

## The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Landscape Characterisation Project



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## **Executive Summary**

Since 2012 Wiltshire Council, with partnership support from Swindon Borough, has undertaken a Historic Landscape Characterisation Project funded by Historic England. The project's aim was to apply the established Historic Landscape Characterisation approach to provide comprehensive mapping that shows how the present day landscape of the county is the product of its cultural development over time.

The project's characterisation followed the principle of grouping areas with shared current landscape character, but also with a similar landscape history (or time depth). So present fields characteristic of having been enclosed piecemeal from former strip fields and that share morphological traits, may be grouped together into a single unit or polygon.

The top level of classification used in the project is the Broad Type. This comprises such categories as Fields and Enclosed Land, Woodland and Recreation, allowing comparison between the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC data and other projects at a national level. The Broad Types are subdivided into Narrow Types, which are far more numerous – e.g. Piecemeal Fields, Hamlet, Parkland. These relate to a more detailed classification of landscape character, often linked to the cultural processes that created them and their subsequent development. Each Broad Type also has a number of associated attributes that add, for each character unit or polygon, further detail that defines the current and previous landscape character, enabling a multiplicity of queries on the database.

The Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset uses the HLC module of HBSMR. This bespoke software, developed by Exegesis, links a Microsoft Access database (for the creation of records) to ArcGIS mapping software (for the definition and projection of character units or polygons). This has the advantages of providing comprehensive text fields, access to inbuilt search functions, and integration with the county's Historic Environment Record (HER) data. The HLC mainly digitises at a scale of 1:10,000 and with a minimum digitisation threshold of two hectares except in more complex character areas.

In total the project has created 14,447 records which have enhanced our understanding of the historic landscape character of the whole county. The county of Wiltshire has a complex landscape with differences in its physical form, present and past land management and administration. The county of Wiltshire comprises Wiltshire Council as a unitary authority; Swindon Borough as a unitary authority, and three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: The North Wessex Downs, Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs, and The Cotswolds – each with substantial planning powers. There are many large and complex urban areas (such as Salisbury and Swindon) for which additional characterisation data, in the form of Extensive Urban Surveys, are available.

This report provides a walkthrough guide to the HLC project. It will allow users to understand the nature and composition of the dataset, and the roles and applications of characterisation data. To explore this, the report is split into a number of stand-alone sections: the project and county background, the methodology, the historic landscape character type distributions (broad and narrow), analyses/case studies of the data, and future applications.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Abbreviations**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| AONB  | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty             |
| AP    | Aerial Photographs                             |
| CCWWD | Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs       |
| CS    | Countryside Stewardship                        |
| DIO   | Defence Infrastructure Organisation            |
| EH    | English Heritage                               |
| EUS   | Extensive Urban Survey                         |
| GIS   | Geographic Information System                  |
| Ha    | Hectares                                       |
| HBSMR | Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record |
| HE    | Historic England                               |
| HER   | Historic Environment Record                    |
| HLC   | Historic Landscape Characterisation            |
| Km    | Kilometres                                     |
| LCA   | Landscape Character Assessment                 |
| LIDAR | Light Detection and Ranging                    |
| NAIS  | National Archaeological Identification Survey  |
| NMP   | National Mapping Programme                     |
| NNR   | National Nature Reserve                        |
| NWD   | North Wessex Downs                             |
| OS    | Ordnance Survey                                |
| PAS   | Portable Antiquity Scheme                      |
| SBC   | Swindon Borough Council                        |
| SM    | Scheduled Monument                             |
| SPTA  | Salisbury Plain Training Area                  |
| SSSI  | Site of Special Scientific Interest            |
| WBR   | Wiltshire Buildings Record                     |
| WC    | Wiltshire Council                              |
| WHS   | World Heritage Site                            |

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# 1. Introduction

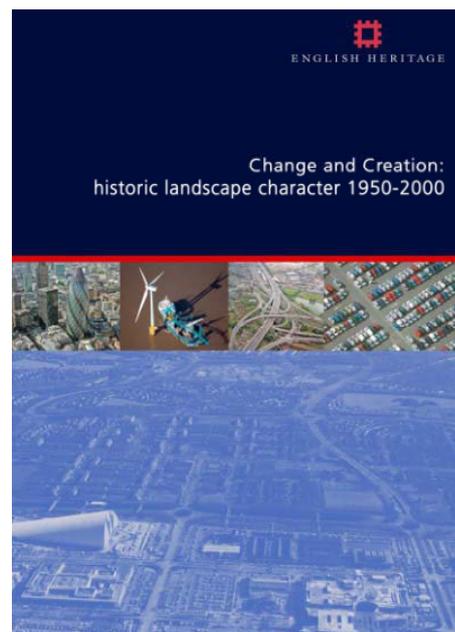
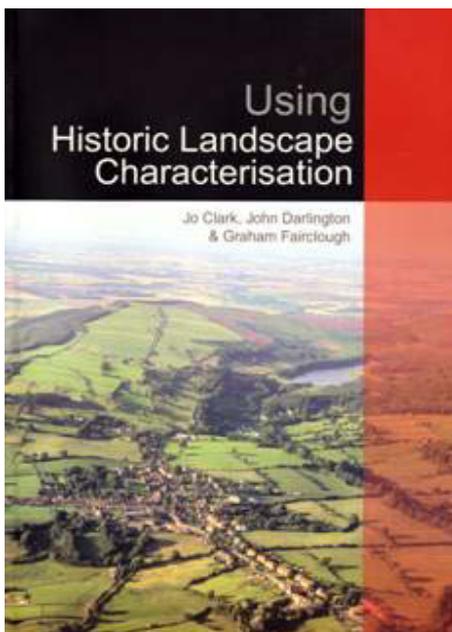
## 1.1 Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

A concise definition of Historic Landscape Characterisation is:

**A map-based technique to examine the historical and archaeological processes which have influenced the form and use of the modern landscape**

It was developed as a method to understand and map the landscape with reference to its historic development and character (Fairclough 2003; Turner 2006; Turner and Fairclough 2007). Using an archaeological knowledge of the distinctive landscape outcomes from past human activities, it provides a comprehensive area-based understanding of dominant historic cultural processes that have shaped our *present* landscape. Its full spatial coverage and GIS platform allows its integrated application alongside other environmental themed datasets in informing the planning of future landscape at whatever scale.

HLC aims to inform the sustainable management of change. By showing how cultural change has shaped present landscape distinctiveness, it enables informed choices in decisions affecting future generations' abilities to build *their* sense of place and narratives from the landscape we pass on.



HLC studies typically take the form of a complex database linked to a mapped resource. While the visual component, typically displayed in a Geographic Information System (GIS), is important in presenting the results of the study, it must be remembered that HLC is a database and a resource, so much more than a simple two dimensional map.

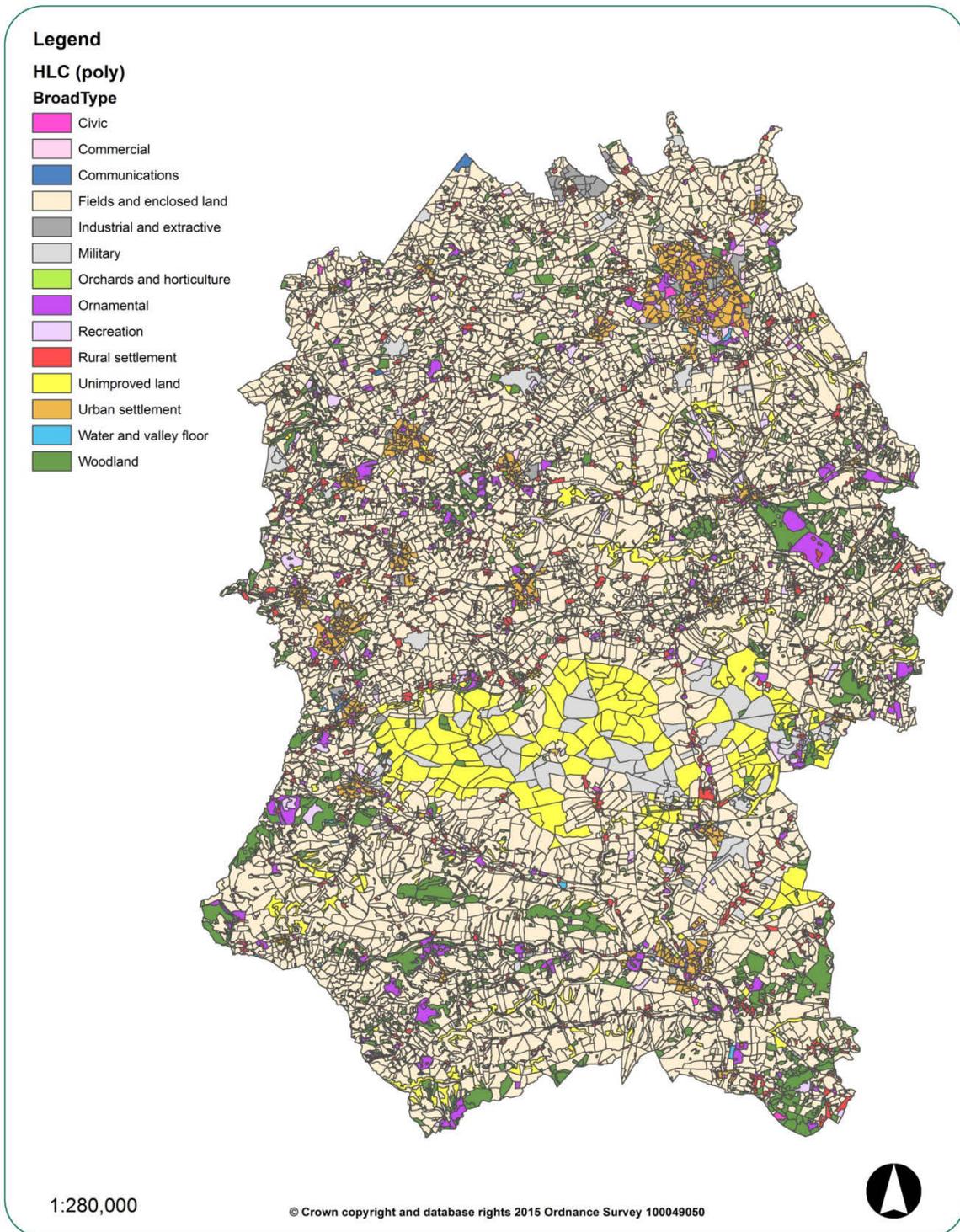


Figure 1

This report presents the result and findings of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC. The project was commissioned and carried out to address three major issues for the county:

1. Development pressures are current and on a large scale so there was a real need for a strategic overview of landscape character

2. The absence of an HLC evidence base was a weakness when shaping the future landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon
3. The emphasis on localism and character in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes HLC highly relevant to decision makers and inhabitants in their day-to-day lives

As the reader will see, the Historic Landscape Characterisation helps to address these issues and to broaden the understanding and appreciation of the evolution of the landscape.

## 1.2 Principles of HLC

All Historic Landscape Characterisation studies are created under the following guiding principles (Clark et al., 2002):

- **Present not past**
  - The present day landscape is the object of the study
- **Landscape not sites**
  - HLC-based work is concerned with areas, not discrete sites or point data
- **All aspects of the landscape**
  - Not just focusing on 'special' areas but the commonplace too, ancient and very modern are of equal interest
- **Human landscape – biodiversity is a cultural phenomenon**
  - Semi-natural features have an equally important effect on landscape character as archaeological features
- **Interpretation not record, perception not facts**
  - Landscape is an idea, not purely an objective thing
- **People's views**
  - It is necessary to consider collective and public perceptions on the landscape alongside expert opinion
- **Management of change, not preservation**
  - Landscapes have, and will always be, dynamic and this should be acknowledged
- **Transparency**
  - The processes to create an HLC should be clearly articulated – with records of the data sources and methodologies used being available
- **Jargon free and easily accessible**
  - Text and maps used to describe and explain the HLC should be accessible and easy to read for all
- **Integration**
  - The results of any HLC study should be incorporated into established heritage management records – such as Historic Environment Records (HERs)

It is also vitally important that the concept of 'Landscape' is clearly defined for any HLC study. Since the European Landscape Convention came into force in the UK in 2007, the formal definition of 'landscape', as used in this project, has been:

**“An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”**

It is with these principles, definitions, terms and approaches that the Historic Landscape Characterisation study for Wiltshire and Swindon was carried out.

### 1.3 Project Area/Location

The project area comprised the Wiltshire Council (i.e. c.325,533 Ha) and Swindon Borough Council (c.23,009 Ha) administrative areas. The final HLC therefore covered c. 348,542 Ha.

The AONB areas of Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs (c.60,445 Ha) and North Wessex Downs (c.75,235 Ha) had been subject to earlier HLCs which were integrated into this project's HLC (see 'AONB HLC Data Integration' below). However the areas of the Cotswolds AONB (c.13,800 Ha) and the DIO:SPTA (c.38,685 Ha) were characterised afresh by this project's HLC.

The significance of the landscape of Wiltshire including Swindon is acknowledged in the designation of some 43% of the area administered by Wiltshire Council as AONBs. These comprise 44% of the North Wessex Downs AONB, 61% of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB and 7% of the Cotswolds AONB. In addition a small section to the far south east of the county is within the New Forest National Park. It is further defined by the DIO: SPTA, a vast expanse of 38,685 Ha owned and managed historically by the MOD.

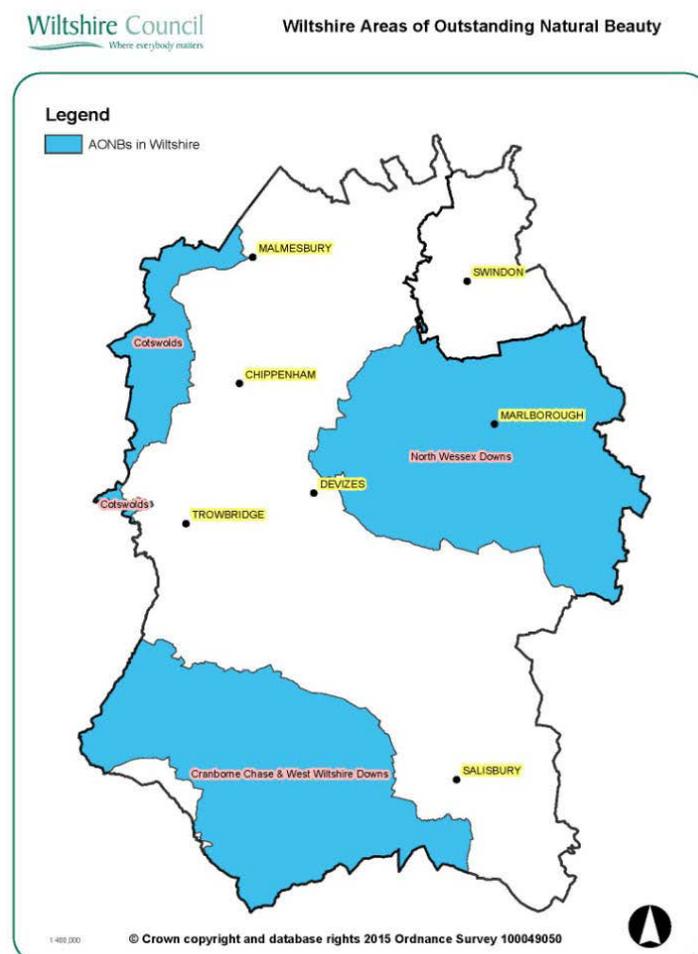


Figure 2

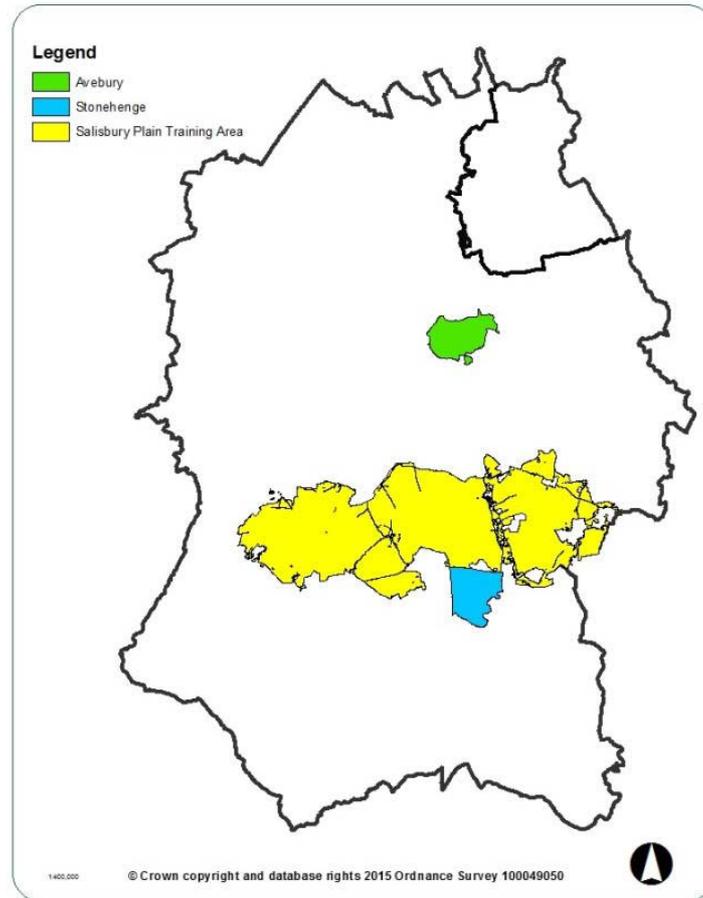


Figure 3

The Wiltshire landscape also includes the UNESCO World Heritage Site of *Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites* covering 5037 Ha, part of which overlaps with the North Wessex Downs AONB. This is currently managed through a combination of English Heritage, Historic England, Wiltshire Council and local landowners including the National Trust.

#### 1.4 Project Aims and Objectives

The Project's overall aim has been to produce an HLC for Wiltshire and Swindon that informed a variety of strategic, planning, academic, curatorial and land management uses at a local, regional and national level.

This has been achieved by fulfilling the following objectives as originally defined at the outset of the project:

1. To deliver an evidence base for spatial and environmental planning at all levels – strategic (Forward Planning), local (Development Control), landscape management, conservation, climate change management, etc.
2. To complete, in consultation with Historic England, an HLC of the WHS for *Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites*

3. To re-do the HLC for the part of Cotswold AONB which lies in Wiltshire, and to incorporate it with those for the two other AONBs which similarly fall partly within the county
4. To devise and produce an urban element of the HLC based on recent good practice and which enhances current understanding from the extant Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) reports
5. To develop an access and retrieval system for all potential users of the new HLC, utilising a new HER with enhanced GIS facility, to contextualise historic environment assets recorded in that HER
6. To deliver outputs that will directly inform consultation for land management agreements, such as Natural England's Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme (now Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship) and Forestry Commission England Woodland Grant Scheme applications, and developing strategies, such as the Forestry Commission Woodland Opportunities Map
7. To produce an HLC that supports and informs outreach and educational programmes, in order to engage and inform the wider community about their local historic landscape
8. To produce a dataset and associated material that is compatible with those of adjacent counties in order to inform regional and higher level Historic Landscape Characterisation
9. To deliver a universal HLC of Wiltshire and Swindon Borough, in a format of use to all identified and potential future users

Some of the principal interfaces initially identified for the HLC dataset include:

- Wiltshire Council Core Strategy (as an iterative process), and its Swindon Borough equivalent
- Forward Planning strategies, including environmental targets (climate change, conservation, etc), for both Wiltshire county and Swindon Borough
- Community Area Boards
- World Heritage Site (WHS) Management Plans
- Wiltshire Council Parish Plans
- Wiltshire Council Village Design Statements
- WHS Woodland Strategy
- Canal and other transport network strategies
- Natural habitat restoration and historic land use
- Natural England Countryside Stewardship (CS) aims and agreements
- National Trust Conservation Management Plans
- DIO: SPTA Management Plans
- Third sector strategies (e.g. for economic development).

## 1.5 End users of HLC

The HLC for Wiltshire and Swindon Borough was constructed with the primary aim of becoming a powerful and flexible tool which could be accessed and used in a variety of ways. For example, as an evidence base and tool for spatial planning at all levels, especially in forward planning, landscape management, and other ways relating to planning, conservation and management of the historic environment. Its flexibility and interoperability with other planning and environmental databases also allows sensitivity analysis to be employed in informing the location, scale and design of future landscape change, including national initiatives such as solar arrays and wind farms.

The Project was designed to establish innovative ways of accessing, using, analysing and presenting the HLC that have immediate utility for a range of users, local and national, strategic and academic.

With this being the case, the key stakeholders initially identified for the project comprised:

- English Heritage (and now Historic England)
- World Heritage Site Management Team
- Ministry of Defence (DIO Environmental Advisory Services)
- Representatives from the three AONBs – NWD, CCWWD and Cotswolds
- Wiltshire Council
- Wiltshire Farmsteads Project
- National Trust
- Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council Development Control Officers
- Wiltshire and Swindon Councils' Conservation Officers
- Wiltshire and Swindon Councils' Landscape Officers
- Natural England

Representatives from these agencies, organisations and councils, along with others added to the stakeholder group as the project developed, attended a series of stakeholder meetings over the life of the project (2012-2016) and helped to steer the project by offering feedback and advice on the nature, composition, use and dissemination of the HLC dataset.

## 2. Policy Background to HLC

### 2.1 The National HLC Programme

Characterisation is an important tool which enables a holistic spatial study of the landscape and its evolution, without becoming focused on particular discrete sites and features within it. As an approach, it appears in the 1960s and the concept of ‘character’ was embedded in the Conservation Area designation introduced by the Civic Amenities Act 1967. As a response to the rapid growth of spatial planning, Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) developed in the 1980s, applying characterisation to identify the varying distinctive grain of landscape across the country. The planning roles of character were subsequently highlighted in government policies such as Planning Policy Guidance Note 7 on ‘The Countryside – Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development’ (DoE, 1997) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 on ‘Planning and the Historic Environment’ (DoE, 1994).

The application of characterisation to mapping landscape’s historic character came with increasing realisation in the early 1990s that landscape everywhere is the product of human activity right up to the present, interacting with other environmental processes: underpinning our understanding of such aspects as species distribution patterns and biodiversity as well as our sense of identity and distinctiveness of place. Understanding the historic and cultural as a dimension of landscape, not a sector of it, is a perspective that eventually found expression in the European Landscape Convention and its definition of landscape (see above). Seeing a particular need for historic character to complement and strengthen then-existing LCA approaches, English Heritage (now Historic England) commissioned the development of a methodology for Historic Landscape Characterisation in Cornwall during 1993-1994 (Herring 1998).

