieval cultivation can be found along the Nene Valley and at other places where one would otherwise expect there to have been permanent pasture or meadow land.

In addition, the agricultural expansion of the 13th century saw areas of woodland being taken into cultivation. These areas were termed assarts and often have distinctive, 'moated sites' associated with them. These small, isolated farmsteads with a surrounding moat have survived as earthworks in many places throughout the county, for example at Warmington and Stoke Doyle. Elsewhere monastic foundations also attempted to improve their fortunes by assarting areas of woodland, such as the monks of Luffield Priory in Whittlebury Forest (Steane 1974, 106)

The county's woodland played an important social and economic role throughout the Middle Ages. The royal forests of Rockingham, Salcey and Whittlewood were much more extensive than today, occupying a broad north-south corridor through the central part of the county. The boundaries of these areas, however, did not enclose exclusively woodland since the term 'forest' was applied to any area where forest law applied, and within them were set villages and their attendant arable and pasture land. Initially, the royal forests were used mostly for hunting but after the 13th century the importance of woodland as a source of raw materials such as wood for construction and fuel for industries such as ironworking grew (Steane 1974, 104). Separate deer parks enclosed by private landowners also occur and evidence for these hunting parks still survives in the form of boundary banks and ditches at many places in the county. In addition to the woodland, limited areas of heathland also survived within the county – although these too were not immune to the agricultural expansion by the 14th century. Where this poor quality land stayed out of arable production it was used as a source of fuel as well as providing areas for grazing. Although most such surviving areas were enclosed in the 19th century small pockets survive today such as at Dallington and Harlestone near Northampton.



1814 OS surveyors map of Deene Park

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

A variety of settlement forms existed throughout the period but, in Northamptonshire, the majority are classified as 'nucleated' and belong to a broad swathe of similar villages that ran through the central part of the county (Roberts and Wrathmell 2000, 49-50). The term nucleated refers to the clustered nature of dwellings within a settlement. Studying the layout and shapes of a village can often give clues to its development and related earthworks can also show where such settlements have contracted or expanded at various points in its history. Examples of differing settlement types occur at locations such as Puxley and Silverstone where more dispersed forms of settlement reflect villages growing up in the midst of forest land.

The medieval rural economy was a complex web of social and political contracts with the church and the manorial lord playing central parts in day-to-day life. Rights, duties and obligations were spelled out in legal codes and were upheld in manorial and ecclesiastical courts. The structure of the rural landscape, to a large extent, reflected these patterns. The principal economic unit was the township, which comprised a settlement and its agricultural lands, the boundaries of which roughly, but not invariably, equated with the later civil parishes. Within the township, further elements would have included manorial sites and attendant economic units such as watermills and fishponds. Examples of all of these survive as earthworks in many places within the county.

The open field system of agriculture persisted well into the 18th century. However, changes to the pattern of the landscape began in the 15th century when manorial lords enclosed some areas of their land in order to engage in sheep farming, an activity which was becoming more economically viable than cereal production. In some cases this resulted in the depopulation of villages and the earthwork remains of deserted settlements stemming from this practice survive at places such as Stuchbury, Althorp and Catesby. This early, enforced depopulation, however, was relatively rare in the county compared to other places throughout the country and many of the county's deserted medieval villages saw depopulation occur due rather to environmental and economic factors or later emparking.

In addition to secular and royal landholders, the church also owned large areas of the county. The minster system of the middle Saxon period was, by the time of the Conquest an old and largely outdated system. The Normans brought with them a revitalisation of Christianity and an explosion of new monastic foundations. These had significant effects on the rural landscape. In Northamptonshire, the earthwork remains of important monastic sites survive at places such as at Pipewell, Sulby and Catesby and the remains of their landholdings in the form of grange farms at places such as Cold Ashby and Cottesbrook. The establishment of new monastic centres was one important physical effect of the Conquest on the landscape. Another was the establishment of a series of defended sites throughout the county in the form of motte and bailey castles. These distinctive earthwork mounds (the motte) on which a defended structure would have sat and their attendant enclosed courtyard area (the bailey) survive in various degrees of preservation throughout the county. They are usually set in strategically useful positions, often guarding river crossings or overlooking large areas of countryside. Lilbourne, Alderton and Little Houghton all have prominent examples. At other locations, the castle sites developed through the medieval period and the original wooden fortifications were strengthened or replaced by stone, such as at Rockingham and Fotheringhay.

Against the background of rural development, the county's urban landscapes were similarly subject to the ebb and flow of economic and social change. After the Norman Conquest a period of economic expansion was followed, in the 14th and 15th centuries, by decline. The walled town of Northampton grew in importance during this period and managed to ride out the downturn in the economy, as did the former Saxon centre of Oundle. A contemporary site, Higham Ferrers, also flourished as an urban centre in the post Conquest years but, unlike Oundle, never recovered from the later recession and competition from the nearby market town of Wellingborough (Foard and Ballinger 2000a, 6). In addition to the older established centres and markets of the county, two attempts were made to set up new towns in the medieval period. At Brackley, a new town was established in the 12th century, which flourished enough due to the wool trade to become the second wealthiest town in the county by the 14th century (Foard and Ballinger 2000b, 7). However, competition and economic decline saw it fail in the later medieval period, never to regain its former glory. By contrast, Catesby, the other attempt at a medieval planned town, never even developed to urban status (Foard and Ballinger 2000b, 7).

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.11 POST-MEDIEVAL (1500AD – 1750AD)

The two great social upheavals of the post-medieval period were the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the early-mid 16th century and the English Civil War a hundred years later. The Dissolution saw the enforced closure of all the medieval religious houses in the county and the selling off of their land. Places such as Pipewell, Delapre and Fineshade ended up in private hands and their buildings became either ruinous or converted to secular use. The English Civil War saw battles affecting the major towns and garrisons of the county with the decisive battle of the war being fought across the open fields of Naseby.

However, it was probably less dramatic social changes, which would have the greater impact upon the physical landscape of the county. The rise of a new aristocracy in Northamptonshire was to see the creation of the large estates that would dominate the county for the next two centuries. The gentry emerged from the collection of small landowners, in the Tudor period, whose wealth gained from trade, sheep farming or royal patronage was used to buy further tracts of the profitable Northamptonshire countryside. Land had become power and this power was expressed in visible ways. Their houses were enlarged or built anew and surrounded by parkland and landscaped grounds. As with some monuments of the prehistoric period, the landscape was once more being used to express control and a sense of permanence. Many of the houses, parks and gardens that have their origin in this period such as Lamport Hall, Boughton House, Castle Ashby and Holdenby, survive today as significant landscape components having been developed and enlarged by later generations. Often associated with them are areas of early enclosure, since it was the large landowners who started to enclose areas of open fields either for sheep farming, the extension of their landscaped gardens or the creation of new deer parks. Many of the medieval hunting deer parks had, by this time, been abandoned or fallen to assarting. The new deer parks of the 16th century, however, were more often designed as breeding grounds for horses or simply as another element of the ornamental parks which showed their owners mastery of nature (Taylor and Muir 1983, 323).



Castle Ashby House from the parkland avenue

2.12 EARLY MODERN (1750AD-1945AD)

Although parts of the county had been enclosed for a variety of purposes since the 15th century, parliamentary enclosure starting in the 1720s would see the most extensive change to the character and pattern of the rural landscape that had occurred for several centuries. Later, the exploitation of mineral resources and the concomitant development of canal and rail transportation systems would see further physical changes that would set the pattern of development for the next century.

The motivations behind the introduction of parliamentary enclosure were many and varied. However, there can be no doubt that by the late 18th century, the innate conservatism of the open field system was proving to be a hindrance to plans for agrarian development necessary to maximise profits in an era of high land prices (Wade Martins 2002, 2). It was a time of technical innovation and agricultural experimentation and the communal system of farming, coupled with physically disparate landholdings, did not easily permit such improvements, even if they were not the main motivating force. Thus, many landholders sought the required Acts of Parliament to rationalise and enclose their landholdings. Within Northamptonshire the process of enclosure appears to have been reasonably equitable and although there were undoubtedly winners and losers in the division of the land, the overall system doesn't appear to have been overly weighted against the smaller landholder. The process of enclosure was a strict legalistic one with required stages for valuations, surveying, apportionment and appeals. The physical effects on the landscape were dramatic with the establishment of fences and quick-set hedgerows dividing up the former areas of ridge and furrow cultivation or pastureland and new, straight roads being introduced. Individual farmhouses and modern farm units could now be set out away from the villages in the middle of the newly established field systems.

It was a pattern of land management that would last for two centuries and the alterations to the landscape it entailed still form much of the structure of the rural landscape today.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE



Stoke Bruerne Locks, Grand Union Canal

The main period of enclosure occurred between 1770 and 1820. This was also the time of the development of the canal network in the county and the height of the turnpike road system. In the first part of the 18th century, the poor state of the roads in the county led to work being undertaken in order to make the River Nene navigable from Peterborough to Northampton. By the latter half of the century the route, which gave access to the coast, became fully operational. Its potential, however, was never fully developed. The canal system, on the other hand, became a more effective economic motor for the county and was first introduced in the 1790s with the opening of the Oxford Canal between Longford and Oxford. The Grand Junction canal was then opened in 1805 and various branches followed in the early 19th century. The canal system promoted a growth in industry, at least in the west of the county and Blisworth and Braunston, either side of the great Blisworth Tunnel, became two of the busiest inland ports in the country for a time (Steene, 261). Quarries were opened to produce limestone and brickworks and limekilns were constructed along the canal. The importance of the canal as an arterial transport route was also confirmed by the establishment of a military barracks at Weedon on a branch of the Grand Junction.

The very first railway lines were the small tram roads used for transhipment or connecting sources of raw materials with the canals. However, it was probably the establishment of the major steam railways from the 1830s onwards which sparked the most dramatic change in the industrial landscape of the county. The London and North Western Railway, opened in 1838, followed the traditional county transport corridor at the west of the county, in places running parallel with Grand Union Canal and Watling Street. Towards the east, The Midland Railway of 1857 connected Wellingborough and Kettering with Leicester. These, and the numerous branch lines which they spawned, saw the growth of villages and towns along their routes and the development of industries, principally the shoe trade and ironworking, which were to continue being major employers in the county for the next century.

As the towns such as Kettering and Rothwell grew and smaller settlements such as the boot and shoe centres in the Nene and Ise Valleys expanded, the rural landscape similarly changed. The railways with their cuttings, viaducts and stations had a dramatic physical impact on the landscape. The great ironworking quarries that they served expanded at the end of the 19th and early 20th century with the introduction of new machinery. In their wake, they left large areas of unrestored ground, typically in the form of 'hill and dale' landscapes, and associated tram and trackways. With a continuation of agricultural improvements in the Victorian period, farmsteads were redesigned and 'scientific' arable farming increased, reaching a peak by the 1860s.

The enclosed fields of the early part of the century were generally subdivided further in this period and similar to the medieval assarting of 600 years previously, some land was taken in from the county's woodlands. However, this high point of expansion was immediately followed by an agricultural depression that continued through both the first and second World Wars. The response was generally a return to pastoralism, a system which was only broken when arable farming was required in order to feed the nation during the years of the conflicts.

Aside from the taking in of land for food production, the two wars left their marks on the county's landscape in the forms of military camps and bases and isolated pillboxes, bomb stores and signaling posts. The largest scale establishments to affect the landscape were the Second World War airfields that occupied many of the flat Boulder Clay and Limestone plateaux of the county. Examples of these, such as at Wilbarston and Warkton, have subsequently been returned to agriculture with the newly created fields still reflecting the patterns of their earlier martial function. A less immediately obvious example of wartime installations is the military ammunition bunkers and associated railway system that lie hidden within Yardley chase.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE

2.13 MODERN (1945AD-2000AD)

Although areas of pasture had been taken into cultivation during the World Wars and relatively large quantities of woodland removed for raw materials, the rural landscape of the 1940s was not greatly different to that of half a century earlier. However, after the 1950s a number of changes came about.

In the countryside, agricultural developments, linked with new farming techniques, and latterly membership of the Common Agricultural Policy, would see a removal of hedges in the countryside in order to create larger arable fields. The most extensive of these occurred on the clay plateaux along the southern border of the county but the process itself was more widespread and many fields, some of pre-inclosure origin, were removed in the latter half of the 20th century. Along with them went many areas of ridge and furrow cultivation and earthwork monuments that had survived in areas of pasture now required for arable land.

The 1950s also saw a major expansion in the steel industry around Corby and a shift elsewhere from shoe production to light industry (Greenall 2000, 130). In 1960, the newly constructed M1 motorway joined the canal system, the railway and Watling Street as a fifth transport element passing through Watford Gap. For the next two decades central government focused on developing these communication and industrial elements in order to make the county a transportation and service hub for the country. The population of the county rose and, in addition to urban development, many villages saw the first major outward expansion since the Victorian railway boom a century earlier.

Despite the recession of the 1980s, the county continued to focus upon the service and distribution sectors of the economy and the landscape reflected this. Road systems such as the Nene Valley Way and the A1 – M1 link road were built and large depots such as the Daventry International Railfreight Terminal constructed. Since the 1950s a reinstatement programme had seen many former ironstone workings return to agricultural use and, with the collapse of the steel industry in the 1980s, the need for these quarries lessened. However, the boom in the construction industry from the 1970s onwards required new raw materials and the rich sources of sand and gravel, principally along the Nene Valley, were exploited. The extractive industries throughout the county flourished and it has been within these sands, gravels and other deposits that many buried archaeological remains from previous millennia have been revealed.



Reinstatement of mineral workings,
Summer Leys Local Nature Reserve



Helmet and sword of Saxon Warrior excavated
from minerals quarry at Wollaston

3. THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

3.0 Introduction

The historic character of the county has been variously described and summarised over the years. Antiquarian county histories and descriptions by those such as Baker and the Victoria County History were largely based upon parish or other administrative units and “focused on the parish church and the manor house; a natural tendency arising out of their frequently clerical and genteel origins” (Steane 1974, 125). More recent surveys have taken a wider perspective presenting period based, economic and social views of the county’s history (e.g. Steane op cit, Greenall 2000).

The largest integrated modern survey of the archaeological monuments of the county was undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments England in the 1970s. This parish based survey included descriptions of the surviving elements of the medieval fields systems and analysis of village forms, two streams of evidence which featured significantly in medieval studies undertaken in the county. As well as visible archaeological features, the Royal Commission volumes also included data on buried archaeological sites and evidence from fieldwalking and aerial photographs. This data was part of the burgeoning archaeological evidence that was being collected in the 1970s and which pointed to the density of settlement in the county since prehistoric times. The Commission volumes included discussions and analysis of the distribution of these monument types and a separate atlas of period based distribution maps was also produced (RCHME 1980).

In addition to the Royal Commission’s work there have been many further studies of individual elements of the county’s historic environment such as its historic parks and gardens and deserted medieval villages. The county has also greatly benefited from having a tradition of active fieldwork and study into the development of its agrarian history and landscapes by individuals such as David Hall, Christopher Taylor and Dr Steven Hollowell.

A number of studies have focussed in more detail upon particular areas or regions of the county. In the 1980s the English Heritage funded Raunds Area Project examined the historical development of a number of Nene Valley parishes whilst a similar project is currently being undertaken around the Whittlewood Forest area (Dyer 1999). A major landscape survey, complementing the County Landscape Assessment, has also been undertaken in the Rockingham Forest area. This latter project incorporates a major and very detailed HLC component (Foard et al 2003).

The county has also been included in regional studies such as Patrick Clay’s analysis of the prehistory of the East Midlands claylands (Clay 2002), the Leverhulme Trust’s study of settlement form (Lewis et al 1997) and the English Heritage sponsored survey of surviving ridge and furrow cultivation (Hall 2001). However, overall there has not been a major attempt to provide a general, broad characterisation of the county’s existing historic environment.

Following on from the English Heritage East Midlands Regional Research Frameworks process, a series of academic papers were prepared and published by Northamptonshire Archaeological Society in 2004 as ‘The Archaeology of Northamptonshire’ (Tingle 2004). This forms an invaluable review of the very latest thoughts on the development of the historic environment of Northamptonshire by practitioners and academics, but written for a non-specialist audience. This work heavily informed Section 2 of this report, and readers are directed to this book in the first instance for further detailed discussion or clarification of any queries.

3.1 The English Heritage Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

In addition to the Northamptonshire County Character Assessment, a parallel process of characterising the county’s historic environment has been taken up as part of a nationwide project sponsored by English Heritage. The English Heritage programme seeks to map “the historic dimension of today’s urban and rural landscapes” (Clark et al 2004). It uses approaches adapted and developed from the Countryside Commissions Landscape Assessment programme. Amongst the tenets of the HLC project is the belief that ‘landscape’ is a cultural construct that exists only in the present. As such landscape character is deemed to exist everywhere and not just in ‘special’ areas. The historic environment is studied as areas rather than individual sites and focuses on the general rather than the specific.

3. THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The output from the Northamptonshire part of this project will comprise a GIS database along with a written report and analysis. It is the HLC database that forms the basis of the Landscape Types and Areas produced for this Historic Landscape Character Assessment. A fuller description of the relationship between the outputs of the projects will be included within the HLC report.

The database comprises the entire county mapped as GIS polygons, each of which bounds an area of similar historical character. Data is attributed to these polygons within a hierarchy of levels. Each polygon is assigned to one of a small number of broad Historic Landscape Types and the general character is then described based upon its present day attributes. Where possible, its character during a period of previous 'time slices' is assessed and coded. Finally, additional interpretative data such as the origin of the land parcel and descriptive data such as the presence of significant historic features are added.

3.2 The Sites and Monuments Record

The Northamptonshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is the most up to date and comprehensive index of archaeological sites and historic buildings and landscapes for the County. Nationally the status of SMRs is recognised within Planning Policy Guidance Notes (or PPGs) 15 and 16, and they are thus accepted by Local Planning Authorities as the core databases for strategic planning purposes and development proposals that may impact on the historic environment. PPGs 15 and 16 are also used to ensure that new information gathered about the historic environment is fed back to the SMR to enhance its content. As well as computerised indexes and mapping, the Northamptonshire SMR contains supplementary materials such as published and unpublished reports, key journals and aerial photographs, which are available for public consultation.

Further detailed information on the historic fabric of any of the Character Areas listed in this report may be obtained from the County SMR.

3.3 Historic Character Type and Area Boundary Determination

The objective of the Landscape Assessment historic modelling was to divide the county into series of contiguous areas of similar historic character. The areas had to be defined by a set of criteria that could be applied regularly across the county. The process for producing these areas needed to be as objective as possible and also be capable of being repeated.

Compared to natural features such as geology or topography, the historic character of an area is a less precise phenomenon. Following from the HLC view that the landscape is a cultural construct, settling upon any list of criteria for characterising an area must be seen as a subjective process: no single definition can be seen as wholly 'correct'. It was therefore decided that for the purposes of this historic model the most suitable result would be that which proved most useful for the task at hand, namely a model which was compatible with the other elements of the Landscape Assessment.

Initial testing of the methodology showed that basing landscape character types on historic elements such as parkland or settlement form would produce areas of isolated features whose boundaries would be vague and difficult to define. The simple practicality of producing coherent and rigorous boundaries therefore demanded the use of a different set of data.

Historically, Northamptonshire is an 'enclosed landscape'. The unhedged open fields that covered the county in the medieval period were subject to enclosure from at least the fifteenth century onwards and after the great periods of parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries the county saw a landscape of hedged fields and attendant road systems established.

3. THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Unlike some other areas of the country, Northamptonshire has little surviving in the way of unenclosed land such as heath, common or uncultivated areas. Examination of the HLC database showed approximately 75% of the county's area is covered by polygons defined as 'enclosed land'. Settlement polygons were next highest covering approximately 7% of the area and woodland polygons approximately 4%. Other HLC Landscape Types all formed less than 2% each of the area. As such the principal defining characteristic of the Northamptonshire landscape was considered to be its fieldscapes.

It was therefore proposed that these fieldscapes would provide the most suitable linking factor across the county as their consistent presence would produce areas of sufficient scale to be compatible with the other elements of the County assessment. The smaller HLC landscape types and other historic data would then be used to provide descriptions and aid distinctions between the various areas.

Within the HLC model, the enclosed land was subdivided principally upon its form, degree of survival and date of origin. Consequently, it was decided to sort the fieldscapes based upon these criteria. The following Historic Landscape Character Types (HLCT) were created:

Non parliamentary enclosure

1. Pre 19th Century non parliamentary enclosure
2. 19th Century non parliamentary enclosure
3. Fragmented non parliamentary enclosure

Parliamentary enclosure

4. Earlier parliamentary enclosure
5. 19th Century parliamentary enclosure
6. Fragmented parliamentary enclosure

Modern fields

7. Large modern fields
8. Reinstated mineral extraction
9. Flooded mineral extraction
10. Modern fields
11. Fragmented modern fields

Woodland

12. Woodland

The two exceptions to using the 'enclosed land' polygons were HLCT 9 Flooded Mineral Extraction and HLCT 12 Woodland. Searches on the HLC Type Woodland showed that the occurrences of woods dating from the 19th and 20th centuries were too sporadic to form coherent HLCTs. However, examples of 'ancient' or 'replanted ancient' woodland were deemed to have enough contiguous polygons and to be significant enough landscape features to warrant their own category. Similarly searches on the HLCT type Water revealed that only examples of flooded mineral extraction were extensive enough to be considered as an HLCT.

The process for defining the areas was to use MapInfo to query the HLC database to select polygons fulfilling the criteria for particular HLCTs. The principal algorithms are presented in a separate Methodology document, although some minor additional searches and queries were used in order to resolve boundary issues. Pre-defined areas of urban settlement were excluded from the analysis.

The queries produced a series of maps showing the distribution of the various HLCTs. Contiguous areas of similar types were then subdivided into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). This was done on a visual basis with the criteria that individual areas should not generally be less than 1000ha in size. The HLCAs were then differentiated and further described based upon their geographic location and the presence or absence of certain historic features within them. Each HLCA was given a name based primarily upon their geographical location and a list of these is given in Table 3.1.

3. THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

HISTORIC CHARACTER TYPE	HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA
1. Pre 19 th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure	<p>1a Thornby – Watford Hills and Valleys 1b Brampton Brook – River Ise Watershed 1c Avon River Valley: Lilbourne 1d Holdenby Uplands 1e Rushton Clay Plateau</p>
2. 19 th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure	<p>2a Farthinghoe – Kings Sutton Clay Uplands 2b Nene Valley: Fotheringhay - Pilton 2c Charwelton Hills and Valleys 2d Barnwell Valley Sides</p>
3. Fragmented Non Parliamentary Enclosure	<p>3a Sywell Clay Plateau</p>
4. Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure	<p>4a Welland Valley: Dingley to Ashley 4b Bulwick Limestone Valley 4c Welland Valley: Duddington to Wakerley 4d Lamport – Moulton Uplands 4e Middleton Cheney Hills and Valleys 4f Nene Valley: Yarwell to Wood Newton</p>
5. 19 th Century Parliamentary Enclosure	<p>5a Easton – Collyweston Plateau 5b Welland Valley: Gretton - Harringworth 5c Naseby – East Farndon 5d Thorpe Malsor – Braybrooke Uplands 5e Crick Undulating Clayland 5f West Haddon – Harpole Uplands 5g Nene Valley: Irthlingborough to Wadenhoe 5h Syresham- Croughton Limestone Plateau 5i Tove Valley: Cosgrove to Towcester 5j Bozeat Claylands 5k Nene Valley: Ecton – Great Doddington 5l Nene Valley: Oundle to Warmington</p>
6. Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure	<p>6a Western Clay Uplands 6b Sibbertoft Plateau 6c Welland Valley: Middleton - Rockingham 6d Everdon-Badby Upper Valley 6e Kings Cliffe Plateau 6f Grafton – Warkton Clay Plateau 6g Southern Nene Valley Side: Hardingstone – Castle Ashby</p>
7. Large Modern Fields	<p>7a Titchmarsh – Lutton Clay Plateau 7b Hemplow Hills 7c Preston Capes</p>

3. THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

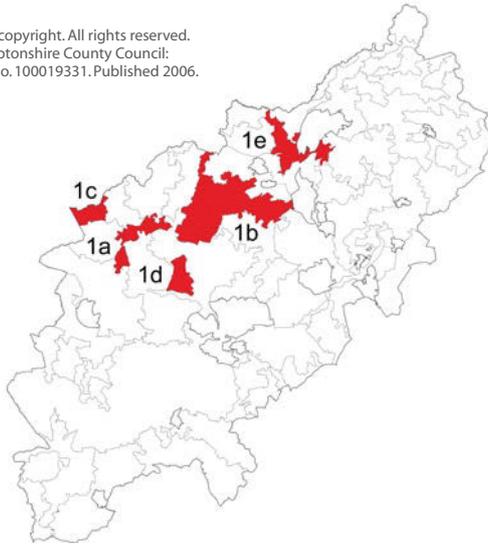
HISTORIC CHARACTER TYPE	HISTORIC CHARACTER AREA
	<p><i>7d Hackleton Clay Plateau</i></p> <p><i>7e Newton Bromswold Clay Plateau</i></p> <p><i>7f Nene Valley: Little Addington to Ringstead</i></p> <p><i>7g Ise Valley Side: Broughton to Harrowden</i></p> <p><i>7h Wilbarston – Brampton Ash Valley Sides</i></p> <p><i>7i Apethorpe - Blatherwycke Limestone Valleys</i></p> <p><i>7j Nene Valley: Irchester to Wollaston</i></p>
8. Reinstated Mineral Extraction	<p><i>8a Nene Valley Side: Wakerley to Weldon</i></p> <p><i>8b Lowick – Finedon Valley Side</i></p> <p><i>8c Newton – Rushton</i></p> <p><i>8d Nassington - Yarwell</i></p>
9. Flooded Mineral Extraction	<p><i>9a Nene Valley: Woodford - Grendon</i></p>
10. Modern Fields	<p><i>10a Brampton Brook Ironstone Uplands</i></p> <p><i>10b Cherwell River Valley: Warkworth - Aynho</i></p>
11. Fragmented Modern Fields	<p><i>11a Nene Valley: Dodford to Onley</i></p> <p><i>11b Leam Valley: Charwelton – Newbold</i></p>
12. Woodland	<p><i>12a Fineshade</i></p> <p><i>12b Salcey Forest</i></p> <p><i>12c Yardley Chase</i></p> <p><i>12d Whittlewood Forest</i></p> <p><i>12e Rockingham Forest</i></p>

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

HISTORIC CHARACTER AREAS

- 1a Thornby – Watford Hills and Valleys
- 1b Brampton Brook – River Ise Watershed
- 1c Avon River Valley: Lilbourne
- 1d Holdenby Uplands
- 1e Rushton Clay Plateau

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Upper ground around watersheds and heads of valleys
- Clay geologies
- Irregular field patterns
- Historic parkland and garden remains
- Isolated but well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks
- Small winding historic road and track systems

INTRODUCTION

The surviving pre-19th century non parliamentary landscapes are principally confined to the north-western part of the county and as such generally occupy higher ground, often around the watersheds and upper valleys of the River Nene tributary streams. They typically represent 18th century landscapes comprising irregularly patterned fieldscapes amongst which are set grand houses with historic garden remains. There has been little modern development and there are a number of deserted or shrunken medieval villages.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

The overall geology of the areas tends to be associated with heavy clays, principally the Whitby Mudstone Formation (formerly known as Upper Lias Clay) of the Northamptonshire Heights and the glacial Boulder Clay that forms the plateaux in the region. Exceptions to this occur when the areas cut across stream valleys where other geologies are exposed. These include small outcrops of Northampton Sand Formation ironstone in the River Ise valley and the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) of the Welland Valley.

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

Hydrology

Since the small tributary streams that dominate the upland areas of the county often form the boundaries to parishes and former townships, it is often the case that the watercourses also form the boundaries to the character areas. These sources of water would have influenced the location of grazing lands and also been a factor in the development of parkland and landscape features.

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

Although Northamptonshire is a landscape predominantly enclosed under parliamentary acts in the 18th and early 19th centuries, a significant proportion of the county was enclosed before this process began. From the 15th century onwards enclosure of the medieval open field systems was undertaken for a number of reasons, including agricultural re-organisation, the enclosing of homesteads, the introduction of sheep farming, and the establishment of parks and landscaping. More often than not, and in contrast to the parliamentary enclosures, it was a process driven by individuals rather than communities. Some but by no means all of these early enclosures were accompanied by the shrinkage, abandonment or forced eviction of existing settlements.

The geographical distribution of the course of pre-parliamentary enclosure shows some degree of grouping. The 15th century enclosures predominantly took place in the southwest of the county whilst the 16th century enclosures spread from the southwest up into the central northern region. The 17th century enclosures were more widespread throughout the entire county and including a small area of the Nene river valley. A number of factors influence these distributions including the suitability of the areas for pasture and grazing and possibly the suitability of the natural environment for ornamental landscaping.

Many of these areas experienced some degree of change in the 18th and 19th centuries as the needs of mixed farming saw many of the large pasture fields being subdivided. HLCA 1 represents areas of these early enclosures that have remained largely unchanged since the early 19th C. These are mostly confined to the central northern region of the county in a band to the east and north of the main urban areas. The factors affecting their survival are unclear but the absence of extensive mineral extraction, the distance from major modern route ways and patterns of land ownership, may all be factors.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldsapes

The early enclosure fields were generally large with curving hedges, following the line of the earlier medieval furlongs. Exceptions to this occur at Lilbourne within the Avon River Valley (HLCA 1c) and around Cottesbrooke (Brampton Brook – River Ise Watershed HLCA 1b) where straighter hedgelines were employed. In the 18th and 19th century many of these fields were again subdivided as farmers turned to a more mixed agricultural regime and the need for smaller fields emerged.

The resulting fieldsapes are not always readily distinguishable from early parliamentary enclosure but generally can be contrasted by their less regular overall patterning and the mixture of internal boundary forms resulting from their more complex history. Since early enclosure also included land that was taken in for parkland (either for ornamental landscape reasons such as at Cottesbrooke (HLCA 1b) and Holdenby (HLCA 1d) or derived from medieval deer parks, the internal boundaries may also reflect these features.

Settlements

As elsewhere throughout the county, medieval settlement within these areas principally comprised nucleated villages. However, there does appear to be a tendency for the villages (at least in their 19th century form) to be set out in 'regular rows' rather than clusters. This may be a reflection of the topography in that the settlements are often set out along the tributary streams of the area.

There has not been a great deal of modern development within the character areas, and settlements generally appear to have retained their 19th century sizes. This is presumably due to the lack of industrial or communication related development in the areas. However, there is evidence of change from the medieval period. Several deserted villages are present (such as at Newbottle in HLCA 1b and Stanford in HLCA 1c) as well as examples of shrunken or shifted villages (Lilbourne HLCA 1c and-- Winwick HLCA 1a). Holdenby presents the example of a complete depopulation and relocation of a settlement as part of the enclosure process (HLCA 1d).

Communication

In many cases, throughout the character areas, the pattern of 19th century route ways remains today. Although there are no definite Roman roads within any of the character areas, the line of Watling Street passes immediately to the west of HLCA 1c and the Godmanchester to Leicester road passes immediately to the east of HLCA 1e. The areas have been little affected by 19th and 20th century communication routes, a factor possibly connected with the topography of the regions. However, a small loop of the Grand Union Canal, and part of the London North Western Railway, pass through HLCA 1a and the M1 motorway bisects HLCA 1d.

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

Ridge and Furrow

Ridge and furrow earthworks survive sporadically throughout the areas. The best survival is probably at Lilbourne where quite extensive elements of the medieval field system survive beneath the later enclosure field pattern (HLCA 1c). Elsewhere ridge and furrow cultivation survives best in the parkland associated with large houses such as at Holdenby (HLCA 1d) and Cottesbrooke (HLCA 1c).

Monuments

In addition to the remains of shrunken and deserted medieval villages that are found throughout the area, other medieval earthworks are also present. HLCA 1e contains the remains of a major medieval Cistercian Abbey and the effects of monastic landholdings can be seen in the presence of earthworks associated with possible monastic granges at Cold Ashby (HLCA 1a) and Cottesbrooke (HLCA 1b). Further medieval structures are to be found at Lilbourne, which is unusual in having two motte earthworks within 1km of each other (HLCA 1c). Another possible motte is located at Cransley (HLCA 1b).

Perhaps the principal surviving monument type, however, could be regarded as the large houses and halls with their associated park and garden remains. These belong to the period dating from the late 16th to 19th centuries and, as such, are contemporary with the development and survival of other elements within the character areas. These houses dominate the upper ground of HLCA 1b and HLCA 1d and include amongst them fine examples of garden earthworks and other features at Holdenby and Harrington.