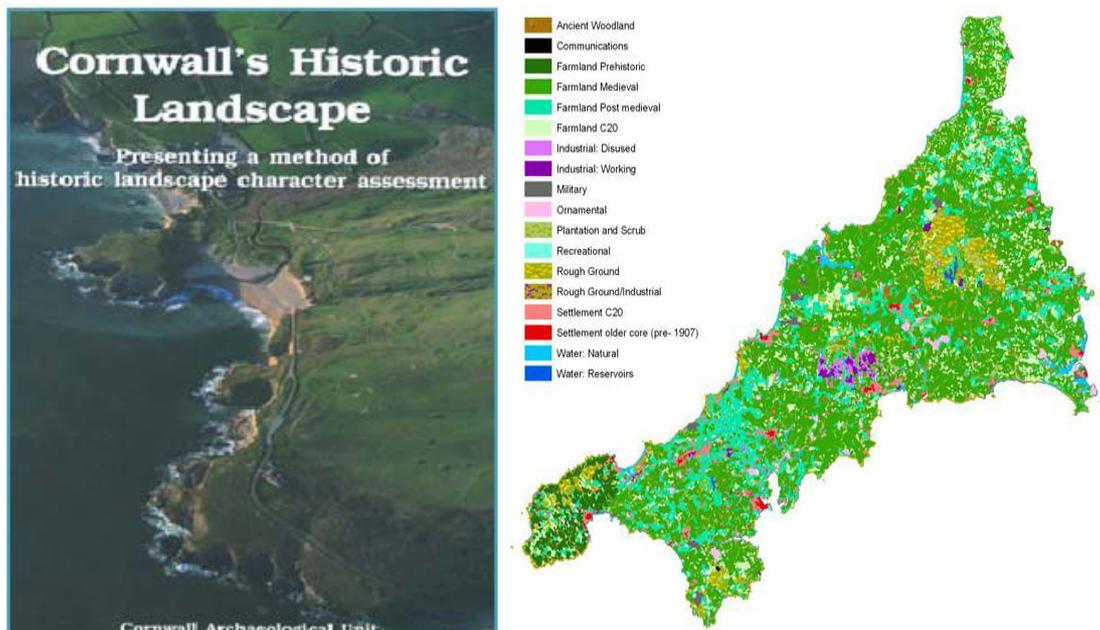
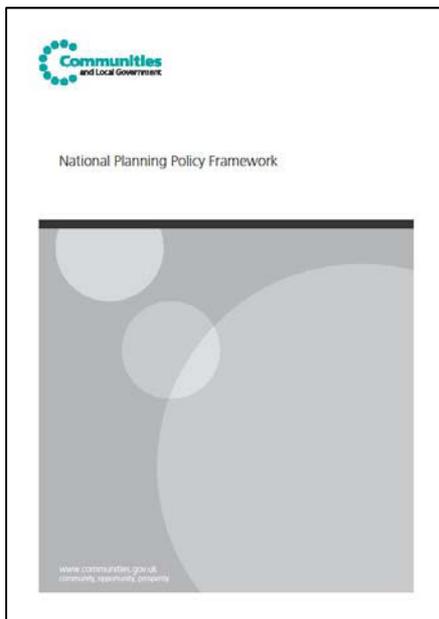


Figure 4

Prior to the development of HLC, historic environment databases focussed overwhelmingly on point data of sites and features regarded as rare, unusual and/or, in various respects,

important. There was no formal way in which to assess the historic character of the present at a landscape level. While there were some excellent and highly detailed studies of character, indeed of 'archaeological landscapes', these tended to be at a local level or focussed on a particular period, theme or activity type in the landscape. In order to perceive the time depth in the present landscape, it is necessary to consider all areas and all components to assess the historic character of the typical and commonplace (and so give context to the rare and unusual).

The UK's ratification in 2007 of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000, Council of Europe Treaty Series no. 176) gave a formal recognition to the concepts already embodied by HLC, emphasising the central roles of human perception in defining landscapes and of human activity in creating them. Similarly in common with HLC, it takes a holistic approach, concerning 'landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes' (ibid, Article 2): the commonplace and poorly regarded as well as the special. The ELC requires a landscape level of analysis and understanding in managing future change, lending additional weight to the need for HLC. In effect, HLC has become a strong tool in the implementation of the ELC.



More recently, the ongoing focus on 'Localism' by the successive governments, culminating in the Localism Act 2011, has further enhanced the need for a historic character evidence base by local government and its communities in delivering their services. HLC and other derived characterisation techniques continue to be relevant and important evidence bases for decision makers that need to pay regard to local character and transparent justifications for their actions.

This is given the force of Government guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was released by the government in March 2012. The NPPF confirms that character of a landscape, area or place is an important material consideration in the planning process. Reinforcing that, several sections of this paper make explicit reference to character and these include:

**Core Planning Principles:** 'Planning should:

*'take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it.'*

**Section 7, Requiring Good Design, Paragraph 58:**

*'Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics.'*

## **Section 12, Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, Paragraph 126:**

Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In developing this strategy, *local planning authorities should take into account:*

- *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- *opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.*

### 2.2 The Evolution of HLC Projects

HLC projects have been principally carried out by local authorities in partnership with English Heritage/Historic England, who have a number of characterisation specialists to advise and assist with their creation. This has allowed some flexibility in the core methodology to allow it to be adapted to the local character and end users. In the main, HLC projects have been desk-based studies that draw upon existing documents, maps, aerial photographs and historic environment data to undertake their assessments. English Heritage/ Historic England have always encouraged adaptation and improvement of earlier methodologies, especially when its development during the mid to late 1990s corresponded with rapid increases in the capabilities of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assist with the presentation and analysis of data. Drawing together best practice and experience, English Heritage published, in 2002, an '*HLC Template Project Design*' (Characterisation Team, English Heritage 2002) and, in 2003, the results of a method review *Taking Stock of the Method* (Aldred and Fairclough 2003). These placed the GIS approach used in HLC on a much more consistent footing for all subsequent projects.

At the time of writing, almost the entire area of England has been subject to Historic Landscape Characterisation and the resultant work has been extensively archived by the Archaeology Data Service (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>), which allows easy access to this resource. A project to create a National HLC is also underway (commissioned by Natural England with Historic England advice, starting in February 2016) which will integrate all of the disparate county datasets into one over-arching national strategic level HLC which will inform correspondingly national strategic requirements such as Countryside Stewardship prioritisation and targeting, allowing comparison of character across sub-national administrative boundaries. This project's results and outcomes are keenly awaited by all in the heritage community.

### 2.3 HLC in the Wiltshire and Swindon Project Area

HLC had already been carried out in parts of the study area before the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project. These are namely within the North Wessex Downs (NWD) and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs, as these regions formed elements of Historic England's early prioritisation of protected areas. The study for the CCWWD AONB was produced in 2007-08 (<http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/landscape/historic.asp>) and the study for the NWD AONB was produced in 2004-07 (<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12848>). A small part of the Cotswolds AONB also lies within Wiltshire and this had its own HLC dataset created in 1999 (Hoyle, 1999).

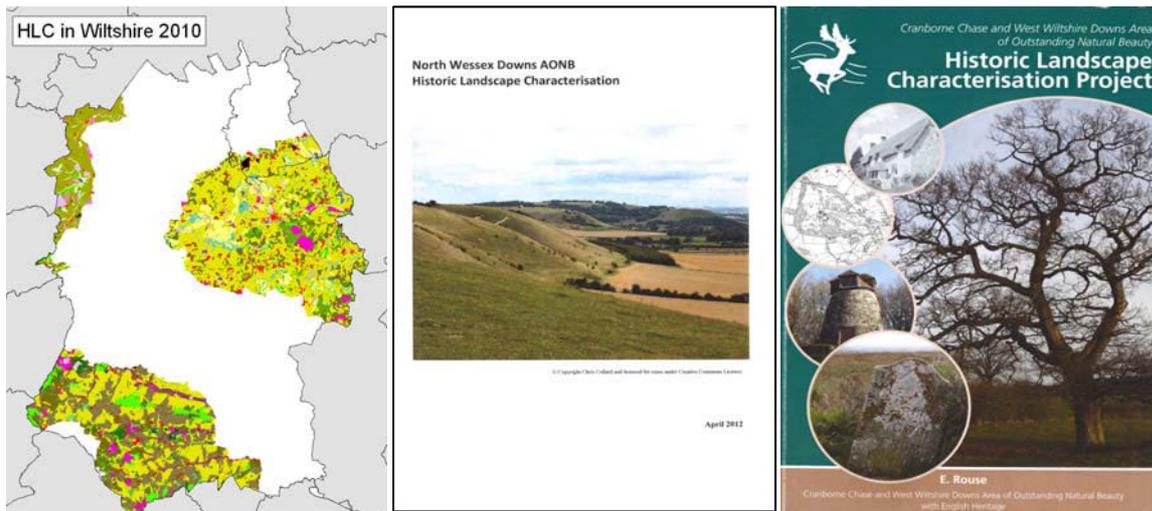


Figure 5

HLC had also been completed in various forms for the counties adjacent to Wiltshire, and (with some urban exceptions) for all counties in the SW region. In the late 1990s, Wessex Archaeology carried out an experimental detailed HLC-type project in SW Wiltshire (unpublished). Other early exercises included an analysis of Salisbury district (Wessex Archaeology, unpublished) and work undertaken by the Ministry of Defence on the historic landscape character assessment of the DIO:SPTA (Wessex Archaeology 2002; Entec 2003).

All of these studies helped to inform the creation of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC but it should be noted that while some of the existing HLC/characterisation datasets were integrated through a process of translation (see the Methodology section later in this report), others were characterised wholly afresh as they were less capable of interrogation than more modern datasets. This is summarised below:

| Characterisation Project | Date    | Integrated | Re-characterised |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|
| NWD AONB HLC             | 2004-07 | Y          | N                |
| CCWWD AONB               | 2007-08 | Y          | N                |
| Cotswolds AONB           | 1999    | N          | Y                |
| SPTA HLC                 | 2002-03 | N          | Y                |

Table 1

### **3. The Landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon**

#### **3.1 Overview**

The modern landscape of the county of Wiltshire has evolved over thousands of years of human activity, settlement and exploitation of the land; the landscape we perceive today is thus a product of cultural change. Economic, political and social demands mean that physical and perceptual aspects of the landscape will always continue to alter, often now more rapidly and radically than at any time in the past. Nevertheless, the variety within the landscape continues to be important and distinct to its inhabitants. Within Wiltshire and Swindon, some areas have a greater proportion of hard/built elements whereas others have many more soft elements. Therefore, it is necessary to acknowledge that landscapes are not merely three dimensional but are multi-faceted, with subtle qualities that can be hard to quantify. Only by accepting this fact, can it be understood how individuals and communities perceive and value elements of the landscape in different ways.

The landscape of the county is the product of various influences which have acted upon it over time (some ancient and some more recent). The character of the landscape has altered based on factors such as its underlying geology, the topography and hydrology. These have in turn interacted with the human activity in the landscape and thus the patterns of land use. It is these patterns of land use which demonstrate the cultural dimension of the present day landscape, and this is one of the crucial themes that can be analysed through Historic Landscape Characterisation studies.

The county covers an area of some 350,000 hectares, with a landscape that changes significantly from the chalk downlands to the south to the heavy clay vales to the north. That being said, it is not regionally homogenous, and even within the northern, southern, eastern and western reaches of the county there is great local variety in character. This diversity of character is borne out primarily in agricultural and settlement patterns that can be observed, but also in the preservation of the natural environment. Large parts of the county are valued for their natural beauty, much of which results from people's interactions with those areas over millennia. The influence of this cultural heritage is reflected in the legislation. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee states that: 'In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve natural beauty – which by statute includes wildlife, physiographic features and cultural heritage as well as the more conventional concepts of landscape and scenery. Account is taken of the need to safeguard agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities' (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1527>). It is on this basis that three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) have been designated: Cranborne Chase and the West Wiltshire Downs, The North Wessex Downs and The Cotswolds.

The strong and diverse character of the county has been encompassed in the 11 National Character Areas defined by Natural England. These embrace the typical yet uniquely distinctive qualities of the Wiltshire landscape everywhere and including its preservation of ancient forests, medieval and post medieval landscapes, numerous post medieval parks and estates, remote downland areas, historic market towns that have grown rapidly in the modern era and unrivalled wealth of prehistoric sites.

The daily activities of the inhabitants of Wiltshire continue to shape this dynamic landscape and help to develop the sense of place and refine its special qualities. Large parts of the county are rural and occupied by scattered hamlets, villages or small towns, with nearly half the population living in settlements of fewer than 5000 people, and a quarter living in settlements of fewer than 1000 people. Nevertheless, there are major urban areas such as Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge Westbury and Chippenham. It is also a tourist destination

with attractions like the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site, Longleat and Bowood Parks and towns and cities like Salisbury, Marlborough and Bradford-on-Avon proving popular.

All of this is impressive for a county with a population of c.690,000 scattered across some 261 civil parishes.

### 3.2 Geology and Topography

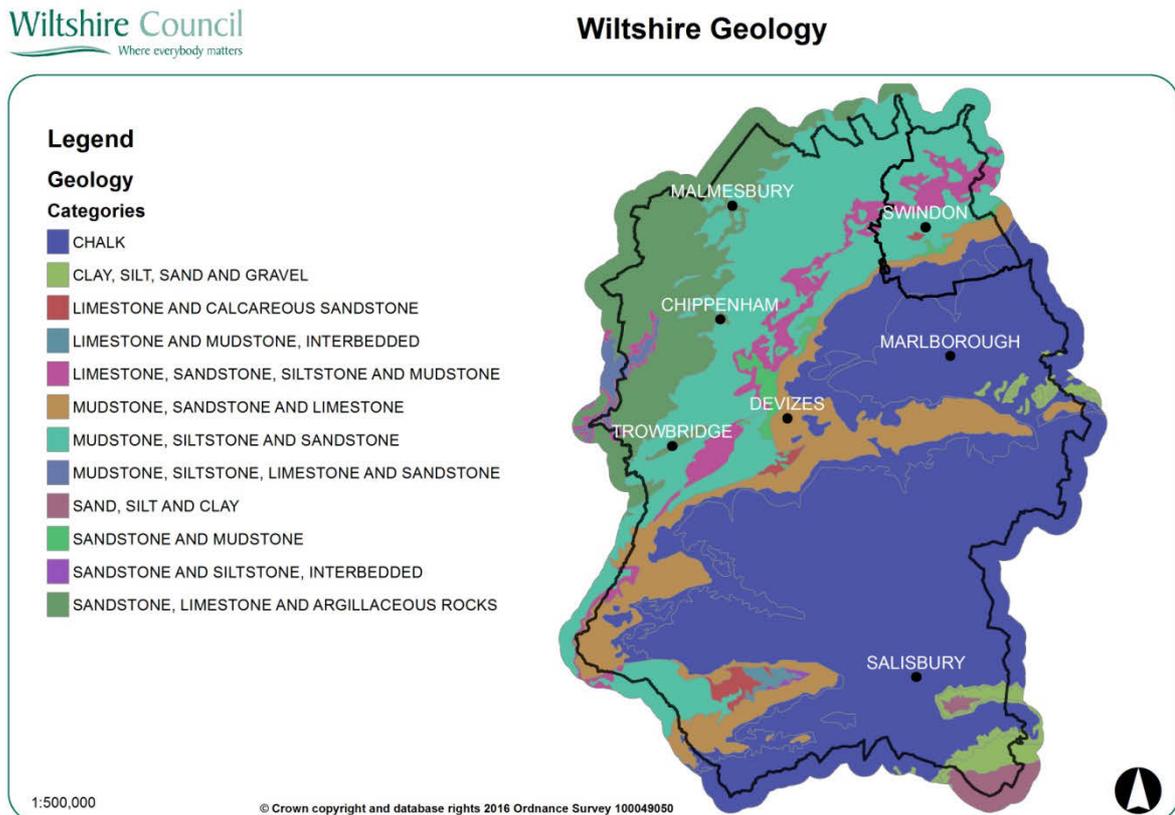


Figure 6

The geological map shows that although Wiltshire is dominated by the vast sweeps of downland, its landscape is highly varied with intimate river valleys contrasting with open uplands and broad vales. Nevertheless, the landscape of Wiltshire including Swindon can thus be broadly divided into two distinctive types: dominated in the south and southeast of the county by the chalk of the Cretaceous period forming the upland landscape of the downs; and in the north and north west, a varied landscape created by older geological formations, including the clay vales and the limestone of the Cotswolds. This has sometimes been termed a ‘Chalk and Cheese’ landscape – relating to the varying historical farming practices of dairying in the rich clay vales and grazing and pasturing of sheep on the chalk downlands.

Settlement character across England is often related to the underlying physical environment, particularly geology, topography and proximity to water. The chalk areas to the south and east in Wiltshire fall within the East Wessex sub-province of England as described in the

Atlas of Rural Settlement in England (Roberts, B. K. and Wrathmell, S. 2000). This province is described as an area of overall low density settlement where the location of nucleated settlements is strongly affected by terrain – often falling in chains along the valleys where water supply was assured.

The northwest of the county falls within the Cotswold Scarp and Vale sub-province. In the area of this province Wiltshire villages and hamlets appear at moderate densities. The Atlas notes that this area is transitional between the Midlands with their large area of relatively homogenous terrain with subtle variations and the broken heterogeneous terrains of the West Sussex sub province to the south (which includes the south western portion of Wiltshire). This area of the county has been heavily influenced by the woollen industry which has sustained its density of settlement.

For further discussion of the geology of Wiltshire and Swindon, readers should refer to the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultancy, 2005).

Geology has also influenced the varied topography and soils that are present within Wiltshire. This has served to create a series of distinct and striking landscapes, varying from Salisbury plain to the south with its dramatic plateaus and scarps, the wooded downs of Savernake in the centre of the county and the rocky outcrops of the Cotswold Hills to the north.

Of course the soils which overlie the geology also link to the topography of the landform and the cultural activity that had shaped both soils and landforms. These soils have an influence on land use, with marls overlying limestone making for fertile agricultural land (particularly in the northern zone), sandy soils being used for woodland and parkland (see the Sandy Lane area in the central zone) and the chalk downland supporting herbs and grasses that are ideal for livestock grazing.

Nevertheless, in broad terms, the topography can be divided into two distinct zones: the north and west relating to the clays with less rugged land and less dramatic landforms (with the exception of the Cotswolds) and the south and east where the chalk valleys and plateaus exist, with striking variations in landform but perhaps a more homogenous character of landscape. These differences in topography are also reflected in the settlement patterns in the county as discussed earlier.

### 3.3 Hydrology

Wiltshire has a number of major rivers and watercourses that have a very significant influence on Wiltshire's landscape character. In particular, these comprise: The Avon, The Bourne, The Ebbles, The Kennet, The Nadder and The Wylye. As can be seen from the subsequent map, hydrology is linked to the porosity of the bedrock in Wiltshire.

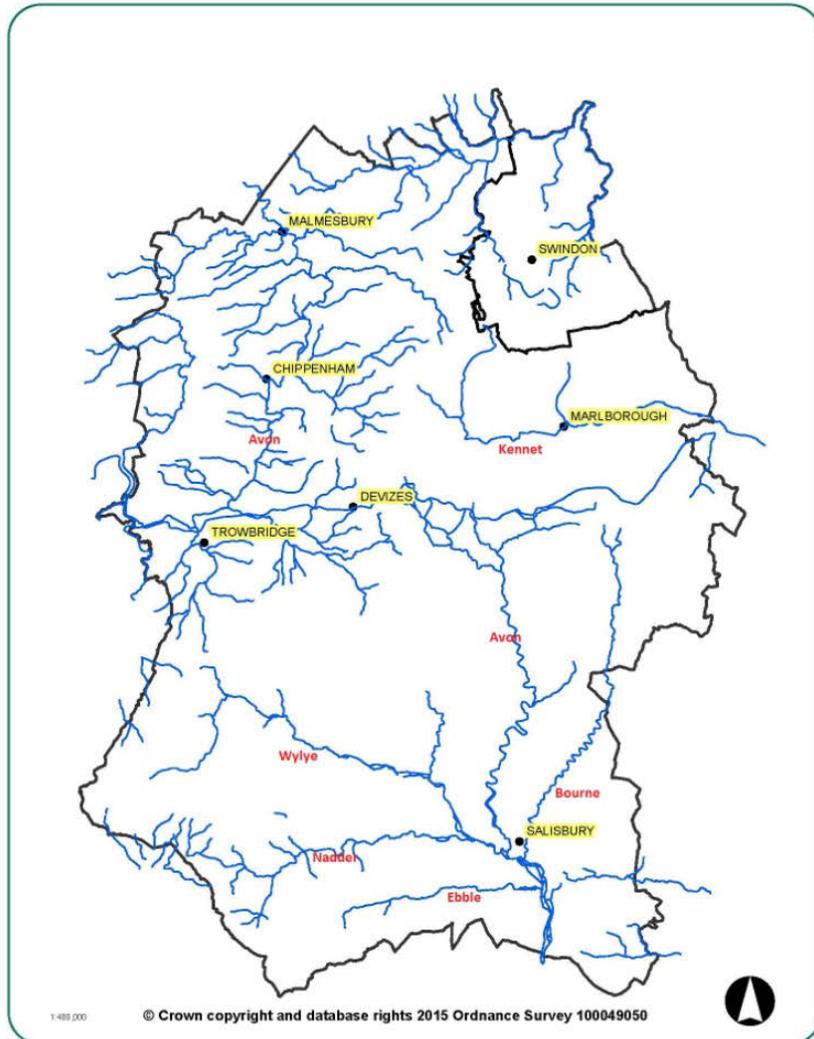


Figure 7

Many of these major watercourses originate in the northwest of the county, with those few that do exist in the southern part having a major confluence in the Salisbury area. These key rivers and their tributaries have had significant influences on the landform and opportunities for land-uses in the county over time, still reflected in the distinct local character of many areas. Examples of this can be found in the Harnham and Britford areas where extensive water meadows were created in the later post medieval period through the engineering of the river systems that existed locally.

It is also worth noting that from the post medieval period onwards, canals were created utilising the major rivers and these had a substantial and lasting impact on the character of the landscape. These include:

- The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal
- The Kennet and Avon Canal
- The Thames and Severn Canal

In parts of the southern half of Wiltshire, the landscape is characterised by well-defined river valleys which have been cut through the weaknesses in the chalk. In these areas subsistence and settlement patterns often strongly mirror the routes of the watercourses. In recent centuries people have found it increasingly advantageous to settle and have their transport links along the valleys. Of course, settlement in earlier periods was also influenced by other factors such as access to fertile soils, proximity to woodland resources, defensible locations, pasture land for animals and linking in to existing routes across the landscape. While there are numerous springs, brooks and rivers in the northern half of the county, they have had a less pronounced effect on the landscape character, although river valleys do feature in the Malmesbury area in the northwest.