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

1a. THORNBY – WATFORD HILLS AND VALLEYS

The area occupies a significant part of Honey Hill, extending both eastward and westward along this part of the Northamptonshire heights. In the modern parish of Winwick, the area crosses a small stream valley where Lias Group clays are exposed. Elsewhere, Boulder Clays and some glacial sands and gravels dominate. The area forms the watershed for a number of tributary streams that both encircle and bisect the area. The settlements of Winwick, Cold Ashby and Thornby all sit on or close to these small streams. The varying backgrounds and development have led to a modern landscape dominated by lengths of straight and semi-straight field boundaries set in an overall irregular pattern.

The area represents the survival of a probable 18th century landscape only partially impinged upon by the later 19th century communication routes that dominate the Watford Gap area to the west. Modern development has been minimal and the settlements within the area are essentially of the same order as they were in the late 19th century. Previous settlement is represented by the earthwork remains of two deserted medieval villages, both of which had been abandoned or had shrunk significantly by the 18th century.

The origins of the fieldscapes lie in the late 16th to early-mid 17th century enclosure of the open fields of the area. The modern parish of Watford displays a complex history for, although in part subject to parliamentary enclosure; the majority of the area was enclosed in the mid 17th and 18th century. The character area lies to the west of the parkland and garden remains of the modern village but includes a series of fields probably associated with the deserted village of Silsworth which included both pasture and arable land at the time of their enclosure. Thornby, Winwick and Cold Ashby were all subject to early enclosure but the size and shape of their fields would suggest that they were modified in the later 18th century.

Ridge and furrow earthworks survive best around the villages of Winwick and Thornby providing the best surviving examples within this Character Type (Fig1). Elsewhere, isolated ridge and furrow occurs in the pastureland around Cold Ashby. Since the medieval open fields would have covered the majority of the area it is likely that the survival is due to the vagaries of land use. There are no major surviving tracts of ancient or replanted ancient woodland in the area but examples of 18th and 19th century secondary woodland (mostly coverts) are located around Cold Ashby and Thornby.



FIG 1: Pre 19th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure, Winwick (HLCA 1a) SP 6256 74436

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

The remains of the deserted medieval villages are evident at Silsworth in modern Watford parish and at Chilcote in Thornby. Land at Silsworth was enclosed in the 16th century and the site had become a depopulated hamlet by the 18th century. The history of Chilcote is unknown but it was certainly deserted by the early 19th century. Both sets of remains are in a poor state.

Of the present settlements, earthwork remains at Winwick demonstrates extreme shrinkage from its original medieval extent. Elsewhere, settlement earthworks are fragmentary although Cold Ashby also displays some shrinkage and contains the site of a possible monastic grange belonging to Sulby Abbey (SAM 17133). By the early 19th century the villages could be classified as nucleated clusters but the earthwork evidence suggests that in its medieval form, Winwick at least may have been a regular row settlement laid out along the stream valley.

The area straddles the eastern part of the Watford Gap that forms the historic transport corridor of the county. The area is partially crossed, but not dominated, by two elements of this transportation corridor; the Grand Union Canal and the London and North Western railway. Both elements were constructed in the in the early mid 19th century but had minimal effect on the visible landscape since they appear to have cut through the pre-existing fieldscapes and little altered them. Throughout the area the winding tracks and roadways connecting the villages, and running out into the fields, also appear to be little altered since the late 18th century

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold Ashby: earthworks of probable medieval monastic grange SAM 17133
Parks and Gardens	<p>Registered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Unregistered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold Ashby Hall parkland (non-registered) Flint Hill (Winwick) parkland (non-registered)
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winwick open fields - around village (1993 List A) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Grand Union Canal and 'canalscapes' Part of former L & NW railway, now mainline Northampton to (Rugby) Birmingham line. Part of - Northampton to Dunchurch turnpike (A428) Part of - Chapel Brampton to Welford turnpike (A5199)
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrunken/shifted village of Winwick Shrunken village of Cold Ashby Silsworth DMV (Watford parish) Deserted settlement of Chilcote and ponds (Thornby parish)
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

1b. BRAMPTON BROOK – RIVER ISE WATERSHED

Character Area 1b is a large area occupying the watershed and part of the valleys between the River Ise and the Brampton Brook. It incorporates both the high ground at the sources of these streams as well as parts of their respective valley sides and extends across the Lias Group and Boulder Clay geology of the area. Outcrops of Northamptonshire Sand Formation ironstone are exposed in places and these have been exploited for mineral extraction. Impressive garden remains survive associated with historic house sites.

The parishes of Cottesbrooke, Haselbech, Kelmarsh and Harrington all saw enclosure starting in the late 15th and early 16th Centuries whilst Draughton, Cransley and Orton were enclosed in the early 17th Century. Although both Oxendon and Lamport were subject to 18th century parliamentary enclosure, the fields within the Historic Character Area were all 'old enclosures' at that time and probably had their origins in the 16th Century.

Despite the presence of old enclosure, the area has undergone more recent changes. Areas to the north of Cottesbrooke Park have seen the removal of field boundaries to create large modern fields whilst land to the north of Kelmarsh saw the addition of fields in the 19th century. However, overall the area retains its non parliamentary character.

The area contains a number of 17th and 18th century houses or house sites with associated landscape features. Cottesbrooke Hall is early 18th century in origin. It was emparked and landscaped later in the 18th century but garden earthworks associated with the original house still survive within the park grounds, which serve to protect areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (Fig 2). Impressive garden remains survive at Harrington where they are part of an earthwork site representing a medieval manor enlarged in the 17th century. The present Kelmarsh Hall is 18th century in origin and is set in landscaped grounds that include a lake and a wilderness. The grounds preserve parts of the deserted medieval village of Kelmarsh. The grounds around Haselbech Hall are also thought to be 18th century in date and include 18th and 19th century landscaping features.



FIG 2: Pre 19th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure, Cottesbrook (HLCA 1b) SP 7110 7389

As elsewhere within HLCT 1, there has not been a great deal of modern development within the area. Some infilling has taken place at Arthingworth and Harrington whilst at Maidwell modern housing has extended out along the main road. However, overall the present villages are roughly the same size as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping. The villages in the area generally comprise regular row settlements although their modern forms may not fully reflect the medieval situation. At both Kelmarsh and Haselbech, there was a process of shrinkage and abandonment associated with the processes of enclosure and later emparking. In both cases the original village sites survive as earthworks and at Haselbech these remains suggest that the original village may have had a more nucleated form. Similarly at Cottesbrooke, the Royal Commission suggests that the surviving medieval settlement remains may indicate that the village was originally a polyfocal settlement. Also within the parish of Cottesbrooke are the earthworks of a possible monastic grange associated with Sulby Abbey.

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottesbrooke, 'Kalendar' monastic grange (SAM 13624) • Haselbech, medieval settlement remains (SAM 30070) • Kelmarsh, medieval settlement remains (SAM 30074) • Harrington, manor house, garden and monastic fishpond earthworks (SAM 133)
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottesbrooke • Harrington • Loddington • Cransley
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottesbrooke Hall Park and Gardens (Registered, Grade II) • Kelmarsh Hall historic park/garden (non-registered) • Harrington, The Falls (Registered, Grade II*) • Haselbech Hall parkland (non-registered) • Thorpe Malsor Hall parkland (non-registered)
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of Great Oxendon Open Field remains adjoining DMV (Turning the Plough /List A). Extends into 5d. • Harrington Open Field remains, adjoining fishponds (List C) • Cottesbrooke Open Field remains (List A) <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - Northampton to Market Harborough turnpike (A508) • Part of - Northampton to Market Harborough railway • Cransley Wood, Cransley Hall parkland with possible motte
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Oxendon DMV • Cottesbrooke, shrunken village remains • Maidwell, ponds and Open Field remains to W of village • Cransley, settlement remains <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WW2 petrol depot at Arthingworth (close to Kelmarsh) • WW2 Harrington Cold War Thor Missile site
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland wood • Blue Covert • Faxton Corner • Cransley Wood

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

1c. AVON RIVER VALLEY: LILBOURNE

HLCA 1c is on the northern border of the county. The area is bisected by a long east–west ridge, which is capped with Boulder Clay and glacial gravels. To the north of this lies the Clay Coton Brook, which drains into the River Avon valley. At the south is a smaller tributary of the Avon. The area contains two motte earthworks as well as well preserved ridge and furrow field systems over which the post-medieval enclosed landscape sits. The area takes in the whole of Lilbourne parish and also parts of Clay Coton and Stanford. Within the latter there are extensive remains of a deserted medieval village.

The history of the two mottes is unknown. One, called Lilbourne Castle, has an earthwork bailey associated and is situated very close to the River Avon. The second motte, situated to the northwest has no surviving bailey. It is presumed that the former was built to control the river crossing here and it may be that the second controlled the road link of Watling Street, which lies to the southwest.

The ridge and furrow earthworks are extensive and relatively well preserved. Along with these cultivation remains are earthworks representing shifted and deserted medieval settlements (Fig 3). At Lilbourne the remains indicate that the village has shifted from an original location by the river to its present position. At Stanford the site of the medieval village is completely deserted, a process that may have started in late medieval times and was possibly related to the enclosure process. Settlement is now centred around the 18th century Stanford Hall, a major house with an attendant historic walled garden and parkland.

The origin of the enclosure of the fields in this area was in the 17th century. Unlike other character areas of this type the layout of the fields is, in places, regular and perhaps demonstrates additions and changes in the 18th century.

The M1 motorway and the A14 trunk road sever the area whilst its western boundary, is formed by the line of the more ancient transport link of Watling Street Roman road, now the A5 Trunk Road.



FIG 3: Pre 19th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure, Lilbourne (HLCA 1c) SP 56360 7749

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lilbourne: motte castle SAM 13657 Lilbourne: motte castle SAM 13658 Stamford: deserted medieval village and manor SAM 145
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Stanford Hall parkland (Registered, Grade II)
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lilbourne Open Field remains (Turning the Plough /List A) Clay Coton Open Field remains (Turning the Plough /List A) Stamford Open Field remains (List A) <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Roman Rd and later road, turnpike, -Watling St (A5) Part of – C20th roads; M1 and A14
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay Coton, shrunken settlement remains (extends into 7b). Lilbourne, shifted settlement remains and possible mill (with Open Field remains above). <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

1d. HOLDENBY UPLANDS

This relatively small area is centred upon Holdenby but includes parts of the modern parishes of Church Brampton and Ravensthorpe. As at Lilbourne, the area is bisected by an east-west ridge, to the north and south of which small streams drain into the Brampton Brook. These streams form the boundaries to the area. The ridge is covered with glacial Boulder Clay but elsewhere Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays are exposed in the small stream valleys. In terms of its history, the area is dominated by the 16th century landscaping associated with Sir Christopher Hatton's Holdenby Hall.

The origins of the fieldscapes lie in the 16th century enclosure of the open field systems. At Holdenby this was undertaken by Sir Christopher Hatton between 1584 and 1587 but HLCA 1d also includes parts of pre-parliamentary enclosure at Chapel Brampton and fields associated with Teeton hamlet.

The small settlements at both Teeton and Holdenby essentially retain their late 19th century sizes. Although Teeton was presumably always a small hamlet, the original medieval settlements at Holdenby were demolished and rebuilt by Christopher Hatton as part of his landscaping works. The earthwork remains of these two separate medieval settlements are sparse and the major monument of the area is the garden earthworks set around Holdenby House - a 19th century rebuild of the earlier Elizabethan house.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holdenby: Holdenby House garden remains SAM 164
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holdenby
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holdenby House historic garden, ponds (Registered grade I)
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holdenby Open Field remains (List B) <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holdenby C16th deer park – traceable by field boundaries/hedgerows. Small part of – Northampton to Dunchurch turnpike
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

1e. RUSHTON CLAY PLATEAU

Located immediately to the west and south of Corby the area mostly lays across a clay plateau, part of the former Rockingham Forest, at the head of the Harper's Brook stream. Various east – west running tributary streams cut through the Boulder Clay. At the north, the area also extends down across the steep valley side of the River Welland where Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) and Lias Clays are exposed. There has been slightly more modern development within HLCA 1e compared to other areas of this type, a fact probably connected with the proximity of Corby town. The origins of the area within Rockingham Forest also contributes to more ancient and replanted ancient woodland surviving here than in the other areas of HLCT1.

The open fields of both Pipewell and Rushton were enclosed sometime in the 16th century whilst East Carlton wasn't enclosed until the 1720s. Unsurprisingly, given its position within Rockingham Forest, the field names of East Carlton contain references to assarting – the medieval process of clearing forest for agricultural land. This was a process that continued into the 19th and 20th Centuries when fields continued to be carved out of the woodland. Little ridge and furrow cultivation survives within the area.

The modern villages within the area mostly comprise regular row layouts. However, the medieval settlement pattern was more complex with deserted or shrunken settlements at both Pipewell and Rushton. The earthwork remains at Pipewell are evidence of an early abandonment probably due to the siting of a Cistercian abbey at the site in the 12th century.

Modern development has extended East Carlton out away from its original centre and along the B670 whilst Rushton has seen a degree of infilling. Both Little Oakley and Pipewell generally retain their nineteenth century sizes. The area includes Rushton Hall and its landscaped grounds as well as the later 19th century East Carlton Hall.

1. PRE 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

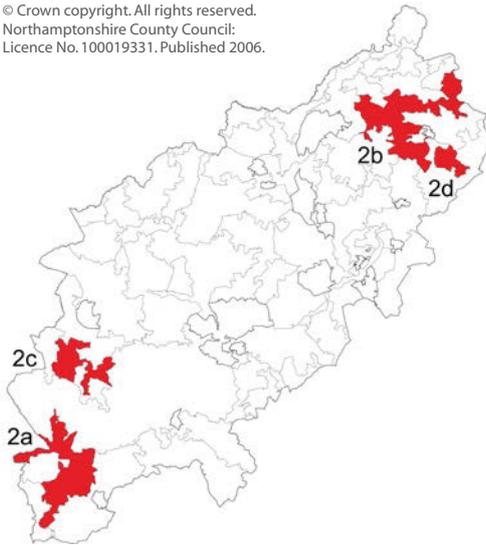
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipewell: medieval Cistercian Abbey remains SAM 30075 • Pipewell, Cistercian Abbey and deserted medieval settlement of Pipewell (SAM 30075) • Windmill mound, (SAM 96)
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipewell • Great Oakley • Little Oakley
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Carlton and The Old Rectory Parks (non-registered) • Part of – Rushton Hall park and gardens (Registered, Grade II*) • Oakley Hall park (non-registered) • Pipewell Hall (non-registered)
Registered Battlefield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient woods with features – Ash Coppice, Carlton Purlieus, Askerhaw, Swinau, Pipewell and Rawhaw Woods et al (see below). • Part of - Leicester to Hitchin railway • Part of – Kettering to Manton Midland railway • Part of - probably medieval London to Oakham route • Part of – Nottingham to Kettering turnpike
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Askershaw Wood • Carlton Purlieus • Ash Coppice • Broad Angle • Bar Coppice • Swinau Wood • Hedgerow Spinney • Pipewell Wood • Barrow Dykes Wood • Monks Arbour Wood • Rawhaw Wood • Alder Wood • Sart Wood

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- 2a Farthinghoe – Kings Sutton Clay Uplands
- 2b Nene Valley: Fotheringhay - Pilton
- 2c Charwelton Hills and Valleys
- 2d Barnwell Valley Sides

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Clay geologies**
- **Irregular field patterns but often with straight internal boundaries**
- **Historic parkland and garden remains**
- **Isolated ridge and furrow earthworks**
- **Occupies both high ground and river valley sides**

INTRODUCTION

The 19th century non parliamentary enclosures are located at the extreme eastern and western ends of the county. The former occupy parts of the broad valley slopes to the north and south of the River Nene whilst the latter occupy high ground overlooking the major valleys of the Rivers Leam and Cherwell. They represent areas of early enclosure that have been significantly modified in the 19th century. As with HLCT1, the areas contain historic houses and garden remains and several deserted medieval villages.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

The uplands at the west are principally located upon the Lower Lias Clays but impinge upon the Boulder Clay plateaux that cap some of the higher ground. Conversely the areas at the east of the county mostly sit upon Boulder Clay tableland except for where they extend across the river and stream valleys. Here limestones and the Oxford Clay Formation are exposed in the down cutting of the valley slopes.

Geology and Soils

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

Hydrology

The uplands at the west occupy the watershed for tributary streams draining into the Rivers Cherwell, Nene, Tove and Great Ouse. The boundaries of these character areas stretch out along the upper reaches of some of the streams creating an undulating landscape. At the east of the county where the character areas occupy part of the broader River Nene valley, the stream valleys are much steeper.

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

HLCT 2 represents major 19th century additions or changes to previous non parliamentary enclosure. It coincides with the agricultural improvements of the time and generally comprises the addition of new field boundaries to the existing fieldscapes. However, it also includes a small number of completely new fields or layouts created in the 19th century. These new agricultural areas were principally taken in from woodland clearance (assarting) but in a minority of cases included former parkland and 'waste' or common land. In a minority of cases earlier fields also had boundaries removed in the 19th century.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The fields are characterised by generally retaining their overall irregular non parliamentary character (see HLCT 1) but are divided up into smaller units with the addition of new hedge lines. As such they are often very similar in character to the areas of parliamentary enclosure of the same date but maintain an overall irregular patterning. These areas also include a background of non parliamentary enclosed fields which remain untouched by 19th century agricultural activity. The boundaries of some of these fields, especially around the Badby area, may be of some antiquity or at least preserve the line of earlier boundaries.

Settlements

Nucleated settlements predominate throughout the area. There appears to be an equal mixture of linear row and clustered settlements although possible dispersed row forms may be present at Charwelton and Southwick.

The medieval settlement pattern would have been more extensive with the remains of several deserted villages occurring throughout the areas. The principal reason for desertion has been ascribed to early enclosure for sheep grazing purposes.

Communication

The areas under consideration contain few surviving major routeways and as such can be seen as being slightly isolated - a factor possibly influencing the survival of the 19th century field and village forms. The former London and North Western Railway runs through HLCA 2b whilst branch lines of the later Great Central railway run through HLCA 2a and 2c. Both lines were dismantled post war but their banks and cuts still remain as landscape elements. The A605 trunk road that passes through HLCA 2b is the only major road present. Other minor roads preserve 19th century and earlier routes. The line of the Water Newton - Titchmarsh Roman Road passes close by to Barnwell village in HLCA 2d.

Ridge and Furrow

Remains of ridge and furrow cultivation survive around the villages of Charwelton, Badby and Catesby (HLCA 2c) with further examples occurring around Thurning (HLCA 2d) and Lower Benefield (HLCA 2b).

Monuments

The 'great houses' that are evident in HLCT 1 appear less frequently within HLCT 2. Examples do occur at Lilford (Lilford Hall) and Deene (Deene Park) both of which are set within historic parkland, and further examples of historic parkland occur at Barnwell (HLCA 2d). More plentiful are the earthwork remains of former manor houses and associated formal gardens such as at Greatworth, Farthinghoe and Thorpe Mandeville (HLCA 2a) Catesby (HLCA 2c) and Barnwell (HLCA 2d).

Earlier settlement evidence also survives throughout the area. In addition to a number of deserted medieval villages there are also examples of moated sites, motte and bailey castles and a single example of a stone castle at Barnwell.

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

2a. FARTHINGHOE – KINGS SUTTON CLAY UPLANDS

HLCA 2a Occupies the upper ground at the southwest of the county at the watershed of the Tove Cherwell and Great Ouse. The area is centred upon the modern parishes of Greatworth, Marston St Lawrence and Farthinghoe. However, the area also extends westward towards the Cherwell valley encompassing Chacombe, part of King's Sutton and Newbottle and northwards into Culworth. The area is a mixture of both unchanged 19th century fields and those with additional 19th century boundaries.

The majority of the area comprises a landscape created by the subdivision of existing fields in the 19th century. These are set against a background of surviving pre-19th century fieldscapes that are predominantly located at the west of the area. Although Marston St Lawrence was enclosed under parliamentary act, all the southern part of the parish had been enclosed since at least the early 18th century.

The remains of dismantled branch lines of the Great Central railway are the principal evidence of major communication routes through the area; otherwise the area is simply crossed by minor roads linking the villages. The villages themselves have seen some minor expansion since the 1950s with modern development occurring on the edges of their historic cores. The greatest expansion has occurred at Greatworth and Chacombe where small modern estates have been built on the outskirts of the villages.

Evidence of the former medieval settlement pattern of the areas is represented by the presence of several deserted villages. Earthworks relating to the former villages of Halse (Fig 4) and Stuchbury occur in Greatworth parish whilst Farthinghoe parish contains the deserted settlement of Steane. The former village of Trafford is located at the north of the area. Stuchbury was probably depopulated for sheep enclosure in the late 14th century whilst the Royal Commission reports that Steane had shrunk in size by the early 15th century. Trafford appears to have always been a small settlement but again may have suffered depopulation as a result of sheep enclosure by the 16th century. Halse survived as a hamlet into the early 19th century but, by the beginning of the 20th century, had all but disappeared.

Other earthworks in the area comprise medieval fishponds in or around Chacombe, Thorpe Mandeville and Stuchbury. Those at Chacombe are possibly associated with the site of a former medieval Augustinian priory. Significant 17th and 18th century formal garden remains associated with former manor houses are to be found at Greatworth and Farthinghoe whilst possibly earlier garden earthworks are to be found at Thorpe Mandeville.



FIG 4: 19th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure, Halse (HLCA 2a)
SP 5732 4020

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Thorpe bowl barrow (SAM13669) – part of wider landscape features in this village – see below
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greatworth Farthinghoe Newbottle Chacombe
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steane Park and gardens, Farthinghoe parish (non-registered). Chacomble Priory gardens/parkland (non-registered). Part of – Marston House (Marston St Lawrence) parkland (non-registered) and ponds. Farthinghoe Park (non-registered)
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stutchbury Open Field remains with DMV (List C) Chacombe Open Field remains - part <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greatworth medieval deer park – hedges mark part of boundary Part of – Great Central Railway (dismantled). Part of – dismantled Banbury to Woodford railway Part of – Welsh Road drove road Part of – Banbury to Buckingham turnpike (A422)
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trafford DMV (Chipping Warden parish). Trafford Bridge, mill and fields. Stutchbury DMV (and open fields), Greatworth parish. Halse DMV, Greatworth parish. Steame DMV, fishponds, Farthinghoe parish. Newbottle, DMV and gardens. Purston deserted hamlet and historic gardens (King's Sutton and Newbottle parishes). Farthinghoe settlement and garden remains. Thorpe Mandeville, medieval settlement, manor, gardens and ponds Chacombe, site of Augustinian Priory, fishponds and manor. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former stone quarries, west of Charlton village Chacombe WW2 Heavy Anti-aircraft gun site, part of Banbury GDA
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halse Copse Gooseholm Copse Forceleap Copse Robin Wood

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

2b. NENE VALLEY: FOTHERINGHAY – PILTON

At its western end, HLCA 2b occupies a flat Boulder Clay plateau overlooking the River Nene. The area extends eastwards down into the broad river valley towards Lilford, Nassington and Warmington where it crosses a number of tributary streams that feed the Nene. Within these stream valleys the underlying Oxford Clay Formation and limestone formations are exposed. The majority of the area was once part of the historic Rockingham Forest, a fact reflected in the frequent remnants of ancient and replanted ancient woodland in Southwick and Benefield. An even more complex situation pertained in the Lyveden Valley during the medieval period where fieldwork has shown that an extensive medieval settlement pattern. However, few visible traces of this settlement pattern survive today.

The core of the area comprises a group of parishes (Deene, Deenethorpe, Southwick and Fotheringhay) originally enclosed in the early – mid 17th century but which have had fields either extended or subdivided in the 19th century. Some areas within Southwick reflect the creation of new fields in the 19th century, both from areas of former woodland (assarting) and from former meadowland. The remainder of HLCA 2b includes parts of several other parishes that were 'old enclosure' at the time of parliamentary enclosure. These latter areas largely occur towards the edges of their respective parishes (Oundle, Glapthorne and Apethorpe). The overall character of the area is slightly fragmented by the presence of a few large fields where boundary removal has taken place in the 20th century and a wartime aerodrome at Deenethorpe. The A605 trunk road is the principal communication route through the area.

There has been some degree of modern 'infilling' of settlements within the area. This appears to have been on a relatively small-scale except at Warmington where post war development has witnessed the expansion of the village. Former medieval settlement is represented by the earthworks of a number of deserted medieval villages in Benefield, Cotterstock and Warmington parishes as well as moated sites at Warmington, Stoke Doyle, and at the north of Pilton parish. The sites of two former castles are to be found at Fotheringhay and Benefield. Sporadic ridge and furrow survives throughout the area, principally in pastureland immediately surrounding the villages.

Areas of historic parkland occur at Lilford (which was emparked in the mid 18th century, causing the entire village to be demolished) and Deene. Both locations also have large historic houses associated, but no garden remains. The boundary remains of medieval deer parks also survive in Fotheringhay parish.

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmington, moated site (SAM 13620). • Fotheringhay, motte and bailey Castle (SAM 13641). • Pilton, moated site (SAM 13634). • Stoke Doyle, moated site (SAM 13621). • Fotheringhay, medieval college (SAM 94).
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deene • Lower Benefield • Pilton • Fotheringhay • Nassington
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deene Park (Registered, Grade II). • Small part of Lyveden New Build gardens and ponds (Registered, Grade II*). • Part of – Lilford Park (non-registered). • Part of – Elton Park (Cambs). • Southwick Hall parkland (non-registered). • Fotheringhay Great Park – field boundaries/hedgerows mark part of boundary (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient woods with features – Southwick Wood, Short Wood, Oundle Wood etc. • Part of - River Nene. • Part of – dismantled London and North Western Railway, Blisworth to Peterborough.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fotheringhay, settlement remains (extend into area 7i), Little Park. • Warmington, settlement remains. • Perio DMV (Southwick parish). • Deenethorpe settlement remains. • Pilton, shrunken settlement and fishponds. • Stoke Doyle, settlement, pillow mound and fishponds. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deenethorpe, site of former airfield WW2
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollow Wood • Weldon Little Wood • Dibbin's Wood • Burn Coppice • Langley Coppice • Frere Hill • Stoke Coppice • Stoke Wood • Churchfield Coppice • Silly Coppice • Oundle Wood • Crow Coppice • Park Wood • Well Coppice • Short Wood • Southwick Wood • Holey Brookes • Crayley Wood

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

2c. CHARWELTON HILLS AND VALLEYS

Situated almost exclusively on Lias Group clays, HLCA 2b occupies the area known as the Charwelton Hills. Centred upon the parishes of Charwelton, Catesby, Badby and Fawsley, it also extends south into Preston Capes and parts of Everdon. The area includes Arbury and Ryton Hills, two of the highest points in the county. It has long been suggested that Arbury Hill is the site of an Iron Age Hillfort. The Royal Commission concluded that the supposed earthworks were in fact of natural origin however the case for or against the site's prehistoric origin has yet to be proved conclusively one way or another.

In general, the fields within area HLCA 2c were probably originally enclosed for sheep grazing between the 15th and 17th centuries. Changes in agricultural use saw the large pasture fields broken down into smaller fields in the 19th century. Badby, however, was enclosed under Parliamentary Act in 1779 but the area within HLCA 2c had been enclosed prior to this date. Parkland enclosure occurred around Fawsley Hall (Fig 5) and there are the remains of medieval deer park within Preston Capes' parish.

Settlement in the area comprises small villages that generally retain their late 19th century size. Only Badby has expanded slightly with infilling in the village occurring post 1950. The process of early enclosure affected settlement patterns with desertion or depopulation occurring at Catesby, Upper and Church Charwelton, Fawsley and Snorscomb (in Everdon parish). Remains of these deserted or shrunken villages survive as earthworks. At Catesby, there are also the remains of a Cistercian Priory that owned and enclosed parts of the parish prior to the Dissolution. These buildings were later turned into a secular mansion house and a formal garden dating from the late 17th century established. Earthworks relating to this garden still survive.

Ridge and furrow cultivation is present throughout the area but is especially plentiful in Charwelton and Badby parishes. Charwelton also contains a complex series of ponds and fishponds possibly of medieval and post-medieval date. Significant earthworks also occur at Preston Capes where there are the earthwork remains of a motte and bailey castle as well as the site of a separate fortified manor house.

The dismantled Great Central line is the only major communication route passing through the area, otherwise the road system comprises small winding roads relatively unchanged in line from the early 19th century.



FIG 5: Pre 19th Century Non Parliamentary Enclosure, Fawsley (HLCA 2c) SP 5677 5634

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston Capes: motte and bailey castle SAM 13635 • Badby: site of monastic grange SAM 17152
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston Capes • Badby
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - Fawlsley Hall landscape park (Registered, Grade II*). • Preston Capes medieval deer park – field boundaries/hedgerows mark part of pale or boundary (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of Fawsley Open Field remains (List B). • Charwelton Open Field remains (List B). • Preston Capes, Little Preston ridge and furrow (List C). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – dismantled Great Central Railway and part of Catesby tunnel • Part of – Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike. • Part of - River Nene.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Catesby shrunken village and part of park. • Arbury Hill, possible hillfort. • Badby village, settlement/landuse remains. • DMV of Church Charwelton; ponds. • Upper Charwelton settlement remains. • Little Preston, deserted settlement and manor. • Snorscomb DMV (Everdon parish). <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - possible boundary of A/S charter boundary may be partly traceable with field boundaries/hedgerows.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hog staff Spinney • Church Wood • High Wood • Hen Wood

2. 19TH CENTURY NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

2d. BARNWELL VALLEY SIDES

HLCA 2d lies immediately to the southwest of HLCA 2b. It is separated from the latter by a series of modern interventions within the Nene Valley that comprise HLCA 7a. The area predominantly sits upon a Boulder Clay plateau overlooking the River Nene, although limestone and Oxford Clay Formation are exposed in the Barnwell Brook valley that runs along the western edge of the area.

The area is principally centred upon Barnwell parish, which was originally enclosed in the late 17th century but also includes parts of Thurning and Polebrook parishes. The present day landscape represents subdivisions of the fields in the 19th century creating a pattern that has changed little since. The villages of both Barnwell and Thurning have similarly remained a constant size since the late 19th century. Earlier settlement patterns are represented by earthwork remains around the present day farms at Armston. As with Barnwell, the fields associated with Armston were also originally enclosed in the 17th century.

Within Barnwell village itself there are the remains of both a 13th century castle and earthworks related to a medieval manor house. The castle is believed to date from the late 13th century and sits within an area of registered parkland. The site of the medieval manor house also lies within registered parkland and includes the remains of an associated 16th – 17th century formal garden.

At the west, HLCA 2d also includes part of Thurning parish that was enclosed under parliamentary act in 1836. These fields are included within this Historic Landscape type since they were too small to form a separate area of their own. The date of their creation allies them more closely with HLC 2d than with the modern fields that surround them.

Ridge and furrow predominantly survives in the fields around Thurning, possibly related to the late enclosure of these fields. No significant routeways pass through the area but the line of the Water Newton – Titchmarsh Roman road passes immediately to the west of Barnwell village.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnwell: Barnwell Castle SAM 1. Imposing stone castle. Barnwell: manor house and gardens SAM 185
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnwell
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnwell All Saints Manor (Registered, Grade II). Barnwell St Andrews Manor (Registered, Grade II). Barnwell St Andrews manor – non registered park adjoining that above
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armston, settlement remains (Polebrook parish). Barnwell, former settlement, manor and garden remains (see also registered site above). Thurning, settlement, moat and associated open field remains. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cow Shackle Coppice Coney Geer Coppice

3. FRAGMENTED NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

3a Sywell Clay Plateau

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Upper ground around watersheds and heads of valleys
- Clay and valley side geologies
- Irregular field patterns
- Historic parkland and garden remains
- Replanted ancient woodland
- Little ridge and furrow survival
- Small winding historic road and track systems
- Modern Aerodrome

INTRODUCTION

HLCA 3 occupies a single location in the middle of the county between Wellingborough and Northampton. It sits upon the southern end of a Boulder clay plateau which itself overlooks the Ise Valley at the west and the Nene Valley at the south. It comprises areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure surrounding Hardwick and Sywell villages. The area is characterised by the presence of historic parkland, replanted ancient woodland and an airfield, which fragment the fieldscape.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

The northern half of the area sits on the end of a clay plateau which caps a north-south ridge overlooking the River Ise at the west. At the south, Northampton Sand Formation geology predominates around the heads of the stream valleys.

Hydrology

The area is a watershed for a number of tributary streams that cut through the Boulder clay and drain southward into the River Nene valley.