### 3.4 Landscape Character Assessments

#### *National Character Areas*

Natural England, working with others including Historic England, have identified 159 distinct National Character Areas (NCAs) whose character assessment and profiling was completed in 2014 (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>). Each NCA was defined on the basis of its unique multi-themed combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries were intended to follow topographic subdivisions in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. For the area of Wiltshire and Swindon, 11 such National Character Areas have been identified:

- 107 Cotswolds
- 108 Upper Thames Clay Vales
- 109 Midvale Ridge
- 116 Berkshire and Marlborough Downs
- 117 Avon Vales
- 118 Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges
- 130 Hampshire Downs
- 131 New Forest
- 132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs
- 133 Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour
- 134 Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase

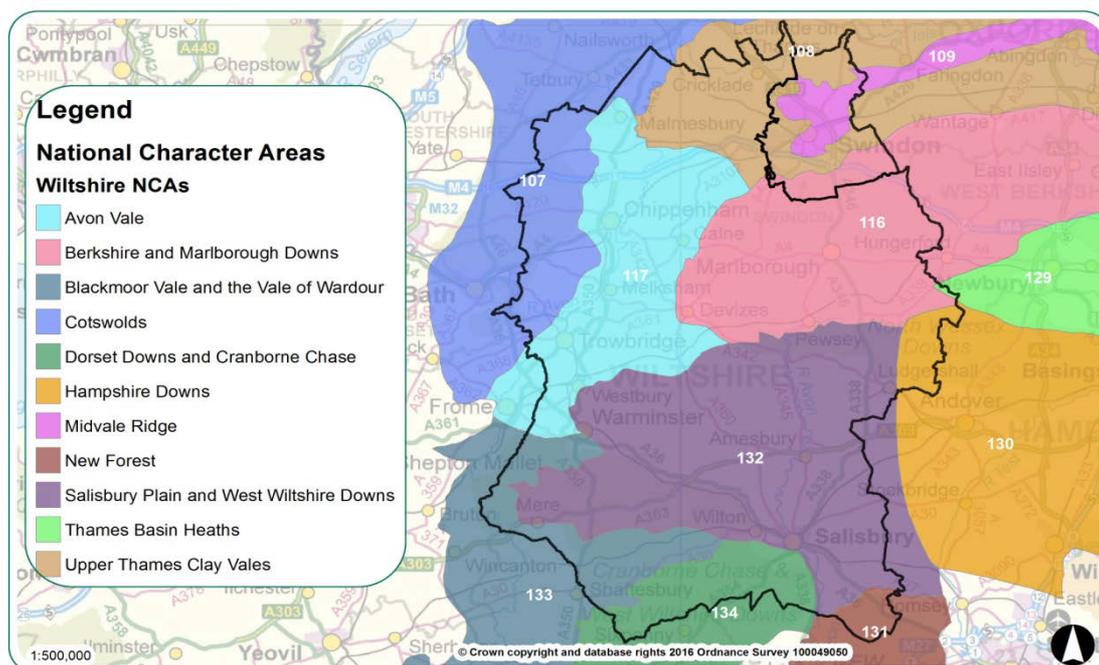


Figure 8

Historic England worked in partnership with Natural England on the definition, description and [interpretation and profiling of these](#) NCAs, which will be kept updated by Natural England and other partners. In the ‘Opportunities’ section of each NCA, they cite the role of HLC in informing their understanding of the development of settlement patterns and character of the landscape, a role which the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Landscape Characterisation will contribute to in the future.

The relationship between these NCAs was considered, and more fine-grained “Character Areas” defined, in Wiltshire’s County Landscape Assessment (Land Use Consultants on behalf of Wiltshire County Council, 2005).

This project developed Landscape Character Descriptions that analysed and described the character areas in detail. It should also be noted that the historic character of present settlements informed the Landscape Character Descriptions in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.

### 3.5 County Level Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

A county-wide assessment commissioned by the former Wiltshire County Council reviewed the existing LCA studies (showing that about 20% of Wiltshire was not covered) and prepared a baseline assessment in order to produce an up-to-date, comprehensive and integrated assessment of the county’s landscape (Land Use Consultants, 2005).

It characterised Wiltshire into **16 landscape types** each with a distinct and relatively homogenous character with similar physical and cultural attributes including geology, landform, land cover, biodiversity and historical evolution and divided the county into **38 landscape character areas** based on discrete geographic areas that possess the common characteristics described for each landscape type. Each character area has a distinct and recognisable local identity.

This LCA has been used to prepare policies and guidance to encourage good quality design in rural areas and in formulating criteria-based policies to protect highly valued areas of landscape. It has given an indication of areas in need of enhancement and of conservation, enabling better-informed decisions to be made on future management of the landscape. It has also provided an objective basis for developing policies and enhancement and restoration projects.

### 3.6 District Level Landscape Character Assessment

Of the former local authorities in Wiltshire, Kennet (Kennet District Council, 2001), Swindon (Swindon Borough Council, 2003) and North Wiltshire (Land Use Consultants, 2004) produced landscape character assessments. A small area to the southeast of the county, which forms part of the New Forest National Park, has been included in a Landscape Character Assessment for the New Forest District Council (New Forest District Council, 2000).

For further information about the County and District Landscape Character Assessments, it is recommended that readers refer to the full project reports or access the following website:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/landscapeconservation/wiltshireslandscape.htm>

### 3.7 Chronological Narratives of Wiltshire's land-use development

The present landscape character of Wiltshire is the product of millennia of change resulting from the complex interaction of cultural and natural processes. As might be expected, the imprints from successive periods of occupation and many more passive effects from human activity have shaped that present landscape. Consideration of these processes and their effects on the present landscape is central to a Historic Landscape Characterisation study. As such, the intention of this project was to explore what the historic landscape character of the county was and to see how this might alter our existing understanding of it.

While HLC has its focus on time depth in the present landscape to inform present and future change, it is helpful also to consider what is known of the more conventional chronological sequence of Wiltshire's land use development. Presented here is a series of period-based narratives drawn from the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment report (Land Use Consultants, 2005). While such narratives are themselves open to change and interpretation as new evidence is brought to light (by a project such as this one) and our understanding increases, they can be helpful pointers to some of the processes which have shaped the Wiltshire landscape.

### *Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic*

- Human activity in the Palaeolithic period was largely limited to river valleys, but is not really perceptible in the current landscape.
- There was some woodland clearance and settlement in the Mesolithic period, tying in with exploitation of herds of grazing animals and riverine resources.
- By the Neolithic period, the beginnings of formal agriculture led to the creation of field systems and continued woodland clearance for stock keeping. Although early in date, these activities were the first to leave a lasting impact on the landscape. River valleys and their associated upland areas (such as ridges and hilltops) continued to be a focus for communities.
- During the Neolithic period the ritual aspects of society were expressed through monumental constructions, such as at Stonehenge and Avebury, and creation of causewayed enclosures and burial mounds (long barrows). Many such features still survive and have had an impact on the successive land use and character of Wiltshire.

### *Bronze Age and Iron Age*

- During the Bronze Age there was an increase in population and monumentalised ritual behaviour. Barrows (earthen mounds) were erected in large numbers and occupied similar locations to their Neolithic predecessors. Their presence gives an indication of previous landscape character and occupation pattern, but has also affected future use of the areas which they inhabit.
- Bronze Age fields were set out in a more formal manner, using lynchets and ditches and represent the earliest divisions of the land for agriculture that can be easily recognised in Wiltshire.
- Some settlements associated with these extensive landscape-scale field systems and on occasion earthwork remains of these have survived. Some of these earlier features formed the basis for later field alignments, set aside grazing areas or ritual landscapes. This time depth in the landscape can still be perceived in certain areas of Wiltshire – particularly in downland areas in the southern and central portions of the county.
- While woodland management began to evolve, with techniques such as coppicing being utilised, it would not be possible to distinguish this from later episodes of the same activity.
- The most significant impact on the landscape in the Iron Age arguably arose through the creation of hillforts. These substantial hilltop enclosures have been interpreted variously as settlements, defensive fortifications or gathering/trading areas. Whatever the case, these hillforts survive well in the landscape and can influence future land use; even in some cases defining field forms or being incorporated into designed landscape and parkland.
- As with the Bronze Age, settlements and field systems sprung up across large swathes of the landscape and many of these remain as visible traces in the present day. Areas of brick-shaped or coaxial fields can still be seen within post medieval or modern enclosures.
- Agriculture in the Bronze Age and Iron Age seems mainly to have focused on the gravels, alluvial deposits surrounding the main rivers and the chalk uplands.

### *Roman*

- Extensive agricultural systems continued to be created into the Romano-British period. These formed part of a complex mosaic of occupation in this period and some of the fields that are legible in modernity may have been set out during this period.
- A road network was set up to connect settlements, farmsteads and fields for the inhabitants of Wiltshire. These linear features still exist within the landscape and often helped to define boundaries of later holdings and fields as well as remaining as legible earthworks in certain areas.
- Several small Roman towns were built in various locations and survive in different states of preservation (with above and/or below ground remains). These included *Verlucio*, *Cunetio* and *Sorviodunum*. The presence of these settlements has had an effect on subsequent landscape character, and protection through scheduling has ensured that only certain activities have been permitted in more recent times.
- Agriculture was able to spread to the clay vales in this period due to improvements in technology allowing exploitation of heavier clay soils.

### *Saxon*

- The biggest impact on the landscape during the Saxon period relates to the proliferation of towns and villages across the whole county. In some instances, the Saxon origin of these settlements survives and remains legible. This is particularly the case in the core of towns. Defensive ramparts and enclosed areas from the Saxon period have also influenced the development of the larger settlements from the medieval period onwards and can still be discerned in street layout.
- Some Saxon estate or administrative boundaries may still be reflected in more modern boundaries and field systems.
- In certain parts of the county, Saxon fields took the form of strips which continued into the medieval era where they were grouped into large open fields. The ridge and furrow created by the plough headlands remain legible today and attest to this earlier character and time depth within the landscape.

### *Medieval*

- Activities during the medieval period had a substantial impact on the landscape we identify with today; both in rural and urban areas.
- Medieval open fields, comprised of strips or furlongs, were created around settlements and typically arranged in a two-field or three-field system. Elements of ridge and furrow or stepped/jointed field boundaries attest to this former character. These morphological traits can survive quite well within later field systems and are very distinct in their appearance.
- The medieval period also saw the exploitation and use of forests within Wiltshire for the purposes of hunting and resource gathering. Some elements relating to this activity, such as deer parks, still remain legible and were incorporated into later landscapes (such as parkland). Areas of woodland were also cleared, or assarted, in this period to make either 'lawns' for hunting or to increase the land available for settlement or agriculture. Many of these historic assarts are fairly distinct in the landscape and they survive into the present day, with some even being replanted with trees sympathetic to the original forest.

- The size and density of settlements increased somewhat in the medieval era and some larger towns had a planned layout (e.g. Salisbury). Elements of this medieval character remain legible in the form of street layout and names, spaces for markets, burgage plots and churches/ecclesiastical structures. Few hamlets, villages and towns in the county do not have some extant medieval character, even when there has been considerable post medieval or modern expansion.
- The formalisation of parish boundaries occurred during the medieval period and many of these have survived into the modern period except in urban areas. These boundaries have influenced character, with field creation and land use being structured around existing boundaries (some of which would have been clearly demarcated in the landscape).
- Manorial holdings, in the form of grand houses, farms and estates were commonplace in medieval society. Many of the buildings and grounds of these manors continued in use into the post medieval and later periods. Some of these were converted into parkland or recreational facilities. Nevertheless, various elements of character such as estate walls, gardens and ornamental grounds, large historic buildings survive and have helped to dictate the landscape character and use.

#### *Post medieval*

- While most of the county had long been subject to agriculture and farming, by the post medieval period there was widespread enclosure of land for this purpose. While enclosure and consolidation of strip fields had occurred in valleys and on lower land in the economic aftermath of the Black Death, the pace of enclosure increased rapidly in this period. This process was often carried out in a very formalised/structured way with planned enclosure or parliamentary enclosure (where Acts of Parliament were passed to grant rights to enclose and place into private ownership large swathes of land). These processes had an effect on the landscape with many of the orderly fields, sometimes with surveyed boundaries, surviving into modernity and providing a distinct landscape character. Enclosure Acts that were prevalent during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries also targeted open land, common land and marginal land – and the presence of fields in such areas (which are often denoted by place names) highlights the landscape change that occurred in the post medieval period.
- During the post medieval period, a number of water meadows were created in Wiltshire. These engineered field systems allowed a more productive system of stock grazing to be practiced and allowed for larger herds to be kept. The sluices, channels, conduits and beds of these water meadows altered the landscape of the river valleys and became characteristic on certain areas of the county. While these water meadows are no longer in use, they survive as relict systems in the landscape which are easy to spot and identify. Their extensive and engineered nature has impacted on subsequent land use and character in the areas they exist and as such they still influence the modern day landscape we observe.
- Extensive transport networks were also set out from the post medieval period onwards. Canals were created to utilise rivers like the Kennet and Avon, and these had an impact on the character of the landscape. Even though some have fallen from use, their routes remain preserved and legible in the landscape and they divide areas

by forming logical boundaries for fields, woodland and other landscape features. The same can be said for roads, which not only helped people to traverse Wiltshire but also served as natural dividers and boundaries. Road layout also had an impact on settlement form and growth, with many villages and towns in Wiltshire growing out along the route ways that accessed them, or clustering around their confluence of roads in the centre. In certain areas, such as Swindon, the advent of the railway had a large influence on landscape character. Buildings relating to the railway sprung up and altered the character of towns and urban centres, while the railway line itself cut across and divided much older areas of landscape; whether this was fields, woodland, open areas or settlements.

- Another characteristic change in society in the post medieval period was the creation and rise of large manors and estates, some of which grew from medieval origins. Many such estates began to have extensive landscaped grounds or parks associated with them. These later post medieval landscape parks had various ornamental features within them such as tree avenues, lawns, park pales, ornamental plantations and ponds/lakes. In some places, these parks preserved earlier character in the form of settlements of field systems, but in others all traces of previous activity were removed. While some of these parks survive into modernity and have new recreational functions, some have been lost to agriculture or rural/urban expansion. Nevertheless, the character created by these parks survives strongly in the Wiltshire landscape, even when the parks and gardens have gone. Remnant ornamental features have been preserved and can still be discerned on modern maps and aerial photographs and tell of this previous land use and character.
- Finally, the creation and felling of woodland was a feature of post medieval society. Tree plantations (often of coniferous species) were created for the production of timber, recreational activities and for agricultural purposes (as shelter belts etc.). Many of these survive in the modern landscape and can be identified from their name, regular form, tree composition and location (sometimes in areas without much of a pedigree for woodland). Trees were also replanted in ancient woodland to help supplement the former forest, and trees were similarly planted to enhance the visual aspects of the landscape in certain areas.

### *Modern*

- The modern period has perhaps seen the greatest degree of landscape change over the shortest time period. Substantial landscape alterations have occurred due to a variety of reasons, and these changes have often proved detrimental to the preservation of the previous character of the landscape.
- The increase in leisure and recreational time has led to the creation of large facilities that can dominate areas of the landscape. Golf courses, motor-cross tracks, holiday villages, caravan sites, safari parks and other such sites have changed the landscape immeasurably. In many cases, the creation of such features has obscured or removed all traces of the former landscape character. In addition, such sites would prove hard to re-use or restore if they fell from use at some point in the future.
- Wiltshire also has several large swathes of land that are owned by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and used for military purposes. While, the origins of this land ownership can be traced back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the more recent activities could be perceived as having a more substantial impact on the landscape.

The creation of barracks, army camps, firing ranges, vehicle practice areas, airfields, depots and defences have influenced the character of the Wiltshire landscape. In some areas, this land use has affected the present and previous character of the landscape. However, in some areas, the earlier landscape character is well preserved and remains legible as the military activities have not proved as damaging as might be expected.

- The increasingly commercial aspect of modern society has also served to change the landscape of Wiltshire. Large retail outlets, garden centres, warehouses, distribution centres and business parks have been built in formerly rural out of town locations or in the historic cores of towns and villages across the county. These heavily influence the local landscape character and typically have proved to be damaging to the legibility of former landscape character.
- As with the post medieval period, roads have become increasingly prevalent and extensive in the landscape. They serve to divide and alter areas that had different and often distinct previous characters. While some of the modern examples have been laid out in a manner to minimise landscape impact, they do nevertheless have an impact on the feel and character of areas where they dominate.
- The increasingly sophisticated techniques and machinery of modern agriculture have also altered the Wiltshire landscape. Larger fields (such as amalgamated or prairie fields) have been created to allow mechanised management which has led to the loss of historic boundaries, field forms and in some cases features from historic field systems (e.g. ridge and furrow or lynchets). The ability to exploit more marginal areas of the landscape has resulted in the loss of some common land, open land or even wetland as these have been converted into arable fields or stock enclosures. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in the south of the county, which historically had a more liminal and open character to it.
- Finally, there has been increase in environmental management and stewardship of land in the last 50 years or so. Protected habitats for wildlife and vegetation have been created; often by reverting to a previously held landscape character. Projects to restore water meadows, canals and former industrial or military sites have been initiated and surviving elements of previous landscape character have often been used as the inspiration for such schemes. There has also been an increase in woodland restoration and re-planting, and in some cases the original woodland character, the woodland clearance episode and restoration of woodland can all be perceived in the landscape due to the legibility of these processes.

## 4. Methodology

### 4.1 Summary

The HLC project was created through a desk-based study using ArcGIS and the HBSMR database (created by Exegesis) to record the current and previous (or historic) landscape character. This process was conducted through the analysis of various data sources; namely the modern maps, historic maps, aerial photographs and Historic Environment Record (HER) data. These sources helped to identify modern, historic and archaeological processes which have impacted upon, or influenced, the character of the present day landscape. This allowed the characterisation of the entire county into units (or polygons) each with a defined current and previous landscape character – both at a general (broad type) and more specific (narrow type) level. These polygons demonstrate the time depth of the present landscape of the county, and the distribution of types can be mapped and their distribution analysed.

### 4.2 Key Sources Overview

The creation of the HLC was mainly a desk-based exercise, so the selection of map sources was a crucial consideration for the project. Due to the scale of the project (i.e. large area/county focus with a minimum polygon size of either 1ha or 2ha), it was desirable to utilise a tightly defined set of sources to ensure the project data was both consistent and compiled in a timely fashion. The principal sources can be grouped into three types:

- Modern Ordnance Survey Mapping
- Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping
- Modern Aerial Photographs

The individual sources are listed in more detail below, but the essential process involved starting with the modern maps and regressing back through time; examining stability and change in the depiction of landscape areas and features. As such this method adhered to the principles of Historic Landscape Characterisation as set out by Historic England – namely that it concerns traces of past activity and character that remain legible in the present day landscape.

### 4.3 Modern Map Sources

- *MasterMap (concurrent with project assessment: 2012-2015) - DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - This forms the principal base map against which all the others are compared. It is useful for recording various attribute information and for providing the boundaries of the project's polygonisation – particularly in regard to the 'Fields and Enclosed Land' category.
- *Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 (2012-2015) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - This was used as a visual check during the project to provide overview as detail on MasterMap was analysed. This was also useful for morphology, woodland type and place name evidence.

- *Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 (2012-2015) - DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - This was used as a visual check during the project to provide overview as detail on MasterMap was analysed. This was also useful for morphology, woodland type and place name evidence.

#### 4.4 Historic Map Sources

- *Ordnance Survey 1 ed. 1" Map (1818) - HARDCOPY*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - First surveyed map of the county but very large in scale so difficult to identify individual land parcels. Good for place-names, woodland, parkland, heathland and manorial sites.
- *Ordnance Survey 1 ed. 6" Map (1872-1894) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - Very detailed and excellent for interpreting C19 and earlier land use. The core historical source used in this project.
- *Ordnance Survey 2 ed. 6" Map (1897-1914) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = EUS Towns and the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site.
  - Very detailed and excellent for interpreting C19/C20 and earlier land use.
- *Ordnance Survey 3 ed. 6" Map (1910-1933) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = EUS Towns and the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site.
  - Very detailed and excellent for interpreting C20 and earlier land use.
- *Ordnance Survey 5 ed. 6" Map (1961) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = EUS Towns and the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site.
  - Very detailed and excellent for interpreting C20 and earlier land use.
- *Environment Agency: Wiltshire Enclosure Award Mapping – HARDCOPY*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - Maps all of the Parliamentary Enclosure Awards by parish and shows the affected fields. Captures this unique period of activity during the C18/C19.

#### 4.5 Aerial Photographs

- *Wiltshire Council Aerial Photography Census (2005/06) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas except Swindon (for which no coverage was available).
  - Used in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey and MasterMap base maps to provide details on land use and land cover.
- *Wiltshire Council Aerial Photography Census (2001) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - Used in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey and MasterMap base maps to provide details on land use and land cover.
- *Google Maps Aerial Photography (2012-2015) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.

- Used in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey and MasterMap base maps to provide details on land use and land cover. Up-to-date whenever viewed so verifies very recent changes to the landscape.
- *Bing Maps Aerial Photography (2012-2015) – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - Used in conjunction with the Ordnance Survey and MasterMap base maps to provide details on land use and land cover. Up-to-date whenever viewed so verifies very recent changes to the landscape.

In addition to these core sources, the project also made use of some of the following datasets to characterise and record the Wiltshire and Swindon area. These are detailed below:

- *The Wiltshire Towns Extensive Urban Survey Reports (1999-2004) – HARDCOPY*
  - Usage = all EUS towns in Wiltshire (29 in total)
  - Records the evolution of the towns through plan form analysis and study of the available archaeological and historical evidence. Slightly out of date but a useful guide for interpreting and characterising the urban areas.
- *Andrew's and Dury's County Map of Wiltshire (1773) – HARDCOPY*
  - Usage = to verify information gleaned from other historic maps.
  - Earliest available complete map source for the county but not surveyed. Often used to double check character shown on the later 1 ed. 1" OS and 1 ed. 6" OS maps.
- *Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory Mapping – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = all areas.
  - Records all significant areas of semi natural ancient woodland and re-planted semi natural ancient woodland. Very useful in identifying these woodland character types.
- *British Geological Society Mapping – DIGITAL*
  - Usage = as necessary, for example as a supplementary aid when trying to identify and record certain current and previous landscape types
  - Records the underlying geology for all areas of the county.

#### 4.6 Methodology Overview

The creation of the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) dataset was undertaken using Exegesis' HBSMR v4 and ESRI's ArcGIS v10.0. The method statement set out in the Project Design was devised with the following factors in mind:

- That the dataset was fit for end-users' purposes and complied with the applications implied by and identified in current planning policies and guidance.
- That the dataset could be swiftly created to provide consistent coverage for the Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council authority areas.
- To allow easy integration of the existing HLC datasets that cover the North Wessex Downs AONB (created 2009) and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB (created 2008).
- To ensure that the HLC dataset integrates seamlessly into the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment (HER).

- That it could be tailored to add extra detail for the special interest areas, namely the towns subject to an Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) and the World Heritage Site (WHS).

#### 4.7 Defining HLC Polygons

The basic unit of characterisation and analysis used by the project is the HLC polygon. Each polygon covers a discrete geographical area that contains a particular combination of HLC attributes, which consequently, through a process of generalisation that sought the dominant character or a recognisable combination of characters, allowed the assignment of a single historic landscape character type. This 'lumping' approach maintained a high-level of resolution and avoided 'splitting' the analysed data into very small areas that were too detailed for project's objectives.

As a process, the characterisation carried out by the Wiltshire HLC aimed to be systematic and consistent. Each HLC polygon was defined on the basis of predominant character, i.e. that most of the area included could be interpreted as belonging to the same character type (known as the Broad Type). Within each polygon a common set of attributes should be dominant so it could be assigned a subtype (known as the Narrow Type). So, for example, if an area was defined as belonging to the 'Fields and Enclosed Land' Broad Type (as it had been identified as an area of fields) then all of the enclosures should have common characteristics (such as being large, rectilinear and with straight boundaries) to allow an appropriate Narrow Type to be assigned. In this case the Narrow Type could be 'Planned Enclosure'.

Specifically, the urban elements of the study area took as their starting point the existing Extensive Urban Surveys (EUSs), where these have been completed. The HLC study added elements to the existing EUSs by (i) extending the characterisation to post-1900 development; and (ii) adopting a more landscape context. This was achieved by using (updated) EUS plan forms as base layers and overlaying additional layers so that the final urban HLC elements formed a seamless part of the total HLC for the study area (i.e. Wiltshire & Swindon Borough). Swindon in particular required the project to undertake new detailed analysis of its complexity, development pressures, expansion, and 20<sup>th</sup> century diversity.

For the majority of Wiltshire and Swindon the minimum size for Wiltshire HLC polygons was 2Ha to accord with the project's intended level of application. However, for certain areas of key interest (EUS towns and the World Heritage Site) the size threshold was lowered to 1Ha to allow extra detail in these more complex areas.

#### 4.8 Characterisation Rates

The target average rate for digitising and interpreting polygons was 550 Ha per day for the areas without any existing HLC data and 750 Ha per day for areas where existing HLC datasets were being integrated (NWD AONB and CCWWD AONB). This was intended to take into account the varied landscape of the county; with some areas being more complex to characterise and others less so.

#### 4.9 Dates used in the HLC Module

Each of the Current and Previous Landscape Types has a date assigned as appropriate. These dates have been deliberately recorded in such a way to ensure there are fewer overlaps, as this allows effective querying of the HLC data in the HBSMR database. As such, for the later chronological periods the date ties into the map sources used, and for the earlier periods the date relates to the approved terms set out in the MIDAS thesaurus. This can be summarised by the following chart:

| <b>Period</b>                 | <b>Assigned Date</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Modern                        | 2012                 |
| 1950s-1960s (5 ed. 6" OS Map) | 1961                 |
| 1920s-1940s (3 ed. 6" OS Map) | 1910 to 1933         |
| 1890s-1910s (2 ed. 6" OS Map) | 1897 to 1914         |
| 1870s-1890s (1 ed. 6" OS Map) | 1872 to 1894         |
| Pre 1870s (1 ed. 1" OS Map)   | 1540 to 1871         |
| Medieval                      | 1066 to 1539         |
| Saxon                         | 410 to 1065          |
| Roman                         | 43 to 409            |
| Iron Age                      | -800 to 42           |
| Bronze Age                    | -2350 to -701        |
| Neolithic                     | -4000 to -2351       |

Table 2

It is also worth noting that for each time period (e.g. medieval) in the chart above only a single character type (for current and previous) was recorded. This again relates to the way in which the HBSMR database queries work; therefore for this project, when multiple character types from the same period were present, the dominant one was selected.

#### 4.10 Broad and Narrow Types in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC

Each of the landscape units within the HBSMR database and associated GIS polygons was assigned to a basic classification category; known as a 'Broad Type' (e.g. Fields and Enclosed Land). Each of these Broad Types was then further divided into more specific 'Narrow Types' (e.g. Piecemeal Enclosure, Assarts etc.), while avoiding 'splitting' into too fine a classificatory resolution. The Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project initially drew inspiration for its Type classification from the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC and the North Wessex Downs AONB HLC, but also drew on other HLC projects and from Historic England.

The resulting data structure comprised 14 Broad Types and 98 Narrow Types. Appendices 1 and 2 contain consistently-structured Descriptions and associated material relating to each of the Broad and Narrow HLC Types respectively.

Initially more Narrow Types had been defined but some categories remained unused because in practice they were never found to be expressed over sufficiently large areas, or did not comprise a dominant character Type (either in the past or present). The following Table summarises the project's Types and their relationships.

| Broad Type                | Narrow Type                             |
|---------------------------|---|
| Fields and enclosed land  | Amalgamated fields                      |
|                           | Assarts                                 |
|                           | Brick shaped fields                     |
|                           | Coaxial fields                          |
|                           | Meadows                                 |
|                           | Open field system                       |
|                           | Paddocks                                |
|                           | Parliamentary enclosure                 |
|                           | Piecemeal enclosure                     |
|                           | Prairie fields                          |
|                           | Reorganised fields                      |
|                           | Restored fields                         |
|                           | Squatter enclosure                      |
|                           | Strip fields                            |
|                           | Strip lynchets                          |
| Water meadows             |   |
| Unimproved land           | Downland                                |
|                           | Grassland                               |
|                           | Greens                                  |
|                           | Heath and scrub                         |
|                           | Marsh and bog                           |
|                           | Unimproved land                         |
| Orchards and horticulture | Allotments                              |
|                           | Market gardens                          |
|                           | Orchards and vineyards                  |
|                           | Plant nursery/Garden centre             |
| Woodland                  | Ancient semi-natural woodland           |
|                           | Ancient semi-natural woodland replanted |
|                           | Coppice                                 |
|                           | Plantation                              |
|                           | Secondary woodland                      |
|                           | Wood pasture                            |
| Water and valley floor    | Fishponds and hatcheries                |
|                           | Osier beds                              |
|                           | Reservoirs and water bodies             |
|                           | Watercress beds                         |
| Rural settlement          | Cottages                                |
|                           | Country houses and palaces              |
|                           | Farmstead                               |
|                           | Hamlet                                  |
|                           | Hotel                                   |
|                           | Housing estate                          |
|                           | Row                                     |

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
|                  | Village                          |
| Urban settlement | Apartments/maisonettes/flats     |
|                  | Detached housing                 |
|                  | Historic urban core              |
|                  | Planned estate (social housing)  |
|                  | Semi detached housing            |
|                  | Terraced housing                 |
| Ornamental       | Garden                           |
|                  | Ornamental lake                  |
|                  | Parkland                         |
| Recreation       | Camping/caravan/mobile home site |
|                  | Deer park                        |
|                  | Equestrian centre                |
|                  | Gallops                          |
|                  | Golf course                      |
|                  | Leisure complex                  |
|                  | Motorsport track                 |
|                  | Playing fields                   |
|                  | Race course                      |
|                  | Sports pitch                     |
|                  | Stadiums and show grounds        |
| Industrial       | Brickworks                       |
|                  | Depot/yard                       |
|                  | Industrial estate                |
|                  | Manufacturing                    |
|                  | Mills                            |
|                  | Quarries and gravel pits         |
|                  | Works/workshops                  |
| Communications   | Airfield                         |
|                  | Bus depot                        |
|                  | Canals                           |
|                  | Car parks                        |
|                  | Engine sheds                     |
|                  | Rail yard                        |
|                  | Railway Line                     |
|                  | Railway station                  |
|                  | Service stations                 |
| Military         | Defence research establishment   |
|                  | Military airfield                |
|                  | Defences                         |
|                  | Military installation            |
|                  | Practice area                    |

|                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Civic                            | Ceremonial/ritual landscape         |
|                                  | Civic centre                        |
|                                  | Emergency services                  |
|                                  | Medical facility                    |
|                                  | Municipal cemeteries and graveyards |
|                                  | Religious buildings and compounds   |
|                                  | School/college                      |
|                                  | Sewage works                        |
|                                  | Utilities                           |
|                                  | Waste disposal site                 |
|                                  | Commercial                          |
| Business park                    |                                     |
| Freight handling and warehousing |                                     |
| Offices and retail               |                                     |

Table 3

N.B. The Narrow HLC Types marked in red are Types only expressed in Previous HLC, and have not been expressed as dominant Types in present HLC mapping.

#### 4.11 Pilot Areas

To ascertain the suitability of the methodology, it was trialled in four pilot areas. This work determined whether the approach would meet the expected requirements of the HLC and was feasible within the project timescale.

The four areas were selected with the chief aim of providing a good cross section of representative HLC types in Wiltshire and Swindon. The table and map below show the location and size of the pilot areas selected.

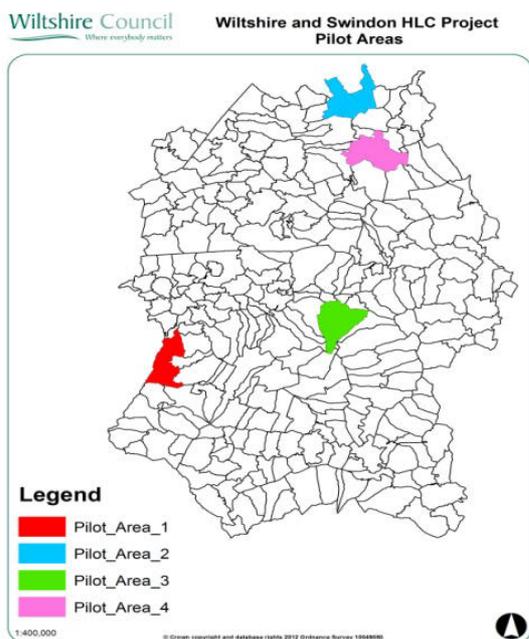


Figure 9

| Key | General location             | Bounded Parishes (Ha in brackets)  |
|-----|------------------------------|--|
| 1   | South-west Wiltshire         | Corsley (1447), Chapmanslade (459) and Dilton Marsh (1014)                     |
| 2   | North-east Wiltshire         | Cricklade (1548), Latton (1737) and Marston Maisey (533)                       |
| 3   | Central/South-East Wiltshire | Chirton (779), Marden (551), Wilsford (709), Charlton (1931) and Rushall (892) |
| 4   | Swindon                      | Old Town and New Town (3500)   |

Table 4

### *Area 1*

This was chosen as it covers an area of Wiltshire which is highly varied and has much in common with neighbouring Somerset. The area around Corsley is part of the former Selwood Forest and with its dispersed hamlets and farms is typical of relict woodland. Dilton Marsh is low-lying with some clay in the north and historically, much of this area was marshland.

### *Area 2*

This comprises three parishes within a predominantly clayland community in the Upper Thames Valley and bordering Gloucestershire. It also includes an 'urban' centre, Cricklade, which has been called 'the most intact example of a late Saxon new town in Britain'. This area allowed comparison of the historic landscape types in the town with those on its fringes and within its hinterland. The other two parishes, Latton and Marston Maisey, are characteristic Cotswolds settlements of the Cirencester region.

### *Area 3*

This is typical of the chalkland landscape in the centre and southeast of the County. Settlements are small and compact, slightly raised above river level and the characteristic parish shapes of Chirton, Marsden, Wilsford, Charlton and Rushall are long and thin defining strips of territory running from the valley floor to the high downs.

### *Area 4*

This area is definitely urban and, although not part of the original EUS programme, nevertheless tested the methodology for the part of the HLC that aimed to enhance analysis of these urban settlements.

After successfully piloting in these four areas, the results, the methodology and the refined working rates were reviewed and agreed as fit to be rolled out across the entire project area (c. 349,241ha). The entire process from piloting to completion took from June 2012 until April 2015 (34 months), with an average characterisation day rate of c.640ha for the non-AONB areas and c.800ha for the AONB areas (where the existing HLC was integrated).

The end result was that 14,447 HLC records (held in the HBSMR database) with an equal number of associated HLC units or polygons (projected spatially by ArcGIS). In order to achieve this, a five stage, iterative process was followed, and this is detailed below in the Method Statement.

## 4.12 Method Statement

The method used in compiling this HLC falls into the following five main Stages:

### *Stage 1: Select*

- Choose geographic area, research character history

### *Stage 2: Assess*

- Identify character (current and previous), using sources

### *Stage 3: Map\*\**

- Group land units by shared character and attributes

### *Stage 4: Describe*

- Assign attribute information and write summaries and descriptions.

### *Stage 5: Interpret and classify*

- Cross-reference with HER and other datasets as necessary

*\*\*Having identified the dominant character (both current and previous) for an area, it is then necessary to group the land into units (or polygons). These polygons should be as large as possible (with minimum size limit being 1ha or 2ha depending on the type of area) but are defined to ensure that across each polygon's area is a consistent and shared morphology AND land use history.*

### 4.12.1 Data Structure and Capture

Each of the polygons created through the mapping process has data attached to it. This information was recorded in the HBSMR HLC module which has the following principal data tabs:

- Description (relating to Current Types)
- Attributes
- Previous Types
- Monuments
- Sources

### 4.12.2 Description Tab

This is the main tab in the HLC HBSMR module and records the key characteristics of the individual polygon, with a focus on the current landscape type. The information held is as follows:

| <b>Field</b>      | <b>Notes</b>  |
|-------------------|---|
| Unique Identifier | This reference number is automatically generated by HBSMR and is unique to each polygon |
| Map Reference     | The map square that the polygon's centroid lies within                                  |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Area(Ha)       | The area of the polygon (2 decimal place accuracy)  |
| NGR            | 10 figure grid reference  |
| Broad Type     | The overall category of current landscape character   |
| HLC Type       | The particular category of current landscape character  |
| Name           | Name of settlement or area, only entered if applicable (not all polygons assigned a name)                           |
| Full Type Code | Alphabetic code that is a combination of the Broad Type and HLC Type  |
| Confidence     | Used to record confidence of assigned character type (options comprise: certain, probable and possible)             |
| Summary        | Brief text summary of the current and previous character of the area along with comments on legibility of character |
| Description    | Used as an additional notes field to add any extra details about the landscape character or evolution               |
| Period         | Date range assigned to current character on the basis of the map sources (see earlier)                              |

Table 5

#### 4.12.3 Attributes Tab

The data in this tab is particular to the Broad Type chosen for the record. The HBSMR database allows a maximum of 8 attributes to be recorded per Broad Type. All of these were filled in using drop-down menus, as the use of free text could cause inconsistencies in the data entry. All of the available attributes (and their associated options) are tabulated below:

| Attribute  | Associated Broad HLC Types                            | Options   | Notes  |
|------------|---|---|--|
| Place name | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area near to settlement</li> <li>Bushes</li> <li>Common land</li> <li>Coppicing</li> <li>Cultivated land left to grass</li> <li>Deer park</li> <li>Enclosure</li> <li>Forest</li> <li>Furze</li> <li>Green</li> <li>Heath</li> <li>Medieval hunting</li> <li>Orchard</li> <li>Parkland</li> <li>Pasture</li> <li>Plantation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From modern and historic OS maps</li> </ul> |

|                             |  |   |  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
|                             |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rabbit warren</li> <li>• Spinney</li> <li>• Strip fields</li> <li>• Wet/boggy land</li> <li>• Wood clearance</li> <li>• Wooded field border</li> <li>• Wooded slope</li> <li>• Woodland</li> </ul> |  |
| Morphological shape         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields and enclosed land</li> <li>• Orchards and horticulture</li> <li>• Unimproved land</li> <li>• Woodland</li> <li>• Water and valley floor</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irregular</li> <li>• Regular</li> <li>• Semi-irregular</li> <li>• Sinuous</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>  |
| Boundary morphology         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields and enclosed land</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curving</li> <li>• Jointed</li> <li>• Reversed S</li> <li>• Sinuous</li> <li>• Straight</li> <li>• Wavy</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>  |
| Field Count (1 ed. OS Map)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields and enclosed land</li> <li>• Orchards and horticulture</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numeric value</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual count from the digital mapping source</li> </ul>                             |
| Field Count (Modern OS Map) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields and enclosed land</li> <li>• Orchards and horticulture</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numeric value</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual count from the digital mapping source</li> </ul>                             |
| Average field size          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields and enclosed land</li> <li>• Orchards and horticulture</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small (&lt;2ha)</li> <li>• Medium (2-10ha)</li> <li>• Large (&gt;10ha)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of the polygon size by the number of field parcels to calculate</li> </ul> |
| Wood type                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad leaf</li> <li>• Coniferous</li> <li>• Mixed</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul>                           |
| Activity status             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Industrial and extractive</li> <li>• Military</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active</li> <li>• Inactive</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul>                           |
| Extracted product           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial and extractive</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregates</li> <li>• Clay/bricks</li> <li>• Stone</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul>                           |
| Settlement morphology       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural settlement</li> <li>• Urban settlement</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cul-de-Sac</li> <li>• Geometric</li> <li>• Grid-Iron layout</li> <li>• Linear</li> <li>• Nucleated</li> <li>• Piecemeal</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See appendices for morphology style guide and examples</li> </ul>                   |

|                         |  |   |  |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
|                         |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned</li> </ul>   |  |
| Industrial sector       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial and extractive</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bricks</li> <li>Ceramics</li> <li>Chemical</li> <li>Concrete works</li> <li>Construction</li> <li>Distribution</li> <li>Electronics</li> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Food processing</li> <li>Fossil fuels</li> <li>Fuel storage/processing</li> <li>Glassworks</li> <li>Metal trades</li> <li>Not recorded</li> <li>Paper/printing</li> <li>Railway</li> <li>Recycling</li> <li>Renewable</li> <li>Sewerage</li> <li>Telecoms</li> <li>Textiles/clothing</li> <li>Timber</li> <li>Water</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul> |
| On First Edition OS Map | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual check on 1 ed. 6" OS map</li> </ul>                |
| Land division           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unimproved land</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divided</li> <li>Undivided</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul> |
| Garden type             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ornamental</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal</li> <li>Informal</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul> |
| Ridge and furrow        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fields and enclosed land</li> <li>Industrial and extractive</li> <li>Military</li> <li>Ornamental</li> <li>Recreation</li> <li>Unimproved land</li> <li>Water and valley floor</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absent</li> <li>Present</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified from aerial photographs</li> </ul>             |
| Settlement character    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural settlement</li> <li>Urban settlement</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic core</li> <li>Modern extent</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified from OS maps and aerial photographs</li> </ul> |

Table 6

#### 4.12.4 Previous Types Tab

This tab allows the full recording of the Previous Type information (both Broad and Narrow) for each HLC polygon. Compared to the description tab it has a limited number of data fields. It is worth noting that the HBSMR database allows recording of up to 5 previous landscape character type but due to the selection of sources used in the project, this limit did not pose any problems. The fields and options are tabulated below.

| Field   | Options   | Notes  |
|---|---|--|
| Previous Broad Type   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Type Chart earlier</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chosen from drop down menu of 14 Broad Types</li> </ul>   |
| Previous Narrow Type  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Type Chart earlier</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chosen from drop down menu of 98 Narrow Types</li> </ul>  |
| Period  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Date Range Chart earlier</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chosen according to map source or MIDAS thesaurus chronology</li> </ul>   |
| Confidence<br>(In this Tab this field was used as an indicator of legibility of the previous landscape character) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certain</li> <li>Probable</li> <li>Possible</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The previous character type is clearly identifiable or legible in the present day</li> <li>The previous character type is partially identifiable or legible on the present day</li> <li>The previous type is not legible in the present day but is clearly shown on historic sources or through other evidence (such as place names)</li> </ul> |
| Notes   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free text</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not used as the Summary and Description fields in the Description Tab were felt to be adequate</li> </ul>   |

Table 7

#### 4.12.5 Monuments Tab

This tab links the HLC polygon created as part of the HLC Project to all of the records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) that fall within its area. This is the advantage of using the HBSMR HLC module, as there is seamless integration and cross-referencing between the HLC and HER data. It will also help with the export of the HLC data, which as it is embedded in the HER, will be sent out with the routine enquiries received by the Wiltshire and Swindon HER. The table below shows how this tab works.

| Field       | Notes   |
|-------------|---|
| ID          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the unique monument identification number from the HBSMR database</li> </ul> |
| Record Type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This relates to the type of record that</li> </ul>                                   |

|      |  |
|------|--|
|      | exists – e.g. Monument, Findspot etc.  |
| Name | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the name assigned to the Monument Record in the HER (if one has been assigned)</li> </ul> |

Table 8

#### 4.12.6 Sources Tab

This tab lists all of the sources used in the creation of each HLC polygon. All of these sources are fully embedded in the Wiltshire and Swindon HER and can be cross-referenced with other information held by the database. The source data it holds is shown in the table below.

| Field              | Notes   |
|--------------------|---|
| ID                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the unique source identification number from the HBSMR database</li> </ul> |
| Specific Reference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This gives full details of the source, creator, title, year etc.</li> </ul>        |

Table 9

#### 4.12.7 Metadata Tab

The majority of the data held in this tab of the HLC module of the HBSMR database generates automatically when the record and associated HLC polygon is created. It contains information about the date of creation, creator, any modifications and the validation state (i.e. OK for export or 'sensitive').

While the HLC Officer did not directly populate any data fields in this Tab, the metadata for each HLC record is still important. Such information provides the capacity to benchmark and record modifications to HLC records, and this function is essential to understand how the HLC data can be maintained and kept up-to-date for future end users and planning roles.

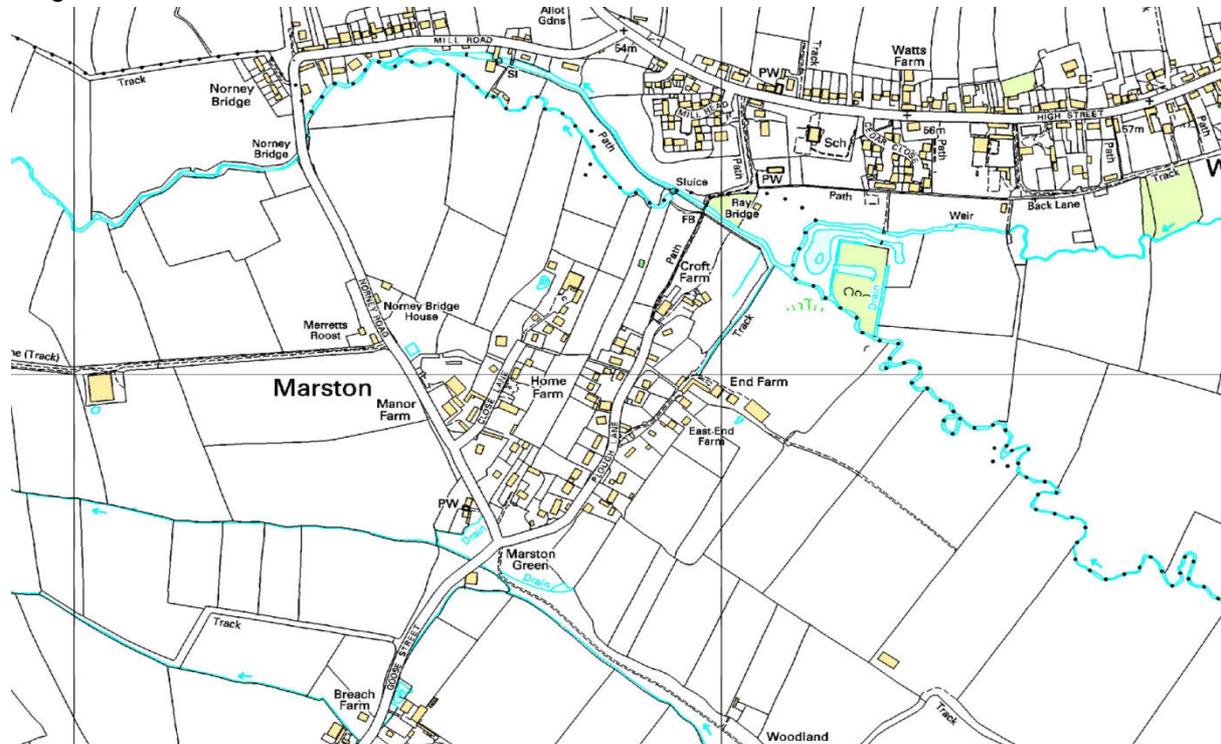
| Field                                  | Notes  |
|--|--|
| Validation State                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This flags whether an HLC record is OK to publish, sensitive, needs checking etc.</li> <li>Not used in the data creation process of the HLC but could be used for later review, auditing or amendments</li> </ul> |
| Audit Trail Summary: Creation          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This gives full details of the creator and date/time of creation</li> <li>Not used in the data creation process of the HLC but could be used for later review, auditing or amendments</li> </ul>                  |
| Audit Trail Summary: Last Modification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This gives full details of the author and date/time of modification/alteration</li> <li>Not used in the data creation process of the HLC but could be used for later review, auditing or amendments</li> </ul>    |

Table 10

#### 4.13 Data Creation Worked Example

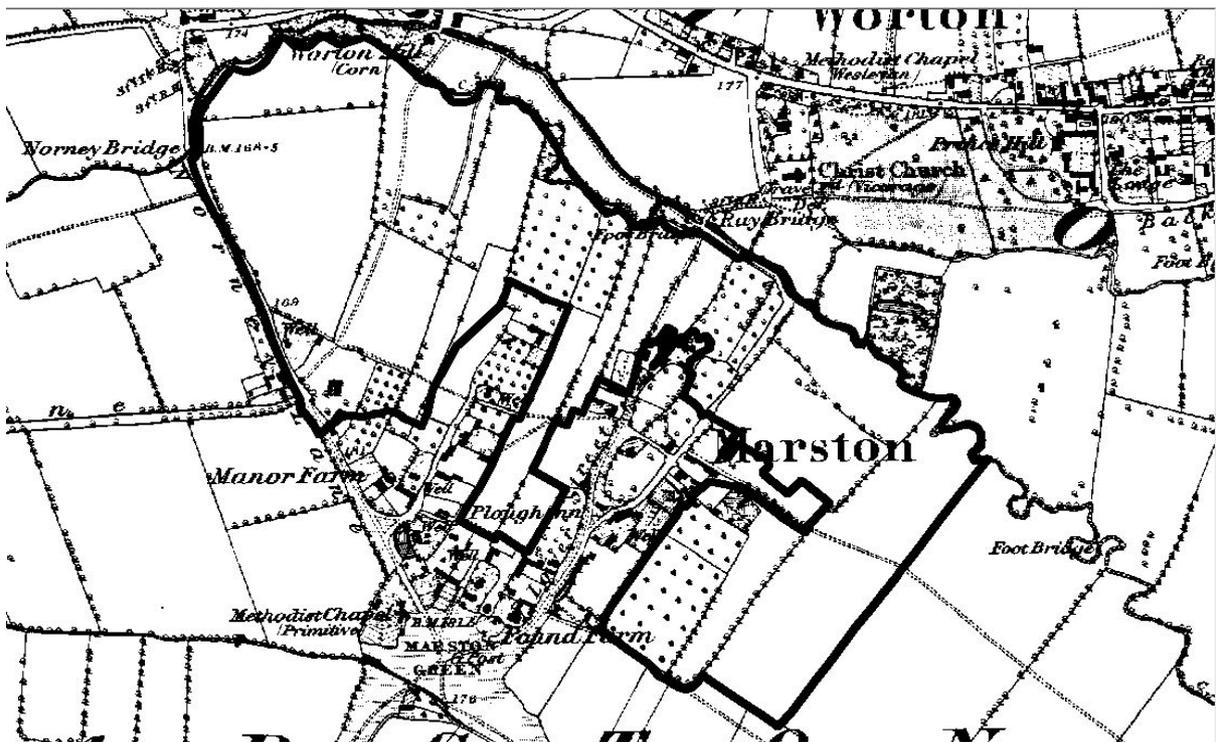
The steps below show how an area outside Marston was characterised and recorded by the methodology already outlined for the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC project.