3. FRAGMENTED NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

The proximity of Northampton has seen significant modern development occurring within the area, principally in the vicinity of Overstone park. Further commercial development has occurred around Sywell Aerodrome, which was founded in 1928 as a private air club. During the war the aerodrome saw service as a pilot training ground and aircraft repair facility and has been in constant use since. Two areas of replanted ancient woodland (Hardwick Wood and Sywell Wood) occupy the north of the area. Hardwick wood was replanted prior to the 1880 Ordnance Survey mapping but Sywell wood appears to have been replanted more recently, possibly in the 20th century.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The fields within the area predominantly represent a pre-19th century enclosure pattern. The open fields within Hardwick parish were enclosed in the early 17th century whilst those of Sywell were enclosed 100 years later (Fig 6). Overstone was one of the first parishes to be enclosed under Parliamentary Act in 1727, however much of the parish was already enclosed at this time. The parts of the parish that lie within HLCA 3a represent either these 'old enclosures' or Overstone Park, a small medieval park which was altered over the years before being expanded to its current size in the early 19th century.

Settlements

Although both Hardwick and Sywell have retained their small late 19th century sizes there has been considerable post 1950s ribbon development out from Overstone. Overstone village itself was moved to its current location sometime in the early 18th century and the remains of the earlier medieval village survive within the bounds of the Overstone Park. As elsewhere, earthworks associated with earlier stages of village development survive in and around both Hardwick and Sywell.

Communication

No major communication routes pass through the area and the line of the road system remains much as it was in the early 19th century.

Ridge and Furrow

Little ridge and furrow survives in the area.

Monuments

The principal historic monuments comprise the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval village at Overstone and further earthworks of an Elizabethan knot Garden associated with the 16th century manor house at Hardwick.



FIG 6: Fragmented Non Parliamentary Enclosure, Sywell (HLCA 3a) SP 8366 6953

3. FRAGMENTED NON PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

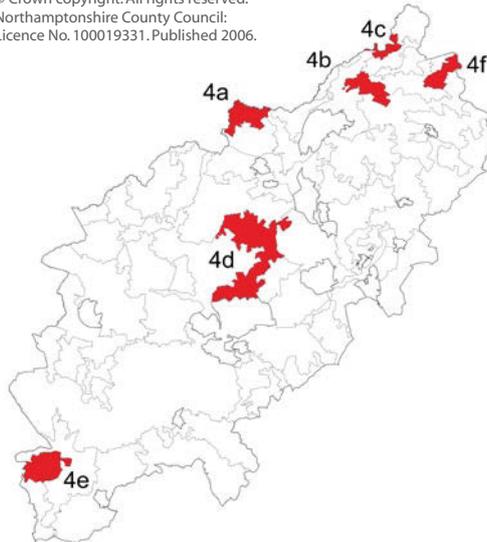
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sywell
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overstone Park with deserted village of Overstone and garden remains (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwick and Sywell Woods – ancient woodland. • Part of – Northampton to Kettering turnpike (A43)
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwick, settlement, ponds and garden remains. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sywell aerodrome with WW2 defences.
Ancient and replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwick Wood • Sywell Wood

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- 4a Welland Valley: Dingley to Ashley
- 4b Bulwick Limestone Valley
- 4c Welland Valley: Duddington to Wakerley
- 4d Lamport – Moulton Uplands
- 4e Middleton Cheney Hills and Valleys
- 4f Nene Valley: Yarwell to Wood Newton

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Regular patterned fieldscapes**
- **Straight hedgerows and regular straight road systems**
- **Little survival of ancient or replanted ancient woodland**
- **Few historic ornamental parks but the remnants of some medieval deer parks**
- **No major earthworks of deserted medieval settlements surviving**
- **Few major modern communication routes**

INTRODUCTION

Four of the six areas of Parliamentary Enclosure are located at the extreme north of the county, on or close to the major valleys of the Rivers Welland and Nene. The fifth area occupies a north to south swathe through the centre of the county whilst the sixth is an outlying example located in the southeast. The areas represent landscapes that preserve the layout of parliamentary enclosure of the 18th and early 19th century. These areas generally comprise regularly laid out field systems with contemporary farmsteads and road systems. There are few upstanding earthwork monuments, large historic houses or ancient woodland surviving.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

A variety of geologies occur across the Character Areas and it is unlikely that geology alone was a determining factor in the location of parliamentary enclosure. Generally the areas occupy clay soils. The highest areas occupy glacial caps of Boulder Clay whilst areas on the valley sides and around tributary streams exhibit Lias Group deposits. The Northampton Sand Formation predominates in the Lamport - Moulton Uplands (HLCA 4d) in the centre of the county, whilst Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) is exposed in the sides of the Bulwick Limestone Valley (HLCA 4b).

Geology and Soils

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

Hydrology

The northernmost of the character areas occupy the slopes and floors of the major river valleys of the Welland and Nene. These areas have tributary streams draining down through them into the main valleys. The Bulwick Limestone Valley (HLCA 4b) straddles the Willow Brook whilst the Lamport - Moulton Uplands (HLCA 4d) is cut by the upper reaches of a number of streams draining down into the Brampton Brook. These latter streams help define the shapes of the parishes which they border.

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

Most of the county's open field systems had been enclosed for a number of reasons since the 15th century. However, the majority of the Northamptonshire countryside became enclosed under Acts of Parliament in the 18th and 19th centuries. In contrast to the earlier periods when enclosure was generally undertaken by individual landowners parliamentary enclosure required the agreement of all landowners and therefore had to be a more communal decision.

The reasons for the expansion of enclosure in this period are varied but generally based on economic criteria; the necessity of increasing cereal production, the desire to increase land values and the need to bring in more effective methods of agriculture. It resulted in the abandonment of the previous communal farming system in favour of individual farms each working their own private land.

The main period of enclosure lay in the century between 1730 and 1820 with peaks of activity in the 1770s and the 1810s. Since well over half the county was enclosed under parliamentary act, the distribution of the townships and parishes involved was widespread and no significant patterning is easily determinable in the progression of the process. Sometimes neighbouring parishes, possibly due to shared land ownership, often became enclosed at the same time and so concentrations of similarly dated fieldscapes emerge, however it is also the case that adjacent townships could see several generations difference in the date of their enclosure.

Unlike some of the private enclosures of the preceding centuries the parliamentary enclosures did not include the forcible depopulation of settlements, although there were instance of economic dislocation for some groups of people. The process was rigorously legalistic and each Act required groups of commissioners, surveyors, valuers and other officers to be set up to carry out the enclosures.

The Parliamentary Enclosure Character Area represents areas where the fieldscapes preserve the initial process of enclosure up to the early 19th century. It does not include areas that saw extensive 19th century additions or the few examples of parliamentary enclosure that occurred after the 1820s.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The method of enclosure produced distinctive fieldscapes. Since the process of enclosing large areas of what were open fields needed to be done rapidly, quick-set hedgerows were laid down. The layout of the fields was designed on the surveyor's drawing board resulting in straight boundaries, often (but not exclusively) in neat geometric patterns that cut across the preceding ridge and furrow strip cultivation (most evident in the Welland Valley: Dingley to Ashley Character Area HLCA 4a). The initial layout of large allotments was often quickly followed by individual farmers subdividing their land into medium sized fields and establishing farmsteads and houses away from the village in the middle of their private land. These farmsteads and fields were linked by a series of regular straight roads.

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

Settlements

Generally the villages and settlements within the area have retained their 19th century sizes with only minor modern expansion. Exceptions to this occur in the Lamport – Moulton Uplands (HLCA 4d) where Moulton and Boughton have expanded, presumably due to their proximity to Northampton, and at Middleton Cheney (HLCA 4e) where two separate villages have grown into one single settlement.

The modern settlement pattern generally equates with that of the medieval period. A deserted hamlet occurs at Henwick in the Bulwick Limestone Valley (HLCA 4b) and two deserted medieval villages are located at Faxton and Boughton Green in the Lamport – Moulton Uplands (HLCA 4d) but other settlement remains are generally located around the existing villages. The lack of earthworks of deserted medieval villages compared to areas of non parliamentary enclosure (HLCT 1) is partially due to the fact that the pre-parliamentary enclosure was, in places, responsible for settlement desertion and shrinkage. Parliamentary enclosure, on the other hand, was based around active farming communities and, although many farmsteads were moved away from the village centres, the settlements themselves continued to function.

Village forms in this Character Type are of both linear and nucleated types and it seems unlikely that there is a direct correlation between parliamentary enclosure practice and medieval settlement layout.

Communication

There are generally few major transport links through the area with the communication routes generally comprising enclosure and earlier road systems. This lack of major modern transportation may be linked to the survival of the fieldscapes and the general undeveloped nature of many of the villages.

The only major modern routeway present is the A43 trunk road, although the earthwork remains of the Rugby to Peterborough section of the London and North Western Railway do survive in places.

Ridge and Furrow

The most extensive ridge and furrow survive within the Welland Valley: Dingley to Ashley character area (HLCA 4a). Elsewhere only sporadic isolated examples survive.

Monuments

Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the areas are rare, a reflection of the more general absence of upstanding earthworks or similar monuments. However, there are examples of prehistoric earthworks at Harringworth (Bulwick Limestone Valley, HLCA 4b) and Arberry Hill (Middleton Cheney Hills and Valleys HLCA, 4e). A possible Barrow also exists at Boughton (HLCA 4d). Medieval earthworks general comprise minor remains associated with settlements but there are possible watermill sites at Thenford (Middleton Cheney Hills and Valleys HLCA 4e) and at Holcot (Lamport - Moulton Uplands HLCA 4d) and the boundary banks of a former medieval deer park occur in Harringworth.

By the nature of parliamentary enclosure there are fewer historic houses and gardens within the character areas. However, the 17th – 18th century Bulwick Hall (Bulwick Limestone Valley HLCA 4b) stands within ornamental parkland and there is a collection of 18th century follies within the bounds of Boughton Park.

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

4a. WELLAND VALLEY: DINGLEY TO ASHLEY

HLCA 4a is located at the north of the county along the sides and base of the Welland Valley and incorporates the parishes of Weston, Ashley and Sutton Bassett. A small part of Dingley parish, which was pre-parliamentary enclosure, is included within this area as it would otherwise be too small to form its own character area. Boulder Clay caps the higher ground but where the land falls into the River Welland, Lias Group (Upper, Middle and Lower Lias clays) are exposed. Alluvium fills the base of the valley and some of the riverside area would have been utilised as meadowland. Its fieldscapes comprise examples of relatively untouched early 19th century parliamentary enclosure. The area also contains significant amounts of ridge-and-furrow cultivation (Fig 7).

The land was enclosed under parliamentary act in the first decade of the 19th century. The fieldscapes reflect this period of enclosure in that they comprise straight ruled hedge lines neatly laid out fields and the establishment of straight roads out into those fields. The only possible exception occurs within Ashley parish where the boundaries of a medieval deer park can be traced. These boundaries include hedge lines that may be of some antiquity and certainly predate the parliamentary enclosure. The villages of Weston by Welland, Sutton Bassett and Ashley have all seen a small degree of infilling since the 1880s and there appears to have been some expansion since the 1810 Ordnance Survey mapping of the area. However, there have been no major modern developments. The Rugby to Peterborough section of the London and North Western Railway and the junction with the Great Northern Railway both formerly ran through the area and sporadic remains are still visible today.

Aside from some minor earthworks denoting settlement remains around and in the villages, there are few upstanding archaeological monuments in the area. The principal visible archaeological feature is the surviving ridge and furrow cultivation that predominates in the area.



FIG 7: Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure, Sutton Bassett (HLCA 4a) SP 7714 9035

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weston by Welland • Ashley
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley medieval deer park – hedges mark part of boundary (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – dismantled L & NW Railway, Rugby and Stamford Branch and junction with the Great Northern and L & NW Joint Railway. <p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weston by Welland Open Field remains. • Sutton Bassett Open Field remains (Turning the Plough). • Ashley Open Field remains. • Dingley Open Field remains.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutton Bassett, settlement remains.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

4b. BULWICK LIMESTONE VALLEY

Area HLC 4b straddles the upper reaches of the Willow Brook valley, principally enclosing the parish of Bulwick but also incorporating parts of Laxton and Haringworth parishes. In the valley sides Wellingborough/Taynton (Upper Estuarine) limestones and Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) are exposed whilst the higher ground, above the valleys, are capped with Boulder Clay. The area comprises the typical regular parliamentary layout. There is hardly any surviving ridge and furrow cultivation in the area.

The parishes were enclosed in the 1770s, the main period of parliamentary enclosure in the county. As with other areas of HLCT4 many of the landscapes demonstrate a distinctive regularity and order with straight hedge lines. The A43 is the principal modern trunk road through the area with the remaining road system probably being 18th century in origin.

The small villages of Bulwick and Laxton have increased little in size since the early 19th century. There are some minor earthwork remains associated with former settlement at Bulwick including a hollow way which the Royal Commission suggest was the precursor to the A43 trunk road which now forms the principal routeway through the area. The only other indications of the medieval settlement pattern are some slight earthwork remains associated with the deserted hamlet of Henwick in Bulwick parish.

There are only three parcels of ancient and replanted ancient woodland surviving within the area and these survive within the bounds of a former medieval deer park in Haringworth. Boundary banks possibly associated with this park still survive. At Bulwick, there is an ornamental park associated with Bulwick Hall. The building itself dates to the late 17th century but was remodelled in the mid 18th (Fig 8).



FIG 8: Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure, Bulwick (HLCA 4b) SP 9614 9354

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harringworth: prehistoric enclosure SAM 181. Note that this monument is under arable and not readily visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulwick
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Harringworth Old Park – deer park/pale (non-registered) and Harringworth Park (non-registered). See also 8a. Bulwick Hall parkland and settlement remains (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulwick Open Field remains (List C), small area largely coincident with Bulwick Hall parkland – see below <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woods including Hollow Wood, Spanhoe Wood.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulwick settlement remains (see also under Bulwick Hall Park above) including former hamlet of Henwick. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Coppice Lodge Coppice Spanhoe Wood

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

4c. WELLAND VALLEY: DUDDINGTON TO WAKERLEY

HLCA 4c incorporates parts of the modern parishes of Duddington and Wakerley. The area is situated on the sides and base of the Welland Valley. The geology principally comprises Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) except in the valley base where there are expanses of alluvium.

The open fields of both Wakerley and Duddington were enclosed in the 1770s. Duddington parish contained some areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure but these are not included within HLCA 4c. The area generally contains few upstanding historic monuments. Unlike other areas along the Welland Valley, little ridge and furrow cultivation survives as earthworks. The remains of the former London and North Western railway pass through the area, as does the modern A43 trunk road. Except for a small modern development at the north of Duddington, the village has changed little in size since the early 19th century.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duddington; bowl barrow north of Hill Side Spinney (SAM 13655); possibly under arable cultivation and not readily visible. • Part of – Duddington Bridge (SAM 172). Located on edge of village and extends over county boundary.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duddington
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Kettering to Stamford turnpike • Part of – Leicester to Peterborough turnpike • Part of – dismantled L & NWR Seaton and Wansford railway
Other key sites	
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wakerley Oaks

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

4d. LAMPORT – MOULTON UPLANDS

HLCA 4d occupies the western half of the Boulder Clay capped ridge that runs between the River Ise and Brampton Brook. The area spreads down to include some Northampton Sand Ironstone geologies around the heads of the smaller tributaries that feed the Brampton Brook.

Parliamentary enclosure of the open fields of HLCA 4d occurred from the mid 18th century to the early 19th century. Fieldsapes at the south of the area appear to conform to a more regular layout with straight hedge lines (especially in the parishes of Moulton, Holcot, Overstone and Boughton and Hannington) whilst those parishes to the north contain some areas of more semi-regular layout (Draughton, Lamport and Old).

Unlike other areas in HLCT 4 there has been a degree of village development within HLCA 4d. A large modern estate has expanded Broughton village considerably to the south of its historic core whilst both Moulton and Boughton villages now both practically join Northampton due to housing development. Earthworks in and around present day villages represent previous medieval settlement whilst earthwork enclosures in both Draughton and Walgrave may indicate medieval manor or other settlement sites. There are, however, only two deserted medieval villages that survive, and then only as minor earthworks (Faxton) or marked by ruined buildings (Boughton Green). No major transportation routes pass through the area: the A43 trunk road forms the eastern boundary to the area whilst the Brampton Valley Way (the former Northampton and Market Harborough branch of the London and North Western Railway) runs close to the western edge.

As with other areas within this Character Type, there appear to be few other significant earthworks surviving within the area. The Royal Commission records a number of dam and pond earthworks situated in these stream valleys (Draughton, Moulton, Holcot, and Lamport). There is also a possible watermill site at Holcot and a prehistoric barrow at Boughton. Although few earthwork sites are present within the area Boughton Park is noted for a range of mainly 18th century structural follies throughout its grounds.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faxton, DMV (SAM 109) – assoc with Faxton open fields (see below). Boughton, Old St Johns Church - ruin (SAM 86). Boughton bowl barrow (SAM 13668).
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boughton Moulton
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boughton Hall parkland and gardens (Registered, Grade II). Part of - N boundary of Moulton Park and medieval deer park.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faxton Open Field remains (List B) with DMV (see above). Part of - Lamport Open Field remains (List B); (extends into 10a). Part of - Walgrave Open Field remains (List B); (extends into area 10a). Broughton, small area of Open Field remains adjoining church. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Northampton to Market Harborough turnpike (A508) Part of - Northampton to Kettering turnpike (A 43)
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draughton, medieval settlement and manor remains. Boughton Green, church (SAM 86, see above) and site of medieval settlement and fair. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Wood Mawsley Wood

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

4e. MIDDLETON CHENEY HILLS AND VALLEYS

The area is centred upon the village of Middleton Cheney and sits upon Lias group (Upper, Middle and Lower Lias) deposits with outcrops of Marlstone Rock Formation. The northern part of HLCA 4e comprises a spur of east – west orientated high ground that falls away to the south into the Farthinghoe Stream valley, a tributary of the River Cherwell.

Thenford and Middleton Cheney were enclosed within a few years of each other (1766 and 1769 respectively). Both parishes contain fields with ruler straight hedge lines but Middleton Cheney has a more regularly ordered overall appearance. However, the area has been fragmented slightly by the presence of a few larger modern fields.

Up until the 1970s Middleton Cheney comprised two distinct village cores each located at the head of small valleys. However, since that date modern development has joined the two areas together creating one large settlement. Thenford and Warkworth have all retained their early 19th century sizes although ribbon development along the Warkworth Road has seen Overthorpe expand slightly. The only major routes through the area

The area does not appear to have been extensively wooded in the 19th century and no ancient woodland survives today. Woodland associated with the 19th century parkland at Chacombe House and the 18th century parkland at Thenford House survives, however. The ornamental landscaping of the latter property is contemporary with the period of enclosure and later 19th century developments include the establishment of lakes in the grounds.

Few upstanding archaeological monuments are present but at the very north of the area there is a possible Iron Age defended settlement on Arberry (or otherwise Thenford) Hill and the remains of a watermill in the same parish. There is also relatively good preservation of ridge and furrow cultivation close to Thenford village.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thenford: site of Roman villa SAM 153. Under cultivation.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overthorpe • Middleton Cheney • Thenford • Marston St Lawrence
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Marston House (Marston St Lawrence) parkland (non-registered) with former settlement. • Thenford House parkland with lakes and adjoining ridge and furrow (non-registered). • Overthorpe Hall parkland, Middleton Cheney parish (non-registered)
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warkworth, Open Field remains to W of historic village. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – dismantled L & NWR Blishworth and Banbury Branch railway. • Part of – Banbury to Buckingham turnpike.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbury (Arberry) Hill, Thenford, prehistoric settlement. Tree covered. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

4. EARLIER PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

4f. NENE VALLEY: YARWELL TO WOOD NEWTON

HLCA 4f is located on the valley side overlooking the Nene to the east. The ground slopes gently down towards the river. The geology comprises Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) with outcrops of Blisworth Clay Formation (Great Oolite) clay.

Yarwell, Nassington and Wood Newton were enclosed together in 1777. HLCA 4f represents those parts of the parishes that have remained untouched by modern boundary removal at the west and mineral extraction to the north. Within the area, the majority of field boundaries are straight and similarly straight enclosure roads cross the area.



FIG 9: Earlier Parliamentary Enclosure, Yarwell (HLCA 4f) TL 0629 9762

The former Peterborough to Rugby section of the Great North Western Railway also bisects the area.

Yarwell is the only settlement represented and, aside from some small ribbon development at the south, has not expanded much since the early 19th century (Fig 9). There are few upstanding historic monuments within the area and very little ridge and furrow has survived. Old Sulehay forest is the only remnant of ancient woodland that has otherwise been subject to quarrying.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

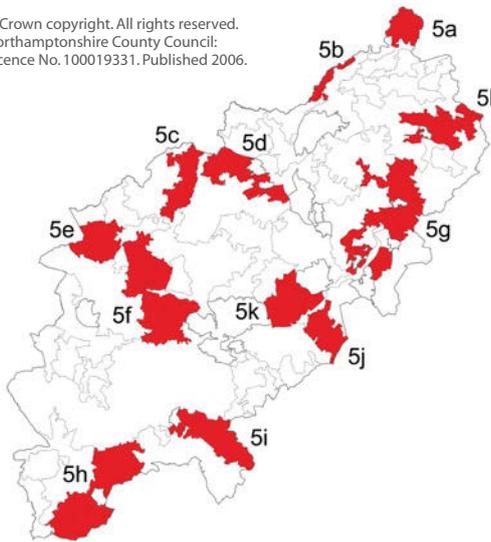
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarwell, riverside former meadows. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Sulehay Wood, a purlieus woodland with linear earthworks and other features. • Priors Haw – woodland with earthwork perimeter banks. • Part of - medieval Stamford to Oundle road (along W edge of area). • Part of - dismantled LMSR Rugby to Peterborough railway
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – C20th ironstone quarries and former calcining area.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priors Haw • Old Sulehay Forest

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

5a Easton - Collyweston Plateau
5b Welland Valley: Gretton - Harringworth
5c Naseby - East Farndon
5d Thorpe Malsor - Braybrooke Uplands
5e Crick Undulating Clayland
5f West Haddon - Harpole Uplands
5g Nene Valley: Irthlingborough to Wadenhoe
5h Syresham - Croughton Limestone Plateau
5i Tove Valley: Cosgrove to Towcester
5j Bozeat Claylands
5k Nene Valley: Ecton - Great Doddington
5l Nene Valley: Oundle to Warmington

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Fieldsapes with straight hedgerow boundaries and enclosure roadways**
- **Areas predominantly occupy or overlook river valleys**
- **Areas include some settlements which have expanded from their 19th century historic cores**
- **Moderate ridge and furrow earthworks throughout**
- **Modern transport routes run through many areas**
- **Occasional ornamental landscaped parks**

INTRODUCTION

The 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure areas are located throughout the County. Four of the twelve areas occupy the River Nene valley below Northampton, whilst others overlook the valleys of the Rivers Tove and Welland or are located upon higher ground comprising undulating clayland in the west of the county. The areas represent landscapes of parliamentary enclosure either created after c. 1820 or which have been altered in that century, usually by the subdivision of fields. A variety of historic monuments occur throughout the area including a number of prehistoric and medieval defended sites.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

The areas mostly occupy Lias Group clay geologies either where they are exposed on the slopes of river valleys or on the undulating claylands at the west of the county. The major exceptions are the areas that sit upon the limestone plateaux at northeastern (Lincolnshire Limestone Formation) and southwestern (Blisworth Limestone Formation) ends of the county.

Hydrology

Although occupying a variety of locations, the majority of areas are either located upon or overlook the principal river Valleys of the county. Areas HLCA 5g, 5j, 5k and 5l are located upon the lower reaches of the River Nene whilst areas HLCA 5a and 5b overlook the steep River Welland Valley. Area 5i sits along the western bank of the Tove. Their location adjacent to the valleys means that tributary streams generally drain through these areas. Of the undulating clay uplands Naseby – East Farndon (HLCA 5d) forms a major watershed for the county.

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

The majority of parliamentary enclosure took place in the latter half of the 18th century. However, the process continued in the 19th century with approximately twenty parishes being enclosed after 1820. The process was in some cases simply a 'tidying' up of areas within the parishes that had yet to be enclosed (such as at Lutton) whilst other parishes were still entirely comprised of open fields (such as Ringstead). In addition to the laying out of new enclosures, already existing parliamentary fields were being altered during the 19th century, generally by the addition of new field boundaries although in some places hedges were also being removed in order to create larger fields.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldsapes

Although not a hard and fast rule, the later parliamentary enclosures tend to have a more regular geometric pattern than some of their precursors. The fieldsapes comprise straight hedgerows and regular width roads and amongst these sit the newly created farmsteads and field barns. The later 19th century alterations to existing parliamentary fields mostly comprise the addition of further straight hedgerows that generally maintain the overall character of the area.

Settlements

Although the majority of settlements have not changed greatly in size from their 19th century historic cores, most have seen some modern housing being added. Certain villages, especially along the Nene Valley, have grown considerably since the late 19th century due to the expansion of the boot and shoe industry in that period and, subsequently, in their role as dormitory villages.

The villages display a variety of layouts and include both nucleated and linear row forms. Their forms appear to be largely based upon their location rather than having a direct relationship with the process of enclosure.

There are fewer examples of deserted medieval villages occurring than in areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure landscapes (HLCT 1 - 3). This is because many of these latter settlements became deserted as a result of the early enclosure. Where deserted villages do occur within the area, such as in the southwest of the county (Syresham – Croughton Limestone Plateau HLCA 5h) it appears to have been due to economic failure rather than emparking or other forcible enclosure practices.

Communication

The area contains several modern and currently active communication routes. These are especially evident in the Crick Undulating Clayland (HLCA 5e), where the major routes of the M1, the London – Birmingham Railway, the A5 Trunk Road and the Grand Union Canal all pass through the Watford Gap. Other major routes within the area include the A43, A45 and A14 trunk roads.

Ridge and Furrow

Ridge and furrow survives throughout the area. It is principally located on the clay uplands of areas HLCA 5d and HLCA 5f. However, concentrations are also to be found at Gretton (Welland Valley HLCA 5b) and along the Nene Valley (HLCA 5g).

Monuments

Several prehistoric monuments exist within the areas of 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure. These include two examples of hill forts, one at Rainsborough in the southwest of the county and one at Crow Hill, Irthlingborough in the Nene Valley. A series of Bronze Age round barrows can be found at Woodford also within the latter character area.

Medieval defended sites include mottes and ringworks at Alderton and Long Buckby and smaller moated sites at Braybrooke and Titchmarsh. At Naseby, the site of the Civil War battle is one of the two registered battlefields in the county.

Although the areas contain only a few minor country houses, significant examples of major 17th – 19th century halls and associated landscaped parks are present at Althorp and Easton Neston.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5a. EASTON – COLLYWESTON PLATEAU

The area principally occupies the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation limestone plateau at the extreme north of the county. On its northwest side, however, the ground falls sharply away into the steep Welland Valley and here Northampton Sand Formation ironstone and Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) deposits are exposed. The area comprises the modern parishes of Easton on the Hill, Collyweston and part of Duddington. Easton and Collyweston parishes provide an example of 'classic' ruler straight field boundaries set in a regular layout with enclosure roads leading from the villages out into the fields beyond.

Easton and Collyweston were late enclosures, the former occurring in 1820 and the latter in 1841. Their fieldscapes appear typical of the geometric layouts employed by some enclosure surveyors and it may have been the relatively flat aspect of the land that influenced this patterning. In addition to the parliamentary enclosure, the area also contains some large modern fields created by boundary removal and, around both Easton and Collyweston, there are fields that were enclosed prior to the parliamentary act. However, overall the area retains its 19th century enclosure character (Fig 10).

Although there are no major areas of ancient woodland surviving, small parcels of the more expansive woodland existing in the 1880s are still present today. However, some of this woodland, which survived into the 20th century, was removed to create new fields in the 1960s and 1970s. A small area of ancient woodland 'Wothorpe Groves' marks the position of a former medieval deer park, the original bank for which still survives

The former Syston to Peterborough section of the Midland Railway is still active today and runs through the north of the area. Along with the A43 trunk road it is the principal communication route in the area. Other modern landscape features include a major military airfield (RAF Wittering) that was built on an expanse of what was extensive heathland at the time of the enclosure. Modern development has occurred along the main A43 Trunk Road between Collyweston and Easton resulting in both villages expanding out from their 19th century cores.

Elements of older landscape features survive in the form of boundaries marking the site of the former 18th – 19th century Stamford horseracing course and a small 18th century reservoir 'The White Water'. At Collyweston, earthworks representing the site of a former medieval manor house and grounds survive. The house and its associated parkland were developed up to the 17th century but were abandoned by the early 18th century and the land enclosed. The site now comprises, garden remains, fishponds and other earthworks. Very little ridge and furrow survives within the character area.



FIG 10: 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure, Collyweston (HLCA 5a) TF 0027 0269

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collyweston: house, gardens and fish ponds SAM 186
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easton on the Hill • Collyweston
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wothorpe Grove medieval deer park (Easton-on-the-Hill parish). Pale partially present; now all wooded (non-registered) • Collyweston Park, see also Collyweston SAM below.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <p>-</p> <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of woodland and old enclosures N of Easton-on-the-Hill village, which retain pre-parliamentary landscape. • The Deeps, Collyweston, area of slate mines and quarrying and associated features. Further slate drift features NE of Collyweston village. • Late C19th and C20th quarrying features including tramway. • Part of - Leicester to Peterborough turnpike (A47) • Part of - Kettering to Stamford turnpike (A43) • Part of - former Midland railway, Manton to Peterborough line
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stamford racecourse, C19th straight mile course defined by hedges. • RAF Wittering, with Cold War era features proposed for Scheduling and incorporating WW2 and the site of WW1 airfields.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5b. WELLAND VALLEY GRETTON – HARRINGWORTH

HLCA 5b is a very narrow area of ground running northeast to southwest along the base and sides of the Welland Valley. In the floor of the valley are expanses of alluvium and terrace gravels whilst Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays and Dyrham Siltstone Formation (Middle Lias) silts are exposed in the valley sides. The area includes the northern ends of the modern parishes of Harringworth and Gretton.



FIG 11: 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure, Gretton (HLCA 5b) SP 8888 9418

The area comprises a fieldscape of ruler straight boundaries (Fig 11). The southwestern part is situated in Gretton parish, which was enclosed in 1832 and displays a regular planned layout. The northeastern part of the area lies in Harringworth parish. Harringworth was enclosed in 1774 but includes fields which had boundaries added in the 19th C as well. The overall pattern is consequently not quite as regular as that of Gretton.

There are no settlements within the character area, both Gretton and Harringworth lying immediately outside. Similarly, no major transport routes pass through the area but the Kettering to Manton section of the former Midland Railway forms the eastern boundary of the area.

Few upstanding archaeological monuments are present. Some ridge and furrow survives immediately to the east of Gretton and a cross-shaped fishpond is located next to the Welland but these are the only significant features.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Harringworth Open Field remains (List C); see also under ‘non-SAMs’ below. Part of - Gretton Open Field remains (1993 supplementary list). Small area N of village (– extends into area 8a). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodplain meadow and former meadow (now cultivated) alongside the R Welland. Part of – Welland railway viaduct and the former Midland railway, Manton to Peterborough line and Kettering to Manton existing line. Extends into area 8a.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harringworth: manor, pond, ridge and furrow and meadow, a small area adjoining R Welland. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5c. NASEBY – EAST FARNDON

The Naseby – East Farndon area is principally located upon the Northamptonshire Heights. It encompasses the modern parishes of Clipston, Naseby and parts of Marston Trussell and East Farndon. The high ground within Naseby parish is capped with Boulder Clay and forms a major watershed for the Rivers Ise, Nene and Avon. Within the steep stream valleys that reach out to the south, east and north, a sequence of Lias Group deposits are exposed.

The majority of the landscapes within the area display a semi-regular pattern but with straight internal hedgelines. This patterning is a result of the differing agricultural history of the parishes. Although Clipston and East Farndon were both enclosed in the 18th century (the former in 1776 and the latter in 1780) Clipston has mostly retained its original parliamentary layout whilst East Farndon's boundaries were added to in the 19th century. Clipston is included within HLCA 5c since on its own it would not be large enough to form a separate character area. Naseby was the last of the parishes within the area to be enclosed, this occurring in 1820, and the parish has generally maintained its original layout.

Aside from some minor infilling the villages themselves have changed little in size from the 19th century. Their early 19th century forms show that Naseby was a nucleated settlement whilst Clipston and East Farndon had linear row type forms. Settlement remains, however, do indicate that the medieval pattern was significantly different. Both Naseby and Clipston have a complex series of earthworks attached, leading the Royal Commission to suggest that Naseby is in fact a coalescence of two separate settlements. The road system within the area principally follows the historic routes linking the villages either by parliamentary or older routes. However, the area is now also bisected by the modern A14 trunk road.