##### Stage 1: Select



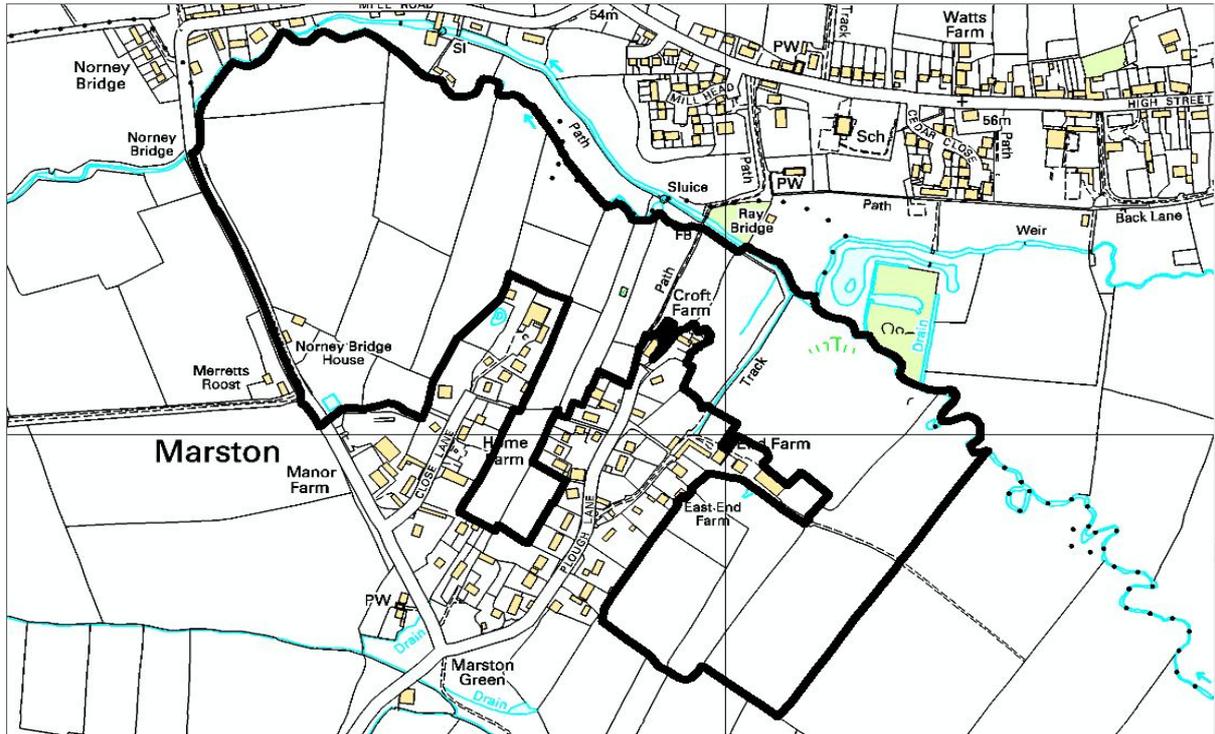
- The area around Marston has been chosen for study and characterisation.
- The area in question includes the small settlement of Marston, which is nucleated around the green and church, and a number of semi-irregular and irregular fields which have been defined by roads and stream courses.
- It appears that many of the fields share similar characteristics so it should be possible to group them into an HLC polygon of sufficient size (>2 ha).
- Note that the modern map very clearly shows the shape, form and size of the fields being investigated in this example.

Stage 2: Assess



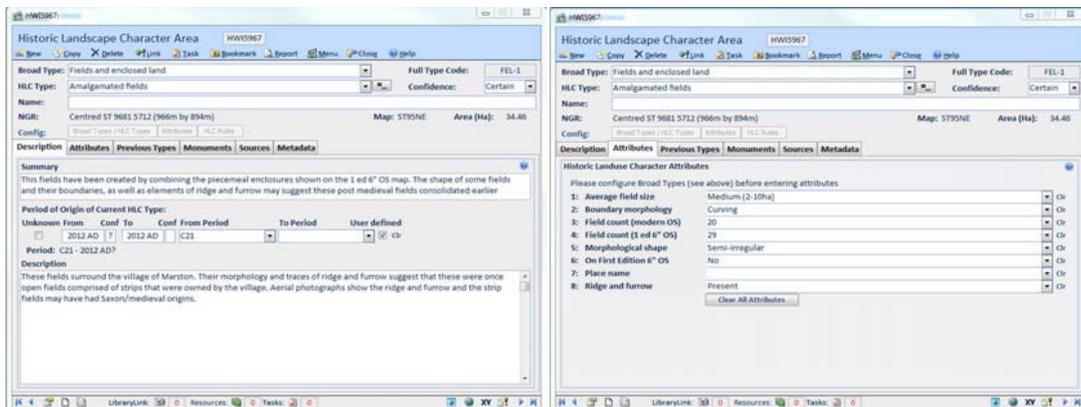
- Using the core sources, the current and former character of the area around Marston is assessed and any similarities/differences noted.
- The fields highlighted in the black outline are similar in shape (elongated and semi-irregular) and have the same boundaries (curving or jointed) and are of a similar size.
- Many of the fields used to be orchards (shown on the historic map) and most of the fields in this area seem to have ridge and furrow (shown on the aerial photograph).
- Most of the fields have been altered in modernity with boundaries being removed (comparison of all the sources)

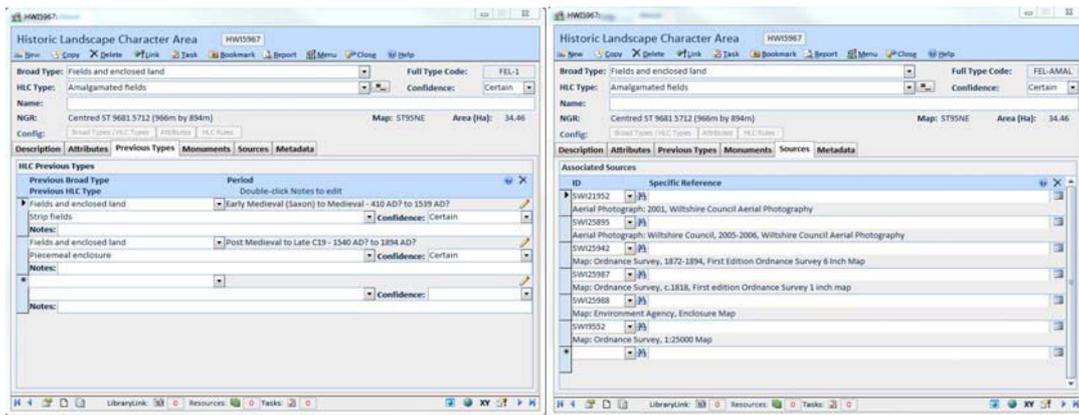
### Stage 3: Map



- Areas with a similar current character and landscape history are identified and grouped together. The area defined is as large as possible whilst still abiding by these criteria and not causing a loss of detail/information. The **black** outline denotes the extent and boundaries of the HLC polygon encompassing the area so defined.
- While it appears that some of the other fields adjacent to the polygon described by the black line are similar, there are differences in their morphology (shape/size), boundaries (shape/form) and history (previous character) that mean they are not appropriate for inclusion in this HLC polygon.
- As the HLC records 'dominant' character there are occasions where some very small areas of a different character are not represented. Here, the buildings of Norney Bridge House fall within the mapped fieldscape but it was not possible or appropriate to map them separately (principally as they occupy too small an area).

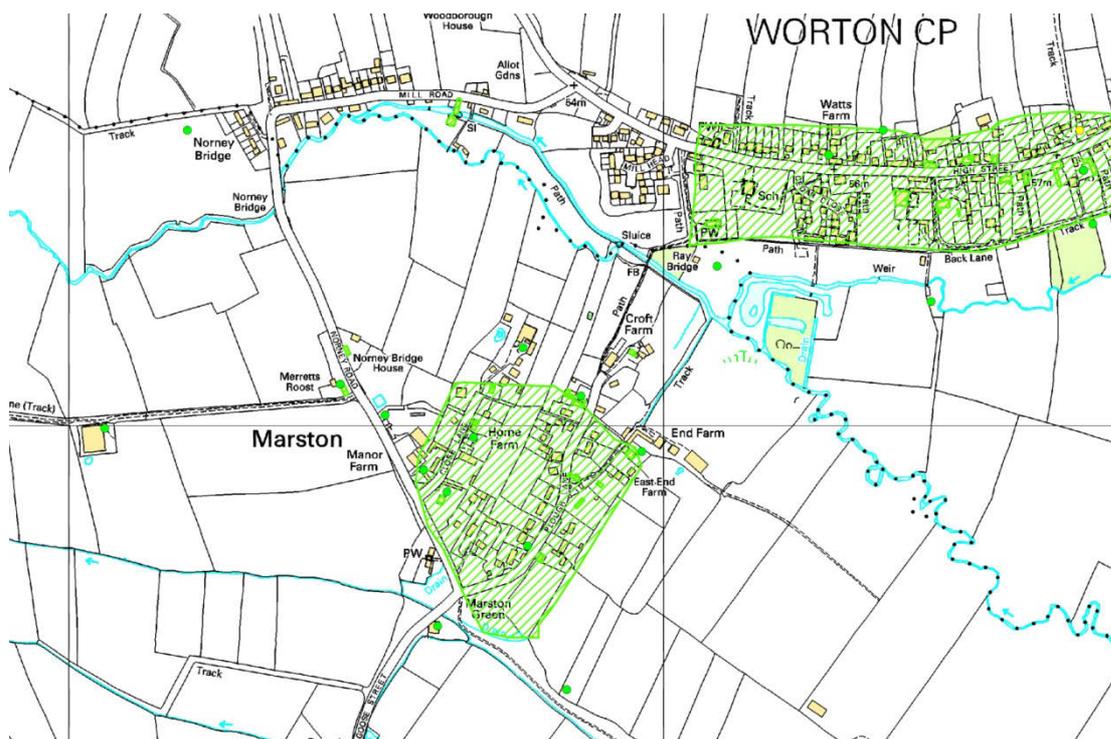
### Stage 4: Describe





- All of the relevant data fields are populated either from drop-down picklists, typing of free text or through the inbuilt calculations of the HBSMR HLC module.
- In this example, we are dealing with a fieldscape, with modern fields that have been formed by combining piecemeal fields which themselves seem to have consolidated earlier strip fields.
- Descriptive text explains this narrative and dates are assigned to represent the current type (Amalgamated Fields which are modern) and previous types (Piecemeal Fields which are post medieval and Strip Fields which are Saxon/medieval).
- Attribute data concerning the fields (present and previous) is recorded by counting field parcels on the modern/historic maps and analysing and describing the shape/boundary/size of the fields
- The sources tab then lists all of the information used to make the judgements on the historic landscape character of the polygon in question
- Confidence levels in the Current and Previous Character Type tabs are then used to denote the legibility of the character type (i.e. how easy it is to discern in the present).

### Stage 5: Interpret and classify



- The HER data (shown in green) for the Marston area is checked to see if any detail can be added to the HLC record.
- Sometimes evidence from the HER (or other sources) can corroborate the judgements made in the historic landscape characterisation process (such as the perceived presence of ride and furrow earthwork/cropmarks).
- While there are some HER monuments in the area defined by the HLC polygon, they do not assist with defining the historic landscape character in this instance.
- Nevertheless, any HER data that does fall within the HLC polygon is recorded in the Monuments Tab for that record in the HBSMR database.

#### 4.14 AONB HLC Data Integration

The Project Design for the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC required creation of a single unified dataset for the whole county. This would make all assessments and analysis of the project area's historic landscape character consistent, robust and relevant.

Within the project area, there were already a number of pre-existing HLC datasets relating to the AONB areas:

- Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs (CCWWD) AONB HLC
  - Produced 2007-08
  - Covered 60,445 ha
  - Needed to be reviewed and then integrated into the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC
- North Wessex Downs (NWD) AONB HLC
  - Produced 2004-07
  - Covered 75,235 ha
  - Needed to be reviewed and then integrated into the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC
- Cotswolds AONB HLC
  - Produced 1999
  - Covered 13,800 ha
  - Needed to be reviewed and then re-characterised to fit in with the data model of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC

As noted above, a decision was incorporated in this project's PD that the extent of the Cotswolds AONB HLC in the project area would be characterised afresh by this project. The integration of the other two existing AONBs' HLCs was less straightforward. While excellent HLC datasets in their own right, they each needed to be brought within the whole county study offered by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC. This process was challenging for the following reasons:

- Different (and often more numerous) sources were used in their data creation
- The HLC data created for the AONB was finer in scale (with smaller polygons or character units) than was desirable for the whole county HLC project
- Some different Character Types were used (particularly Narrow Types) than those recorded by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC
- To a degree these HLC datasets focused on the morphology of the landscape character rather than the processes which led to the legible character

- Different date ranges/chronological time periods were used by the AONB HLC datasets
- The identification and interpretation of different landscape types (particularly Narrow Types) varied between all of the HLC datasets
- The Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project made use of the HBSMR database and its associated data structure, whereas the AONB HLC Projects did not and were created with their own bespoke database/GIS formats

To address these issues a number of decisions were taken:

- For the two AONB HLC datasets to be integrated, parallels were drawn between the disparate methodologies and a standardised approach was devised (see below for more detail)
- Clear references to the 'original' AONB HLC datasets were retained. Many of the HLC polygons (or units) created by the AONB HLCs were retained and either translated or re-interpreted
- Translation tables were devised to allow a consistent use of terminology (for both Broad Type and Narrow Type) and dates for all areas of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC

As all of the attribute data recorded by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project differed from the AONB HLC datasets, it was recorded afresh without reference to any existing values and categories.

#### 4.14.1 Translation Tables

As mentioned previously, the sources used in the AONB HLC projects were different in some cases to those used in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC. In order to comply with the data structure implemented for the latter project, all of the sources were brought to equivalence as set out in the table below.

| <b>WSHLC Sources</b>       | <b>CCWWD Sources</b>     | <b>NWD Sources</b>         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Google/Bing maps           | N/A                      | N/A                        |
| 2005 Aerial photographs    | Modern APs               | Modern APs                 |
| 2001 Aerial photographs    | Modern APs               | Modern APs                 |
| Modern MasterMap/10K map   | Modern MasterMap/10K map | Modern MasterMap/10K map   |
| 5 ed. 6" OS map            | 4 ed. 6" OS map          | 4 ed. 6" OS map            |
| 3 ed. 6" OS map            | 3 ed. 6" OS map          | 3 ed. 6" OS map            |
| 2 ed. 6" OS map            | 2 ed. 6" OS map          | 2 ed. 6" OS map            |
| 1 ed. 6" OS map            | 1 ed. 6" OS map          | 1 ed. 6" OS map            |
| 1 ed. 1" OS map            | OS 2" Surveyors map      | Andrews and Dury's map     |
| Ancient woodland inventory | N/A                      | Ancient woodland inventory |
| Andrews and Dury's map     | Andrews and Dury's map   | Andrews and Dury's map     |
| Enclosure Award mapping    | Enclosure Award mapping  | Enclosure Award mapping    |

Table 11

\*\*Please note that the sources highlighted in yellow were not widely available or used as core sources in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC project so they were replaced as indicated.

The Broad and Narrow Types for the two AONBS that were being integrated (CCWWD and NWD) were investigated. The tables on the subsequent pages detail the decisions made on how to get the best concordance of data. The coloured text denotes the ease of integration, which was as follows:

- **Black** – Direct match for the particular type
- **Blue** – A good (but not direct) match for the particular type
- **Red** – No direct match (best possible equivalent sought)
- **Green** – Direct match but needs re-categorising into different Broad Type.

4.14.2 Integration Table for the North Wessex Downs AONB HLC and the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC

| NWD HLC                | WSHLC                    | NWD HLC                             | WSHLC                    | Notes                                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Enclosures and Farming | Fields and Enclosed Land | Assarted enclosure                  | Assarts                  | Good match                            |
|                        |                          | Enclosed meadows                    | Meadows                  |                                       |
|                        |                          | Pre 18th century irregular fields   | Piecemeal fields         | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                        |                          | Pre 18th century regular fields     | Planned fields           | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                        |                          | Pre 18th century sinuous fields     | Meadows                  | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                        |                          | 19th century re-planned fields      | Re-organised fields      | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                        |                          | Parliamentary enclosures            | Parliamentary enclosures |                                       |
|                        |                          | Post Parliamentary enclosures       | Planned enclosures       | No direct match                       |
|                        |                          | Water meadow                        | Water meadows            |                                       |
|                        |                          | Amalgamated fields                  | Amalgamated fields       |                                       |
|                        |                          | Market gardens                      | Market gardens           | Move into orchards and horticulture   |
|                        |                          | New fields                          | Re-organised fields      | No direct match                       |
|                        |                          | Paddocks                            | Paddocks                 |                                       |
|                        |                          | Re-organised fields                 | Re-organised fields      |                                       |
|                        |                          | Restored land                       | Restored land            |                                       |
| Wasteland              | Unimproved land          | Move into unimproved land           |                          |                                       |
| Allotment gardens      | Allotments               | Move into orchards and horticulture |                          |                                       |
| Gallops                | Gallops                  | Move into recreation                |                          |                                       |
| Orchards               | Orchards                 | Move into orchards and horticulture |                          |                                       |
| Studs and stables      | Equestrian Centre        | Move into recreation                |                          |                                       |
| Open Land              | Unimproved or Open Land  | Commons and greens                  | Greens                   |                                       |
|                        |                          | Downland                            | Downland                 |                                       |
|                        |                          | Heath                               | Hath and scrub           |                                       |
|                        |                          | Marsh                               | Marsh and bog            |                                       |
|                        |                          | Meadow                              | Unimproved grassland     | Good match                            |
|                        |                          | Open field                          | Open field/strip field   | Move into fields and enclosed land    |

|                            |                                       |   |  |   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
|                            |                                       | <a href="#">Rough grazing</a>   | <a href="#">Unimproved grassland</a>   | <a href="#">Good match</a>  |
| Woodland                   | Woodland                              | Ancient woodland<br>Old secondary woodland<br>Plantation woodland<br>Recent secondary woodland<br>Replanted ancient woodland<br><a href="#">Tree nursery</a>                      | Ancient semi-natural woodland<br>Secondary woodland<br>Plantation<br>Secondary woodland<br>Ancient semi-natural woodland re-planted<br><a href="#">Plant nursery</a>   | <a href="#">Move into orchards and horticulture</a>   |
| Water and water management | Water and valley floor                | <a href="#">Natural water area</a><br><a href="#">Spring</a><br><a href="#">Flooded gravel pits</a><br>Reservoir<br>Watercress bed  | <a href="#">Water bodies</a><br><a href="#">Water bodies</a><br><a href="#">Gravel pit</a><br>Reservoir<br>Watercress beds   | <a href="#">Good match</a><br><a href="#">Good match</a><br><a href="#">Move into industrial/extractive</a>   |
| Settlement                 | Rural settlement and urban settlement | Historic settlement<br>18th-19th century settlement<br>Workhouse/asylum<br>Interwar settlement<br>Recent settlement growth<br>Cemetery<br>Religious community                     | <a href="#">Any rural/urban settlement type</a><br><a href="#">Any rural/urban settlement type</a><br>Medical facility<br><a href="#">Any rural/urban settlement type</a><br><a href="#">Any rural/urban settlement type</a><br>Municipal cemeteries and graveyards<br>Religious buildings and compounds | <a href="#">No direct match</a><br><a href="#">No direct match</a><br><a href="#">Move into civic</a><br><a href="#">No direct match</a><br><a href="#">No direct match</a><br><a href="#">Move into civic</a><br><a href="#">Move into civic</a> |
| Parkland and designed      | Ornamental                            | Deer park<br>Designed landscape   | Deer park<br>Parkland  |   |
| Recreation                 | Recreation                            | Golf course<br><a href="#">Other leisure facilities</a><br><a href="#">Parks and sports facilities</a>  | Golf course<br><a href="#">Leisure complex</a><br><a href="#">Playing fields/sports pitch</a>  | <a href="#">Good match</a><br><a href="#">Good match</a>  |
| Industrial and commercial  | Industrial and extractive             | <a href="#">Business parks</a><br><a href="#">Industrial area</a><br><a href="#">Industrial farming concern</a><br><a href="#">Landfill</a><br><a href="#">Mineral extraction</a> | <a href="#">Business park</a><br><a href="#">Industrial estate</a><br><a href="#">Farmstead</a><br><a href="#">Waste disposal site</a><br><a href="#">Quarry/gravel pit</a>  | <a href="#">Move into commercial</a><br><a href="#">No direct match</a><br><a href="#">Move into rural settlement (best fit)</a><br><a href="#">Good match</a><br><a href="#">Good match</a>  |

|                |  |   |   |   |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|
|                |  | Retail complexes  | Retail  | Move into commercial  |
| Communications | Communications                                     | Ridgeway<br>Airfield<br>Canal and rail corridor<br>Major roads<br>Railway   | Need to re-classify type<br>Airfield<br>Canals<br>Major roads<br>Rail yard, railway line, railway station   | No direct match   |
| Military       | Military   | Military establishment  | Military installation   | Good match  |
| Civic          | Civic  | Hospital<br>Schools and colleges<br>Utilities   | Medical facility<br>School/college<br>Sewage works/substation/water works   | Good match<br><br>No direct match   |
| Archaeology    | Military/Civic/Recreation/Fields and enclosed land | Managed cultural asset<br><br>Ancient field system<br>Fortified site<br>Linear earthworks<br>Livestock enclosure<br>Lynchets<br>Ritual/funerary site<br>Medieval settlement | Managed cultural asset<br><br>Brick shaped fields/co-axial fields/strip fields/strip lynchets<br>Military defences<br>Need to re-classify type<br>Need to re-classify type<br>Strip lynchets<br>Ceremonial/funerary landscape<br>Village/hamlet/historic core | Move into recreation<br><br>No direct match<br>Move into military<br>No direct match<br>No direct match<br>Move into fields and enclosed land<br>Move into civic<br>No direct match |
| Other          | None   | Mixed land use  | Need to re-classify type  | No direct match   |