There is good preservation of ridge and furrow cultivation throughout the area but little else in the way of earthwork monuments. However the site of the decisive Civil War battle of Naseby falls within this area, lying to the south of the present village. As elsewhere within the character type there seems to have been very little woodland throughout the 19th century and no significant parcels of ancient or replanted ancient woodland survive today.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naseby: Roman settlement SAM 17129 East Farndon: medieval settlement remains SAM 30076
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Naseby Civil War 1645 battlefield
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Farndon, OF blocks around village. Clipston Open Field remains (Turning the Plough /List A). Part of – small blocks of ridge and furrow within the boundary of Naseby battlefield. These latter, along with old enclosure hedges, represent surviving components of the wider open field landscape contemporary with the battle. Also an adjoining block (immediately N of A14) of C19th steam plough ridge and furrow.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clipston, settlement remains (largely coterminous with open fields). Naseby, settlement remains around village. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5d. THORPE MALSOR – BRAYBROOKE UPLANDS

Located at the north of the county, the area sits across undulating high ground overlooking Market Harborough and the Welland Valley at the north and Kettering and the Ise Valley at the south. It is crossed east – west by stream valleys feeding these rivers. The highest points of the area are capped with Boulder Clay but Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) and Northampton Sand Formation ironstone are exposed in the stream valleys whilst Middle Lias deposits occur where the ground slopes down into the Welland Valley.

Braybrooke, Desborough and Thorpe Malsor were all enclosed within a few years of each other in the late 1770s whilst Rothwell was enclosed about 45 years later in 1812. The fieldscapes represent a mixed picture of survival and change. Parts of Braybrooke and Rothwell parishes still retain the pattern of parliamentary enclosure but, elsewhere, boundaries have been added in the 19th century. Some areas of Rothwell parish, immediately to the north and south of the village, were already enclosed at the time of the parliamentary act and these have maintained their irregular pre-enclosure character. Restored areas of 20th century ironstone quarrying also occur at the south of Rothwell and to the north of Desborough.

Both Desborough and Rothwell are examples of Northamptonshire towns that expanded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the growth of the boot and shoe industry aided by the introduction of the railways. The other villages in the area have maintained their 19th century size. Settlements generally appear to be nucleated although Thorpe Malsor is one of a number of Ise Valley settlements that takes a linear row form.

The former Midland Railway, which brought Desborough its prosperity in the Victorian period, still runs at the north of the town whilst the modern communication routes of the A6 and A14 trunk roads carry traffic north to south and east to west through the area.

Few major earthworks are present in the area but, at Braybrooke, there is the defended moated site of Braybrooke Castle. This site probably originated in the 12th – 13th century and survives along with a complex of associated fishponds and other earthworks. Further extensive settlement remains within the village indicate that the village may have shrunk from its original size or indeed been the site of a separate settlement which was removed when the castle was built. As elsewhere the area contained very little woodland in the 1880s and no ancient woodland survives today. The ridge and furrow that survives in the area is mainly located within Braybrooke parish.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braybrooke: Braybrooke Castle SAM 21674
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braybrooke • Rothwell • Thorpe Malsor
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braybrooke Open Field remains (List B) plus wider area. • Part of - Great Oxendon Open Field remains (Turning the Plough /List A). Extends into area 1b. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - Northampton to Market Harborough turnpike (A508). • Part of – Leicester to Hitchin (via Kettering) railway. • Part of Market Harborough to Kettering turnpike (formerly the A6). • Line of former Rothwell Hill early C20th ironstone tramways located either side of the main road between Desborough and Rothwell.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthingworth, medieval settlement, moat, garden, fishponds and open field remains. Includes earthworks NW of village. • Rothwell, linear banks, possible hollow way and dam and pond to S of town and N of the A14. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Kettering’s late Saxon charter boundary marked by field boundaries/hedgerows.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5e. CRICK UNDULATING CLAYLAND

The area is located upon undulating clayland made up from both glacial Boulder Clay and Lower Lias deposits. The southern part of the area sits upon an east - west ridge of high ground, a central break in which forms the Watford Gap. A number of small streams run down to the northwest into the River Avon valley.

All three parishes were enclosed at roughly the same time (Crick and Yelvertoft in 1776 and Kilsby in 1777 whilst the former township of Barby Nortoft now within Kilsby parish was enclosed in 1778). Crick has generally retained its 18th century fieldscapes whilst the other two parishes have had 19th century alterations. However, the fieldscape at Crick is not large enough to form a separate character area and so is included here. The vast majority of fields consist of straight, hedged boundaries often with regular geometric patterning surviving. A degree of this regularity was probably a result of the presence of the former Watling Street Roman Road, which forms a common ruler straight parish boundary through the area.

In addition to the line of the Roman Road, the area contains four principal transport routes: the M1 motorway, the A5 trunk road (the successor to Watling Street), the active railway (the former London and North Western railway) and the Grand Union Canal. The concentration of the major transportation system in the area is due to the presence of the Watford Gap.

Significant amounts of ridge and furrow survive throughout the area but there are few other earthworks. Both Crick and Yelvertoft would appear to have been regular row settlements set out along streets, however, earthwork remains at Crick suggest that originally the village may have formed along two separate street systems. Yelvertoft, on the other hand, always appears to have been set out along a single street although earthworks close to the river at the north of the modern village may indicate some settlement shift. The Royal Commission has interpreted these earthworks as a moated site and a possible mill.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A c. 2.7km part of Watling St between Crick and Kilsby is recognised by the Secretary of State as an 'Ancient Monument' and thus of national importance. This stretch was used in Roman and later times but was not subject to use as turnpike or modern paved road. It survives as 'green lane' with earthworks.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Union Canal
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yelvertoft Open Field remains. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watford Gap communications route (also extends into area 11a), comprising – Part of - Roman Watling St (including part of A5). Part of - Grand Union Canal (Leicester line) with Crick Tunnel. Part of - former L & NW railway, now mainline Northampton to (Rugby) Birmingham line with tunnels. Part of 1838 London to Birmingham railway with N entrance to Kilsby Tunnel. Part of – M1 motorway Part of - Northampton to Dunchurch turnpike (A428). Part of – Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yelvertoft, former settlement and moat. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crack Hill, (Crick parish) a prominent landscape feature with ridge and furrow and possible archaeological potential. Now a DDC managed Country Park.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5f. WEST HADDON – HARPOLE UPLANDS

This area covers a broad north – south swathe through the county, embracing a number of geologies and topographical regions. At its north, it is dominated by a north - south ridge from which streams drain off from east to west. The highest ground here is capped with Boulder Clay and glacial gravels whilst the stream valleys expose Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) and Northampton Sand Formation deposits. At the south of the area, the ground rises up from the River Nene at the south and the Brampton Brook and River Ise at the west and east, respectively, towards a flat Boulder Clay capped plateau. Lias Group and Northampton Sand Formation deposits are again evident on the side of these slopes.

The pattern of fieldscapes presents a background of 18th century parliamentary enclosure mixed with areas that have been altered in the 19th century. In addition to these fields there are also some surviving areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure on land belonging to the deserted medieval village of Glassthorpe and at Upper Heyford, although some of these were also altered in the 19th century and so are included within this character area. The overall field layouts therefore result in a semi-regular pattern mostly subdivided by straight hedgerows.

Kislingbury, Harpole and Long Buckby have all seen relative growth since the 19th century. The first two villages probably owe their expansion to their proximity to Northampton whilst the latter to its position on the rail network. Of the other villages East Haddon and Ravensthorpe contain some infilling and ribbon development but the others have generally maintained their 19th century sizes. The medieval pattern of settlement appears to have been slightly different with earthworks relating to deserted medieval villages at Glassthorpe (in Flore parish) and Althorp (now preserved within the estate parkland).

In their 19th century forms, the villages at the north of the area (Long Buckby, East Haddon and Ravensthorpe) appear as linear settlements whilst those on the lower flatter ground at the south are more nucleated. Settlement evidence from around the villages themselves, however, demonstrates that the earlier situation may have been different. Earthworks at Flore suggest that the village has either shifted or moved from its medieval location, whilst those at Upper Heyford indicate that the present village started off as two very small separate settlements. These appear to have gone through several periods of contraction and expansion right through into the 19th century. There are also a number of small hamlets or lands associated with them within the area. These include Coton, within the modern Ravensthorpe parish, Murcott in Long Buckby and Nobottle in Brington. Earthworks at Nobottle suggest that the hamlet would have been larger in medieval times and possibly the location of a Hundred meeting site.

The West Haddon – Harpole Uplands contain what was part of the pre-enclosure area of heathland within the county. This largely fell within West Haddon parish but Harlestone today still contains both open heathland and land over planted with conifers in the 19th century. These conifer plantations and the woodland within Althorp estate generally provide the only historic woodland cover within the area.

The former Roman road from Bannaventa to Duston roughly follows the line of the modern road that passes through or close to Brington and Nobottle, whilst the remaining road system is a mix of former turnpike and enclosure roads. The modern railway, which is the successor to the Victorian London and North Western Railway, bisects the area, running from east to west.

The most prominent of medieval monuments in the area is possibly the ring work and bailey of Long Buckby castle, an earthwork castle mound possibly built sometime after the mid 12th century. Of later monuments, East Haddon Hall was constructed in the late 18th century about seven years after the enclosure of the parish and so is broadly contemporary with the fieldscapes of the parish. The building is set in contemporary parkland and contains formal gardens originally laid out in the late 19th century by Jekyll and Lutyens. More extensive are the grounds of Althorp Park. Although a park was created here in 1512, it was in the late 17th century that the present house and gardens had their origin. Some remains of these landscaped gardens survive as earthworks although the formal garden dates from the late 19th century. The grounds also preserve the slight remains of the deserted medieval village of Althorp that was cleared to make way for sheep grazing.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Buckby: ring work and bailey SAM 13666 (located within the town.) • Great Brington: SAM 104. Spencer Chapel in parish church. • Great Brington: village cross SAM 29735 close to church. • Harpole: Roman villa SAM 113. Under cultivation and thus not visible. • Harlestone: cropmark complex SAM 175.). Under cultivation and thus not visible. Extends into 10a.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Brington • Lower Harlestone • Harpole • Kislingbury
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Althorp Park and gardens (Registered, Grade II*). • West Haddon Hall – parkland (non-registered). • East Haddon Hall parkland (non-registered). • Harpole Hall parkland (non-registered). • Harlestone Park (non-registered); part now golf course.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Althorp township Open Field remains – largely within Althorp Park (List A) • Kislingbury Open Field remains and other earthworks (List B). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman road, Duston to Bannaventa. • Harlestone and Dallington Heaths; plantation former heath with wide range of archaeological earthworks. • Part of - former London and North Western railway. • Part of - London to Birmingham railway • Part of - Northampton to Dunchurch turnpike (A428). • Part of – Warwick to Northampton turnpike (A4500). • Part of – M1 motorway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nobottle, settlement remains and hollow ways and Nobottle Wood. • Glassthorpe DMV (Flore parish). • Upper Heyford, shrunken settlement remains. • Harlestone settlement, former quarries. <p><i>Note: Following survey in 1998 by D Hall, Althorp DMV is now considered to be under Althorp House and gardens not as identified by RCHME in their published Inventory.</i></p> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nobottle Wood • Harlestone Thicket

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5g. NENE VALLEY: IRTHLINGBOROUGH TO WADENHOE

HLCA 5g represents a broad swathe of Nene River valley parishes stretching from Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers down to Wadenhoe. With a narrow northerly extension through the parishes of Lowick and Sudborough. The southern part of the area is bisected by the flooded mineral workings of HLCA 9a Nene Valley: Woodford – Grendon but the similarity of form has kept the areas together as a single entity. At the valley tops, the land is capped with Boulder Clay and the underlying Oxford Clay Formation whilst a sequence of geologies are exposed as one progresses down the slopes towards the valley floor including cornbrash, limestone, ironstone and terrace gravels.

It is the Nene valley that dominates this area with settlements generally located upon the high ground overlooking the river but with their parish boundaries encompassing the variety of soils on the valley sides and floor. The parishes were enclosed over a nearly eighty-year span from 1763 (Woodford) to 1839 (Ringstead). Generally the spread of enclosure occurred from east to west along this part of the river with Wadenhoe, Aldwinckle, Thrapston, Titchmarsh, Raunds and Denford being enclosed in the 18th century and Ringstead, Addington, Irthlingborough and Finedon being enclosed in the 19th century. Although over half the fields were enclosed prior to the turn of the 19th century most continued to receive some alterations during the next hundred years and so the overall pattern is one 19th century layout. The fieldscapes reflect this with a preponderance of straight hedged field boundaries and enclosure road systems but set within areas of more regular patterned fields towards the south of the area (the later enclosures) and more semi-regular patterning at the north (the earlier). Of the later enclosures, Irthlingborough provides a good example of regular ruler straight geometric patterning (Fig 12).

Within the area, Ringstead and more especially Thrapston and Irthlingborough, have seen the biggest growth since the late 19th century. This, at Irthlingborough at least, was connected with the growth in the shoe industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The remaining villages have essentially expanded little from their historic cores. They display a mix of nucleated and linear street layouts in their 19th century forms and a lack of major earthworks would suggest that this also might reflect the earlier medieval situation.



FIG 12: 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure, Irthlingborough (HLCA 5g) SP 9497 7166

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

Intensive archaeological work in the area over the last three decades has revealed a complex pattern of settlement and land use over the last few millennia but the upstanding monuments remain relatively few. Prehistoric monuments are represented by 'The Three Hills' at Woodford, which is the site of three Bronze Age barrows situated on the edge of the valley. Crow Hill at Irthlingborough is the site of an Iron Age hill fort whilst at Wadenhoe there are the earthworks of a later fortified site close to the church on a spur of ground overlooking the Nene. The site is of unknown date but may be Pre-Conquest and, as such, be of some rarity in the county. A limestone rampart encloses the area with building platforms within the interior. Medieval defended sites are represented at Titchmarsh Castle, which is the site of a medieval moated manor house that would have originally included a crenellated building of 14th century date. At Higham, the remains of a more substantial castle have all but been destroyed but fishponds associated with this former structure still survive within the town. A later manor house site, possibly of 17th or 18th century date, with the remains of associated garden earthworks occurs at Woodford.

Little survives in regard to ancient woodland but the small parcel called Round Lown Wood, which sits within part of the former medieval deer park of Drayton Park in Lowick parish. Earthwork boundaries for this park still survive and the former park keeper's lodge is represented as a moated site. Remains of another, though less extensive, deer park also occur at Wadenhoe.

The Nene valley has carried a number of communication routes through the years. Just outside Thrapston, the lines of two Roman roads meet: the northeast aligned Water Newton to Titchmarsh road and the Godmanchester to Leicester road which crosses the valley from north-west to southeast. The site of a Roman bridge is located where this latter road crosses the River Nene. The line of a further possible Roman road runs north to south from Lowick to Irchester and crosses the area between Great Addington and Woodford. More recent communication routes using the valley include the now abandoned London and North Western Railway (Northampton and Peterborough Branch) and the Midland Railway (Kettering and Huntingdon branch). Most recent of all is the A45 trunk road, the 'Nene Valley Way'.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wadenhoe, fortified site. (SAM 180). • Thorpe Waterville, castle earthworks and barn (SAM 136). • Titchmarsh, Titchmarsh Castle moated site and fishponds. (SAM 13628). • Titchmarsh, site of Roman Bridge. (SAM 144). Landscaped watercourse is the only component now identifiable and visible. • Woodford, earthworks of house and garden. (SAM 190). • Woodford, part of medieval settlement remains. (SAM 189). • Woodford, Three Hills prehistoric round barrows. (SAM 13677); prominent features but within cultivated field. • Woodford, bowl barrow (SAM 17139). Located on riverside meadow; just visible. • Irthlingborough, Crow Hill Iron Age hillfort. (SAM 11506). Under cultivation; topographical location of the hillfort is evident but without any visible signs of the fort itself. • Lowick, Slipton Lodge moated site. (SAM 13627.)
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wadenhoe • Lowick • Sudborough • Thrapston
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drayton House Park and gardens. (Registered, Grade I). • Part of - Drayton Park, medieval deer park, boundaries of which marked by fields and by earthworks in adjoining woods (non-registered). SAM 13627 also forms part of this site along with small area of adjoining ridge and furrow. • Part of - Lilford Park, The Linches with Folly (non-registered) • Wadenhoe, medieval deer park (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wadenhoe Open Field remains (List C). • Aldwinckle and Wadenhoe floodplain meadows. • Titchmarsh Open Field remains (List B). • Denford, small area of Open Field remains adjoining village (List C). • Woodford, 2 fields of ridge and furrow (List B) with manor site (see also SAM 190). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wadenhoe + Aldwinckle meadow/flood plain. • Part of – line of Roman Gartered Rd between God Manchester and Leicester. • Part of – line of Roman road between Water Newton and Titchmarsh. • Part of – line of Roman road between Lowick and Rochester. • Part of – dismantled L & NWR railway (Northampton and Peterborough branch). • Part of – Midland railway (Kettering and Huntingdon branch). • Part of – dismantled Peterborough to Blisworth railway. • Part of – dismantled Thrusting to Huntingdon railway. • Part of – Peterborough to Wellingborough turnpike • Part of A45 trunk road, 'Nene Valley Way'.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titchmarsh, duck decoy (within Titchmarsh Nature Reserve). • Titchmarsh Roman town – broadly defined by current field boundaries. • Wadenhoe, earthwork pillow mounds, enclosure and other features associated with SAM 180, the deer park and Open Field remains <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullicks Wood • Round Lown Wood

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5h. SYRESHAM- CROUGHTON: LIMESTONE PLATEAU

The area is located in the extreme southwest of the county overlooking the River Great Ouse. Stream valleys feeding both the Ouse to the south and the River Cherwell at the west cut through the area. The southern part of the area comprises a large plateau of Blisworth Limestone Formation (Great Oolite) limestone whilst the northern part is mostly Boulder Clay.

The fields within the area have their origin mostly in late 18th and early 19th century enclosure. The fieldscapes are a mixture of regular parliamentary enclosure and areas with later 19th century additions creating a pattern of regular and semi-regular layouts with overwhelmingly straight hedgelines. The most regular of these can be seen around the villages of Croughton and Charlton.

A mixture of settlement forms occurs throughout the area with both linear rows (such as Helmdon, Croughton and Charlton) and more nucleated forms (such as at Hinton and Syresham). This patterning perhaps masks a more complex pattern revealed by the earthwork remains of shrunken and deserted settlements that occur moderately frequently throughout the area. Deserted medieval villages occur at Astwick, Upper Radstone, Falcutt and Astwell. Aside from the latter site, which may have been abandoned due to a process of emparking and sheep enclosure, most of the villages seemed to have become deserted due to simply failing as viable economic units. The depopulation occurred over a long period of time, final abandonment often only occurring in the 17th, 18th or 19th centuries. This process may be associated with Brackley's decline from a prosperous medieval market town in the 12th and 13th century to a depressed state in the later Middle Ages.

Aside from some minor infilling and ribbon development most of the settlements within the area have expanded little since the 19th century. The exception is the town of Brackley, which has seen a large amount of post war housing development. Nearby runs the newly improved A43 trunk road and the remains of the now dismantled Great Central railway, which came to Brackley in 1899.

Despite there being scant remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation within the area, a more substantial monument occurs in Newbottle parish in the form of 'Rainsborough Camp', an Iron Age hill fort. The hill fort has a double bank and was occupied from the early Iron Age through to the Roman period. In a later incarnation it became part of 17th century landscaping of the area. Further landscaping occurred around the Georgian building of Evenley Hall, which stands in an expanse of 18th century parkland containing the remnants of tree avenues and other landscape features. More recent sites in the area including the military grounds of RAF Croughton at the extreme south of the area.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

<p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmdon, Astwell Castle farm (SAM 116). • Helmdon, 'Old Mountains' medieval moat. (SAM 13654). Tree covered moat with adjoining fishpond and warren under cultivation. • Brackley, site of castle (SAM 13636). • Evenley, Astwick moated enclosure (SAM 43). See also adjoining Astwick DMV below. • <i>Croughton, Roman villa (SAM 22703). Not visible; under cultivation.</i> • Newbottle, Rainsborough Hillfort (SAM 36). • Newbottle, Rainsborough Long Barrow (SAM 13672).
<p>Conservation Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brackley • Evenley • Croughton • Newbottle
<p>Parks and Gardens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astwell Park deer park (Helmdon parish). Hedgerows and banks define much of the park boundary. (Non-registered). • Part of – Biddlesden Park (Syresham parish). (Non-registered). • Evenley Park (Non-registered); see also fishponds below. • Small eastern part of – Aynhoe Park (Registered, Grade II).
<p>Registered Battlefields</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>Relict landscapes</p>	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmdon Open Field remains (2 areas) with alternate wide and narrow lands. (List B). • Falcutt (Helmdon parish) Open Field remains, associated with Falcutt DMV. (List B). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistley and Shortgrove Woods with earthworks. • RAF Croughton, former airfield and existing station. • Former RAF Hinton-in-the-Hedges WW2 airfield. • Part of – dismantled Great Central Railway. • Part of – dismantled Banbury to Buckingham railway. • Part of – Towcester to Brackley turnpike. • Part of – Banbury to Buckingham turnpike (A422) • Part of – Buckingham to Burford turnpike.
<p>Other key sites</p>	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmdon, manor house and settlement earthworks. • Falcutt, (Helmdon parish) DMV; associated with Open Field remains, see above. • Astwell (Helmdon parish), DMV, fishponds and garden remains. Also associated with SAM 116. • Syresham, fishpond and dam, adjoining village. • Lower Radstone DMV and fishpond, (Radstone parish) • Settlement remains and ridge and furrow formerly part of Upper Radstone (i.e. the current village of Radstone). • Evenley, fishponds adjoining village. • Evenley, Astwick DMV. See also adjoining SAM 43 above. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesthouse Wood • Whistley Wood

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5i. TOVE VALLEY: COSGROVE TO TOWCESTER

The area occupies the eastern side of the Tove Valley. At the west, overlooking the valley is a broad band of Boulder Clay. This gives way to Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays and Blisworth limestone (Great Oolite) on the main valley side and in the steeper valleys of the tributary streams, which feed the Tove.

The southern part of the area within the parishes of Cosgrove, Yardley Gobion and Potterspury was enclosed under parliamentary acts in the 18th century. The villages, at least in their 19th century forms, are mostly arranged along linear rows and form part of a wider group of such settlements associated with the Tove valley. The landscapes around the settlements to some extent preserve the regular straight-hedged layouts of parliamentary enclosure although the pattern is interrupted in areas where 20th century boundary removal has created larger modern fields. At the north of the area Paulespury was not enclosed until 1819 and represents a woodland parish at the edge of Whittlewood Forest with dispersed settlement throughout. The nineteenth century enclosure boundaries continue into Grafton Regis parish, which although mostly enclosed from the 16th century onwards had further boundaries added in the 19th century.

Towcester, the site of the Roman town of Lactodorum lies adjacent to the character area at the north and is the meeting point for a number of former Roman roads: The line of Watling Street follows the modern A5 trunk road which runs along the high ground at the west of the area whilst at Towcester it meets the line of a further road entering from the southwest which formerly ran to the Roman small town of Alchester. The Watling Street road is partially mirrored along the east side of the area by the more modern communication route of the Grand Junction Canal running between the Oxford canal at Braunston and London.

The most expansive monument within the area is probably the landscaped parkland of Easton Neston with its impressive late 17th century Hawksmoor built, and Wren inspired house.

There are several minor settlement remains located at villages throughout the area but at Grafton Regis there are extensive and well preserved earthwork remains related to the village and its former manorial buildings. At nearby Alderton there are a similarly extensive earthworks surrounding an 11th or 12th century motte, whilst at the hamlet of Moor End in Yardley Gobion parish a medieval defended moated site (Moor End Castle) is also associated with settlement earthworks. Immediately adjacent to Moor end was the site of a former medieval deer park, boundary earthworks for which still survive in places.

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towcester, Bury Mount (SAM 13623). Located in centre of modern Towcester. • Towcester, Roman town defences (SAM 112). Located in centre of modern Towcester. • Alderton, The Mount, ringwork castle (SAM 13644). • Alderton, manorial and garden earthworks (SAM 57). • Yardley Gobion, Moor End castle moated site and fish pond (SAM 13614). • Cosgrove, Roman building (SAM 119). Not visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosgrove • Yardley Gobion • Grafton Regis • Alderton • Towcester
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - Easton Neston Park and gardens (Registered, Grade II*). • Wood Burcote Park - modern; (non-registered). • Grafton Park, medieval deer and Tudor Royal park; field boundaries delineate much of the boundary. • Plum Park, former medieval deer park; field boundaries delineate much of the boundary. • Potterspury Park, former medieval deer park; field boundaries delineate much of the boundary.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easton Neston Open Field remains (Turning the Plough /List A). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Roman Watling St/A5/Old Stratford to Dunchurch turnpike. • Part of – Hardingstone to Stony Stratford turnpike (A508). • Part of – Grand Union Canal and ‘canalscape’. • Part of – redundant Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal • Part of – earthwork former line of Grand Union Canal across the Great Ouse. • Cosgrove Hills and Holes (The Quarries).
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alderton, settlement remains, adjoining SAMs 13644 and 57. • Grafton Regis village, remains of settlement, manor house and ‘hermitage’. • Furtho DMV, fishponds and gardens <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5j. BOZEAT CLAYLANDS

Occupies an area immediately to the south of the Nene. At the south the area sits upon a flat Boulder Clay plateau before sloping to the north into the Nene Valley itself. Here Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clay and Terrace gravels are exposed.

The parishes within the area were all enclosed under parliamentary act in the ten years between 1788 and 1798. The one exception was the lands of Strixton, which were enclosed in the 17th century. The areas have seen a degree of change over the years and although retaining their overall parliamentary layout, boundary removal in both the 19th and 20th centuries has created a slightly mixed fieldscape. Although Grendon has seen only minor growth since the late 19th century, Bozeat has expanded to the south with new housing estates. The area contains no ancient woodland and the earthwork remains of the shrunken village of Strixton and a moated site associated with the hamlet of Cotton in Grendon parish are the principal upstanding monuments.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wollaston, site of Roman villa (SAM 178). Not visible. Wollaston, manorial earthworks (SAM 191) – see also Wollaston Open Field remains.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grendon
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wollaston Open Field remains (List B). Assoc with manor site SAM 191. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Kettering to Newport Pagnell turnpike.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strixton, shrunken settlement, manor house and garden earthworks. Part of - Easton Maudit settlement, manor, fishpond, open field and associated earthworks. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5k. NENE VALLEY: ECTON – GREAT DODDINGTON

Located upon the north side of the River Nene, the area incorporates both the Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays and terrace gravels of the valley side as well as the alluvial deposits along the valley floor. Plateaux of Boulder Clay sit upon the high ground at Great Doddington and Wilby and these are which are divided by the east – west running stream valley of the Wilby Brook.

Earls Barton, Mears Ashby and Great Doddington were all enclosed under parliamentary act in the 18th century and parcels of land which preserve this original layout still survive especially around the west side of Ecton and at the east of Earls Barton. These areas display a regular pattern of straight hedgerows with intervening enclosure roads. Against this backdrop of early parliamentary enclosure are also fields where 19th century changes have seen the addition of more field boundaries and conversely where 20th century agriculture has removed hedgerows in order to create larger fields. The parish of Wilby, enclosed in 1801, has been especially subject to this process.

Of all the settlements in the area only Ecton has remained at the same size as in the 19th century. It including the mid 18th century Ecton Hall that Pevsner has described as the foremost example of Early Gothic Revival in the County. The Hall is set in contemporary landscaped parkland which including ornamental ponds. Ribbon development has seen Wilby and Great Doddington expand out from their centres whilst Earls Barton has grown most with the establishment of major housing estates around its historic core. Despite this growth, settlement remains exist at Great Doddington and Wilby and earthworks associated with the deserted medieval hamlet of Thorpe survive in Earls Barton parish. More dramatic is the large earthwork mound and ditch (the Berry Mount) within Earls Barton itself. Several alternative dates and function have been assigned to this feature but it may be associated in at least one of its phases with the nearby church of All Saints. The church is celebrated for its decorated 11th century Saxon tower.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecton, Roman settlement and pottery kiln (SAM 159). Under cultivation, not visible. • Earls Barton, Bury Mount (SAM 13660). In centre of the town. • Great Doddington, site of Roman villa (SAM 163). Under cultivation, not visible. • Cogenhoe, bowl barrow, earthwork on floodplain. (SAM 17135)
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mears Ashby • Ecton • Great Doddington
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecton Hall park/gardens, (non-registered). • Mears Ashby Hall (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Great Doddington under 'non SAMs' below <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sywell reservoir (now Country Park) • Part of – River Nene and River Nene Navigation • Part of – dismantled Blisworth to Peterborough railway
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Doddington, ridge and furrow and hollow ways adjoining S and E side of village. • Ecton, former settlement remains (including those within Ecton Hall parkland). <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

5. 19TH CENTURY PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

5I. NENE VALLEY: OUNDLE TO WARMINGTON

The area encompasses a number of differing geologies and topographies. It stretches from the Boulder Clay plateau at Warmington, down across the broad Nene valley up onto the undulating slopes of a number of tributary streams at the north of the river. Cornbrash and terrace gravels are exposed on the valley slopes whilst limestones and clays are exposed in its deep tributary streams at the north. Alluvial deposits cover the floor of the Nene Valley itself.

Aside from lands belonging to the former township of Elmington in Ashton parish, the majority of the area was enclosed under parliamentary acts in the 18th and 19th centuries. The fieldscapes comprise straight-hedged boundaries and enclosure roads throughout most of the area. Several areas preserve a regular geometric pattern and this is especially evident on the clayland around Warmington. Elsewhere, 19th century additions have been made to the fields but the overall enclosure pattern remains.

There is moderate ridge and furrow survival along the lower slopes of the valley in Ashton and Polebrook parishes but few other earthwork monuments are present save for some minor settlement remains around Glaphorn village and the deserted medieval village of Papley in Warmington parish. This latter settlement was depopulated sometime in the 15th and 16th centuries, apparently when it became unviable as an economic unit. Generally the villages of the area have increased little from their 19th century sizes.

The Roman road running from Water Newton to Titchmarsh runs along the Nene Valley floor with its modern equivalent, the A605 trunk road passing to the west.

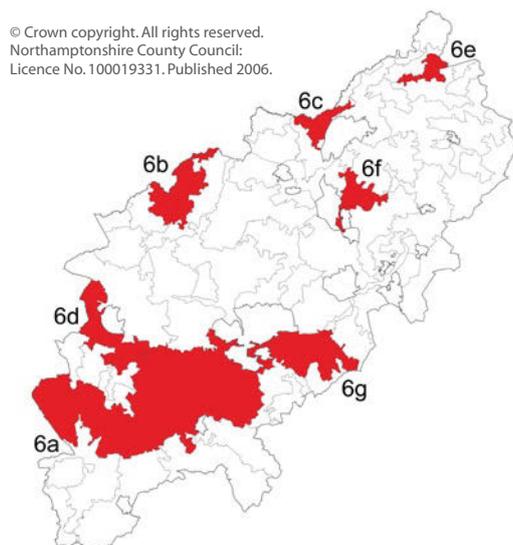
IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmington, Papley medieval village, moat and fishpond (SAM 13619) • Ashton, Roman town (SAM 169). Under cultivation, not visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polebrook • Ashton Wold • Cotterstock • Oundle
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small part of Elton Park – status undetermined. • Part of – Ashton Wold (non-registered). • Blakesley, former parkland with other features; see under ‘non-SAMs’ below.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – River Nene and River Nene Navigation. • Part of - Peterborough to Wellingborough turnpike (A605). • Part of – Oundle/Cottingham turnpike (A427) • Part of – dismantled former LNWR Blisworth to Peterborough railway. <p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polebrook, area of older enclosure around the village along with fragment of Polebrook Hall garden/park. • Former flood meadows alongside River Nene. • Ashton estate village and surrounds. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- 6a Western Clay Uplands
- 6b Sibbertoft Plateau
- 6c Welland Valley: Middleton - Rockingham
- 6d Everdon-Badby Upper Valley
- 6e Kings Cliffe Plateau
- 6f Grafton – Warkton Clay Plateau
- 6g Southern Nene Valley Side: Hardingstone – Castle Ashby



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Areas overlook the major valleys of the Welland, Nene and Tove as well as the tributary streams of the Ise and Willow Brook**
- **Areas contain a number of defended medieval sites**
- **A number of large historic landscape parks**
- **Canalscapes**

INTRODUCTION

The areas of Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure occur along the northern border of the county and in the southwest. They represent areas where blocks of parliamentary enclosure fields are separated by the presence of both large fields and other modern intrusions as well as areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure. The large extent of some of the areas mean that a range of historical monuments occur but the areas are especially noted for the presence of a number of Norman mottes and major 18th and 19th century landscaped parkland.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

The Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure areas occupy high ground overlooking river valleys or the valleys themselves. As a result a number of geologies are encountered. On the high ground over the valleys, Boulder Clay often caps ridges or creates flat tableland. The floors and lower slopes of the valleys including alluvial deposits and sometimes terrace gravels. Lias Group clays and the Northamptonshire Sand Formation are present in the valley sides, whilst in the River Welland and Willow Brook valleys limestone deposits are also present.

Hydrology

Since the areas of this character type occupy ground either between or in major river valleys, the topography often comprises undulating landscapes cut through by tributary streams. The Sibbertoft Plateau and the Everdon – Badby Upper Valley in particular represent watersheds for the major river systems.

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

The fragmentation of the parliamentary enclosure areas is due to a number of reasons. The juxtaposition of parliamentary enclosure with areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure is often due to the fact that former small township or detached ownerships now lie within the bounds of larger modern parishes. These small township lands could be enclosed separately to the remainder of the land. This may also account for the number of deserted settlements within the area as opposed to HLCT 4 since their depopulation could be linked to these periods of early enclosure. The occurrence of modern fields within areas of parliamentary enclosure is more obvious since they are due often simply to the process of boundary removal. Large areas are probably involved with this character type simply because the major influence on its evolution would be individual landowners' decisions about the agricultural regimes on their holdings.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldsapes

Due to the nature of the fragmentation the fieldsapes exhibit a variety of patterns throughout the county. Since the 'background' character is the process of parliamentary enclosure, regular fields, straight hedgerows and enclosure roads predominate. However, amongst these lie more irregular fields with an older origin as well as modern fields created by the removal of hedgerows. These latter areas often, but not exclusively, maintain a rectilinear character. Twentieth century features such as large industrial estates, disused airfields and some restored mineral extraction add to the fragmentation. Also present are areas of historic parkland.

Settlements

A number of deserted medieval villages occur throughout the area. They include areas in the western part of the county where sheep enclosures and emparking had led to depopulation. Elsewhere it is principally the process of emparking that has resulted in abandonment. The modern settlements themselves often display complex patterns of development evidenced by the presence of associated earthworks and no one settlement form appears to dominate.

Communication

The modern A5 trunk road, which follows the line of the former Roman Watling Street, is the principal road through the area but the other main transportation route is the Grand Union canal which produces canalscapes through the west of the county particularly around Braunston and Blisworth.

Ridge and Furrow

Ridge and furrow cultivation survives throughout the area, often towards the edges of parishes. This location may be because, where fragmentation has taken place due to the creation of modern fields, it has occurred close to villages and has removed earlier cultivation remains. Alternatively, where fragmentation occurs because of the presence of earlier enclosure within an otherwise parliamentary landscape, these will often be found at the margins of township lands.

Monuments

The Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure areas are noted for the number of castles, often with mottes, that survive within them. Examples occur at Farthingstone, Weedon Lois, Sulgrave, Sibbertoft, Little Houghton and Rockingham. Their frequency may be connected with the fact that many of the character areas are located on dominant defensive positions.

Amongst the historic 17th and 18th century houses in the area examples include Stoke Park, Fawsley, Edgecote House and Courteenhall Hall. These houses include historic parkland but perhaps the two most dominant examples of this particular landscape feature are the Boughton Park and Castle Ashby Estates.

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE CHARACTER AREAS

6a. WESTERN CLAY UPLANDS

The western Clay Uplands covers a large area that incorporates the east to west valleys of the River Nene and the River Tove and the high ridge of ground separating them. This undulating topography has Boulder Clay deposits capping the high ground and Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) Clays and Northampton Sand Formation ironstone within the Sides of the river Valleys. At the west the land slopes down into the flat River Cherwell Valley where Charmouth Formation (Lower Lias) Clays are exposed.

The area comprises fieldscapes which are predominantly of parliamentary enclosure origin but have been fragmented by the presence of modern fields which have had their boundaries removed in the 20th century. The majority of the fields were enclosed under parliamentary act in the generation between 1760 and 1780, but a group of parishes in the southwest corner of the area were enclosed in the 19th century and some non parliamentary enclosure occurred at the extreme west of the area. This mixed origin means that there are few areas of regular layout surviving within the area.

The settlements display a similarly mixed pattern. Along the Nene Valley and its tributary streams at the north of the area there is a group of villages (Collingtree, Rothersthorpe, Bugbrooke, Stowe, Farthingstone, Maidford) whose 19th century form are of regular row form. Elsewhere nucleated villages predominate but there are also a number of villages, mostly associated with the River Tove and its tributaries (Shutlanger, Moreton Pinkney, Adstone, Greens Norton) which have had more dispersed forms.

A group of shrunken and deserted villages occurs in the centre of the area around the parishes of Woodend, Blakesley, Greens Norton and Cold Higham. The remains demonstrate that a much more complex pattern of settlement existed in the medieval period than does today. The abandonment and depopulation of these areas largely appears to be due to the introduction of sheep enclosures throughout the 15th and 16th centuries. Further deserted villages are to be found within the parkland associated with notable large houses: the 17th century Stoke Park, and the 18th century Edgecote House and Courteenhall Hall. The latter's grounds being originally laid out by Repton. At Canons Ashby, the grounds of the 17th century house including the remains of the preceding house and gardens as well as earthworks relating to the deserted medieval village and Augustinian Priory, which gives the village its name.

The area is crossed by a number of major communication routes including the M1 motorway, the A5 trunk road, the London – Birmingham railway and the Grand Union canal. This latter communication route has many historical elements associated with it including remnants of the tramway used in the construction of the Blisworth Tunnel that runs through the area.

The area contains a large number of defended sites of various periods. At Chipping Warden is the unusual Iron Age fort of Arbury Camp, represented by a large banked enclosure. A group of medieval defended sites occur within a series of villages in the area. These include a motte and bailey castle at Farthingstone, a further motte or ringwork at Weedon Lois and a ringwork at Sulgrave. An undated bank and ditch enclosure within Rothersthorpe village may also be a medieval defensive feature

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upton, DMV (SAM 165). • Upton, barrow (SAM 13674). • Rothersthorpe, 'The Berry' earthwork ringwork (SAM 13661). • Stoke Bruerne, site of Roman villa (SAM 150). Under cultivation, not visible. • Ashton, Ashton Manor moated site (SAM 13615). • Farthingstone, site of prehistoric enclosure (SAM 21627). Largely under cultivation and not therefore visible. • Farthingstone, earthwork motte and bailey castle (SAM 13637). • Stowe-Nine-Churches, 'The Larches' prehistoric linear ditches (SAM 120). • Litchborough, moated feature (SAM 21612). • Weedon Lois, Castle Hill ringwork (SAM 13663). Earthwork within village. • Canons Ashby, remains of medieval monastery, settlement, fields, gardens and park and series of dams. (SAM 13643). • Sulgrave, Castle Hill ringwork (SAM 13662). • Culworth, Castle ringwork (SAM 13664). • Byfield, Market Cross (SAM 29702). In village. • Chipping Warden, Arbury Banks Iron Age hillfort with ridge and furrow (SAM 84). • Chipping Warden, Market Cross (SAM 27918). In centre of village. • Chipping Warden, 'Blackgrounds' Roman villa (SAM 192). Not visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nether Heyford • Bugbrooke • Rothersthorpe • Gayton • Milton Malsor • Blisworth • Tiffield • Hulcote • Stoke Bruerne • Courteenhall • Nether Heyford • Grand Union Canal • Litchborough • Maidford • Adstone • Blakesley • Bradden • Whiston • Moreton Pinkney • Canons Ashby • Sulgrave • Culworth • Eydon • Chipping Warden
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canons Ashby park and gardens, lakes (Registered, Grade II*) • Courteenhall House landscape parkland (Registered, Grade II). • Stoke Park, (Registered, and Grade II); gardens, landscape park incorporating deer park. • Part of Easton Neston (Registered, Grade II*). • Eydon Park (non-registered). • Edgcote House parkland (includes Edgcote DMV). • Litchborough House/deer Park (non-registered). • Upton Hall park/gardens (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

<p>Relict landscapes</p>	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper and Lower Boddington Open Field remains around villages (see also under 'Non SAMs' below). • Moreton Pinkney Open Field remains (List B) with settlement earthworks and pond. • Weston and Weedon Open Field remains (List B). • Bradden Open Firelds (List C); see also associated settlement and other remains under 'non-SAMs' below. • Maidford Open Field remains (List B) with fishponds. • Small part of - Kislingbury Open Field remains (List B). • Upton Open Field remains (List B) with DMV (SAM 165).• Part of – Easton Neston Open Field remains (Turning the Plough + List A) with Hulcote settlement, manor and pond earthwork remains. • Sulgrave, small area with other features; see under 'non-SAMs' below. • Helmdon, small area with other features; see under 'non-SAMs' below. • Blakesley, small area with other features; see under 'non-SAMs' below. • Adstone, ridge and furrow with other features; see under 'non-SAMs' below. • Weedon Bec, small area of ridge and furrow on valley slopes S of Weedon
	<p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mantles Heath, Everdon Stubbs and other areas ancient woods with earthworks. • Chipping Warden WW2 airfield and defences. • Part of – dismantled Great Central Railway • Part of – dismantled Banbury to Woodford railway • Part of Northampton to London and main west coast lines with Roade Cutting. • Parts of – other branch railways including LMSR. • Part of – Welsh Road, drove road. • Part of - Banbury Lane, drove road. • Part of – Roman Watling St/A5/Old Stratford to Dunchurch turnpike. • Part of Towcester to Brackley turnpike. • Part of – Towcester to Cotton End turnpike. • Part of – Hardingstone to Stony Stratford turnpike (A508). • Part of – Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike (A361) • Part of Warwick to Northampton turnpike (A4500) • Part of – Blisworth to Peterborough turnpike. • Part of – M1 motorway • Part of – Grand Union Canal with Blisworth Tunnel and 'canalscapes'. • Part of Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal • Part of – River Nene.
<p>Other key sites</p>	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper and Lower Boddington settlement remains with Open Field remains. • West Farndon settlement remains (Woodford cum Membris parish) • Appletree DMV earthworks, Aston-le-Walls parish. • Aston-le-Walls site of manor, fishponds and gardens/park. • Blakesley, parkland associated with former Hall along with ridge and furrow and settlement earthwork. • Foxley DMV (Blakesley parish). • Edgcote DMV (within Edgcote House parkland (see above). • Sulgrave, settlement and other remains including ridge and furrow. • Helmdon, small area of ridge and furrow and former quarries at N end of village. • Weston and Weedon, settlement remains and ponds. • Kirby DMV (Woodend parish); uncertain whether still clearly visible? • Bradden, settlement, manor, fishpond and garden remains (see also associated ridge and furrow). • Slapton, settlement earthwork remains. • Fosscote deserted hamlet with adjoining ridge and furrow (Abthorpe parish). • Adstone village settlement and ridge and furrow. • Litchborough, former settlement, site of manor house, ponds and adjoining ridge and furrow (with parkland – see above). • Hulcote settlement, manor and pond earthwork remains (see also Easton Neston Park and Open Field remains above). • Rothersthorpe, settlement remains around S side of village.

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodford Halse railway junction. • Eydon, area of former quarries NW of village (if still surviving) • Heyford, site of ironworking, tramway, quarry in Stowe-Nine-Churches. • Stoke Bruerne, site of former brickworks and clay pits (now a nature reserve). • Line of Stoke Bruerne – Blisworth early canal tramway.
<p>Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stokepark Wood • Nunn Wood • Stowe Wood • Everdon Stubbs • Mantles Heath • Knightley Wood • Burntfold Copse • Seawell Wood • Maidford Wood • Litchborough copse • Grub's Copse • Tite's Copse • Weedon Copse • Plumpton Wood • Gostelow Copse • Square Copse • Heath Copse • Allithorne Wood • Redhill Wood

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

6b. SIBBERTOFT PLATEAU

The area sits upon a Boulder clay plateau that overlooks the River Avon at the north. The southwest corner of the area represents the watershed for the Avon.

The fieldscapes of the area contain a mixture of 18th century non-parliamentary enclosure, primarily based around Sulby and Sibbertoft, parliamentary enclosure at Welford and Marston Trussell and large modern fields (Fig 13).

The villages within the area show a complexity of development. At Welford, settlement remains indicate that what is today a single regular row layout may have originally comprised a planned layout along three separate streets. Similarly at Sibbertoft, settlement remains suggest that what were originally two separate areas may have coalesced into the single village existing today. Marston Trussell has seen continual change from the medieval period culminating in 19th century emparking of the area whilst at Hothorpe the small medieval village saw early enclosure of its land in the 17th century followed by the forcible removal of its remaining inhabitants in the 19th century in order to allow the creation of parkland for Hothorpe Hall.

The most significant of earthworks in the area are those of Sulby Abbey. This medieval Abbey was founded in the 12th century, possibly on the site of an earlier village. The extensive earthworks include hollow ways, boundary banks, dams and ponds and the site of the convent buildings. Elsewhere, the motte and bailey castle at Sibbertoft dominates the valley, which it overlooks and probably dates from mid 11th – late 12th century. Further medieval moated sites are also present at Marston Trussell and Thorpe Lubbenham.



FIG 13: Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure, Welford (HCLA 6a) SP 6308 8138

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorpe Lubbenham: moated manor site and remains of shifted medieval village SAM 13651 • Marston Trussell: shrunken medieval village and moated manor house SAM 13633 • Sibbertoft: motte and bailey castle 'Castle Yard' SAM 13675 • Clipston: Medieval Village of Newbold SAM 30069 • Sulby: Old Sulby medieval village SAM 30073 • Sulby: Sulby Abbey SAM 30072
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Union Canal
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorpe Lubbenham Hall parkland (non-registered). • Marston Trussell Hall parkland (non-registered). • Sulby Hall parkland (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern and western parts of - Naseby Civil War 1645 battlefield including Sulby Hedges on eastern edge of the area. Included on English Heritage Battlefields Register.
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marston Trussell Open Field remains (addition to List C). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Husbands Bosworth WW2 airfield. Extends into Leics. • Part of - Grand Union Canal, (Leicester Line). • Canal side area of Grand Union Canal (Leicester Line) to Welford. • Part of – Chapel Brampton to Welford turnpike (A5199).
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welford, settlement and fishponds adjoining Welford village. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - area of topographical significance, with deep slades NE of Sibbertoft village (in respect of the retreat from Naseby Battlefield; Sibbertoft parish; extends E into area 2c. • Hemploe Hills – wooded parkland remnant; a prominent landscape feature – extends into area 7b. • Hothorpe Hills – with spinneys and remnant ridge and furrow; a prominent landscape feature.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

6c. WELLAND VALLEY: MIDDLETON - ROCKINGHAM

The area stretches out along the Welland Valley through the parishes of Middleton, Cottingham and Rockingham. The valley here is extremely steep and in addition to the alluvium and terrace gravels of the Valley Base, Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays and Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) are revealed in the valley sides. At the south of the area the valley sides rise up onto a flat Boulder Clay plateau. Unlike other areas within this character type there are a number of pockets of ancient woodland surviving. However most of this is preserved within the bounds of Rockingham Park.

Middleton and Cottingham were both enclosed under Parliamentary Act in 1815, however, the parliamentary layout is fragmented by the presence of Rockingham Park (Fig 14) and earlier enclosures with Rockingham, some earlier enclosures in Gretton and the effects of 20th century boundary removal in the south of the area. The best surviving areas of the original parliamentary layout are the parts of Middleton and Cottingham that lie in the Welland Valley floor.

The medieval castle and its Norman motte and bailey, built to control the crossing of the Welland, dominate the area. The castle is set in parkland which contains a small moated site which the Royal Commission suggest started as a moated farmstead within Rockingham Forest and later became associated with the medieval deer park which was enlarged in the 15th and 17th centuries.

The original village of Rockingham itself lay near the castle and settlement remains associated with it are still visible around the now, isolated church. The site finally became abandoned in the 17th century. The settlements of Middleton and Cottingham have grown since the late 19th century to the extent that they are now almost conjoined.

The line of a Roman road that runs from Stanion possibly passes through the area and reaches a crossing point of the Welland at the boundary between Middleton and East Carlton. More modern communication routes comprise the A 427 trunk road that passes through the area from east to west and the London – Birmingham railway that passes at the east of the area. Otherwise parliamentary enclosure and earlier roads connect the villages.



FIG 14: Fragmented Parliamentary Enclosure, Rockingham Park (HLCA 6c) SP 8565 9002

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockingham, Rockingham Castle, shrunken medieval village, moat and warrens. (SAM 13638) and adjoining ridge and furrow (see below). • Rockingham, moated site (SAM 17126). Located with Registered parkland.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham and Middleton • Rockingham
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockingham Castle, formal gardens and landscape park (Registered, Grade II*); encompasses earlier park with medieval origins.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockingham – ridge and furrow adjoining/associated with other features, including SAM 13638 - see below. • Gretton, ridge and furrow associated with other features (see above) <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – the former Midland railway, Manton to Peterborough line. • Part of – probable medieval London to Oakham route (A6003 at Rockingham). • Part of – line of Leicester to Godmanchester Roman road crossing Welland at Cottingham.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gretton, valley side ridge and furrow with landslips. • Gretton, part of Cotton deserted farmstead. • Rockingham, hollow way and earthwork tenter enclosure and site of mills with adjoining ridge and furrow /meadow. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawtry Coppice • Great Hollow • Lodge Coppice • Great Cattage Wood

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

6d. EVERDON-BADBY UPPER VALLEY

The Everdon – Badby Upper valley is defined by the Nene Valley and its tributaries at the east of the area and the Leam Valley at the west. Between the two lies a ridge of high ground that forms the watershed for the two rivers. The uplands between the valleys comprise expanses of Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays whilst the valleys themselves expose Marlstone Rock Bed and Dyrham Siltstone (Middle Lias) silts and clays in their steep sides and Lower Lias clays in their floors. Small stream valleys feeding into the main river valleys break up the land further.

The fragmentation of the fieldscapes principally comprises the intermixing of 18th and 19th century enclosure layouts, parkland and more recent interventions caused by modern recreational areas. The undulating landscape of small streams has influenced settlement and land use and possibly the general fragmentation of the fieldscapes. Braunston was enclosed in 1776 and maintains its regular parliamentary layout with straight hedgeline boundaries, although many of these comprise 19th century additions to the original layout.

The settlements are mostly nucleated, save for Braunston, which is a linear village. At Newnham a complex pattern of settlement remains suggest a possible polyfocal origin for the village. Aside from Braunston, which has seen some modern development on its northern side, the villages have not expanded overly since the late 19th century. This may be due to the lack of any major communication routes through the area. Elsewhere, at Staverton and Everdon, medieval settlement remains around the villages possibly suggest some shrinkage in the medieval period.

Fawsley Hall and its attendant parkland dominate Fawsley parish. The area was emparked in the mid 18th century, and contains the remains of a medieval village, probably deserted due to eviction for sheep grazing in the 15th century, as well as large landscape features including lakes and canalised streams. There are a number of 16th and 17th century buildings surviving within the park grounds including the so-called Dower House – a hunting lodge surrounded by earthworks, which may represent garden features. The main core of the 16th century Fawsley Hall has been added to and changed over the years.

The other major historic landscape feature is the canalscape around Braunston and its environs. The Grand Union canal and its junction with the Oxford Canal flow through the village and nearby are the earthwork remains of the derelict Birmingham Fazely canal.

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braunston, deserted medieval village of Fawcliff (or Braunston Cleves) (SAM 198) Braunston, deserted medieval village of Braunstonbury, moat and fishpond (SAM 13640) Fawsley, Dower House and garden earthworks (SAM 66). Ruined house located within Fawsley Park
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Union Canal Braunston Staverton Newnham Everdon
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Fawsley Hall Park, Landscape Park and gardens (registered Grade II). Everdon Hall parkland (non-registered); also ridge and furrow and settlement remains at Little Everdon.
Registered Battlefield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braunston Open Field remains (Turning the Plough; List A). Associated with Braunstonbury DMV and abandoned canal. Newnham Open Field remains (List B). Fawsley Open Field remains (List B), partly within Fawsley Park. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badby Wood, Braunston Cleeve and other woods; Badby in particular contains many earth features. Part of – (New) Oxford Canal along with old abandoned route of Oxford Canal + adjoining canalscapes. Part of – Grand Junction Canal – later incorporated into the Grand Union Canal + adjoining canalscapes. Part of – Old Straford to Dunchurch turnpike (A45). Part of – Warwick to Northampton turnpike (A425). Part of – dismantled Daventry to Leamington Spa railway. Part of – Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike (A361).
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hundred meeting place and other earthworks in and around Fawsley Park and Badby Woods. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staverton Wood Badby Wood

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

6e. KINGS CLIFFE PLATEAU

The Kings Cliffe Plateau takes in the valley of the Willow Brook. Here, in the valley sides Rutland Formation Upper Estuarine Clays and Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Upper) are revealed whilst on the plateau itself, at the north of the area, the underlying geology is Boulder Clay.

King's Cliffe was enclosed in 1809 and had boundaries added to its basic layout during the 19th century. These have generally changed little since then but some fragmentation to this basic pattern is evident at the north of the area where part of the woodland from the deer park was taken into cultivation after parliamentary enclosure. To the south of this is an area of an old World War Two airfield. Slight remains of the boundary to a medieval deer park still survive in the northwest of the area. The village of King's Cliffe has seen some minor modern development immediately to the north but otherwise it is roughly the same size as in the late 19th century.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Boundary Cross (SAM 29713); King's Cliffe/Blatherwycke. Part of - shrunken medieval village of Blatherwycke (SAM 193) – extends into area 7i.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kings Cliffe
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See under 'non SAMs' below re part of Blatherwycke parkland (non registered). Part of - King's Cliffe medieval deer park; part of pale (boundary) traceable by field boundaries with some earthworks. Deer park extends into area 7i.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of Wansford to King's Cliffe Roman Rd is followed by existing road. Part of – dismantled L& NW Rugby to Peterborough railway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of Blatherwycke shrunken settlement remains and Blatherwycke Hall parkland with lake. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

6f. GRAFTON – WARKTON CLAY PLATEAU

The eastern part of the area occupies a Boulder Clay plateau that overlooks the deep River Ise valley at the west of the area. Streams drain to the south across areas of Blisworth (Great Oolite) Limestone whilst the Ise Valley exposes limestone, Ironstone and clays on its slopes. Located on the edge of the former Rockingham Forest, the area is principally characterised by the presence of the landscaped Boughton Park estate.

The majority of the area was originally enclosed under parliamentary acts in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Areas representing these periods of enclosure survive in Grafton, Warkton and Geddington parishes but are fragmented by intervening areas of early enclosure at Boughton and modern large fields which including a disused wartime airfield at Warkton which has subsequently been returned to agricultural use. The area still contains associated concrete bomb bays along some of its country roads.

The early enclosure at Boughton including the extensive landscaped areas of Boughton Park. Boughton is the largest country house in the county, its 16th century core re-modelled in the 17th century based upon the French Palace of Versailles. The area of parkland was crossed by miles of lime and elm avenues, and many of these elements survive within the landscape today.

Warkton and Weekly are both nucleated villages and have increased little in size since the 19th century. Significant ridge and furrow earthworks survive around Warkton village. Geddington and Grafton are linear row villages of which only Geddington has expanded since the 19th century due to the presence of a modern estate at the north of the village. At Newton Willows, the site of a former manor house and gardens, which supplanted the earlier medieval village, still survive.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton, site of C16th house, gardens, and dovecote (SAM 21675) with adjoining redundant church. • Geddington, bridge (SAM 5). In centre of village.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newton • Geddington • Weekly • Warkton • Grafton Underwood
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - Boughton House, formal gardens, Landscape Park developed from medieval deer park. Includes deserted village of Boughton. (Registered Grade I).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warkton and Weekly Open Field remains (List A), some in Boughton House parkland and settlement remains of Boughton and, with other features around Warkton. • Wickstead Park, Kettering, (Registered, Grade II); C20th amusement or Leisure Park. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Grafton Underwood WW2 airfield. • Part of – Kettering to Stamford turnpike (A4300).
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <p>-</p>
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranford Wood • Kirtley Coppice • Little Green Wood

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

6g. SOUTHERN NENE VALLEY SIDE: HARDINGSTONE – CASTLE ASHBY

The area is located at the south of the River Nene and occupies both the slopes of the valley as well as parts of the valley floor. At the south of the area, the ground rises up onto a Boulder Clay plateau. A number of small tributary streams drain through the clay down the slopes of the main valley sides where Blisworth (Great Oolite) Limestone and Northampton Sand Formation ironstone are exposed. Alluvial deposits fill the floor of the valley.

The majority of the area was enclosed under parliamentary acts in the late 18th and early 19th century. The exception was the lands associated with Castle Ashby, which were enclosed in the mid 17th century and subject to emparking in the 18th century. This mix of landscapes is further fragmented by the presence of large modern fields and industrial areas, leisure parks and flooded gravel quarries along the floor of the Nene Valley.

A number of the villages appear to have been linear row settlements in their 19th century form. The exceptions being Brafield, a 'green' village, and nucleated villages at Little Houghton and the hamlet of Whistoricon. Most of the villages have seen some expansion with modern housing estates being added at the edges of the settlements and of these Cogenhoe has experienced the largest growth.

Scattered ridge and furrow survives throughout the area but especially in the relatively unchanged fields around Great and Little Houghton. Elsewhere, the principal earthwork monument in the area is the motte of Clifford Hill in Little Houghton parish. This Norman defensive site, probably sited so as to control the crossing of the Nene, is noted as being one of the largest examples in the country. Other earthwork remains in the area are scarce: there are fishponds associated with Little Houghton village and a moated manor house at Yardley Hastings.

At the east of the area, the large parkland of Castle Ashby dominates the landscape with long avenues of trees, water features and other garden structures. The house itself is primarily an Elizabethan and Jacobean mansion whilst the original gardens were taken on and altered by 'Capability' Brown in the second half of the 18th century.

6. FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY ENCLOSURE

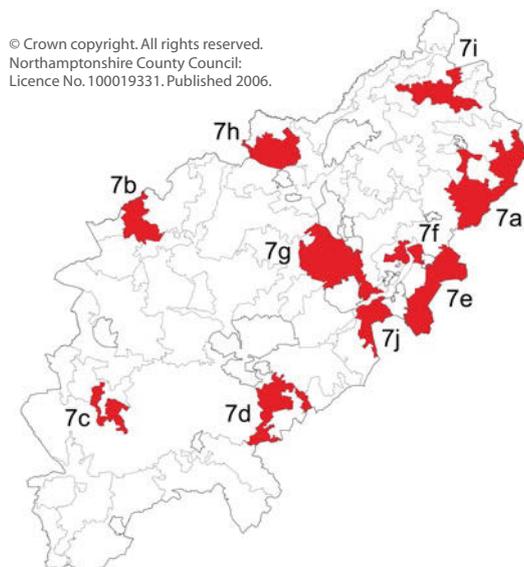
IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Houghton, Clifford Hill motte castle (SAM 13648). • Whistoricon, Place House moat and fishpond (SAM 13656) • Easton Maudit, settlement (possibly Iron Age) (SAM 141), under cultivation and thus not visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Houghton • Little Houghton • Brafield on the Green • Cogenhoe • Denton • Castle Ashby • Yardley Hastings
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delapre Park (non-registered) with Delapre Abbey and gardens. • The Castle, Castle Ashby (Registered, Grade I), formal gardens and landscape parkland. • Little Houghton House parkland (non-registered). • Part of Beckett's Park (non-registered), municipal park in Northampton.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater part of site of Battle of Northampton (Wars of the Roses) including part of River Nene flood meadows.
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Ashby Open Field remains (List A), within Castle Ashby parkland. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horne Wood contains site medieval building and other earthworks. • Part of – Northampton to Stoke Goldington turnpike (B526). • Part of – Kettering to Newport Pagnell turnpike. • Part of – Blisworth to Peterborough dismantled railway. • Part of – Midland railway, Northampton to Bedford, partly dismantled. • Part of – River Nene Navigation.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brafield-on-the-Green, settlement remains. • Yardley Hastings, site of Manor House. • Yardley Hastings parish, earthwork dam and remains of gold course. • Cogenhoe, settlement remains and flood meadow. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horn Wood

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

HISTORIC CHARACTER AREAS

- 7a Titchmarsh – Lutton Clay Plateau
- 7b Hemplow Hills
- 7c Preston Capes
- 7d Hackleton Clay Plateau
- 7e Newton Bromswold Clay Plateau
- 7f Nene Valley: Little Addington to Ringstead
- 7g Ise Valley Side: Broughton to Harrowden
- 7h Wilbarston – Brampton Ash Valley Sides
- 7i Apethorpe - Blatherwycke Limestone Valleys
- 7j Nene Valley: Irchester to Wollaston



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Clay geologies**
- **Large irregular fieldscapes**
- **Small settlements and scattered isolated farmsteads**
- **Few deserted medieval village or ridge and furrow earthworks**
- **Few Conservation areas**

INTRODUCTION

The character type represents areas of large modern fields created by a process of boundary removal undertaken in the late 20th century. Their location, particularly on the clay plateaux at the south of the county, partially based on the practicalities of particular agricultural regimes. The areas often contain small settlements and isolated farmsteads and a number of historic houses. The site of a major Roman town at Irchester also falls into the area.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

The ten character areas are predominantly located in the eastern half of the county, a factor possibly related to the dominance of arable cultivation here over smaller pasture fields at the west. Topographically, however, the areas occupy a variety of locales including the clay plateaux and river valley sides at the south and north of the county respectively, the watershed uplands of the southwest, and part of the River Ise valley between Wellingborough and Kettering. The variety of settings suggests that individual motivation rather than exclusively environmental factors determined their creation.

Geology and Soils

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

Hydrology

In terms of hydrology the areas occupy three distinct areas. The Nene Valley itself, the flat claylands at the south of the county cut through by small tributary streams and the watershed for the Nene, Cherwell and Tove rivers around Preston Capes.

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

HLCT 7 represents a process of extensive field boundary removal to create single, large fields. The process is linked to changes in post-war farming practices, increased mechanisation and the introduction of fiscal measures such as the Common Agricultural Policy. The 1950s Ordnance Survey mapping generally shows a picture that was very similar to that of the late 19th Century, indicating that the majority of these boundary changes occurred during the 1960s and 1970s. This would suggest that although agricultural needs during the Second World War may have brought more fields and marginal land into arable cultivation the essential pattern of the landscape remained the same until the onset of more intensive farming.

The origins of the field systems created by these measures are varied and including both non-parliamentary and parliamentary enclosed land. Because of these diverse backgrounds, the boundaries can vary in shape and form and the main defining criteria is simply the size: The fields are all over 10 hectares with the majority being over 20 ha. Although large, they do not appear to be of the same order as the 'prairie fields' of the southeast of England.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The Character Areas contain little or no ancient or replanted ancient woodland - a factor presumably linked to both the location and agricultural practice. The exceptions to this occur within areas 5g and 5i where small remnants of woodland from the Rockingham Forest survive.

The process of agricultural intensification and mechanisation also saw a change in the patterns of agricultural buildings. Many of the farms and field barns which had been set up away from the villages as part of the parliamentary enclosure process and Victorian agricultural improvements became derelict or changed use in the latter half of the 20th century as they became unsuitable for the larger machinery.

Settlements

Settlement within the areas generally comprises small or significantly shrunken villages. There is also a preponderance of nucleated linear settlements, some of which show evidence of extensive re-planning or re-location in the 19th and 20th centuries. The causes of these correlations are unclear but are probably topographically determined. The changes to settlement have occasionally left the earthwork remains of deserted or shrunken villages but often these have been removed as part of the modern agricultural improvements.

Communication

Modern trunk roads comprising the A14 and A45 cross the area. The other principal communication route is the Grand Union Canal, which passes through the Hemplow Hills character area.

Ridge and Furrow

Since the fields within the Character Areas are largely arable, they contain little surviving ridge and furrow cultivation. Coupled with this, the 'grubbing out' of hedges and other agricultural improvements was, in some locations, accompanied by the flattening of earthwork sites. However, ridge and furrow earthworks do survive in small areas of pasture immediately around some of the villages, such as at Elkington.

Monuments

There are relatively few upstanding earthwork monuments within the character areas but examples of deserted medieval villages occur at Mallows and West cotton (Nene Valley: Little Addington to Ringstead character area) and extensive manorial fishponds survive at Stoke Albany. The Roman small town at Irchester is located within the Nene Valley: Irchester to Wollaston character area. However, it is perhaps the historic houses that dominate the areas with examples of 17th and 18th century buildings at Great Harrowden and Orlingbury and earlier architectural examples at Dingley Hall and Apethorpe.

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7a. TITCHMARSH – LUTTON CLAY PLATEAU

Located at the eastern end of the county, HLCA 7a occupies the majority of a Boulder Clay plateau around Lutton and Hemington (Fig 15) as well as part of river valley side around Clopton. This area represents part of the former historic area of Bromswold.