Table 12



4.14.3 Integration Table for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC and the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC

| CCWWD HLC        | WSHLC                    | CCWWD HLC                                | WSHLC                     | Notes                                 |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Enclosed Land    | Fields and Enclosed Land | Curving irregular fields                 | Piecemeal enclosure       | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Regular fields                           | Planned enclosure         | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Sinuuous fields                          | Meadows                   | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Semi-irregular fields                    | Piecemeal enclosure       | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Strip fields                             | Strip fields              |                                       |
|                  |                          | Assarts                                  | Assarts                   |                                       |
|                  |                          | Parliamentary enclosure                  | Parliamentary enclosure   |                                       |
|                  |                          | Planned enclosure                        | Planned enclosure         |                                       |
|                  |                          | Downland enclosure                       | Downland                  | Move into unimproved land             |
|                  |                          | Downland improvement                     | Downland                  | Move into unimproved land             |
|                  |                          | Replanned fields                         | Re-organised fields       | Good match                            |
|                  |                          | New fields                               | Re-organised fields       | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Medium new fields                        | Re-organised fields       | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Large new fields                         | Re-organised fields       | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Escarpments                              | Piecemeal enclosure       | No direct match (date and morphology) |
|                  |                          | Cleared fields                           | Assarts                   | Good match                            |
|                  |                          | Paddocks                                 | Paddocks                  |                                       |
|                  |                          | Re-organised fields                      | Re-organised fields       |                                       |
|                  |                          | Modified fields                          | Re-organised fields       | Good match                            |
|                  |                          | Enlarged fields                          | Amalgamated fields        | Good match                            |
| Enclosed meadows | Meadows                  |  |                           |                                       |
| Water meadows    | Water meadows            |  |                           |                                       |
| Allotments       | Allotments               | Move into orchards and horticulture      |                           |                                       |
| Orchards         | Orchards                 | Move into orchards and horticulture      |                           |                                       |
| Open Land        | Unimproved or Open Land  | Downland and unimproved grassland        | Downland/unimproved grass | Review of location needed for choice  |
|                  |                          | Common Downland and unimproved grassland | Downland/unimproved grass | Review of location needed for choice  |

|                                    |                                       |   |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                                    |                                       | Marsh<br>Scrubland and rough grazing<br><br>Common scrubland and rough grazing<br>Heath<br>Furze  | Marsh and bog<br>Heath and scrub<br><br>Heath and scrub<br>Heath and scrub<br>Heath and scrub   | Attribute records whether common land<br><br>Good match  |
| Woodland                           | Woodland                              | Post 1800 Woodland<br><br>Pre 1800 Woodland   | Plantation, coppice, secondary wood<br><br>Ancient woodland, coppice, secondary wood  | No direct match (date and morphology)<br><br>No direct match (date and morphology)   |
| Water and associated features      | Water and valley floor                | Man-made lakes and ponds<br>Fishponds and hatcheries<br>Watercress beds<br>Withy beds   | Water bodies<br>Fishponds and hatcheries<br>Watercress beds<br>Osier beds   | Good match   |
| Settlement                         | Rural settlement and urban settlement | Pre 1800 settlement<br>18th and 19th century settlement<br>Pre-1800 linear settlement<br>Pre-1800 nucleated settlement<br>Pre-1800 planned settlement<br>Pre 1800 farm complex<br>Pre-1800 historic house<br>20th century settlement<br><br>Churches, cemeteries and graveyards | Any rural/urban settlement type<br>Any rural/urban settlement type<br>Any rural/urban settlement type<br>Any rural/urban settlement type<br>Any rural/urban settlement type<br>Farmstead<br>Country House<br>Any rural/urban settlement type<br><br>Religious buildings and compounds | No direct match (date and morphology)<br>No direct match (date and morphology)<br><br><br>No direct match (date and morphology) |
| Designed and ornamental landscapes | Ornamental                            | Formal garden<br>Designed landscape gardens and parks<br>Deer park  | Garden<br>Parkland<br>Deer park   |  |

|                      |                           |   |  |   |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| Recreation           | Recreation                | Holiday village<br>Safari Park<br>Camping and caravan site<br>Race course<br>Playing field<br>Golf course | Holiday Village<br>Safari Park<br>Camping/caravan site<br>Race course<br>Playing fields<br>Golf course         |   |
| Industry             | Industrial and extractive | Extractive<br>Commercial<br>Manufacturing   | Gravel pit/mining/quarry<br>Any commercial type<br>Manufacturing   | No direct match<br>No direct match          |
| Communications       | Communications            | Roads<br>Railways<br>Car parks  | Major Roads<br>Rail yard, railway line, railway station<br>Car parks   |   |
| Military             | Military                  | Military camp<br>Rifle range  | Military installation<br>Military practice area  | Good match<br>Good match                    |
| Civil Infrastructure | Civic                     | Refuse site<br>Utilities  | Waste disposal site<br>Sewage works/substation/water works   | Good match<br>No direct match               |
| Archaeology          | Military/Civic/Recreation | Archaeological Attractions<br>Hillforts<br>Other Archaeological Earthworks                                | Managed cultural asset<br>Military defences<br>Brick shaped fields/co-axial fields/strip fields/strip lynchets | Good match<br>Good match<br>No direct match |

Table 13

#### 4.14.4 Integration Timescales

Integration of the AONB areas was vitally important, as together they cover approximately 42% of the Wiltshire Council administrative area. Failure to have brought these AONB areas into accord with the rest of Wiltshire's HLC coverage would have made it impossible to generate consistent outputs for the whole county area. The Project Design specified a characterisation rate for non-AONB integration area as 550 Ha per day, but it was felt that a higher rate would be possible for the AONB areas. This was due to the fact that the areas in question had already been subject to historic landscape characterisation, and HLC polygons and database records had already been created and merely needed to be reviewed, and amended if necessary. However, the initial Project Design did not set out the specified rate, only the timescale (i.e. days allocated to the task, with 20 working days per month). Discussions during 2014 with the Oxfordshire County Council HLC Officer, who was working on a similar project with a similar methodology, established that an acceptable rate for AONB integration was 750 Ha per day (to account for varied terrain). This led to the revisions to the timescale expressed below, and this table also includes the actual figures for how long the task took.

|                                | <b>AONB Area to Integrate (Ha)</b> | <b>Days Allocated</b> | <b>Required Characterisation Rate (Ha per day)</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Original Project Design</b> | c. 130,000                         | 58                    | 2241   |
| <b>Revised Project Design</b>  | c. 130,000                         | 174                   | 750  |
| <b>Actual Work</b>             | c. 130,000                         | 171                   | 800  |

Table 14

As can be seen the revised timescale and the actual time taken accorded reasonably well, but it was proven that the integration of the AONB areas was more time consuming than had been originally calculated in the Project Design. The HLC data created for these AONB areas was seamless with that for the rest of Wiltshire and Swindon and able to be presented and queried in a consistent fashion as desired.

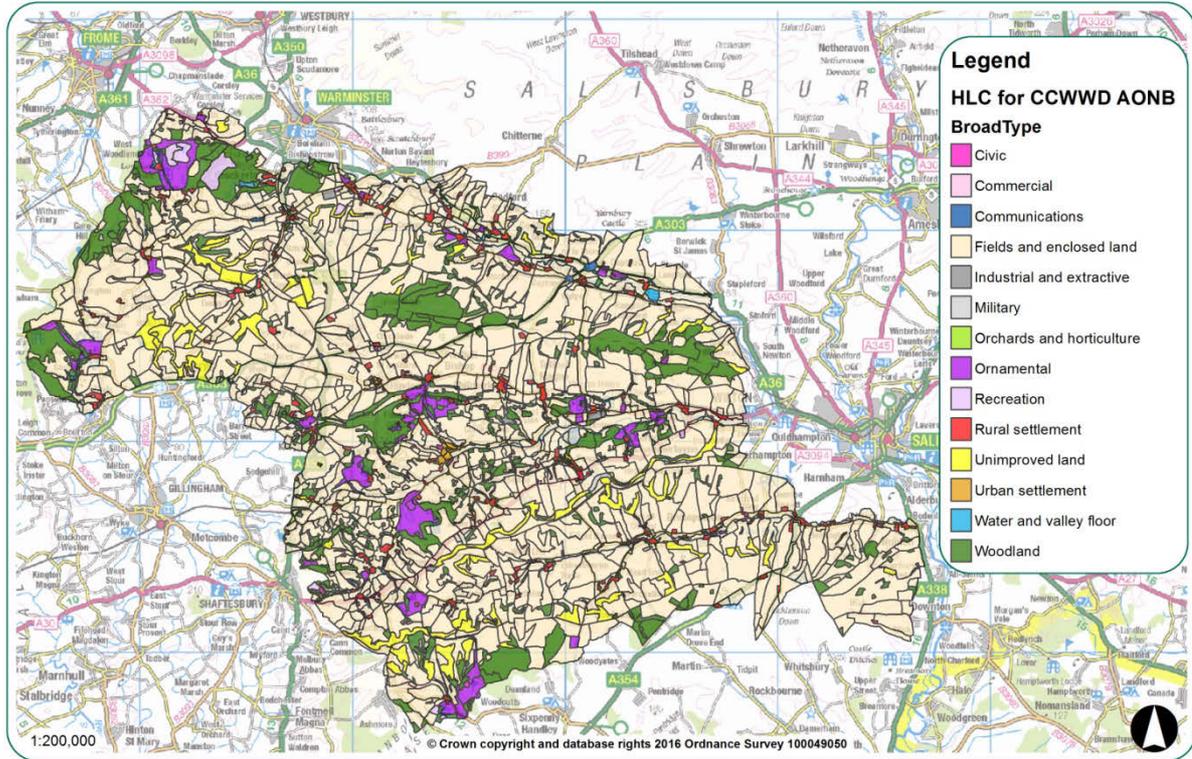


Figure 10

## **5. Historic Landscape Characterisation Initial Analysis and Overview**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This section contains general discussion and initial analysis of the Historic Landscape Character of Wiltshire and Swindon. This derives from a synthesis of current and previous landscape character at both Broad and Narrow Type levels, as well as based on the attribute data recorded by the project.

This section includes maps and statistics based on the Historic Landscape Characterisation data, and these are used to investigate broad themes, like land-use, fieldscapes and settlements etc. This section is intended to present more of a county-wide overview, in contrast to the more detailed investigations of the HLC data presented in the four case studies.

### **5.2 Iconic Character Maps**

HLC is a database and a resource that can be queried in a multiplicity of ways on combinations of its attributes, with queries tailored to particular needs. However mapping of some core aspects of the entire project area, the Broad or Narrow Types, or key periods, can present useful overviews that may serve as ‘iconic’ maps to show the present day character of Wiltshire and Swindon. Examples of these are shown below:

#### *Broad Type:*

- Largely rural county, with swathes of fields dominating the landscape
- Large blocks of woodland in the south and east – former ancient forests
- Rural settlements seem especially focused along river valleys
- Many well-spaced medieval market towns have grown into the present urban settlements, especially in the west
- Major concentration of unimproved land and military land on Salisbury Plain, with settlement on the fringes
- Fairly high numbers of ornamental/designed landscapes
- Not a heavily industrialised landscape

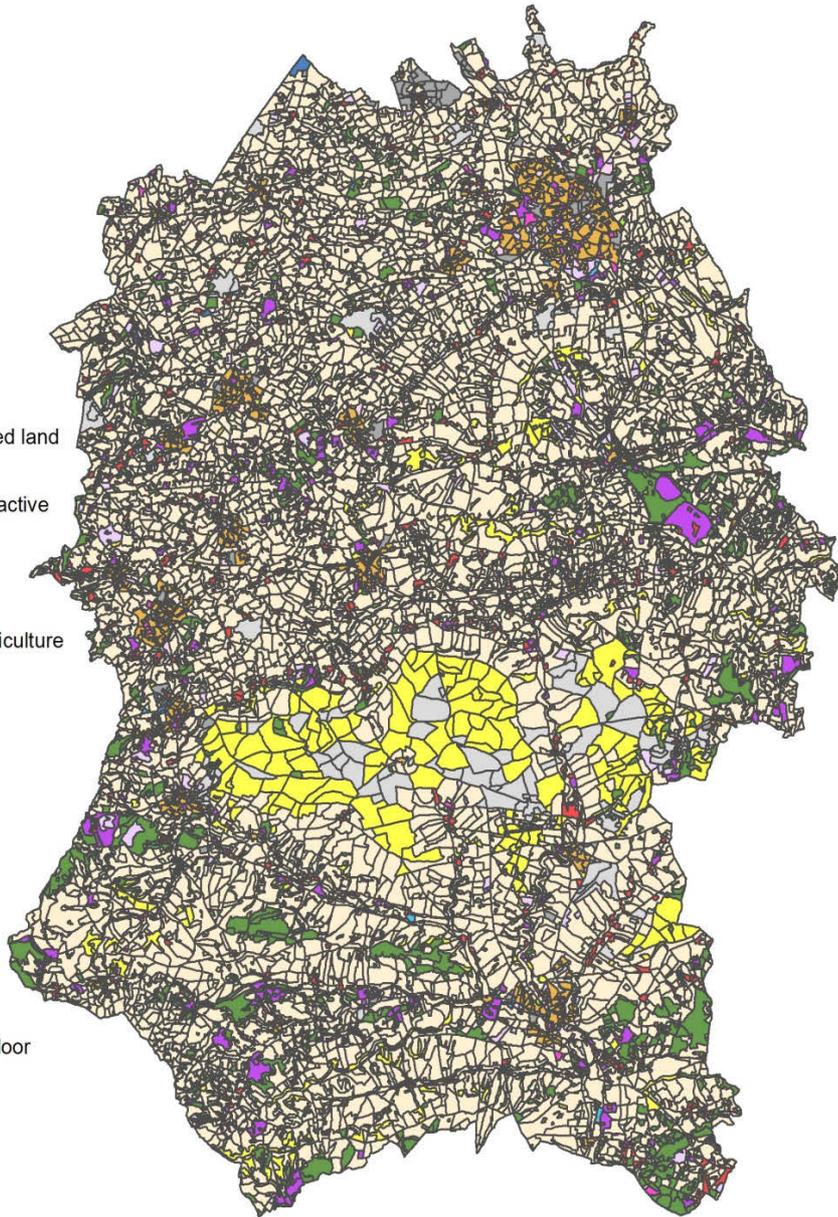
# Current Broad HLC Types for Wiltshire and Swindon

## Legend

### HLC

#### Broad Type

- Civic
- Commercial
- Communications
- Fields and enclosed land
- Industrial and extractive
- Military
- Orchards and horticulture
- Ornamental
- Recreation
- Rural settlement
- Unimproved land
- Urban settlement
- Water and valley floor
- Woodland



0 2.5 5 10 Miles

1:425,000

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Figure 11

*Narrow Type:*

- Many fields are modern, but a fair proportion of post medieval ones do survive
- Downland survives in the Salisbury Plain and Marlborough Plain areas
- Most ornamental landscape relate to 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century landscape parks
- Woodland is primarily a mix of ancient woodland and more modern intentional plantations
- Most towns have surviving urban cores and modern estates of semi detached/detached housing
- Large military practice areas and airfields constitute the dominant military character
- Most settlements small in scale and follow river valleys or local topography

**Legend**

**HLC (poly)**

**HLCType**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|  Ancient semi-natural woodland           |  Common/green edge settlement    |  Sports pitch                   |  Freight handling or warehousing     |
|  Ancient semi-natural woodland replanted |  Cottages                        |  Stadiums or showgrounds        |  Retail                              |
|  Coppice                                 |  Country house                   |  Defence research establishment |  Civic centre                        |
|  Plantation                              |  Farmstead                       |  Military airfield              |  Electricity generation/supply       |
|  Secondary woodland                      |  Hamlet                          |  Military installation          |  Emergency services                  |
|  Wood pasture                            |  Hotel                           |  Military residence             |  Gas works                           |
|  Allotments                              |  Housing Estate                  |  Practice area                  |  Medical facility                    |
|  Market gardens                          |  Row                             |  Brickworks                     |  Municipal cemeteries and graveyards |
|  Orchard or vineyard                     |  Village                         |  Depot/yard                     |  Religious buildings and compounds   |
|  Plant nursery or garden centre          |  Apartments/maisonettes/flats    |  Industrial estate              |  School/college                      |
|  Downland                                |  Caravans/mobile homes           |  Manufacturing                  |  Sewage works or water works         |
|  Greens                                  |  Detached housing                |  Mills                          |  Substation/telephone exchange       |
|  Heath and scrub                         |  Historic urban core             |  Quarry                         |  Waste disposal site                 |
|  Marsh and bog                           |  Planned estate (social housing) |  Works/workshops                |  Amalgamated fields                  |
|  Unimproved grassland                    |  Semi detached housing           |  Airfield                       |  Assarts                             |
|  Fishponds and hatcheries                |  Terraced housing                |  Airport                        |  Meadows                             |
|  Osier bed                               |  Camping/caravan site            |  Bus depot                      |  Paddocks                            |
|  Reservoir or water body                 |  Equestrian centre               |  Canals                         |  Parliamentary enclosure             |
|  Watercress beds                         |  Gallops                         |  Car parks                      |  Piecemeal enclosure                 |
|  Garden                                  |  Golf course                     |  Railway line                   |  Planned enclosure                   |
|  Ornamental lake                         |  Leisure or cultural facilities  |  Railway station                |  Prairie fields (>15ha)              |
|  Parkland                                |  Motorsport track                |  Routeways                      |  Re-organised fields                 |
|   |  Playing fields                  |  Service stations               |  Restored fields                     |
|   |  Race course                     |  Business park                  |  Water meadows                       |

## Current Narrow HLC Types for Wiltshire and Swindon

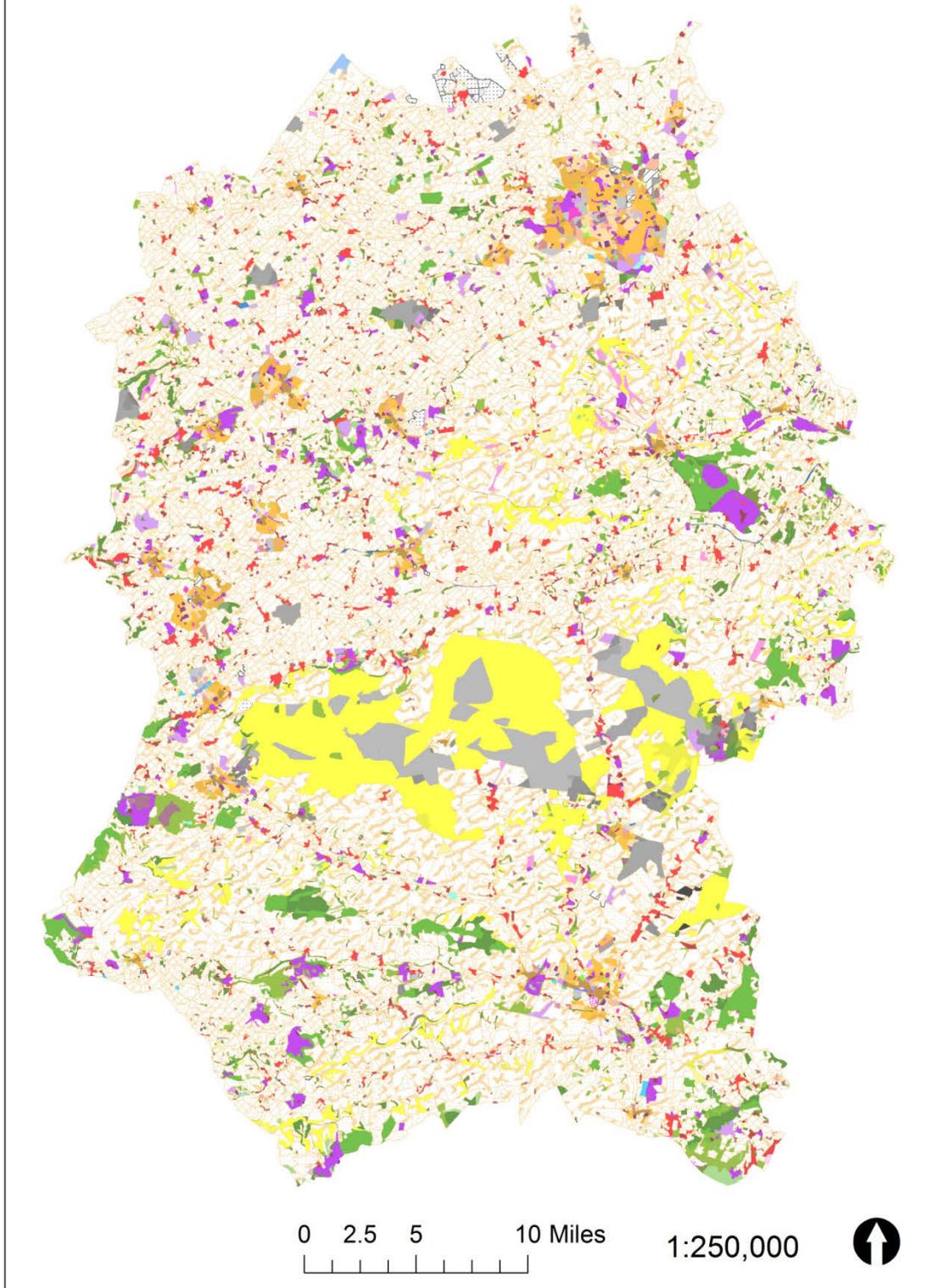


Figure 12

Viewing the maps, the striking aspects of current landscape character become apparent and the regional variations in the county are obvious. These can be principally summarised as:

- **North** = This part of the county is dominated by Swindon with few other substantial towns. Otherwise a mix of fields (many with a historical origin), areas of gravel extraction, larger villages and limited woodland (mostly modern) and open land.
- **South** = Northern half is dominated by Salisbury Plain, the military activities and downland, but the south has large blocks of ancient woodland or former Royal Forest (e.g. Clarendon, Chute, New Forest). River valley settlements with Salisbury at the confluence of the major rivers. Many large parks and designed landscapes associated with woodland.
- **East** = Dominated by the Marlborough Plain and Savernake Forest. Due to topography, it is sparsely settled with Marlborough the main centre. Lots of modern fields and gallops created on downland, some of which survives unenclosed. Avebury's landscape has excellent preservation of early character in form of fieldscapes/ceremonial zones
- **West** = Most densely populated area with several large and historic market towns. Lots of former manorial estates with ornamental landscapes, some of which have recreational purposes. Chains of small scale settlements interspersed with fields.