The fieldscapes within the area have mixed origins, with examples of 17th Century non parliamentary and both 18th and 19th Century parliamentary enclosure. Prior to the enlarging of its fields, the village of Hemington maintained an irregular 17th century enclosure pattern through into the 1950s.

Settlement comprises a number of predominantly regular row nucleated villages that show significant degrees of change from their presumed medieval origins. Earthworks at both Clopton and Hemington display severe shrinkage whilst Luddington and Thorpe Achurch show major changes and relocation of their village layouts in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. A significant part of Lutton was abandoned in the 17th Century whilst Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe was completely deserted following emparking in the 18th Century.

The earthworks of the shrunken and deserted villages perhaps form the most prominent features of this area. Those at Hemington including a moated site and possible early 17th Century garden remains whilst there are a further two possible moated sites within Clopton. There is little survival of ridge and furrow earthworks within the area.

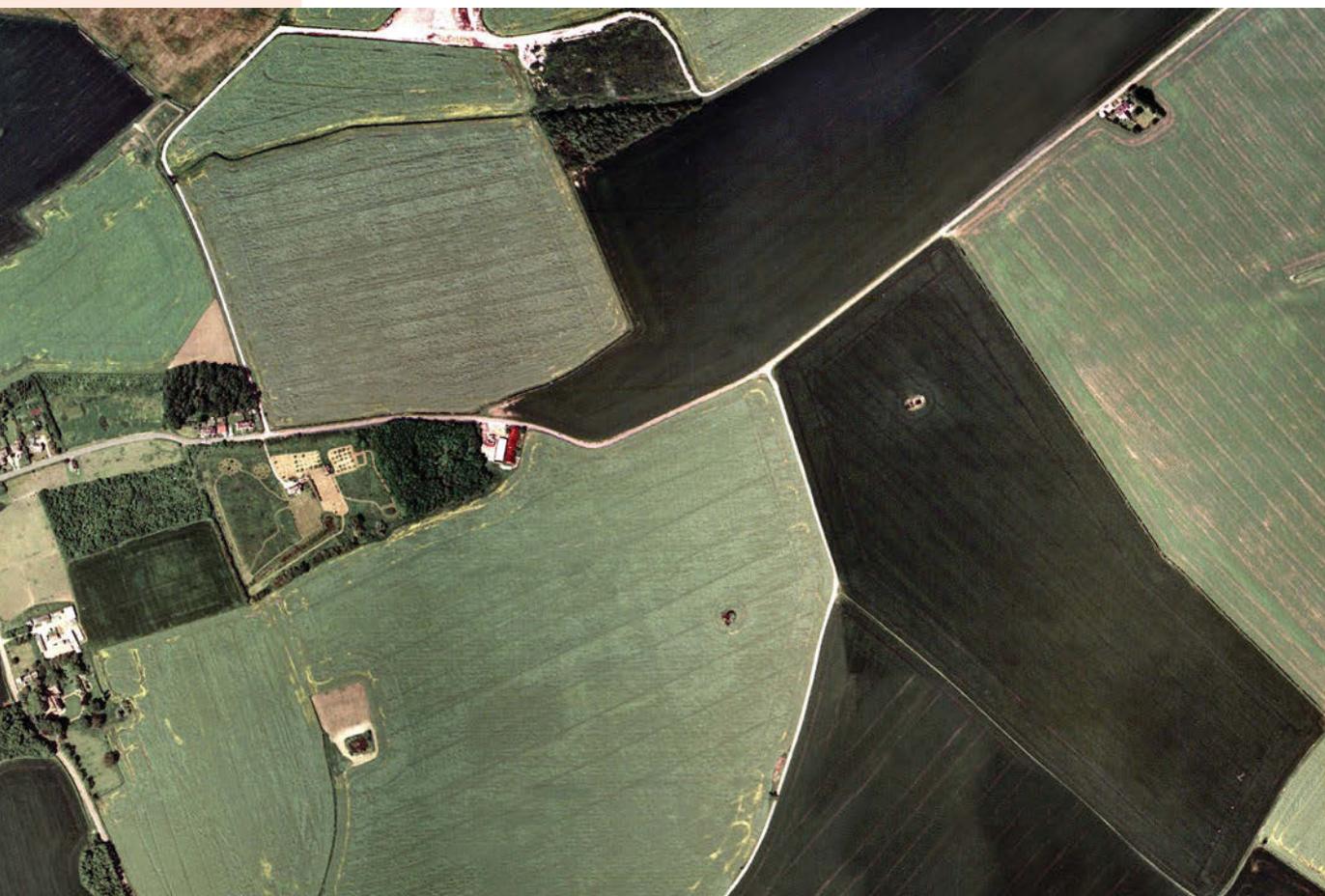


FIG 15: Large Modern Fields, Hemington (HLCA 7a) TL 0994 8526

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorpe Achurch: site of Roman and Iron Age settlement SAM 161; under arable cultivation and thus not visible. • Luddington: Great Hall spinney moat (SAM 13653) with adjoining non-scheduled settlement remains. • Hemington: Beaulieu Hall moated site and garden remains (SAM 13618)
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Ashton Wold woodland, part of Ashton Wold gardens/parkland. • Lutton, Shieling designed parkland.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <p>-</p> <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polebrooke WW2 airfield and Cold War Thor Missile Site. • Part of – the line of the Leicester to Godmanchester Roman road. • Part of – Lilford to Molesworth turnpike. • Part of - Peterborough to Wellingborough turnpike. • Part of – L & NER Blisworth to Peterborough dismantled railway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lutton, village settlement remains. • Clopton, settlement remains and moats. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashton Wold • Stamford Corner • Kingsthorpe Coppice • Barnwell Wold • Gumwell's Wold • Rough Wold • Middle Coppice • Bull Nose Coppice

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7b. HEMPLOW HILLS

The southeast part of the area takes in Honey Hill, the highest point in the vicinity from where the ground slopes down steeply towards the west. The area is cut through by a number of stream valleys, which feed into the River Avon at the north. The higher ground of the Hemplow Hills comprises Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clay whilst Middle and Lower Lias Group deposits are exposed in the sloping ground. An expanse of river terrace gravels occurs in the base of the Avon Valley.

Elkington was given over to sheep farming in the medieval period, when it was owned by Pipewell Abbey, and is thought to have been fully enclosed by 1540. Clay Coton was enclosed by agreement a century later and Stanford a century later still. All three parishes maintained their pre-parliamentary landscapes up until the 1950s, after which time hedgerow removal created the large fields of the present landscape.

Of the two settlements in the area, Elkington now mostly comprises a single farmstead whilst Clay Coton is only a dozen or so buildings. Some slight medieval settlement remains survive around Clay Coton but it is likely that the settlement was always a small hamlet. Fragmentary earthwork remains of the former village also survive at Elkington, the once more extensive remains having been ploughed out in the 1970s. This process of removing earthworks is part of the late 20th century agricultural improvements that created the large modern fields also and also occurred at the site of the deserted medieval village of Dontown in Stanford parish. It is a process that may also have affected the small amount of ridge and furrow cultivation, which now survives in the area.

The flat ground of the area is dominated by the Grand Union Canal, which runs north to south at the base of the Hemplow Hills. The area is also bisected by the more recent A14 trunk road. The dismantled remains of the London and North Western Railway also run through the north of the area.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay Coton Settlement Remains SAM 194
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Union Canal
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elkington Open Field remains with village earthworks and fishponds (List C). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Grand Union Canal, (Leicester Line). Part of Rugby to Market Harborough dismantled railway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay Coton, shrunken settlement remains (extend into 1c). Elkington village earthworks, fishponds and dams - including those located in steep sided slade, the latter extending to lower slopes of Honey Hill. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hemploe Hills – wooded parkland remnant; a prominent landscape feature – (extends into area 6b).
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7c. PRESTON CAPES

The area sits around the slopes of an area of high ground that is the watershed for a number of streams feeding the surrounding Nene, Cherwell and Tove rivers. The geology is almost exclusively clayland: the eastern half of the area is covered with a capping of Boulder Clay whilst in the western, slightly lower half, Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) Clay predominates. There are no major upstanding archaeological monuments within the area.

Aside from a small area that falls within Woodford cum Membris parish, the origin of the fieldscapes lies in pre-parliamentary enclosure. As in the Hemplow Hills these landscapes were finally altered to their present form post 1950 when field boundaries were grubbed out. The overall character of the area comprises large irregular fields with scattered individual farmsteads connected only by small minor roads. No ridge and furrow survives nor any other earthwork monuments.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of - Fawley Hall landscape park (Registered, Grade II*)
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of Fawsley Open Field remains (List B). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7d. HACKLETON CLAY PLATEAU

The Hackleton Clay Plateau is located in the south of the county against the Buckinghamshire border. The area is generally covered with Boulder Clay but at the north, the Hackleton Brook cuts through the clay plateau from east to west and here Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) deposits and Blisworth (Great Oolite) limestone are exposed in the valley side. From the brook, the ground rises gently to a slight ridge, which runs through the parish of Quinton before sloping down to the River Tove at the south. The area lies at the edge of Salcey Forest and which in medieval times would, in places, have extended into the area. The area is characterised by the number of small hamlets that represent a pattern of forest edge settlement.

The existing fieldscapes within the area generally have pre-parliamentary enclosure origins. Although Quinton and Ashton were enclosed under parliamentary act in the early 19th century, some parts of those parishes had already been enclosed prior to this date. Parts of Hartwell and Preston Deanery were enclosed for deer parks in the Middle Ages though no significant remains associated with these areas survive.

Within the fieldscape of large irregular modern fields sits a pattern of small hamlets and villages. Hartwell, formerly Hartwell Green, is the largest of these settlements. Once aligned along a single street, extensive modern development in the late 19th c and 20th centuries has seen it grow in size. The previous village of Hartwell in fact lay to the south around what is now Chapel Farm. Earthwork remains associated with this settlement were largely ploughed out in the 1970s. Similarly, settlement remains at Preston Deanery have now been mostly ploughed out. The settlement now comprises a 19th century hall and a few cottages but was probably never that much bigger in medieval times. In the south of the area the hamlet of Quinton Green has decreased in size since the early 19th century and now mostly consists of a single farmstead. Earthworks associated with the village of Quinton, now a compact nucleated settlement, suggests its origins lay in a number of distinct smaller settlements. Further settlement remains in the north of the parish possibly indicate the existence of yet another small hamlet. This pattern of dispersed hamlets and small villages is typical of a woodland edge settlement pattern. Aside from these scant settlement remains there are no other major earthworks in the area save for the site of a possible dam and watermill in Ashton parish. No ridge and furrow survives within the area. The lines of the minor road and track system are much as they were in the early 19th century and form the main transport routes, although the London – Birmingham railway passes through the south of the area.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Horton Open Field remains (List A). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hartwell Park, medieval and later deer park; the later extent of which can be traced with existing field boundaries. • Part of – London to Birmingham railway. • Part of – Midland Railway, Northampton to Bedford; dismantled. • Part of – M1 motorway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston Deanery DMV. • Hartwell DMV. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preston Wood

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7e. NEWTON BROMSWOLD CLAY PLATEAU

The Newton Bromswold Clay Plateau is, in effect, a continuation of the Titchmarsh Luton Clay Plateau (HLCA 7a) with which it shares many characteristics. It comprises generally flat Boulder Clay cut through in places by deep tributary stream valleys.

The fields within the area have their origin in late 18th and early 19th century parliamentary enclosure. The resulting landscape, before 20th century boundary removal, was generally one of straight hedgerows and parliamentary roads leading to outlying farmsteads. Many of the fields in the area were added to during the 19th century but kept a regular or semi-regular pattern.

There were few areas that were already enclosed at the time of the Parliamentary Act but, of these, the area around Higham Park Farm marked the position of a former medieval deer park that had been disparked in the late 17th century. The earthwork bank marking its boundary still survives and within it is a moated site marking the position of the keepers lodge.

The settlements within the area tend to be small. Newton Bromswold is ranged along a linear street and earthwork remains within the village would suggest that it has shrunk slightly in size from its medieval origin. There has been some modern development around the other villages in the area but the largest settlement occurs at the north of Higham park and represents late 20th century development along the old straight Parliamentary enclosure road.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newton Bromswold, Great Lodge moated site (SAM 13646). Raunds, Thorpe House Farm Iron Age, Saxon and medieval settlement (SAM 11508); largely cultivated and thus not visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higham Park, medieval deer park (non-registered); boundary or pale traceable as earthwork bank and/or field boundaries.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Chelveston, former WW2 and Cold War airfield, still an active US base. Part of – Wellingborough to Great Staughton turnpike (B645). Part of – Barton Seagrave to Westwood gate turnpike (A6). Part of – Kettering to Huntingdon dismantled railway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site of Raunds brickworks. Newton Bromswold settlement and adjoining open fields. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7f NENE VALLEY: LITTLE ADDINGTON TO RINGSTEAD

The area is located on the northern and southern sides of the Nene valley, at the northwest of Raunds. The slopes of the valley side display a variety of geologies principally comprising bands of limestone and clay. Tributary streams cut through the area draining down into the Nene.

With the exception of some small areas around the deserted medieval villages of West and Mallows Cotton, the area prior to 20th century agricultural improvements was one of Parliamentary enclosure. Raunds was enclosed at the turn of the 19th Century and Great Addington in 1804. Both Little Addington and Ringstead were enclosed a generation later in the 1830s. The fieldscapes today generally comprise large straight-hedged fields connected by parliamentary roads. Many of the farmsteads out in the fields are contemporary with the original enclosure layout.

Settlement is confined to the northwest bank of the Nene where the small villages of Great and Little Addington have expanded slightly out from their historic cores. The two principal upstanding monuments are the earthworks of the deserted medieval villages of Mallows Cotton and West Cotton. The latter of which was subject to extensive archaeological excavation during the 1980s. Apart from these there are few other upstanding earthworks in the area.

Aside from the enclosure roads running between the villages, the modern A45 Nene Valley Way is the only other major routeway through the area. However, the line of the Roman road between Lowick and Irchester is thought to run through the parishes of Great and Little Addington.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Addington, site of Roman building (SAM 183); under arable cultivation and thus not visible. • Raunds, Mallows Cotton deserted medieval village (SAM 13694) with adjoining non-scheduled meadow. • Raunds, West Cotton deserted medieval village (SAM 199); extends into area 9a.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – L & NWR Blisworth to Peterborough dismantled railway. • Part of – River Nene • Part of line of possible Roman road between Lowick and Irchester.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7g. ISE VALLEY SIDE: BROUGHTON TO HARROWDEN

The area incorporates most of the western and parts of the eastern sides of the River Ise Valley. The western edge of the area is situated upon a north-south ridge of ground, capped with Boulder Clay. As the ground drops away into the Ise Valley below, Northampton Sand Formation Ironstone and Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) Clays are exposed whilst alluvial deposits cover the floor of the valley. Tributary valleys run from west to east down into the River Ise and these form the boundaries to several of the parishes. The consequence of this is that the parishes have elongated forms, which are able to exploit the various topographies, soils and geologies of the valley profile.

Although the majority of the landscapes are large modern fields, their differing origins have created some variation in patterning throughout the area. Enclosure occurred at Pytchley in the early 17th century and examples of these irregular non-parliamentary fields in their 18th or 19th century form still survive at the west of the village. At Isham and Little Harrowden, enclosed under parliamentary act in 1778 and 1781 respectively, parcels of regular geometrically laid out fields survive. Overall, however, 20th century farming has removed many of the former field boundaries to create larger, more open fields. These are set amongst a landscape of moderately small villages, linked by parliamentary enclosure and earlier roads.

Villages in the area have generally not expanded greatly from their 19th century origins, however most have had small modern housing estates attached. They are mostly of nucleated form except for Little Harrowden, which is laid out along a linear road. The earthwork settlement evidence would also suggest that although the villages have gone through some periods of expansion and contraction they have not greatly changed their size since the medieval period either. Earthwork remains are visible around Pytchley, Isham and Little Harrowden.

The medieval settlement pattern was slightly different to that of the modern landscape, since the parish of Orlingbury once contained a further two medieval villages, Badsaddle and Wythmail. Wythmail was emparked in the early 17th and both villages were deserted at the latest by the early 18th century. Modern ploughing has destroyed their earthworks. Few other significant earthworks survive in the area although there is the earthwork site of a possible watermill at Pytchley. What little ridge and furrow there is occurs in the north of the area in Broughton and Pytchley parishes.

Two historic houses of note occur within the area. Great Harrowden is late 17th century in date and is set in a landscaped garden and parkland that have now become the location of a golf club. Orlingbury Hall is early 18th century in date and sits within its own grounds.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pytchley Isham
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Harrowden Hall
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Northampton to Kettering turnpike. Part of – Kettering to Newport Pagnell turnpike. Part of Midland Railway, Leicester to Hitchin line.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pytchley settlement and manor houses. Isham, former settlement remains. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badsaddle Wood Withmail Park Wood Bush Walk

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7h. WILBARSTON – BRAMPTON ASH VALLEY SIDES

HLCA 7h is situated at the north of the county. The southern part of the area lies upon a flat Boulder Clay plateau whilst at the north the ground slopes down towards the River Welland. Here the ground is deeply cut by a number of tributary streams and expanses of Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clay are exposed. The area is notable for a number of water-related earthworks.

The fieldscapes of the area comprise large irregularly shaped fields. Their origin is mixed, with Brampton Ash and Dingley having been enclosed in the 17th century and Stoke Albany and Wilbarston being enclosed under parliamentary acts in the mid to late 18th century. Part of Stoke Albany was enclosed as a deer park in the 13th century and the pale for the park survives in places. Within its bounds the ancient woodland of Bowd Lane Wood is preserved. The fieldscape pattern of the area is further variegated, since a disused wartime airfield in Wilbarston parish has subsequently been returned to agricultural use (Fig 16).

Both Stoke Albany and Wilbarston have seen some expansion from their historic cores but Dingley and Brampton Ash maintain their small 19th century sizes. However, settlement remains around the villages show a process of expansion, contraction and movement was taking place throughout the medieval period.

The most substantial of the earthworks surviving in the area are the manorial fishponds at Stoke Albany. Further fishponds survive in Wilbarston parish and the sites of possible watermills are also present in Stoke Albany, Wilbarston and Dingley parishes. Dingley Hall is noted for its 16th and 17th century architecture and along with the rest of the small village and its medieval settlement remains is set in landscaped parkland.



FIG 16: Large Modern Fields, Wilbarston (former Desborough airfield) (HLCA 7h) SP 8171 8627

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stoke Albany: moated site and fishponds SAM 13629
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brampton Ash Stoke Albany Wilbarston
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dingley Hall parkland (non-registered). Stoke Albany medieval deer park (non-registered); boundary or pale can be partly traced by earthworks and/or field boundaries.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desborough WW2 former airfield. Part of Little Bowden to Rockingham turnpike. Brampton and Hermitage Woods, earthworks within.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dingley settlement and dam remains. Brampton Ash settlement remains. Stoke Albany, site of watermills. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hermitage Wood Brampton Wood Stoke Wood Bowd Lane Wood Walter Wood

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7i. APETHORPE - BLATHERWYCKE LIMESTONE VALLEYS

The area predominantly occupies the western side off the Willow Brook and the spur of high ground that overlooks it. On the valley slopes Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) and Blisworth (Great Oolite) limestone are exposed whilst on the higher ground glacial Boulder Clay sits on the underlying Oxford Clay Formation. Parts of the area lie inside the former bounds of Rockingham Forest, which accounts for the parcels of ancient and replanted woodland that are present.

The large modern fields that lie across the area today derive from a variety of origins. The irregular shaped fields that lie within Southwick parish derive from forest woodland and forest lawns taken into agriculture in the 19th and 20th centuries. Elsewhere, regular and semi-regular patterned fieldscapes derive from parliamentary and non-parliamentary enclosed fields that had boundaries added in the 19th century.

The fields around Blatherwycke formerly belonged to the extensive parkland associated with Blatherwycke Hall. The hall itself was demolished in the late 1940s and much of its parkland subsequently turned to agriculture. However, the large lake in its grounds still survives. Historic parkland associated with Apethorpe Hall also survives, as does the 16th century building itself.

Of the settlements within the area, only Wood Newton has grown slightly from its 19th century size and although minor earthworks occur at this village as well as Blatherwycke and Apethorpe they do not appear to indicate that the villages were ever much larger than their present small size.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - shrunken medieval village of Blatherwycke (SAM 193) – extends into area 6e.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apethorpe Wood Newton
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apethorpe Hall gardens (Registered Grade II); also wider parkland (non-registered). See under 'non SAMs' below re part of Blatherwycke parkland (non registered). Part of - King's Cliffe medieval deer park; extends into area 6e. Only in the latter can the park pale (boundary) readily be traced using field boundaries.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morehay Lawn, boundary of this former forest lawn still identifiable. King's Cliffe WW2 airfield and defences. Part of – dismantled L& NW Rugby to Peterborough railway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of Blatherwycke shrunken settlement remains and site of Blatherwycke Hall and gardens/parkland. Fotheringhay, settlement earthworks – extending into area 2b. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvey Wood Tomlin Wood Cadge Wood Hostage Wood Great Morton Sale

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

7j. NENE VALLEY: IRCHESTER TO WOLLASTON

The area is located on the county border and overlooks the River Nene at the north. A deep tributary stream forms the boundary between Knuston and Irchester and flows into the Nene at the east of the area. The ground slopes gently down towards the river. At its highest point at the south, the ground is capped with Boulder Clay and Glacial sands and gravels but, as the ground slopes gently down towards the Nene, limestone and Lias Group silts and clays are exposed. Ironstone geologies in the area have generally been quarried away and the resulting reinstated ground forms part of the large modern fields that characterise the area.

The area was originally enclosed under parliamentary acts in the late 18th century. These original field patterns generally survived up into the late 20th century when boundary removal created the present pattern of large modern fields. Both Irchester and Wollaston have grown substantially in the 20th century predominantly due to the rise in the shoe industry.

The A45 Nene Valley Way passes through the area and the London – Birmingham railway passes through the valley immediately to the east of Irchester. Otherwise, enclosure period roads form the main communication routes in the area but, previously, Roman roads led to Irchester Roman town from both the south and the east.

The earthworks of the Roman town at Irchester survive within the area. Immediately adjacent to these are later earthworks associated with the deserted hamlet of Chester-on-the-Water. The hamlet appears to have become depopulated over a number of centuries and eventually became incorporated into the grounds of Chester House in the 18th century. A larger hall survives at Knuston and, as at Irchester, within its 18th century grounds lay the remains of the township's deserted medieval village but no significant ridge and furrow survives here or indeed elsewhere within the area.

Part of the area around Irchester Roman town was subject to ironstone quarrying and the remains of an extraction tramway still survive. The ground has subsequently been reinstated as both agricultural land and woodland plantation (now part of Irchester Country Park).

7. LARGE MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

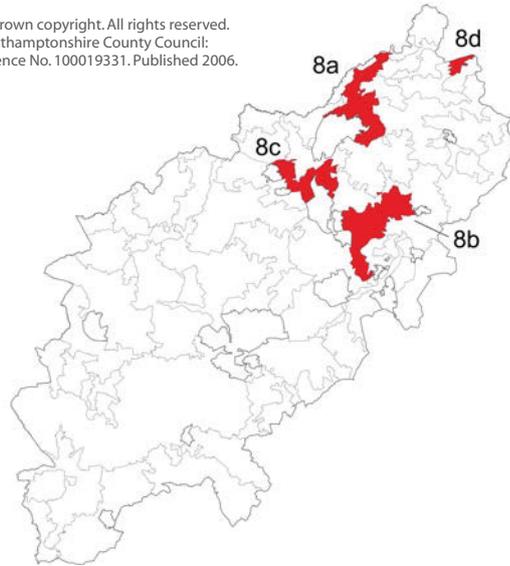
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wollaston, Beacon Hill motte castle (SAM 13647). • Irchester, Roman station and deserted medieval village of Chester-on-the-Water (SAM 83) – extends into 9a.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wollaston
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knuston Hall parkland (non-registered). • Irchester, Chester Farm post medieval parkland (non-registered). • Wollaston House parkland (non-registered) and other features.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ironstone quarrying visible remains in and around Irchester Country Park. • Part of – Wellingborough to Great Staughton turnpike (A45). • Part of – Midland railway, Hitchin (London) to Leicester. • Part of – Kettering to Newport Pagnell turnpike (A509). • Part of - line of Roman road running south from Irchester Roman town to Dungee Corner. • Part of – line of probable medieval Oakham to London route
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knuston DMV – largely within Knuston Hall parkland. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- 8a Nene Valley Side: Wakerley to Weldon
- 8b Lowick – Finedon Valley Side
- 8c Newton - Rushton
- 8d Nassington - Yarwell

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Large irregular fields set amongst a wider 20th century fieldscape
- Some land re-used as recreational facilities and land fill sites
- Some historic woodland and parkland
- Scarce ridge and furrow or other earthwork monuments
- Frequent railways

INTRODUCTION

The Character Areas are located in the northeast of the county, centred upon the main Northampton Ironstone deposits. They represent areas of Victorian and later quarrying that have been returned to agricultural use. Due to the quarrying process, few upstanding historical monuments exist within the areas.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

By their nature, the character areas exploit the Northampton Sand Formation ironstone deposits. However, on the higher ground between stream and river valleys, these are covered by Boulder clay drift deposits and in the valley sides they are overlain by higher Blisworth Limestone Formation Oolitic limestone.

Hydrology

All four areas sit on high ground overlooking the county's main river valleys and are cut through by their tributary streams. It is in these valley sides, where ironstone deposits are exposed or lay close to the surface, that the initial Victorian quarrying was undertaken. Later extraction moved onto the higher Boulder Clay areas when mechanisation was able to aid in the recovery of the more deeply buried deposits.

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

Iron smelting and production has occurred in the area since at least Roman times. In addition to the Ironstone deposits, Rockingham Forest provided plentiful supplies of wood from which charcoal fuel could be produced. After the medieval period the industry dwindled until the mid 19th century when the ironstone reserves were once more 'rediscovered' and exploited. It was an industry that would last up into the late 20th century when economic changes would see its demise.

Extraction was by opencast methods. Initially hand dug, steam power was introduced at the turn of the 19th century and this mechanisation led to a 'hill and dale' landscape that covered large areas of the countryside. Whereas the hand dug quarries were reinstated once completed and given back to agriculture, the mechanically dug areas were often left in their ridged state. Some of these areas were covered with coniferous tree plantations but it was not until after the 1950s that suitable financial provision was made for the restoration of former quarry sites to agricultural land. More recently, former quarries have been used for a range of purposes including landfill and recreational sites.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscales

The reinstatement of agricultural land has had a significant impact upon the fieldscales of the area. Although the original hand dug quarries often reinstated land without removing field boundaries the large-scale 20th century extraction saw previous enclosure patterns swept away. The fieldscales resulting from reinstatement, therefore generally comprise large irregular fields with few internal boundaries. The areas surrounding the former quarries can also be affected where the lines of haul roads or former tramways are preserved in the fieldscales.

Settlements

Since quarrying has tended to take place away from the immediately areas of settlement, the villages present tend to lie towards the edges of the character areas. Of these, Finedon has seen the biggest growth in the 20th century, a factor due more to the rise in the shoe industry rather than the local quarrying. Other villages have tended to retain their small 19th century sizes although Gretton and Islip have both seen development in the second half of the 20th century due to their roles as dormitory villages.

Communication

The establishment of the Midland Main Line railway through Kettering in 1857 was the spur to the Ironstone industries in the area. In the succeeding years branch lines were established to link the quarries and the smelting areas and to bring in coal from outside the county. Thus, the Reinstated Mineral Extraction Areas are characterised by the presence of active and former railway lines. In this regard, the Lowick – Finedon Valley Sides (HLCA 8b) also including the A14 Trunk Road which follows the line of the former railway in this area. In addition to the railways and modern roads some enclosure and earlier roads still survive.

Ridge and Furrow

Largely due to the extraction process there is little survival of ridge and furrow cultivation in the area, although partly this may also be due to the fact that some areas were formerly part of the woodland of Rockingham Forest. Where ridge and furrow does survive, it is around the villages such as at Harringworth (HLCA 8a).

Monuments

For the same reason that ridge and furrow is scarce within the area, there is also a lack of other upstanding earthwork monuments. Those that are present, generally survive within the bounds of parkland. Thus, deserted medieval villages are present at both Kirby and Glendon Halls. However, there is a single example of earthworks of a former house and formal gardens nearby Wakerley village. The parkland also including some architectural monuments of note including Kirby Hall, Drayton House and the Triangular Lodge at Rushton.

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

8a. NENE VALLEY SIDE: WAKERLEY TO WELDON

The southern part of the area is located upon generally flat land covered with Boulder Clay. The area is cut through by small streams draining eastwards down into a small tributary of the Welland. Limestone deposits are exposed in the sides of the stream valleys. At the north, the area follows the top edge of the Welland Valley along which limestone deposits are present. It was the underlying ironstone deposits that were mined from the area in the post-war period and which fed the former nearby Corby steel works.

The fieldscapes in the area generally comprise large irregular fields created during the reinstatement process (Fig 17). These are set amongst other areas unaffected by mineral extraction but where the removal of field boundaries after the 1950s has also created large modern fields. Occasional older enclosures survive in places. These fieldscapes are interspersed with modern plantations and recreational areas created on the former quarried land. Immediately to the southwest of Wakerley a former second world war aerodrome has now been returned to agriculture creating further large modern fields.

Of the settlements which lie within the area (Gretton, Harringworth and Wakerley) only Gretton has grown appreciably from its 19th century core due to the addition of a modern housing estate on both sides of the Harringworth Road.

Unsurprisingly, due to the large-scale mineral extraction, very little ridge and furrow survives within the area. What little there is occurs around the village of Harringworth where some earthwork settlement remains also exist. The main architectural monument in the area is the Elizabethan Kirby Hall. The hall sits within grounds that including the earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Kirby. The village was depopulated in the 17th century in order to make way for the halls gardens and landscaped park. Of unknown date but possibly contemporary are the very well preserved, earthworks remains of a house and formal garden at Wakerley village. Adjacent to Weldon village (which itself lies just outside the area) there are also the earthwork remains of former mineral extraction. In this case they represent the medieval and post-medieval workings of the Weldon Stone quarries rather than more recent ironstone extraction. Some areas of pockets of ancient woodland also still survive in the area. These include Weldon Park Wood, which marks the location of a medieval deer park.

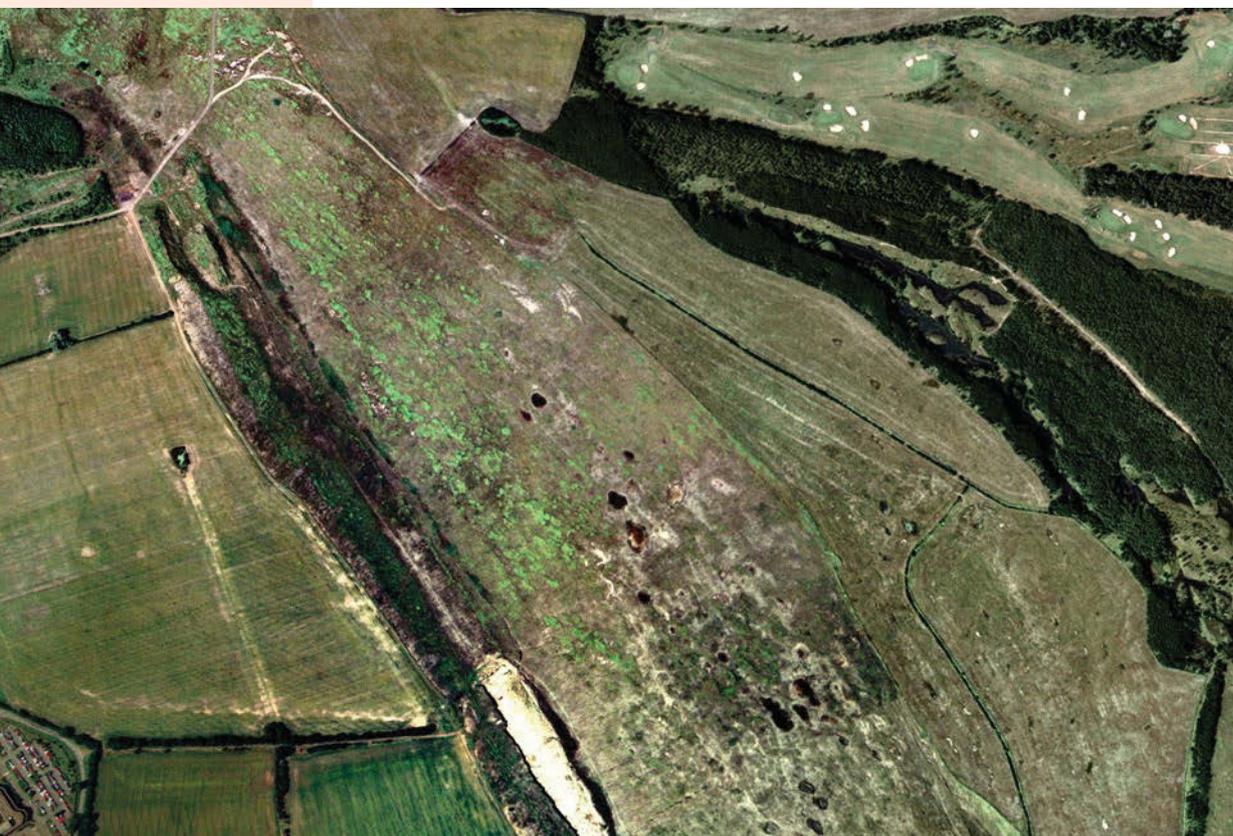


FIG 17: Reinstated Mineral Workings, Corby (HLCA8a) SP 9271 9078

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wakerley: Earthworks of House and Garden (SAM 168) Deene: Kirby Hall, remains of country house and gardens and remains of Kirby DMV (SAM 17158) Weldon: Little Weldon Roman Villa (SAM 105); not visible.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harringworth Wakerley Gretton
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirby Hall, remains of formal gardens (Registered, Grade II*). Part of - Harringworth Old Park and Harringworth Park (non-registered); See also 8b. Weldon Park, medieval deer park (non –registered); largely occupied by Weldon Park woodland; parts of earthwork pale survive.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harringworth Open Field remains (List C), includes former settlement remains in Harringworth and the hamlet of Shotley. Part of - Gretton Open Field remains (1993 supplementary list). Small area N of village – extends into area 5b). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanhoe WW2 former USAAF airfield. Part of – Welland railway viaduct and the Kettering to Manton railway line. Extends into area 5b. Dryleas and Hollow Woods, Gretton Wood, Ferrels - ancient woodlands, some with earthwork features. Part of Kettering to Stamford turnpike. Part of Oundle to Cottingham turnpike.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gretton, site of manor house, fishponds and mounds. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Wood Rockingham Wood Weldon Park Mavis Wood Geese Wood Ferrels Wood

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

8b. LOWICK – FINEDON VALLEY SIDE

The southern part of the area runs along parallel with and overlooks the east bank of the River Ise. The higher parts of the area sit on a Boulder Clay plateau that separates the Ise from the River Nene. At the north of the area the Boulder Clay is cut through by the east-west running Cranford Brook, a tributary of the Nene. The mineral extraction within the area has largely taken place along the sides of the River Ise and Cranford Brook where the ironstone geology is exposed along with bands of Great Oolitic Limestone.

The mineral extraction areas along the River Ise and the Cranford Brook have generally been reinstated as large agricultural fields of both regular and irregular forms, although one example is in use as a landfill site. The large-scale mining of ironstone began here in the second half of the 19th century around Cranford and Twywell and continued through to the latter half of the 20th century. The reinstated mineral extraction areas sit within a wider landscape of large modern fields created post – 1950 by the grubbing out of hedgerows. With the exception of Barton Seagrave, the medieval open fields originally became enclosed under parliamentary acts in the late 18th and very early 19th centuries and the fieldscapes retain this overall rectilinear pattern despite the removal of the hedgerows.

The A14 trunk road, which follows the line of a former branch of the Midland Railway, crosses the area to the south of the Cranford Brook. It was along the original branch line railway that the ironstone was transported and small blast furnaces, such as at Islip, built.

Of the settlements in the area, Finedon has seen the biggest growth in the 20th century, a factor largely due to the growth of the shoe industry in the early part of the century and its location as a dormitory town in the latter. Elsewhere, only Islip has seen much growth away from its 19th century historic core. Some isolated pockets of ridge and furrow survive outside the quarried areas but there are few other upstanding historic monuments in the area. The main monument is the historic house and parkland of Drayton House. The house itself is mostly of 17th and 18th century date but has parts surviving of the earlier medieval manor house that forms its core. Within the associated parkland avenues of trees and other garden features survive.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranford • Finedon
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drayton House formal gardens and landscape park (Registered, Grade I). • Cranford Hall, parkland (non-registered). • Woodford House, parkland (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twywell Hills/Gullet – ironstone working remains within nature reserve. • Finedon, Calley Banks nature reserve contains a variety of ironstone quarry remains. • Part of - Peterborough to Wellingborough turnpike and possibly part of Market Harborough to Huntingdon turnpike. • Part of – Barton Seagrave to Westwood gate turnpike (A6). • Part of A14 road. • Part of – possible line of Roman road from Lowick to Irchester. • Part of former Midland Railway, Kettering to Huntingdon (dismantled).
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

8c. NEWTON - RUSHTON

The area is located immediately to the north of Kettering town and is bisected by the River Ise, which runs from west to east through the parishes of Geddington and Rushton. Areas of high ground at the north and south of the Ise are covered by Boulder Clay whilst limestones, Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays and Northampton Sand Formation Ironstone deposits are exposed in the valley sides. At the south of the area the area embraces Weekley parish and small parts of Rothwell and Desborough parishes which including small tributary brooks and streams draining into the main Ise valley at the south. Ironstone extraction has taken place both within the river valley and on the higher Boulder Clay areas.

Geddington and Weekley were enclosed in the first decade of the 19th century under Parliamentary Act whilst Rushton and Newton were enclosed earlier in the 16th and 17th centuries. With the exception of the Glendon Iron Works, large-scale mineral extraction did not start in the area until after the 1880s but once begun continued well into the latter half of the 20th century. The reinstatement of these areas has resulted in the removal of the earlier enclosure pattern and the establishment of large irregular shaped modern fields (Fig 18).

The area is crossed by a number of branches of the Midland Railway, leading out from Kettering, a communication system, which aided the development of the mining industry. Rushton is the only settlement within the area and this has generally retained its small 19th century size, however earthworks at the west of the village suggest it may have been slightly larger in medieval times. The former medieval village of Glendon lies within the now landscaped grounds of Glendon Hall. The earthwork remains are slight and represent a settlement, which was largely depopulated at the time of enclosure.

Small parts of Boughton and Rushton parks extend into the area. The latter including the 16th century Triangular Lodge, an architectural profession of Thomas Tresham's Catholic faith, whilst the former area including vestiges of the once extensive tree-line avenues, expressions of the Duke of Buccleuch's temporal power.



FIG 18: Reinstated Mineral Workings, Newton (HLCA 8c) SP 8682 8275

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rushton, Triangular Lodge, Elizabethan warrener's lodge and rabbit warren; (SAM 17159).
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rushton
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Rushton Hall parkland (Registered, Grade II*). Part of – Boughton House, landscape park (Registered Grade I).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Midland railway, Hitchin (London) to Leicester. Part of – Midland railway, Kettering to Manton line. Part of – Nottingham to Kettering turnpike. Part of – line of probable medieval Oakham to London route.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rushton, settlement remains. Rushton, site of Roman buildings and adjoining meadow. Rushton, site of Glendon DMV with Glendon Hall parkland. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – the original line of Kettering's Late Saxon Charter boundary may be traceable by field boundaries (within quarried land).
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaultney Wood Weakley Hall Wood

8. REINSTATED MINERAL EXTRACTION

8d. NASSINGTON - YARWELL

The area lies at the east of the River Nene on a mainly limestone geology. Although post medieval limestone extraction and Roman ironstone workings were undertaken in the area, the principal quarrying in the area comprised 20th century ironstone extraction.

This small area includes the northernmost parts of Yarwell and Nassington, parishes that were enclosed together under parliamentary act in 1777. A part of the original enclosure landscape survives around Old Sulehay forest but elsewhere reinstatement has created large irregular fields. There are no significant upstanding historic monuments in the area.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – line of medieval Stamford to Oundle road (along W edge of area). • Ring Haw ancient woodland – potential for visible archaeological remains.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – quarrying and associated features.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

9. FLOODED MINERAL EXTRACTION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

9a Nene Valley: Woodford - Grendon



Key Characteristics

- **Large lakes**
- **Isolated funerary monuments**
- **Locks and canalised stretches belonging to the Nene Navigation**
- **Modern leisure areas**

INTRODUCTION

HLCT 9 occupies a single location set along the floor of the River Nene valley between the modern parishes of Woodford at the east and Grendon at the west. It represents the areas of modern sand and gravel extraction that have been flooded after they have been worked out.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

The areas are located upon the 1st River Terrace gravels, the objective of the sand and gravel extraction. Above these deposits the valley floor is covered with alluvial layers of various thicknesses.

Hydrology

The area is located wholly within the valley floor of the River Nene.

9. FLOODED MINERAL EXTRACTION

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

It was the needs of the countrywide construction industry in the second of the 20th century that increased the exploitation of the sands and gravels. Quarrying has taken place at other points along the Nene Valley including at Great Houghton and at Thrapston but the Woodford to Grendon stretch represents the main area of interlinked flooded areas in the county.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The general character of the area comprises sets of interconnected lakes, which are generally surrounded by areas of unimproved or rough ground (Fig 19). However, industrial areas and small fields do also separate some lakes. These lakes are used for a variety of recreational pursuits and as wildlife sanctuaries.



FIG 19: Flooded Mineral Extraction, Stanwick (HLCA 9a) SP 9684 7198

Settlements

There are no settlements within the area.

Communication

This stretch of the River Nene was made navigable between 1758 and 1760. The river had been made navigable between Peterborough and Thrapston, twenty years earlier, but the improvements in the second half of the century enabled agricultural goods to be exported out of the county and a series of mills were built at various points along its length. The navigation and its locks survive today at the northern side of the area whilst along the southern edge runs the more recent A45 Nene Valley Way trunk road.

Ridge and Furrow

Although the majority of the area was probably pastureland throughout the medieval period, some areas would have been part of the field systems. Certainly some fields created under parliamentary enclosure were improved with drainage and given over to crops. However, no ridge and furrow cultivation survives with the unquarried areas.

Monuments

By its nature, the process of gravel extraction has meant that any monuments within its bounds have been destroyed. The areas of extraction were subject to intensive archaeological investigation through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and numerous archaeological sites were excavated and recorded before their destruction. However, today, the monuments that survive are those that have remained on untouched areas. These comprise two examples of possible Bronze Age burial mounds (features which once would have been part of a more extensive mortuary landscape throughout the valley), and elements of the Nene Navigation canalscape.

9. FLOODED MINERAL EXTRACTION

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

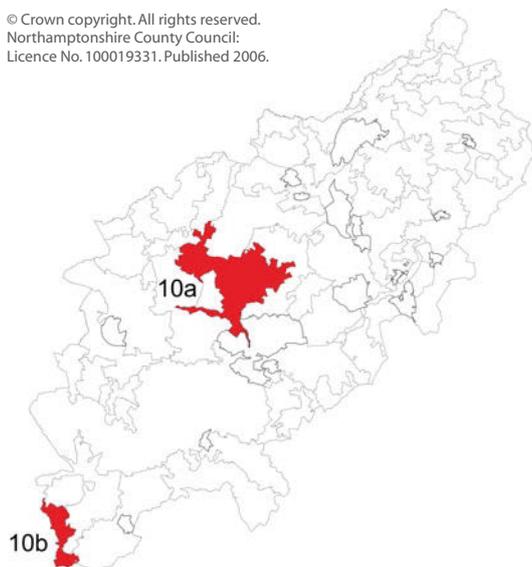
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanwick, Raunds bowl barrow (SAM 13676). • Irthlingborough, Irthlingborough bowl barrow (SAM 13667). • Irthlingborough, Irthlingborough medieval bridge (SAM 61). • Irchester, Ditchford medieval bridge (SAM 65). • Part of - Irchester, Roman station and deserted medieval village of Chester-on-the-Water (SAM 83) – extends into 7j. • Part of - Raunds, Deserted settlement of West Cotton (SAM 199); extends into area 7f.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of River Nene/River Nene Navigation and its ‘canalscape’. • Part of L & NW Blisworth to Peterborough railway. • Part of – Barton Seagrave to Westwood Gate turnpike (A6). • Part of – Midland railway, Hitchin (London) to Leicester with viaduct over Nene valley near Irchester.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside land/meadow adjacent Mallows Cotton DMV (SAM 13694) and Wollaston Roman villa (SAM 178). • Roman and later earthwork causeway crossing the floodplain (Wellingborough/ Irchester parishes) carrying the Roman road between Durobrivae and Irchester Roman town. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellingborough Mill, relocated water wheel adjoining A45.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

10. MODERN FIELDS

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

10a Brampton Brook Ironstone Uplands
10b Cherwell River Valley: Warkworth - Aynho

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Modern communication routes**
- **Medium large fields**
- **Historic halls and grounds**

INTRODUCTION

The two areas of Modern Fields are located at the west of the county. They represent areas of mainly medium-large sized modern fields created by the removal of hedge boundaries after the 1950s. The principal upstanding monuments in the area comprise 17th and 18th century halls and their landscaped grounds although the Brampton Brook Ironstone Uplands (HLCT 10a) also contains the Saxon minster church at Brixworth.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

The Brampton Brook Ironstone Uplands comprise a mixture of Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clays and areas of ironstone in the interfluvies. Conversely, HLCA 10b is located in the Cherwell Valley where a succession of Lias Group deposits and alluvium are present. Although both areas occupy mainly clay geologies it does not appear as if this is necessarily a prime, determining factor in the creation of the fieldscapes.

Hydrology

The upper reaches of the Brampton Brook comprise an undulating landscape of valleys and tributary streams whilst the Cherwell Valley is relatively gentle slope down to the valley floor, only cut through by two main tributaries.

10. MODERN FIELDS

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

The Modern Fields represent areas where alteration to earlier enclosed landscapes since the 1950s has been sufficient to consider them as a modern fieldscapes. They differ in scale from the Large Modern Fields (HLCT 7) since the fields tend to be less than 10ha in size and, rather than being subject to wholesale grubbing out of hedgerows, a more piecemeal process has taken place. The factors behind this are not clear but may represent simply different ownership patterns or possibly different agricultural regimes. The fieldscapes are further divided by the presence of modern communication routes through the areas, which may have been a further stimulus in the modern re-organisation of the fields.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The overall pattern of fields comprises a semi-regular layout with generally straight hedgerows. It was the intervention of the railways in the Victorian period that began to break up the earlier parliamentary enclosure pattern and this was a process that continued with the establishment of modern roads such as the M40 motorway. Although the overall framework of parliamentary layout survives, the grubbing out of individual hedgerows, small areas of reinstated former mineral workings and the establishment of fields on former parkland has created an overall late 20th century fieldscape.

Settlements

Settlements within the area mostly comprise nucleated settlements, at least in their 19th century forms. All, however, have seen some degree of growth out from their historic cores. This is partly connected with the location of nearby major rail and road communications that pass through the areas.

Communication

The areas are crossed both by former and active lines of the London and North Western Railway and the Great Western railway. These routes had stations in or close to some of the settlements in the area, a factor that would have helped spur development. In addition to the surviving parliamentary road system between many of the villages, the areas are also crossed by more major routeways including the A508 Market Harborough Road, a former turnpike road out of Northampton, and the more recent M40 motorway in the Cherwell River Valley (HLCA 10b).

Ridge and Furrow

There is some sparse scattered ridge and furrow present in both areas. The lack of extensive areas of these earthworks may in part be due to the processes involved in creating the modern field system.

Monuments

The principal monuments in the area comprise historic buildings. These include Lamport Hall and Aynho Park, both of which have associated registered parkland. The other major architectural monument represented is the Middle Saxon Minster Church at Brixworth. Apart from minor settlement remains associated with many of the villages in the area other earthwork monuments including the fishponds at Lamport and Walgrave – monuments whose locations are probably influenced by the numerous streams and springs in the Brampton Brook Ironstone Uplands. The latter village also is associated with a medieval moated site.

10. MODERN FIELDS

10a. BRAMPTON BROOK IRONSTONE UPLANDS

The area comprises the upper reaches of the Brampton Brook valley and its tributary streams. The geology mainly comprises Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) Clay and Northampton Sand Formation Ironstone but on the higher ground there are small patches of Boulder Clay whilst the floors of the stream valleys are covered with alluvium.

The fields of the area were mostly originally enclosed under parliamentary acts in the second half of the 18th century. The exceptions to this are lands in the former township of Nortoft (now in the modern parish of Guilsborough), which were enclosed by agreement in the 16th c. Some areas around Spratton and Creaton have retained their early parliamentary landscapes, however elsewhere boundary removal after the 1950s has created a pattern of semi-regular fields (Fig 20). The previous parliamentary pattern has been further altered by the creation of Pitsford reservoir in 1956 and a modern golf course at the Bramptons. The golf course occupies part of land that was, prior to enclosure, a large area of common heathland.

The majority of villages within the area have all have grown in size since the late 19th century. Brixworth has probably grown the most, a combination of its location on the main road and rail routes into Northampton and earlier expansion due to nearby ironstone quarrying contributed. The quarrying began in the Victorian period continued into the second half of the 20th century and it was across much of this reinstated land that the modern village expanded.

The area is crossed by a number of communication routes. The former London and North Western Railway (Northampton – Market Harborough line) which ran north–south through the area, immediately to the west of Brixworth has now been turned into a cycle and walking route. A branch line of this railway runs east - west through the area and now forms part of the London - Birmingham mainline. The A508 Trunk Road is the modern replacement for the former turnpike road that ran to Market Harborough and was one of the main road links for Northampton.

Earthwork remains in the area are slight but varied. At Guilsborough, minor earthworks within the village relate to what is probably an Iron Age Hillfort. Scattered ridge and furrow survives throughout the area and most villages have some, albeit minor, settlement earthworks relating to their medieval development history. More substantial earthwork remains are present at Walgrave where there is a moated site located at the north of the village. The village also has fishponds relating to the medieval antecedent of the standing 17th century manor house and further fishponds can be found at Lamport. The Elizabethan Lamport Hall and the earlier Saxon church at Brixworth form the two principal architectural features within the area.



FIG 20: Modern Fields, Chapel Brampton (HLCA 10a) SP 7204 6759

10. MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanging Houghton, earthwork manor house site and garden remains (SAM 30071) with adjoining unscheduled settlement remains and ridge and furrow. • Pitsford, Longmans Hill long barrow (SAM 13671). • Walgrave, moated site (SAM 13626). • Part of – Harlestone, cropmark complex (SAM 175). Under cultivation and thus not visible. Extends into 5f.
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creaton • Brixworth • Scaldwell • Pitsford • Chapel Brampton
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamport Hall gardens and park (Registered, Grade II). • Guilsborough - see under non-SAMs below. • Brixworth, Wolfage Park – see under non-SAMs below. • Coton Manor (non-registered). • Spratton Grange (non-registered). • Moulton Grange (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Walgrave Open Field remains (List B) – (extends into area 4d). • Part of - Lamport Open Field remains (List B); (extends into 4d). <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollowell Reservoir. • Ravensthorpe Reservoir. • Pitsford Water. • Chapel Brampton to Welford turnpike (A5199). • Part of – Northampton to market Harborough turnpike (A508). • Part of – Northampton to Dunchurch turnpike. • Part of – line of the dismantled Northampton to Market Harborough railway. • Part of former L & NW railway, now mainline Northampton to (Rugby) Birmingham line. • River Nene – Brampton Arm.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilsborough Hall Fm, earthworks of hillfort and other features. • Guilsborough, remains of former hamlet of Nortoft and adjoining parkland. • Deserted village of Little Creaton. • Wolfage Manor and fishpond earthworks with Wolfage Park. • Walgrave, extensive medieval settlement and fishpond earthworks associated with open fields; also post-medieval garden remains. • Chapel Brampton, settlement remains, site of mill and leets, former park/garden – all east of village. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

10. MODERN FIELDS

10b. CHERWELL RIVER VALLEY: WARKWORTH - AYNHO

The area occupies the eastern slopes of the River Cherwell. The ground slopes gently down towards the river exposing a series of Upper, Middle and Lower Lias Group deposits whilst alluvium fills the floor of the valley. The ground is cut through by a number of tributary streams that feed the Cherwell, creating a generally undulating landscape.

The majority of the fields in the area were originally created under parliamentary enclosure from the second half of the 18th century into the early 19th century. However, boundary removal since the 1950s, and modern interventions have seen the creation of a modern fieldscape with a mixed pattern, although the overall layout still generally echoes the enclosure plan (Fig 21).

Of the settlements in the area, all have seen a degree of expansion since the late 19th century. The most obvious example of this is the merging of Astrop and Kings Sutton into a single settlement due to infilling from modern housing. Elsewhere, minor settlement remains survive around the villages indicating medieval and post-medieval changes to layout.

The M40 motorway runs through the western part of the area, as does the Oxford to Banbury section of what was formerly the Great Western railway. The line of the now disused Brackley to Banbury section of the London and North Western Railway passes through the north of the area, immediately south of Warkton village.

The major historic landscape feature in the area is Aynho Park. The house dates from the 17th century with details and alterations into the early 19th century. The grounds were originally landscaped by 'Capability' Brown in the second half of the 18th century but sometime after the 1950s part of the area was divided up with modern field boundaries and given over to agriculture.



FIG 21: Modern Fields, Kings Sutton (HLCA 10b) SP 4927 3816

10. MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

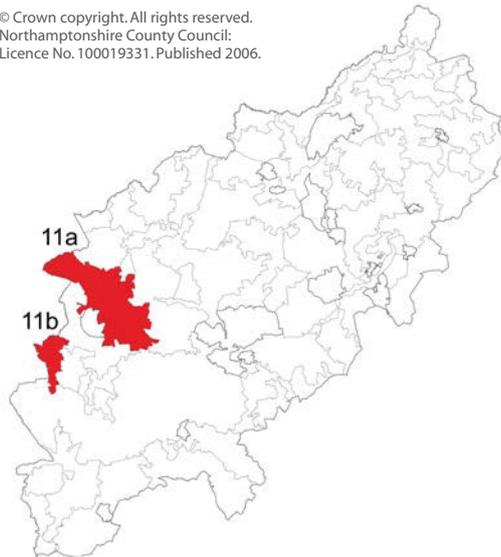
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King's Sutton • Aynho
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aynhoe Park (Registered, Grade II). • Astrop House Park (non-registered) with ridge and furrow and earthworks of Astrop Spa.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of Aynho to Burford turnpike. • Part of Warmington to Buckingham turnpike. • Part of – Oxford to Birmingham mainline railway line. • Part of – dismantled L & NWR Blisworth and Banbury branch line railway. • Part of – new Oxford Canal and 'canalscape'. • Part of - M40 motorway. • Part of – River Cherwell.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warkworth parish: part of the extensive earthwork remains of WW1 National Filling Factory (munitions works). <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

11a Nene Valley: Dodford to Onley
11b Leam Valley: Charwelton – Newbold

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Occupy upper reaches of river valleys**
- **Upper and Lower Lias deposits**
- **Deserted medieval villages**
- **Sequence of transportation links**

INTRODUCTION

Areas of Fragmented Modern Enclosure occupy two locations at the northwest of the county. They are characterised by landscapes of modern fields, created principally by the removal of earlier hedgerows in the late 20th century, that are separated by small collections of earlier enclosure or modern non-agricultural areas.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

Sharing similar locations, the two areas also share similar geologies. The lower valleys at the northern extent of the areas contain Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Lower Lias) Clays, whilst the higher ground around the watersheds comprises mostly Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) Clay. However, the Nene Valley is further covered by glacial deposits on its slopes and higher ground. The glacial sand and gravels here represent the largest expanse of this geology in the county.

Hydrology

Both areas occupy the watersheds and valleys of major rivers. HLCA 11a incorporates the upper reaches of the Nene Valley and is crossed by a number of tributary streams, whilst HLCA 11b includes the headwaters of both the Rivers Cherwell and Leam.

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

The process of late 20th century agricultural improvements has created a variety of different sized and shaped fields set against a background pattern of earlier enclosures. The extent of the modern alterations is largely due to the agricultural regimes adopted by individual landowners. The variety of localised processes, which have created the overall pattern of fieldscapes, can also be seen in the differential survival of monuments such as ridge and furrow and the form and size of settlements.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldscapes

The fragmented nature of the areas means that the patterning of the fieldscapes varies. In places the original parliamentary enclosure layout is maintained, albeit with boundaries having been removed, whilst elsewhere this process of grubbing out hedgerows has created large irregular shaped fields. Modern communication routes and recreational areas as well as more 'pristine' examples of earlier enclosure further break up these fieldscapes.

Settlements

The settlements that are located within these modern fieldscapes have been subject to a number of processes and changes that have created a mixed picture. Generally, the villages have not been subject to extensive 20th century expansion. Where modern development has occurred, it has largely taken the form of infilling in and around the historic cores. Unlike the Large Modern Fields of HLCT 7, several deserted medieval villages survive within the two areas.

Communication

The Nene Valley contains both the historic and current transportation links. The earliest was the Roman military road of Watling Street. Subsequently this route was utilised as a turnpike road and stretches of it then used in the modern A5 trunk road. The valley was also utilised for the route of the Grand Union Canal and later, the London and North Western Railway. The railway operates today and runs alongside the M1 motorway as two of the country's principal north-south communication routes.

Ridge and Furrow

The mixed processes that have created the fragmented field patterns have also possibly led to the differential survival of ridge and furrow throughout the area. The medieval cultivation earthworks exist throughout the Nene Valley (HLCA 11a) but are only preserved within isolated areas of the Leam Valley (HLCA 11b).

Monuments

Within the area are located the extensive Iron Age hill fort at Borough Hill and the site of Bannaventa Roman small town. Otherwise the upstanding monuments mainly comprise the earthwork remains of deserted medieval villages. However, at Weedon Bec there is the 19th century Royal Military Depot at Weedon Bec, located on the Grand Union canal system. Aside from at Brockhall (HLCA 11a) there is little in the way of historic houses or parkland.

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

11a. NENE VALLEY: DODFORD TO ONLEY

The area embraces the whole of the upper reaches of the Nene Valley, which runs from north to south through the area. On either side of the valley, tributary streams run down the steep slopes into the alluvium covered valley floor. The slopes and tops of the valley comprise glacial gravels, which overlie deposits of Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clay and Northampton Sand Formation ironstone. Outcrops of these latter geologies are exposed at the southwest and southeast. The area continues northwards past the Nene's watershed in the Northamptonshire Heights (an area capped with Boulder Clay) down into the Lower Lias Clay valley of the Rainsbrook on the county boundary. The area is mostly characterised by the major transportation routes that pass through it.

The majority of the area was originally enclosed under parliamentary acts in the second half of the 18th century. The fieldscapes predominantly represent areas where post 1950s boundary removal has created a new pattern of fields (Fig 22). This pattern is a mixture of both large and medium-large sized fields that are fragmented by the presence of small blocks of surviving parliamentary and pre-parliamentary enclosure. The area is further fragmented by the major communication routes that pass through it.

Although the 19th century plans of the villages in the area mostly display nucleated forms of settlement, earthwork evidence suggests that this may not reflect their original layouts. Evidence from Ashby St Ledgers appears to show that the medieval village was either larger in size or has shifted position slightly and at Watford, the small present-day hamlet may have originally been two separate settlements. Similarly at Norton, surviving earthworks suggest a different layout to the village prior to the 19th century. The majority of settlements that lie at the east of Watling Street (Watford, Norton, Ashby St Ledgers and Brockhall) have all essentially retained their 19th century sizes. The other villages, on the other hand, have all grown. This growth, however, has mostly been achieved by infilling rather than expansion. The major exception to this is Flore, which has seen both infilling and expansion of modern housing at the north of the village.



FIG 22: Fragmented Modern Fields, Welton (HLCA 11a) SP 5795 6691

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

Topography has dictated the use of the area for a series of transport routes that run through the valley. The Roman military road of Watling Street ran from the southeast to northwest. It survives in places as earthworks and 'green lanes' whilst elsewhere its route is superseded by the modern A5 Trunk Road. The early 19th century Grand Union Canal creates a 'canalscape' in the area comprising, wharfs, locks, bridges and tunnels, and its route is mirrored by the more recent London and North Western Railway and the M1 Motorway.

Immediately outside Daventry is the Iron Age hill fort of Borough Hill. This multivallate fort is one of the largest in the country and its interior has been used more recently to house BBC transmitters as well as a golf course. A further possible prehistoric enclosure, of unknown purpose, lies to the southwest of Daventry at Burnt Walls. The Roman town of Bannaventa was located on Watling Street close to the modern Whilton Locks. Although the site lay buried, modern excavation has exposed parts of the town.

The area contains several deserted medieval villages including Onley, in the modern parish of Barby, Murcott in Long Buckby and Muscott in Norton. The presence of these villages in the area is related to the character of the area since some of their lands were enclosed at an earlier date than the remaining area, adding to the fragmented nature of the fieldscape. Ridge and furrow cultivation can be found throughout the area.

An Elizabethan hall stands at Brockhall, which has associated parkland of late and early 19th century date. More recent structures occur at Weedon Bec where a military barracks was constructed in 1803 and nearby a contemporary earthwork redoubt still survives.

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barby, deserted village (site of) Onley Grounds (SAM 110). • Barby, motte castle (SAM 13659) with adjoining non-scheduled settlement earthworks. • Norton, Bannaventa Roman settlement (SAM 32). Partly under cultivation, partly quarried, nor visible. • Norton, Muscott deserted medieval village and double moated site (SAM 13652). • Daventry, Borough Hill; 2 Iron Age forts and defended enclosure, 2 BA barrows and Roman building complex and barrow cemetery (SAM 17145) and adjoining non-scheduled slopes with hedges defining former woodland and the unscheduled BBC station and mast/remains of radio mast bases. • Daventry, Burnt Walls earthworks (SAM 39).
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashby St Ledgers • Brockhall
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashby St Ledger's gardens and grounds (Registered, Grade II). • Ashby St Ledger's parkland (non-registered). • Brockhall Park (Registered, Grade II) with non-registered land to W. • Watford Court parkland and garden remains (non-registered). • Newnham Hall parkland (non-registered). • Flore House parkland (non-registered). • Norton Park (non-registered). • Dodford, medieval deer park – see under 'non-SAMs' below.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watford Open Field remains (List A); some in parkland and includes shrunken village remains. • Brockhall and Muscott Open Field remains (List A) with settlement remains. • Barby, open field earthworks. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watford Gap communications route (also extends into area 5e), comprising – • Part of - Roman Watling St (including part of A5). • Part of - Grand Union Canal (Leicester line) and 'canalscape'. • Part of - former L & NW railway, now mainline Northampton to (Rugby) Birmingham line. • Part of 1838 London to Birmingham railway with S entrance to Kilsby Tunnel. • Part of – M1 and M45 motorways • Part of – new Oxford Canal and 'canalscape'. • Part of – Grand Junction Canal – now the Grand Union Canal with Braunston tunnel and 'canalscape'. • Part of – line of Roman road from Duston to Bannaventa. • Part of – Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike. • Part of – Warwick to Northampton turnpike (A45). • Part of – dismantled line of The Great Central Railway (in Barby parish). • Part of – dismantled line of Weedon (Daventry) to Leamington Spa railway. • Daventry Reservoir.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashby St Ledgers, settlement and ridge and furrow remains. • Long Buckby, site of deserted village of Murcott and adjoining ridge and furrow. • Welton village, settlement remains. • Dodford settlement remains with ridge and furrow and possible boundaries of medieval deer park. • Norton, settlement and gardens remains of Norton Hall. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weedon Depot and adjoining riverside land with boundaries marking extent of former military landholding. • Crockwell Farm, Welton, ridge and furrow and canal related earthworks.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

11b. LEAM VALLEY: CHARWELTON – NEWBOLD

The southern half of the area is located upon the high ground where the River Cherwell and its tributary streams rise. The land here predominantly comprises Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) Clay. At the north of the area lies the watershed for the streams, which flow to the northeast to create the River Leam. The steep valleys of the tributary streams cut through the Marlstone Rock Formation to expose the Lower Lias Clays in the Leam Valley.

The modern fieldscape is mainly fragmented by the presence of surviving 18th century parliamentary enclosure fields around Hellidon (Fig 23). These regularly patterned fields sit amongst the mostly irregular and semi-regular fields created by boundary removal after the 1950s. The area is further fragmented by the presence of a modern golf course at the west of Hellidon.

Hellidon is the main settlement within the area and it generally retains its 19th century size although there has been some minor 20th century development. The earthwork remains of a medieval manor house lie towards the southern end of the village. Previously there were villages located at Upper and Lower Catesby. The earthwork remains of these still survive despite some destruction due to modern agricultural improvements. At Lower Catesby, there are also the earthworks of a Cistercian priory sited around the lone church. It was this priory that owned estates in Catesby and enclosed land there in the late 15th century, possibly contributing to the villages' depopulation. The little ridge and furrow in the area is preserved within the areas of parliamentary enclosure around Hellidon village.