The breakdown and variation in character can also be seen through statistical analysis of the current HLC Types. The charts below demonstrate the relative proportions:

| <b>Wiltshire and Swindon Area by Current Broad Type</b> |                    |                        |                 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Broad Type</b>                                       | <b>No Polygons</b> | <b>Area (hectares)</b> | <b>% County</b> |
| Civic   | 243                | 1356                   | 0.39            |
| Commercial  | 82                 | 933                    | 0.27            |
| Communications  | 47                 | 471                    | 0.14            |
| Fields and enclosed land                                | 7580               | 243602                 | 69.87           |
| Industrial and extractive                               | 164                | 2754                   | 0.79            |
| Military  | 155                | 11212                  | 3.22            |
| Orchards and horticulture                               | 71                 | 316                    | 0.09            |
| Ornamental  | 323                | 7179                   | 2.06            |
| Recreation  | 296                | 4281                   | 1.23            |
| Rural settlement  | 1995               | 12283                  | 3.52            |
| Unimproved land   | 636                | 28640                  | 8.22            |
| Urban settlement  | 729                | 9740                   | 2.79            |
| Water and valley floor                                  | 57                 | 350                    | 0.10            |
| Woodland  | 2069               | 25508                  | 7.32            |
|   |                    |                        |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>14447</b>       | <b>348626</b>          | <b>100</b>      |

Table 15

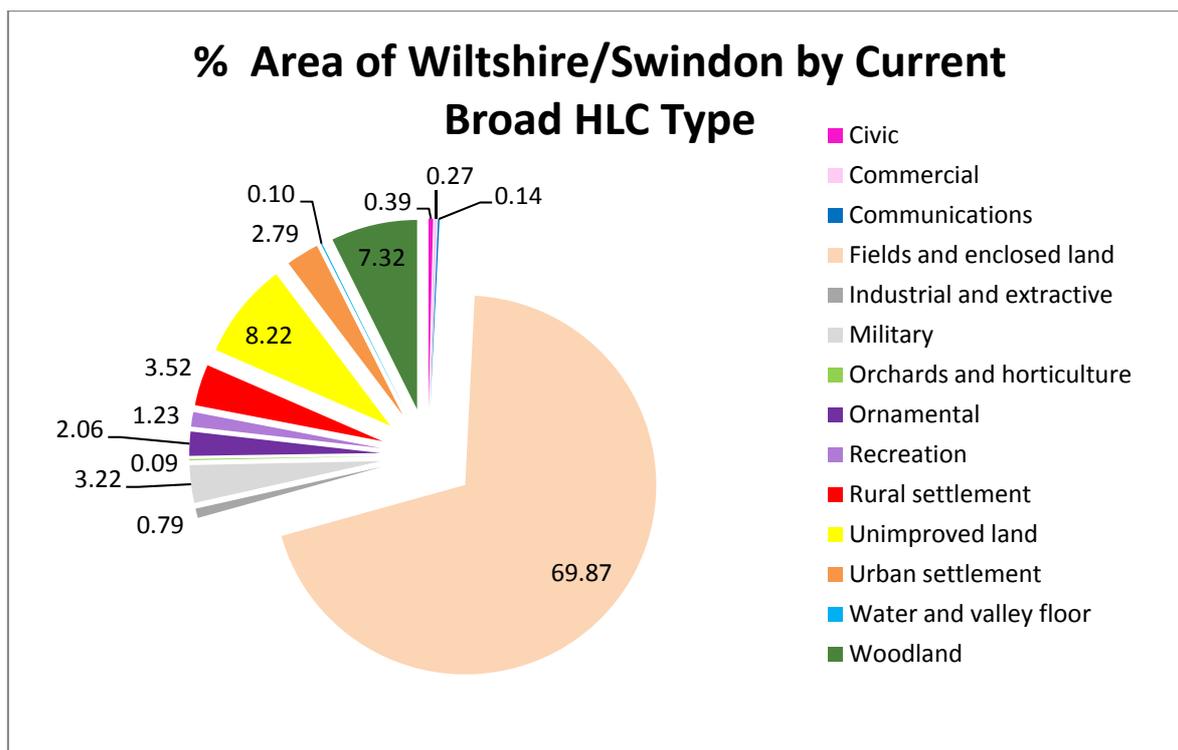


Figure 13

When studying the HLC data, the extent of diversity in the current character of Wiltshire's landscape becomes apparent. Three character types are dominant: Fields and Enclosed Land, Unimproved Land and Woodland. There has long been a perception that Wiltshire is a very rural county, and this is corroborated by the fact that the Fields and Enclosed land type is over 200,000 ha larger in size than the next largest landscape type (Unimproved Land). The proportion of enclosed land has increased over time due to the increased sophistication in agricultural machinery and practices allowing greater utilisation of formerly unfavourable land. The increase in enclosed land is also the product of continued population pressure and the need for farming to be economically viable. This may have contributed to the conversion of former open land, parkland and woodland into agrarian holdings.

The prevalence of Woodland character types shows how significant the former woodlands that existed within the county were. Wiltshire once had numerous large and extensive woodlands (many with Saxon or medieval origins) that formed important social and economic hubs and these tended to relate to the manors and administrative centres of each parish. While the proportion of Open and Unimproved types is much reduced in modernity, the presence of downland landscapes within Wiltshire is still characteristic of certain areas such as Salisbury Plain, Marlborough Plain and Wanborough Plain. These landscapes, along with the clay landscapes in the north, give rise to the description of Wiltshire as a 'Chalk and Cheese Landscape'. This refers to the mixed dairy/corn growing agricultural system that was prevalent in the county until the at least the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. This interpretation is again validated by the HLC data (see more on this later in the *HLC Timeslices* section of the analysis).

It is also of interest to note that proportionally, by area, it appears that settlements with a rural character (i.e. villages and hamlets) cover more of the landscape than those with an urban character (i.e. towns and cities). However, it should be acknowledged that settlements

have evolved over time and many smaller ones are effectively extensions of larger urban areas in terms of their economics, services and employment. This contrasts with smaller settlements that were dependent on the non-urbanised rural economy of 100 or even 50 years ago. The HLC data shows 3.52% rural villages and hamlets and 2.79% urban environment, although as we progress further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this balance may be redressed as expansion of settlements like Trowbridge, Swindon, Salisbury and Chippenham is rapid and ongoing. As such, the additional area of 2543 ha occupied by rural settlements, as oppose to urban ones, could swiftly be negated and overtaken. Of course, should villages grow large enough to change from a rural to urban character (as has been the case historically) then this distribution would change still further.

It could be argued that at a county-wide scale the presence of the military is less dominant than may have been supposed. Only 3.22% (11,212 ha) of Wiltshire's landscape has an overwhelming military character. With the exception of Salisbury Plain Training Area, many of the facilities and installations are spread out across the county and only have an impact at a localised level. By this it is meant that the perception of a highly militarised landscape may only be perceived by the inhabitants in the adjacent, often small and rural, settlements. However, this does lend credence to the notion that the Salisbury Plain Training Area is a distinct landscape within the county.

Finally, it is worth noting that while some categories seem to be very low in relative area covered (both in % and physical area) when Wiltshire's character is considered at the broad level of this project. Spaces used for recreational, industrial, commercial and communications purposes are locally common, well distributed and legible to the inhabitants of many hamlets, villages and towns. However, many such areas are small in scale (>2ha) or are incorporated into other areas of more dominant character. This is particularly the case in urban areas where mixed character can be dominated by residential areas or elements of the historic core. Other rare landscape types which form a low percentage of the county's current character are more likely to reflect an actual dearth of particular character. This is especially the case with those types in the Orchards and Horticulture and Water and Valley Floor types. Neither of these categories contains Narrow Types which are characteristic of Wiltshire at this scale.

### 5.3 Time Slices

Of course the HLC data is also useful in investigating the past character of the landscape, through the recording of Previous Types (both Broad and Narrow). There are many ways to analyse the previous historic landscape character and one can look at aspects like:

- Patterns where particular Previous HLC Types survive and remain legible in particular Current Types
- Comparing prevalence of certain Previous HLC Types
- Studying the proportion of the present-day landscape that demonstrates evidence for a Previous Character Type(s)
- Identifying areas of the landscape which have been subject to greater (with many Previous HLC Types recorded) alteration and those areas which have been subject to less change (with fewer or no Previous HLC Types recorded)

However, In addition to the maps of current Type, similar maps can be produced for other chronological periods where there is sufficient evidence. This works well for more recent eras (such as the post medieval period) as there is better legibility of character. Study of these time slices can help advance the understanding of the evolution of Wiltshire's landscape. Time slice maps created from the Wiltshire HLC dataset appear in chronological order below complete with their narratives:

### Modern (AD 2012-2016)

### Modern Broad HLC Types for Wiltshire and Swindon

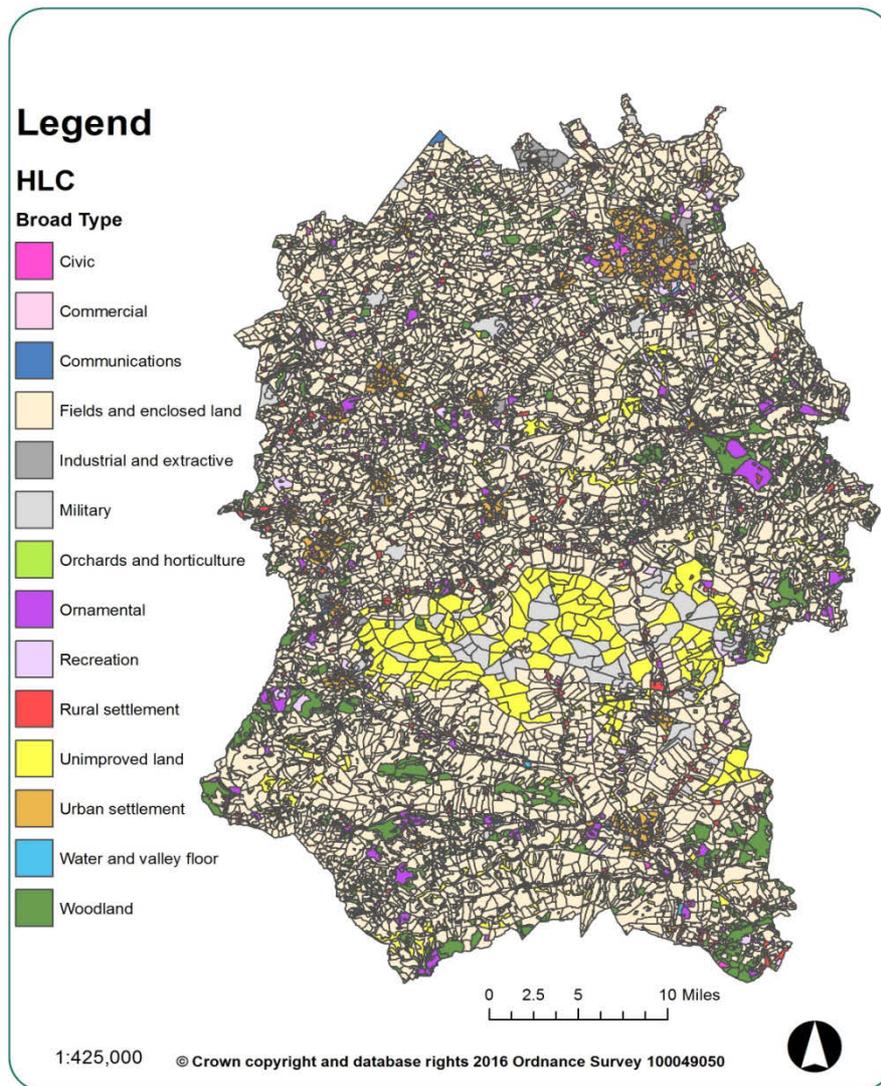


Figure 14

- Numerous large modern fields created through amalgamation and re-ordering
- Downland reduced through conversion into fields, woodland or military areas
- Remnants of ancient forests, some have been supplemented by re-planting
- Growth of towns into surrounding rural areas – preservation of historic cores
- Gravel extraction in the north of the county and redevelopment into leisure

- Retention of historic parkland and combination with recreation facilities
- Expansion of military holdings but often not to detriment of previous character?
- Land-use patterns continue to show influence from topography and geology

Contrasting this map with those for the post medieval periods (earlier = 1540 to 1871 and later = 1872 to 1894) shows some marked changes which reveal the effects of increased population, intensification of agriculture, desire and ability to enjoy leisure time and increased need to exploit natural resources and areas. However some patterns and characteristics within the landscape have changed little in the last 200-300 years.

### Late Post Medieval (AD 1872-1894) and Early Post Medieval (AD 1540-1871)

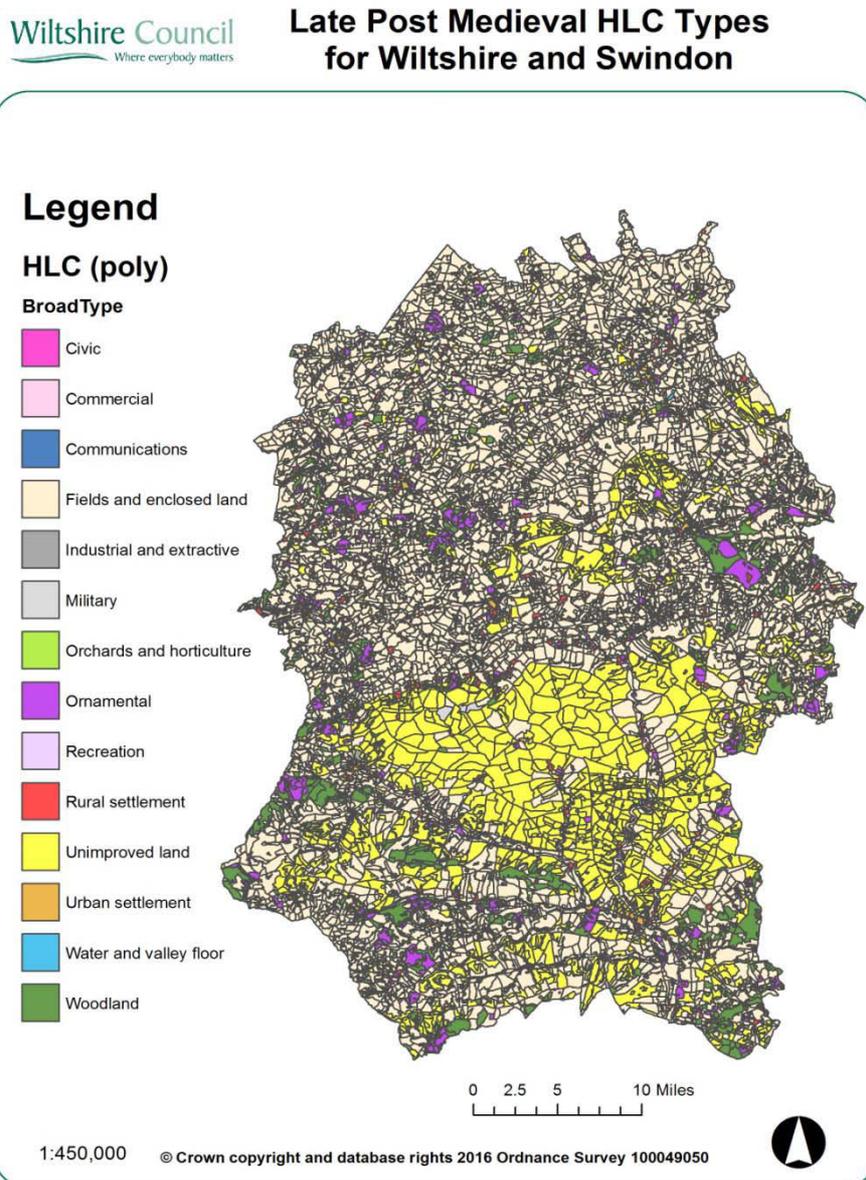


Figure 15

- Far more rural county – towns are much smaller and settlement even more focused on the West Wiltshire area
- Greater proportion of Unimproved Land, Ornamental Land and Woodland – due to less population pressure and the existence of manors/estates
- Settlements still follow river valleys and other significant topographic features
- No obvious large areas dedicated to recreational, commercial or industrial areas
- Little evidence for military activity in this period – even though areas of Salisbury Plain were occupied from late 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Still large swathes of fields and an agricultural society

### Early Post Medieval HLC Types for Wiltshire and Swindon

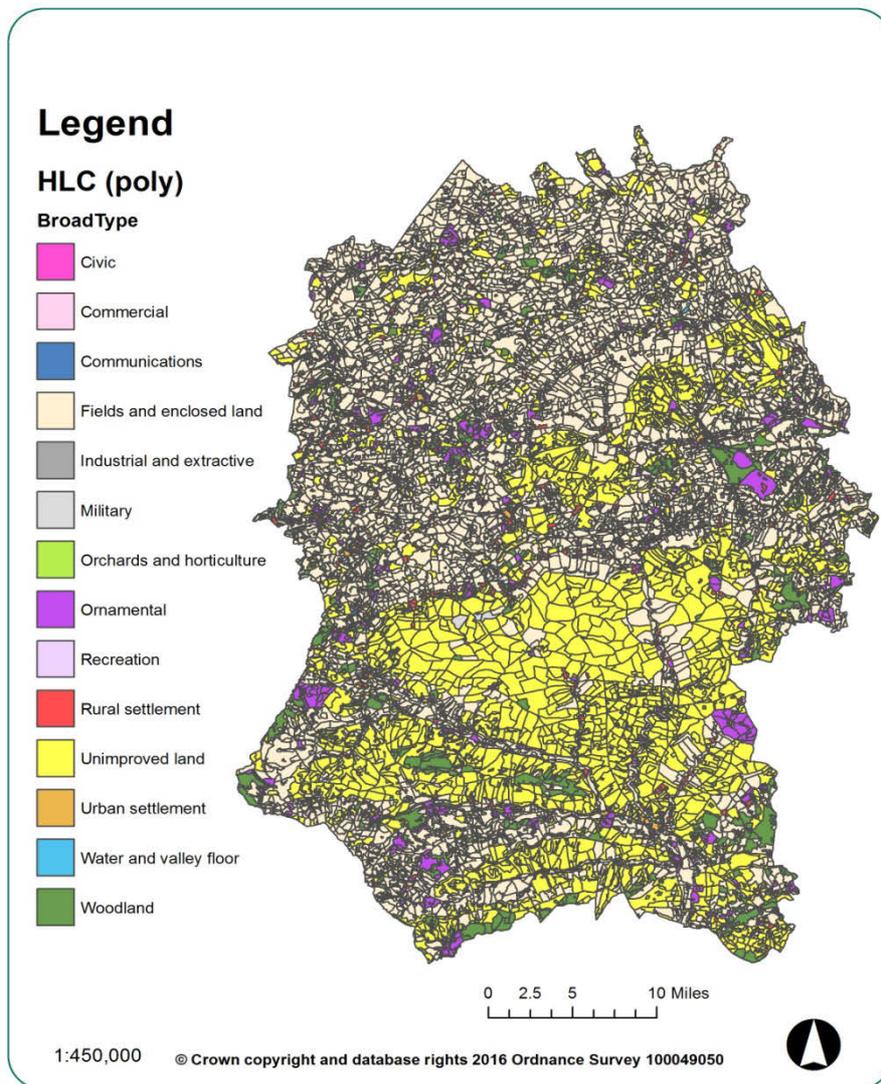


Figure 16

- The landscape is not hugely varied – large proportion of fields and unimproved land
- Even greater proportion of downland survives, particularly in the north
- Large ornamental landscapes relate to the holdings of the nobility, even from medieval era

- Higher survival of ancient woodland and historic coppices – far fewer plantations
- Settlements mainly in small scale villages, hamlets or farmsteads
- Lower degrees of industrialisation with industries and trade occurring at a local level  
Towns small scale and dominated by their Saxon//medieval historic cores

It is also possible to look at even earlier character (from the prehistoric to medieval periods) through the HLC data. However, the time slices for this period can only show areas where legible traces survive sufficiently to indicate landscape character from these periods. As the evidence for the historic landscape character of such earlier periods becomes increasingly discontinuous, it is correspondingly impossible to generate anything approaching their holistic coverage – blanks and gaps are inevitable.

### Prehistoric (4000 BC) to Medieval (AD 1066-1539)

### Early Post Medieval HLC Types for Wiltshire and Swindon

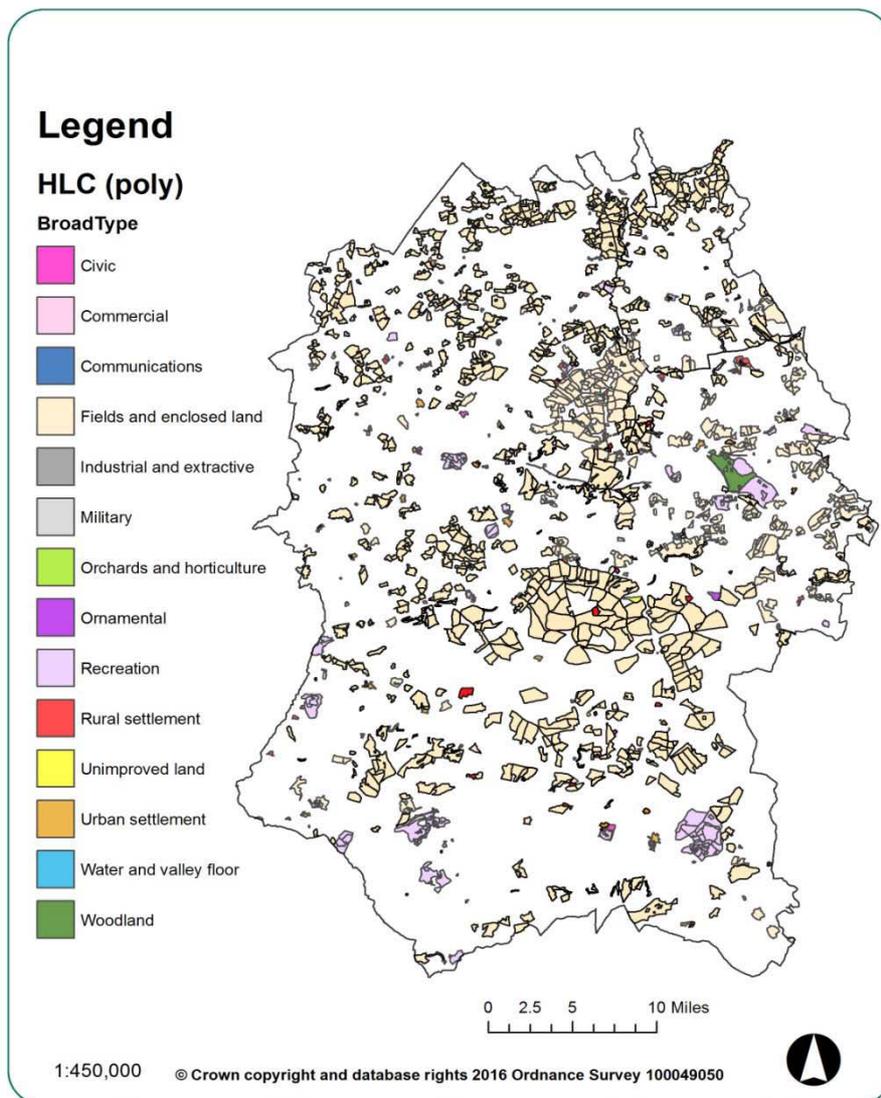


Figure 17

- Even when considering the county at a generalised, rather than local, scale there is quite an abundance of evidence for ‘early’ characteristics in the present landscape
- Principally this takes the form of field systems: brick-shaped fields, coaxial fields, open fields and strip fields, settlements, defences (such as hillforts and castles) and deer parks
- Preservation is higher in less intensively developed areas such as downland, parkland and woodland

Survival of early characteristics can also relate to the management of the land – with areas such as SPTA and the WHS subject to carefully coordinated strategies for the conservation of early landscape features in the form of management plans and agri-environment schemes.