The 18th century parliamentary enclosure and earlier road patterns remain the principal transport routes through the area although the line of the dismantled of the London and north Western railway passes through part of the western half of the area.



FIG 23: Fragmented Modern Fields, Hellidon (HLCA 11b) SP 5183 5835

11. FRAGMENTED MODERN FIELDS

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

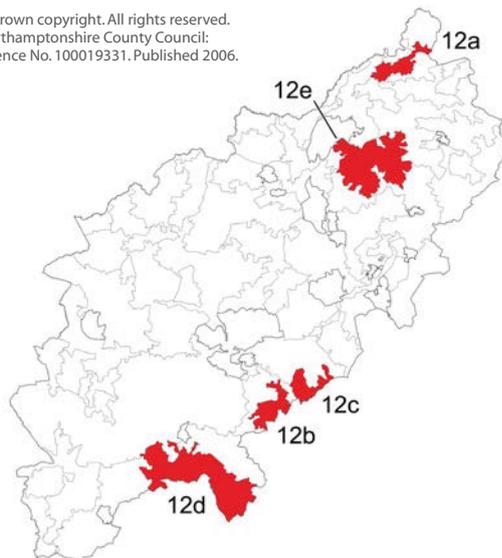
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hellidon
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catesby House parkland – see also under ‘non-SAMs’ below.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hellidon Open Field remains. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – dismantled line of The Great Central railway with Catesby railway viaduct and N entrance of Catesby Tunnel.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Catesby, medieval Priory, ponds, mills, settlement, market and ridge and furrow with post-medieval house and garden earthworks. • Hellidon, settlement and site of manor house remains. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charwelton tele-communications towers. Part of Cold War established ‘Backbone’ system.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

12. WOODLAND

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- 12a: Fineshade
- 12b: Salcey Forest
- 12c: Yardley Chase
- 12d: Whittlewood Forest
- 12e: Rockingham Forest

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Frequent ancient and replanted ancient woodland**
- **Moderately frequent halls and parkland**
- **Remains of former deer parks**
- **Fewer settlements than other areas**
- **Boulder Clay geology**
- **Mixed fieldscapes of predominantly large modern fields**

INTRODUCTION

Of the five areas of Woodland, three are located in the south of the county and two in the northeast. The three southern examples represent remnants of the former forests of Whittlebury and Salcey, whilst the northern examples belonged to Rockingham Forest. All are predominantly located upon Boulder Clay geologies. Remnants of medieval deer park boundaries still survive in some of the areas whilst other monuments comprise the historic houses and their parklands which utilised the forest areas as parts of their designed landscapes.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and Soils

All five areas are mainly located on relatively flat expanses of Boulder Clay, a natural corollary to the presence of the woodland that colonised these deposits. The principal exception is the Fineshade area (HLCA 12a) that has expanses of both Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (Lower) and Oxford Clay Formation in addition to the glacial Boulder Clay.

Hydrology

All areas are relatively flat but cut through by tributary streams. The Fineshade area (HLCA 12a) is bisected by a brook draining into the Welland, whilst Rockingham Forest (HLCA 12e) is bisected by the Harper's Brook which drains into the River Nene. Salcey Forest (HLCA 12b) is similarly cut by the Hackleton Brook. The other two areas have a number of smaller streams running through them.

12. WOODLAND

INFLUENCES ON EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE

In medieval times the three great forests of the county; Salcey, Whittlewood and Rockingham occupied over a third of Northamptonshire stretching in a broad swathe from the Buckinghamshire Border, at the south, to the River Welland at the north. This area demarcated the boundaries where forest law applied, not necessarily where woodland existed, and within its bounds villages sat amongst their arable, pasture and common lands. Where woodland actually stood, it served as a valuable resource providing both fuel and building materials. It also formed an area for hunting and the Crown held a number of lodges for this purpose within Rockingham Forest.

The process of disafforestation in the county has gone through a number of stages since the 16th century. Particular peaks in the removal of woodland occurred in the middle and late 19th century and during the periods of the two World Wars. Many of the medieval deer parks within the forest areas had fallen out of use by the 17th and 18th centuries and the land was then often given over to agriculture.

The pattern at the end of the 20th century was of a much reduced total woodland area compared to medieval times, however replanting of ancient woodlands and some new plantations has taken place throughout the last century. The Character Type 'Woodland' represents areas where actual parcels of woodland and associated unwooded land survive.

PRINCIPAL HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Fieldsapes

The fieldsapes of the area present a mixed picture depending upon their origin. Many of the woodland parishes were subject to parliamentary enclosure in the late 17th and early 18th century but this did not necessarily affect the whole parish since some areas, particularly where woodland had been cleared for arable, were subject to earlier enclosure. Where disafforestation continued through the later 19th century, new fields were also created. Within the five areas, fieldsapes of large modern fields predominate. These have been created either by the grubbing out of hedgerows or, sometimes, simply the creation of new fields in areas of former woodland common or pasture land. This process may be linked to the forest areas simply because they are located on generally flat Boulder Clay land. This topography and geology has been shown elsewhere in the county to favour the creation of large open fields (HLCT 7).

Settlements

Due to the presence of woodland or former woodland, the distribution of settlements is perhaps sparser within these areas than elsewhere. The villages generally comprise a nucleated form and some have been subject to residential expansion in the late 20th century. Those that have expanded most generally appear to be located close to major roads and have thus become dormitory settlements for nearby towns. Although most of the modern villages are nucleated, settlement evidence would suggest that, particularly in the southern areas around Puxley (Whittlewood Forest HLCA 12d), a more dispersed pattern may have existed in medieval times.

Communication

By their nature, the woodland areas would have provided some impediment to major transportation routes. However, Roman roads are thought to cross both the Whittlewood area (HLCA 4d) and the Rockingham area (HLCA 4e). More modern routes comprise the M1 motorway, which cuts through the west of Salcey Forest (HLCA 12c) and the A43 trunk road in both Fineshade (HLCA 4a) and Whittlewood (HLCA 4d). Otherwise the communication routes mainly comprise smaller forest and enclosure roads.

Ridge and Furrow

Very scattered and isolated ridge and furrow appears throughout the area. Although cultivation obviously does not occur in wooded areas there would have been medieval open fields located around settlements and further areas of assarted land would have been reclaimed throughout townships.

Monuments

Several of the monument types are related to the woodland character of the areas. These include the earthwork boundaries to former deer parks, medieval hunting lodges and the fishponds associated with them. The use of woodland as part of the landscaped grounds of major estates means that there are also several areas of historic parkland, some with associated grand houses, in the area. These include Laxton Hall and Fineshade (Fineshade HLCA 12a), Horton Hall (Salcey Plateau HLCA 12b), Castle Ashby (Yardley Chase HLCA 12c) and the Boughton estate and Lyveden (Rockingham Forest HLCA 12e). There are also two examples of Motte castles in the area at Fineshade (HLCA 12a) and Benefield (HLCA 12e) although it is unclear whether their location is influenced by the woodland character of the area.

12. WOODLAND

12a. FINESHADE

At the centre of the area is a small brook, which drains into the River Welland at the north. Cornbrash and Blisworth Limestone (Great Oolite) clay are exposed in the valley sides. Land at the west of the brook sits upon a plateau of limestone whilst at the east the geology comprises Oxford Clay Formation and Boulder Clay.

The area is dominated by large expanses of ancient and replanted ancient woodland. The main exception is in the deep valley of the Fineshade Brook that lies in Fineshade and Laxton parishes. Here, a mixed landscape of modern, 19th century parliamentary enclosure and earlier irregular fields are situated either side of the A43 trunk road. Some of this area was former parkland associated with both Laxton Hall and a former mansion at Fineshade Abbey.

Of the woods in the area, Collyweston Great Wood represents an expanse of ancient woodland whilst Westhay Wood and Wakerley Wood were both replanted sometime between the late 19th century and the mid 20th century. The area of woodland known as The Assarts in Fineshade parish were enclosed agricultural land up to the late 19th century when they were planted with conifers. The names suggest that the previous fields were reclaimed from woodland in the medieval period.

The valley of the Fineshade Brook is utilised by the A43 trunk road whilst the former Rugby to Peterborough line of the London and North Western Railway cuts through the area running from northwest to southeast through Westhay Wood

Laxton Hall itself was built in the early 19th century and stands in parkland. To the west of it is the earthwork site of a medieval motte castle, Castle Hymel, which was largely demolished when an Augustinian priory was built in the early 13th century. In the 18th century the site became the location of a mansion and the earthwork remains of its gardens and ponds and lakes, associated with its landscaping, remain.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fineshade: Castle Hymel and site of Fineshade Abbey SAM 13649
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wakerley Wood: Wakerley Park – walled Tudor Park and earthwork lodge (non-registered). Laxton Hall parkland (non-registered). Fineshade Abbey parkland (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Kettering to Stamford turnpike. Part of - Leicester to Peterborough turnpike. Part of - dismantled L & NWR Rugby to Peterborough railway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wakerley Wood: Bronze Age cairns and multiple archaeological features. Fineshade and Westhay Woods, multiple archaeological features. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wakerley Wood: swallow holes. Collyweston Great Wood, Cold War bomb store.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westhay Wood Mill Wood

12. WOODLAND

12b. SALCEY FOREST

Salcey Forest comprises very gently undulating Boulder Clay land at the south of the county. At the east of the area the ground is cut through by the Hackleton Brook and its tributaries and here Upper Estuarine clays and limestone and Whitby Mudstone Formation (Upper Lias) clay are exposed. The area represents Salcey Forest and its surrounding land.

The current expanse of woodland would appear to reflect the extent of forest at least back into the 17th century. Fieldnames of land immediately to the east of Salcey Forest indicate that this is an area of medieval assarts. Hackleton and Hartwell were both enclosed under parliamentary acts in the 18th and 19th centuries, respectively, but they both include land that was enclosed earlier. The current fieldscapes represent a mixture of these 18th century and 19th century layouts with few 20th century alterations.

Of the woodland, Salcey Forest primarily comprises ancient woodland replanted sometime between the late 19th century and the mid 20th century (Fig 24). Ancient woodland survives at Horton Wood although the nearby Little Horton Wood has been replanted.

The area includes the settlements of Hackleton and Horton situated at the northeast of Salcey Forest. Both villages have expanded due to 20th century building, however, the present village of Horton is itself a modern development since the original medieval settlement lay to the south in the grounds of Horton Hall. The village was removed in the late 17th and 18th century to enable landscaping of the grounds. Many elements of the garden, its ancillary decorative buildings and landscaping features, survive today although the house itself was demolished in the 1930s. At the west of Salcey Forest are the earthwork remains of two small medieval settlements, which would have formed part of a medieval settlement pattern of woodland edge hamlets.

The M1 motorway cuts through the area but the few other communication routes in the area comprise predominantly forest and small, winding minor roads.

Aside from the extensive landscape garden remains of the former Horton Hall and the minor settlement remains in Hartwell parish, the only other upstanding monument comprises the boundary of a medieval deer park located between Little Horton Wood and Horton Woods.



FIG 24: Woodland, Salcey Forest (HLCA 12b) SP 8025 5153

12. WOODLAND

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horton Hall landscape park (Registered, Grade II). • Hackleton, medieval deer park; boundary or pale traceable as earthworks within woodland and/or farmland and from existing field boundaries (non-registered). • Salcey Lawn (Hartwell and Hackleton parishes) - (non-registered); a well defined forest lawn with veteran trees.
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horton (Hackleton parish) Open Field remains (List A) including deserted village of Horton within landscape parkland. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of – Northampton to Stoke Goldington turnpike. • Part of – dismantled Banbury to Olney railway. • Part of M1 motorway.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salcey Forest, multiple archaeological earthworks including coppice and earlier enclosure systems, medieval/pre-medieval earthworks and enclosures, site of lodges with lawns and rides; WW2 structures. • Hartwell Green, settlement remains. • Hartwell End Farm and Elms Farm, settlement and hollow-way remains. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horton wood • Little Horton Wood • Rowley Wood • Salcey Forest

12. WOODLAND

12c. YARDLEY CHASE

Similar to Salcey Forest (HLCA 12b) the area occupies a Boulder Clay plateau that is cut through by occasional small streams. The area represents the remains of Yardley Chase woodland and its associated land.

The area is mostly located within the modern parish of Yardley Hastings but also includes small parts of Denton and Easton Maudit parishes. Both Yardley Hastings and Denton were subject to parliamentary enclosure in the 1770s but including some areas of earlier enclosure. Easton Maudit was enclosed in the first half of the 17th century. The fieldscapes as they survive today lie between areas of woodland. In addition to the small areas of parliamentary and earlier enclosure there are examples of former woodland pasture and lawns taken into cultivation in the 19th century. The road system predominantly comprises enclosure and forest routes but is not particularly extensive.

The woodland of the area predominantly represents ancient woodland replanted with conifers from the 19th century onwards. Within are a profusion of redundant military ammunition bunkers with an associated dismantled railway system linking them and to one side is the termination of the long avenues and parkland originating at Castle Ashby.

There are no settlements within the area and the only other upstanding monuments are the collection of irregular, strangely shaped ponds of unknown purpose within areas of former common and woodland. Although there are few upstanding man-made monuments in the area, the outer cores of the lightning struck ancient trees called Gog and Magog still stand.

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – The Castle, Castle Ashby landscape parkland (Registered, Grade I).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yardley Chase MoD Training Area and former WW2 secure store with associated dismantled railway. Small part of Northampton to Cold Brayfield turnpike.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple archaeological earthworks within woodland including remains of coppice system, ridge and furrow and ponds. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yardley Chase

12. WOODLAND

12d. WHITTLEWOOD FOREST

The area is located at the south of the county, almost entirely on Boulder Clay. Its western half slopes gently downwards from the south across the valleys of small streams that drain northward into the River Tove. At the east of the area the ground slopes towards the southeast into the valley of the Great Ouse along the county border.

The area represents the scattered remnants of woodland associated with the medieval Whittlewood Forest and the settlements and land associated with it. The majority of the parishes were enclosed under parliamentary acts but this did not necessarily include much land since many areas were either wooded or already enclosed at the time. Certainly no great areas of parliamentary enclosure survive. Those that existed up into the 1950s have subsequently been removed to create larger fields. Amongst these modern fields are others created in the 19th century, during periods of deforestation, as well as some earlier irregular 18th century enclosures.

The woodland of the area has shrunk considerably since the early 17th century. That which remains is scattered throughout the area and generally has been replanted since the late 19th century. Of the settlements in the area Silverstone, Deanshanger and Old Stratford have grown the most whilst Whittlebury, Wicken and Abthorpe have remained relatively close to their historic cores. These different rates of expansion are mostly due to the development of the former villages as dormitory settlements. The former medieval settlement pattern would have been different with more small woodland and woodland edge hamlets located throughout the area. Evidence of this can be seen at places such as Paulespury and Puxley, which are dispersed settlements, and throughout the area earthwork remains indicate the presence of shrunken small settlements.

Whittlewood Forest contains more roads than other of the Woodland areas. Watling Street skirts the west of the area but the line of another Roman route, the Alchester Road, runs north through Whittlebury parish. More recent routes are represented by the A43 trunk road whose line passes through the western half of the area towards Brackley.

Medieval moated sites are located at both Passenham and Wicken, whilst fishponds can be found at Paulespury and Silverstone. The latter is associated with a former medieval hunting lodge. There are only occasional scattered ridge and furrow earthworks in the area and these are located in the Great Ouse river valley and the smaller valleys of the River Tove tributaries. More recent landscape features include the Silverstone racing circuit at the south of the area.

12. WOODLAND

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whittlebury, Lordsfields Farm moated site (SAM 13616). Wicken, the Grove Close moated site (SAM 13617).
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abthorpe Wicken Deanshanger Passenham
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whittlebury Deer Park (non-registered), now partly occupied by golf course. Sholebrook Lodge (Whittlebury) park/garden (non-registered). Paulerspury Park, medieval deer park. Presumed boundary of at least part of the park traceable as earthworks and/or existing field hedges/streams. Wakefield Lodge/Lawn (non-registered).
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passenham Open Field remains (Turning the Plough /List B), including meadowland. <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of – Towcester to Brackley turnpike. Part of Whittlebury to Buckingham turnpike. Part of – Line of Roman Watling St/A5. Part of – A43. Part of – former line of the Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple archaeological earthworks within woodland including remains of coppice system, ridge and furrow, ponds and WW2 airfield related structural remains. Silverstone, site of Royal fishponds with earthwork dam and leets. Whittlebury, early settlement focus around church including hillfort. Paulerspury, settlement remains, site of manor and fishpond. Passenham, settlement and moat remains. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of - Silverstone motor racing circuit, a former WW2 airfield.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Oaken Copse Little Oaken Copse Rabbit Wood Jack's Copse Bedlam Copse Park Copse Wicken Wood East Ashalls Copse West Ashalls Copse Hill Copse The Pheantry Briary Wood East Waterslade Copse King's Copse Lady Copse Say's Copse Smalladine Copse Bear's Copse Old Tun Copse Buckingham Thick Copse Birch Copse

12. WOODLAND

12e. ROCKINGHAM FOREST

The area is bisected by the valley of the Harper's Brook, which drains into the River Nene at the southeast. A range of geologies is exposed in the side of the valley including limestones and Wellingborough/Taynton Formation (Upper Estuarine) deposits. On either side of the valley the higher ground is capped with Boulder Clay.

The area is centred on the parish of Brigstock and represents surviving woodland and land associated with the former medieval forest of Rockingham. The parishes were generally enclosed under parliamentary acts in the late 18th and early 19th centuries but, as with Whittlewood Forest (HLCA 12d), this may have only affected a small part of the area since sections of the unforested land were already enclosed. Although areas of parliamentary enclosure survive around Stanion and Benefield, much of the fieldscape comprises large modern fields created by the grubbing out of hedgerows in the late 20th century. In addition, an area of modern quarrying, replanted with woodland, is located to the north of Stanion.

The surviving forest areas predominantly comprise replanted woodland but Spring Wood and Banhaw Wood, in Benefield parish, are examples of surviving ancient woodland. Of the three settlements in the area, Stanion and Brigstock have both expanded out from their historic cores due to infilling up to the modern roads that pass nearby. The third settlement, Upper Benefield, has retained its 19th century size.

The line of the Roman road from Godmanchester to Leicester is thought to pass through the area, running approximately from Brigstock to Stanion, but no physical traces have been found. Otherwise more recent roads principally comprise enclosure and earlier routes.

The location of the area in the middle of the former Rockingham forest meant that there were several areas of medieval deer parks. A large part of the modern Brigstock parish was utilised as such and three separate parks existed up into the 17th century southwest of the village and extending into Sudborough parish. Earthworks relating to their boundaries can still be seen. More parkland is represented by Geddington Chase (Fig 25), which was laid out with its radial tracks in the 1840s as part of the Boughton house estate. At Lyveden, the former manor house (the Old Build) belonged to the Treshams. In the late 16th century they constructed garden features and another house to sit in the grounds (the New Bield). Earthworks of the garden features survive, as does the slight remains of a nearby medieval moated site.

Some isolated ridge and furrow earthworks survive scattered through the area but, apart from these, the only other main upstanding monuments comprise a small prehistoric, possibly Iron Age, enclosure in Brigstock parish which is sited close to a nearby probable Bronze Age barrow and the medieval motte castle at Benefield.



FIG 25: Woodland, Geddington Chase (HLCA 12e) SP 9065 8453

12. WOODLAND

IMPORTANT SITES AND LANDSCAPES

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigstock, Market Cross (SAM 29719). In centre of village. • Benefield, Benefield Castle (SAM 17130). • Aldwinckle, Lyveden New Bield and garden (SAM 69).
Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigstock • Upper Benefield
Parks and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boughton House • Lyveden New Bield
Registered Battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Relict landscapes	<p>Open fields (including meadow):</p> <p>Other relict landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of Kettering to Stamford turnpike.
Other key sites	<p>Non SAMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple archaeological earthworks within woodland including remains of coppice system and other features. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigstock Camp, 1930s civil and WW2 military defended camp.
Ancient and Replanted Ancient Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wood • Oakley Purlieus • Geddington Chase • Old Heed Wood • Boughton Wood • Grafton Park Wood • Long Lown Wood • Snapes Wood • Upper Laundimer Wood • Nether Laundimer Wood • Middle Laundimer Wood • Stubby Stiles • Spring Wood • Cockendale Wood • Banhaw Wood • Wadenhoe Little Wood • Wadenhoe Great Wood • Lilford Wood • Souther Wood • Lady Wood • Greenside Wood • Titchmarsh wood • Oxen Wood

4. GLOSSARY

Aerial Photography – technique used to locate and record archaeological sites. Photographs are taken from the air in order to reveal buried archaeological sites visible only as cropmarks or soilmarks (q.v.). The technique can also be used to reveal more detail of standing archaeological monuments and can help in the interpretation of other elements in the landscape such as field systems.

Alluvium – sedimentary deposits resulting from the action of rivers, including those laid down in river channels, floodplains, estuaries and lakes. Recent deposits on floodplains can cover and mask underlying archaeological sites.

Ancient woodland – land continuously wooded since AD 1600.

Anglo-Saxon – name deriving from two north European regional tribal groupings of the first millennia AD – the Angles and the Saxons. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Britain was subject to migrations of peoples coming from continental Europe. These migrations marked a change in the language, artefacts and customs of the inhabitants. The resulting culture (q.v.), and the period from 410 – 1066 AD, is often given the generic name Anglo-Saxon (sometimes simply 'Saxon') after two dominant groups of the migrations.

Assarting – the process of clearing woodland or waste land for cultivation, associated particularly with the 12th and 13th centuries.

Bailey – outer courtyard of a Norman earthwork castle (see motte and bailey castle).

Barrow – an earthen burial mound. The use of this mortuary device was common in many periods although its form and function changed through time.

Boulder clay – recent geological stratum of thick dark grey clay, deposited by the retreating ice sheets of the last glaciation.

Bronze Age – (c. 2,500 – 750 BC) a cultural phase in human history when alloying of copper and tin was perfected. Metalworking technology and new types of flint tool and pottery design were introduced at the start of this period. Changes in society were reflected in the emergence of new burial techniques, particularly round barrows. In the Middle Bronze Age, cremation replaced inhumations and in the late Bronze Age, social and economic changes led to the abandonment of old funerary rights in favour of less traceable rites.

Burh – a defended town of the late Anglo-Saxon period. The practice of having a network of such defended towns originated on the continent but was taken up by the rulers of Wessex in the late 9th century AD. The defended towns were either new creations or existing settlements adapted for such use. They were designed with an internal gridded street pattern and had timber-faced bank and ditched defences. A requirement was made to raise a militia from the local area who could be called upon to defend the burh.

Causeway enclosure – monument of the Neolithic period, possibly acting as a central communal meeting place. The term 'causeway' relates to the fact that the outer enclosing ditch is not continuous but made up from short individual segments.

Cornbrash – geological formation comprising a thin, rubbly limestone.

Cremation - form of mortuary behaviour that disposes of the body by burning. It is a technique used by many societies throughout history, although the associated ritual and form varies considerably.

Culture – a shorthand term often used by archaeologists to categorise groups of people based upon their material artefacts, artistic styles or other patterns of behaviour. The term has recently come under criticism, especially where it seeks to link artefact groups with 'peoples', since it masks the complexity of the interplay between material culture and concepts of identity.

Cropmark – buried archaeological features, such as ditches or walls, can affect the amount of water held by the soil. This in turn can affect the height of any vegetation or crop growth above. Such variations when viewed from the air can reveal the underlying patterns of buried archaeological sites.

DMV – Deserted Medieval Village

Danelaw – area of eastern England under the effective control of Danish invaders in the 9th century AD. The Danelaw resulted from a treaty signed in 878AD by Alfred the Great that established Watling Street as the political boundary with the Vikings. The Danelaw was reconquered a generation later by the English under Edward in the early 10th century AD.

Earthwork – the upstanding and visible physical remains of archaeological features or sites which at some point have become grassed over or covered by topsoil. Often best preserved in areas of pasture or heathland where they have been untouched by agricultural activity.

4. GLOSSARY

Emparking – process of enclosing land to create a park. In the medieval period this was usually done to create deerparks for hunting whilst, from the mid 16th century, it was often part of larger landscaping works.

Flint – variety of chert, naturally occurring at many places within the British Isles that has been used by humans for the creation of tools. Various techniques have evolved for working flint and the resulting stylistic differences allow both the finished tools and the waste flakes to be dated. Other varieties of chert and stone have been used for tools where flint is not readily available.

Glacial – term used to describe a cold phase during an ice age.

Geology – the study of the origin, structure, composition and history of the Earth together with the processes that have led to its present state. Also used as a shorthand to refer to geological strata, hence ‘Cornbrash geology’.

Hand axe – a multi-purpose stone tool used by early humans. The earliest examples in Britain date from 500,000 years ago.

Hill and dale – descriptive term referring to a landscape of undulating banks of spoil from ironstone quarrying. Hill and dale resulted from the introduction of the first ‘steam navvy’ and conveyor belt system introduced at the Corby works in 1897. Effective restoration of these areas, widespread throughout Northamptonshire, did not occur for another 50 years.

Hillfort – any hilltop fortified site, although the term is usually applied to defensive sites of the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age. In this latter period their use probably varied through time and, as well as having a defensive function, they may also have served as central places, trade and redistribution centres and settlements.

Holocene – period of geological history which refers to the time which has elapsed since the Pleistocene up to the present day. It is one of the two epochs that make up the Quaternary. The date of the beginning of the Holocene is generally agreed to be 10,000 BP, which marks the start of the current interglacial that the human species is now exploiting.

Hominid – any species of human. This includes *Homo heidelbergensis*, probably the first human species to arrive in what would become the British Isles, Neanderthals and modern humans (*Homo sapiens*).

Hunter gathering – the principal method of subsistence for the vast majority of human history, by which the hunting of animals is supported by the collection of wild crops. This exploitation of diverse resources often, but not exclusively, results in small semi-nomadic social groupings.

Interglacial – warm period between glacials (q.v.)

Iron Age – (c.750 BC – AD 43) a cultural phase in human history when technical improvements in iron-working enabled iron tools and weapons to replace those of the preceding Bronze Age. Population growth led to competition for land and the development of a more territorial society. Improved farming technology and scarcity of land brought about the cultivation of heavier and poorer soils.

Inhumation – form of mortuary behaviour that disposes of the body by burial in the ground. It is a technique used by many societies throughout history, although the associated ritual and form varies considerably.

Ironstone – a sedimentary rock containing about 30% iron and quarried for both building stone and as iron ore.

Invasion – in human history, the movement and domination of one group of humans by another from a separate geographical location. Invasion has been used by archaeologists to explain apparently rapid changes in artefact styles, language and other elements of some cultures (q.v.). However, in such cases there is often debate as to the extent of the invasion and in some cases alternative explanations for change can be offered such as migration, trade, acculturation or internal conflict.

Landscape – an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. In physical terms the word is often used to describe the visual appearance of the land, including its shape, form and colours which have been formed by interplay of factors such as geology, landform, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land use, architecture and cultural associations. However, how individuals perceive the character of the landscape depends upon their own experiences and viewpoints and, therefore, ‘landscapes’ are always subjective entities.

4. GLOSSARY

Lias – the oldest geological strata in Northamptonshire, outcropping in the west of the county. They are sedimentary deposits laid down when Britain was covered by a shallow sea 185-160 million years ago. The oldest of the formations are the Lower Lias clays. The Middle Lias are mudstones and the more recent Upper Lias are blue grey clays. The latter have often been utilised for brickmaking.

Limestone – Northamptonshire has various limestone rock formations. In the northeast, Lincolnshire Limestone

Manor – a political and administrative unit owned by a lord in feudal societies.

Mesolithic – (c 8,000 – 4,000 BC) an archaeological term meaning ‘middle stone’ age and used to describe the culture achieved during the early post glacial period when mankind had moved from herd-hunting practices of the upper Palaeolithic, but had not yet discovered or adopted the use of agriculture.

Microlith – A very small stone tool. The technique of their production is associated with the Mesolithic (q.v.) period and the small bladelets were used for a variety of purposes, including barbs and tips for spears and arrows.

Minster – a Christian ‘mother church’ forming the centre of an ecclesiastical territory in the middle to late Anglo-Saxon period in England. The church often had a number of important legal rights associated with it and formed a central place that acted as a counterpart to a separate royal administrative centre.

Monument – two separate uses of the term are employed i) in the present; any buried or upstanding archaeological site, building or structure. ii) in the past; a visible man-made feature often occupying a dominant position in either physical or social landscapes.

Motte-and-Bailey Castle – one of the earliest forms of Norman castle. These were established along key communication routes after the conquest. An inner courtyard was protected by simple earth and wooden defences.

Neolithic – (c. 4,000 – 2,500 BC) an archaeological term used to describe the ‘new stone’ age. This applies to the culture achieved during the middle Post Glacial when mankind had begun to polish and grind stone artefacts (a technological advance from the bashing and flaking of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic). The Neolithic also saw the introduction of agriculture.

Norman – Population of the Duchy of Normandy in northwest France who invaded England in 1066. The Norman Conquest brought with it many social, legal and cultural changes to the Anglo-Saxon kingdom.

Oolitic – a sedimentary rock made up essentially of ooliths; spherical rock particles formed by the gradual accretion of material around an inorganic (e.g. sand) or organic (e.g. shell) nucleus. Ooliths are small and their appearance has been likened to fish roe (from where their name is derived).

Open Field System – a well-established means of land management during the medieval period that was widespread across much of lowland England. Possibly having its origin in the late Saxon period, the unit of cultivation was the strip (land or selion), which varied in length and width depending on local conditions. Rather than owning individual large blocks of land, peasant farmers would farm strips of land scattered throughout the township. Because holdings were spread out in this way it was necessary for the arable land to be sown, tended and harvested collectively. The strips of land were grouped into furlongs and a number of furlongs formed the field. Each community typically worked a two or three field system on a crop-rotational basis. Pasture and meadow was similarly divided and exploited. It was the physical act of ploughing which created ridges marking out the strips of land and, generally, these were deemed demarcation enough. Therefore, few other forms of permanent boundary (such as the hedges employed today) were used and consequently the fields are termed ‘open fields’. The distinctive ridge and furrow landform survives in many places today as earthworks (q.v.).

Oppidum – a large-scale defended, late Iron Age settlement. The term was originally used by the Romans to describe some settlements in Gaul and archaeologists now use the term for certain complex sites, probably with an administrative function, that can be described as proto-urban.

4. GLOSSARY

Palaeolithic – an archaeological term used to describe the earliest form of hominid culture. The earliest stone toolmakers lived during the Pleistocene in Britain after the main glacial periods had passed. Traditionally the period has been divided (from the earliest to the latest) into Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. It is in the Upper Palaeolithic, about 30,000 years ago, that the first modern humans arrive in, what would become, the British Isles.

Pale – originally the wooden fencing or hedging used as part of the physical boundary for a medieval deerpark but also used for the earthen mound on which it stood.

Pleistocene – the first epoch of the Quaternary, which loosely corresponds to the Ice Age.

Ridge and Furrow – see definition of Open Field System

Roundhouse – a widespread building form used on habitation sites in the Bronze Age and Iron Ages. Construction techniques varied but a popular style comprised a timber frame of posts supporting wattle and daub walls and a thatched roof. The resulting circular ‘hut’ was sometimes surrounded by an eaves-drip gully, which often is the only surviving element on archaeological sites. Stone versions occur in the Roman and post-Roman periods in some parts of Britain. The structures could serve a number of functions and are not always necessarily houses.

Roman – alluding to the period from 43AD – 410AD when Britain was officially part of the Roman Empire. Following an earlier abortive invasion attempt, Rome successfully invaded in 43AD. Parts of Britain had already been exposed to Rome through trade and alliances prior to this but, on becoming a province, the native inhabitants took on more aspects of Roman culture. Britain finally ceased to be a part of the empire 500 years later in the early 5th century AD. The term Romano-British is often used in order to emphasise the indigenous aspects of the culture during this period.

Stratification – the process by which sediments are laid down in horizontal layers (strata). The term may be used to describe the stratification of solid geology, drift and soils. Also used by archaeologists to describe the process by which man-made layers are deposited.

Topography – term used to describe the surface features of the earth’s surface.

Township – medieval administrative unit comprising a complete medieval open field farming system.

Turnpike – a gate across a highway preventing passage until a toll has been paid. Turnpike roads were administered by turnpike trusts that were authorised by a private act of parliament in 1663 to levy tolls for maintenance of the highway. This replaced the parochial maintenance system and substantially improved communications in England.

Villa – a Roman country dwelling varying in form from simple farms to large palatial style residences.

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FIGURES

PLEASE REFER TO THE DOCUMENT '**HLCA - FIGURE 1**'.

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RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK
INSPIRE SPACES

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