Legibility of character of these periods can be further aided by other sources which were not available during this HLC study (such as LIDAR): all such studies are a point-in-time statement reflecting the technology and resources available and will inevitably be open to review and enhancement as research and understanding progress.

*\*\*N.B. The Broad Types mapped above relate to the current areas of landscape character where evidence for the survival of ‘early’ landscape characteristics (i.e. Neolithic to medieval) was present in the sources used by this project.*

#### 5.4 Wiltshire compared to Swindon

The HLC data can also be used to compare the landscapes for the county of Wiltshire and the borough of Swindon. The charts below show relative proportions of landscape types:

| <b>Swindon Area by Current Broad Type</b> |                 |                        |                  |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Broad Type</b>                         | <b>No Polys</b> | <b>Area (hectares)</b> | <b>% Borough</b> |
| Civic                                     | 56              | 389                    | 1.51             |
| Commercial                                | 35              | 521                    | 2.02             |
| Communications                            | 7               | 33                     | 0.13             |
| Fields and enclosed land                  | 497             | 16628                  | 64.61            |
| Industrial and extractive                 | 31              | 696                    | 2.70             |
| Military                                  | 11              | 419                    | 1.63             |
| Orchards and horticulture                 | 14              | 82                     | 0.32             |
| Ornamental                                | 40              | 671                    | 2.61             |
| Recreation                                | 53              | 729                    | 2.83             |
| Rural settlement                          | 100             | 651                    | 2.53             |
| Unimproved land                           | 38              | 702                    | 2.73             |
| Urban settlement                          | 170             | 3409                   | 13.24            |
| Water and valley floor                    | 4               | 51                     | 0.20             |
| Woodland                                  | 78              | 757                    | 2.94             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>1134</b>     | <b>25739</b>           | <b>100</b>       |

Table 16

| <b>Wiltshire Area by Current Broad Type</b> |                 |                        |                 |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Broad Type</b>                           | <b>No Polys</b> | <b>Area (hectares)</b> | <b>% County</b> |
| Civic                                       | 187             | 966                    | 0.30            |
| Commercial                                  | 47              | 412                    | 0.13            |
| Communications                              | 40              | 438                    | 0.14            |
| Fields and enclosed land                    | 7083            | 226973                 | 70.29           |
| Industrial and extractive                   | 133             | 2058                   | 0.64            |
| Military                                    | 144             | 10793                  | 3.34            |
| Orchards and horticulture                   | 57              | 234                    | 0.07            |
| Ornamental                                  | 283             | 6508                   | 2.02            |
| Recreation                                  | 243             | 3552                   | 1.10            |
| Rural settlement                            | 1895            | 11633                  | 3.60            |
| Unimproved land                             | 598             | 27938                  | 8.65            |
| Urban settlement                            | 559             | 6331                   | 1.96            |
| Water and valley floor                      | 53              | 298                    | 0.09            |
| Woodland                                    | 1991            | 24751                  | 7.67            |
|   |                 |                        |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>13313</b>    | <b>322888</b>          | <b>100</b>      |

Table 17

The salient differences and similarities could be summarised as:

- Both administrative areas have a high proportion of fields, despite Swindon borough being dominated by the town itself
- While both have a low proportion of landscape types relating to infrastructure (e.g. civic, commercial, industrial and recreation), the percentage is higher in Swindon
- Understandably, there is far more urban character in Swindon Borough than across Wiltshire as a whole. Ongoing developments in the north and west of the county may change this picture
- The proportion of woodland is skewed towards areas where substantial ancient woodland existed in the past. This explains the relative dearth in Swindon, where few such historic woodlands existed
- Similarly, the presence of Salisbury Plain (and to a lesser extent other downland areas) influences the abundance of surviving unimproved land in Wiltshire, whereas Swindon only has the Wanborough Plain/Bishopstone Down (at the edge of the Lambourn Downs) to provide examples of this open downland character.
- The proportion of military land is also much lower in Swindon Borough, as there is really only the airfield at Wroughton contributing to this character, as oppose to the numerous substantial installations (like Boscombe, Bulford, Waminster) in Wiltshire

While it is worth bearing in mind that Swindon has been characterised with approximately one tenth as many polygons as Wiltshire, and is over ten times smaller – the percentages are proportionate. Depicting these in pie chart form illustrates this contrast further.

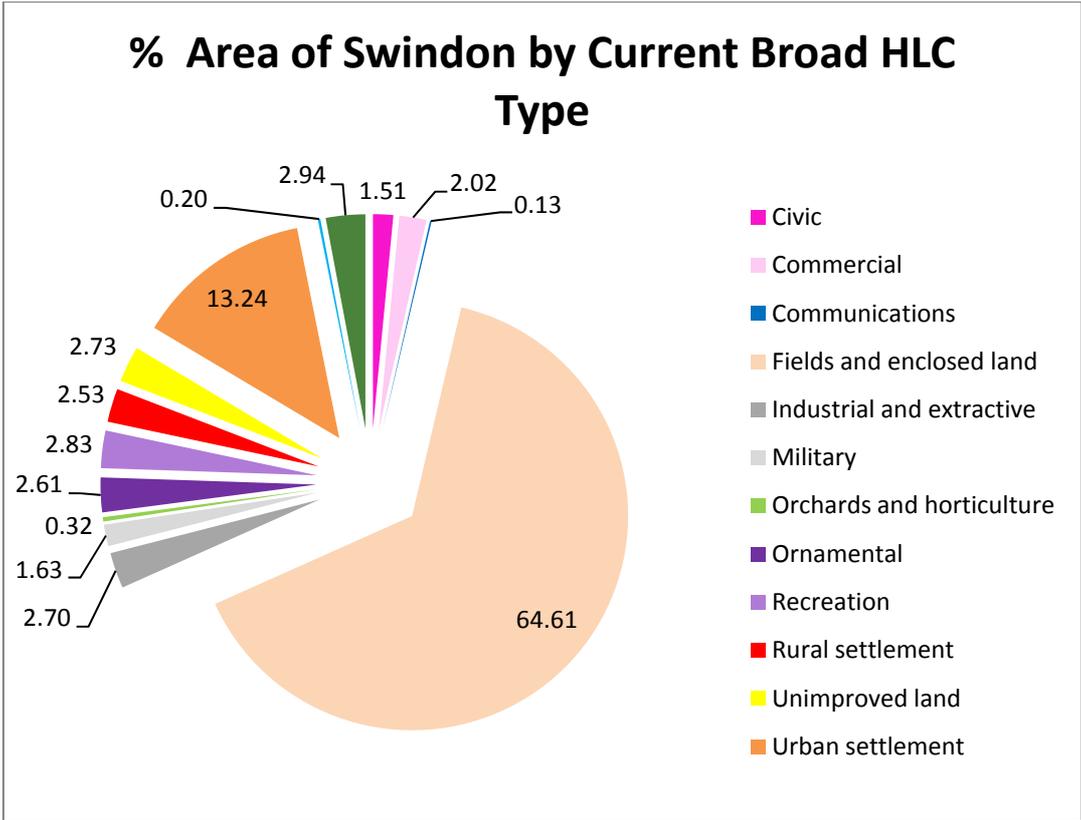


Figure 18

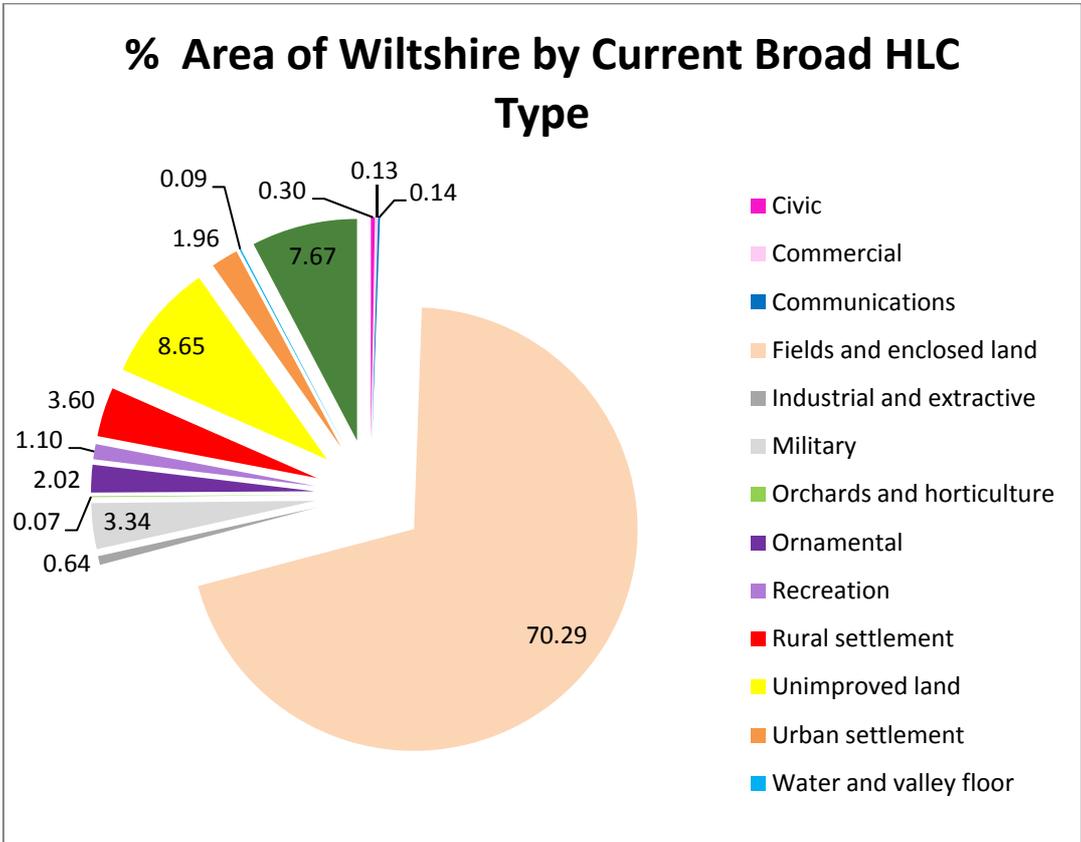


Figure 19

The impact of the town of Swindon on the surrounding borough is substantial, even though there are some large settlements in Wiltshire (such as Trowbridge and Salisbury). Its size, relative to the area of the borough is significant. However, the high proportion of fields in the Swindon area is also interesting and shows there is still a noticeable 'rural' feel to the area. As the largest urban centre in the county, providing substantial accommodation and employment opportunities, it is unsurprising that there are more landscapes relating to the services and facilities needed for the residents' use. The amount of recreational or green space is higher within the Borough than might be anticipated, and this may be the result of modern developers factoring in recreational space as part of the sustainable design process. Swindon Borough Council have developed a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Strategy for the period 2010-2026 (Swindon Borough Council, 2011) and this has clearly had an influence on the historic landscape character of the area.

The redevelopment and regeneration of the industrial areas in Swindon, particularly those related to the railway, is also reflected in the statistics relating to current landscape character. However, consideration of the wider area demonstrates that Wiltshire and Swindon are not particularly industrial in character – especially compared with other adjacent counties with their more substantial transport networks. This factor is partly evidenced by the low proportion of large and extensive landscapes with a communications character (although the methodology utilised by the HLC project also plays a part in this). Finally, the slightly lower proportion of rural settlements in Swindon borough could be seen as reflecting the absorption of many of the surrounding villages (e.g. Stratton St Margaret, Rodbourne and Haydon Wick) into the town itself. While this has occurred in the vicinity of some of the larger Wiltshire towns (Trowbridge, Salisbury and Devizes are good examples) the effect is magnified in Swindon.

### 5.5 Fieldscapes

The HLC data can be used to analyse particular landscape trends through both a study of Broad/Narrow Types and also the associated attribute data. A good example of this use of the HLC information is to look at the abundant fieldscapes that are present in the county.

Through recording the number of boundaries in the present day (2012+) and the number of boundaries present on the 1 ed. 6" OS map (1870s-90s) it is possible to look at patterns of boundary loss and gain. This can provide an interesting and useful landscape narrative when the data is mapped at county level:

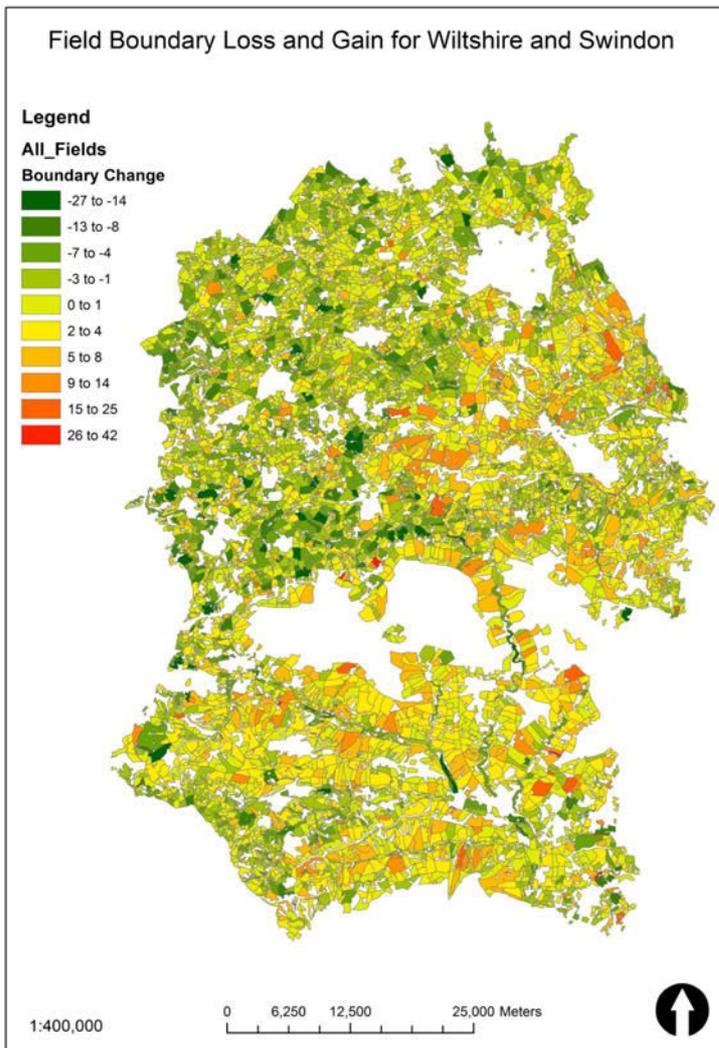


Figure 20

Gaps represent areas which are not currently characterised as 'Fields and Enclosed Land'

Darker colours indicate heavier loss/gain of the field boundaries

Seems to be a general northwest-southeast divide with loss greatest in the northern parts of the county and gains largely in the southern parts of the county

Loss of field boundaries is typical in the west of the county around the large market towns

Extensive field boundary gain is focused on the Marlborough Plain, Salisbury Plain and southern river valleys around Salisbury

In general the amount of field loss or gain is not considerable – as shown by the dominance of the neutral (yellow) colour

This distribution relates to the following factors:

- Original field size
  - Some of the larger historic fields require little alteration to be suitable for modern farming and stock keeping. Smaller fields may be less suitable on the whole for intensive farming. Overall the enlargement and re-working of field boundaries is more common than the subdivision. On a purely practical level, it can be easier to remove boundaries in the landscape than create new ones (as hedges/trees take time to become established and ditches require maintenance). The benefits of changing field layout must outweigh the effort.
- Geological influences
  - Field form and the profitability of dividing or enclosing the land relate strongly to the underlying geology. The geology has some influence on the suitability of land for crop growth, livestock management or set aside land. Some of the heavier clay soils in Wiltshire are very fertile and lend themselves to cereal production. These fields would have been enclosed in the past and may have been smaller in size due to the nature of agricultural equipment available in the post medieval (and earlier) periods. Areas on the chalk have historically been poorer areas for arable farming due to thin soils and the upland

locations. They have however, provided a rich environment for grazing livestock so have been utilised for large flocks/herds. This purpose did not require substantial enclosure of the landscape, and indeed it was impractical to do so (even with availability of barbed wire fences from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century).

- Changes in farming technology
  - Steady improvements in the efficiency and scale of machinery used in farming have occurred since the industrial revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This allowed better access and exploitation of formerly marginal/challenging landscapes. The ability to plough/sow/harvest crops in previously unpromising areas changed land use patterns and led to enclosure of some common land and downland and the felling of woodland. At the same time, the heavier equipment reduced the need for smaller fields – as these were less practical to access and less efficient in terms of productivity.
- Development of settlement areas/road networks
  - The growth of settlements across the county has had an impact on field boundaries (setting aside the loss of green field sites for development). As towns, villages and hamlets have grown and become better connected through transport routes, it has become easier to access the nearby fields. In addition, these transport routes provided better access between farmers and distant markets. This ability has led to a greater degree of re-organisation and alterations of both fields close to settlements and those that were historically further away and difficult to reach. Coupled with the diversification or specialisation of farming (with the growth of paddocks, meadows and fields restored from other uses) this has influenced the creation or removal of field boundaries. This has had a more subtle effect on the quantity and type of field boundaries, but can be perceived from the HLC data nevertheless.

## 5.6 Settlement form

Finally trends in settlement pattern can also be looked at through some of the HLC attribute data (the 'time slices' presented earlier can show the evolution of settlements). Wiltshire and Swindon have an abundance of villages, hamlets and farmsteads – set out in a variety of forms that can be easily recognised and recorded. The HLC data for Wiltshire can explore if there is any link between these plan forms and the character of the landscapes within which these settlements exist. The map on the following page correlates the location, setting and possible dates of features in the Rural Settlement Type and their form.

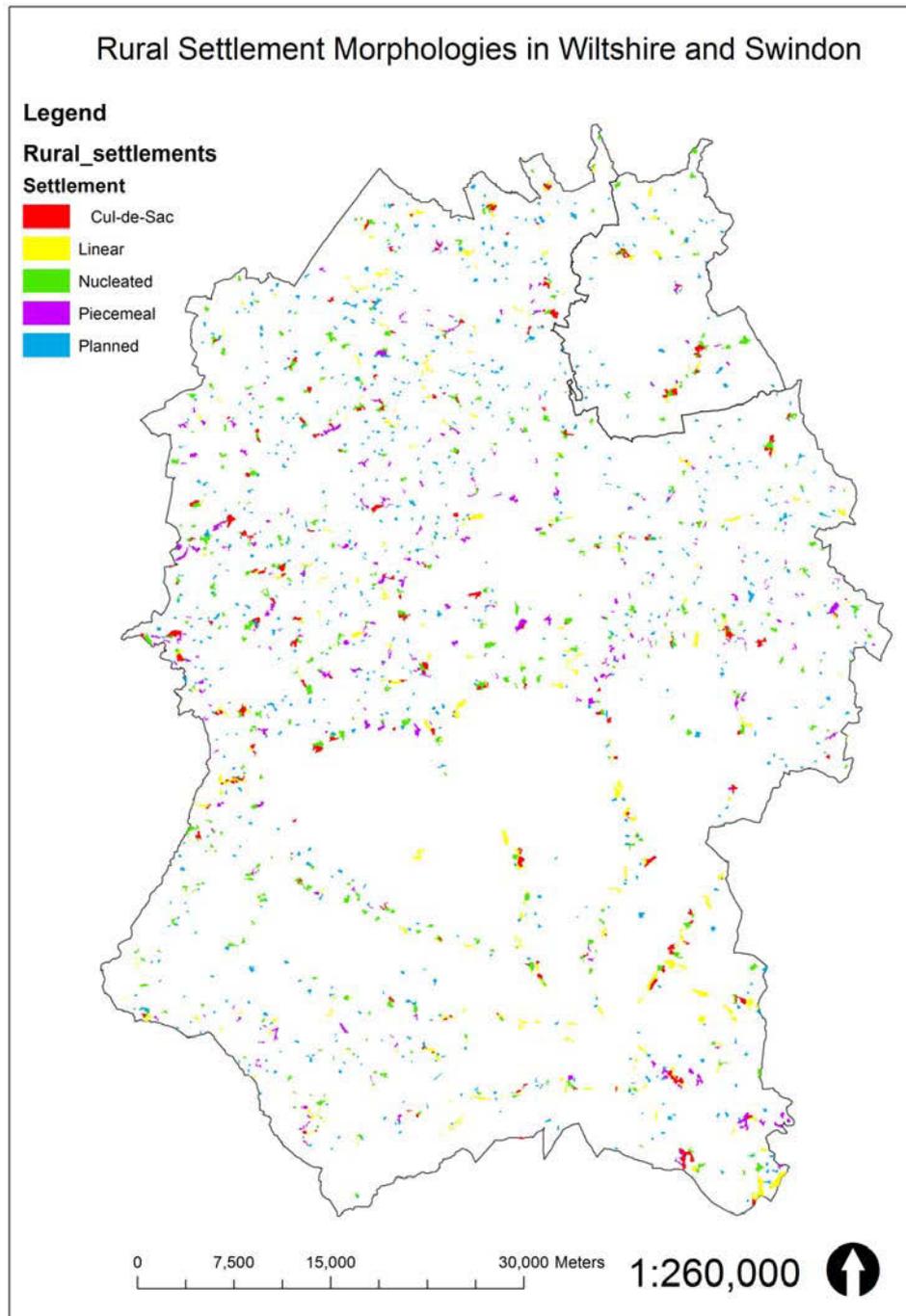


Figure 21

Studying the HLC data for rural settlement morphology can show a number of trends and relationships to the landscape:

- By and large, the larger rural settlements have areas with cul-de-sac forms which relate primarily to modern housing
- Cul-de-sac forms are largely absent from the southwest of the county, probably as a result of villages remaining smaller and retaining their earlier character due to the lack of development and related infrastructure. This is perhaps the most remote and rural part of the county?
- The greatest concentration of cul-de-sac forms relates to the satellite settlements that surround the large market towns in west Wiltshire, such as Trowbridge, Melksham,

Bradford-on-Avon, Westbury and Warminster. Other elements of the HLC data indicate that aside from Swindon, west Wiltshire is the most heavily developed and occupied part of the county when considering rural settlements.

- Some of the larger villages that lie to the south to the town of Swindon are also dominated by cul-de-sacs of housing and it may be that these grow to form part of Swindon town at some future point, at which point their character will change further
- Piecemeal settlement forms are uncommon but tend to be larger in size (which would expect from their nature). There are some distinct groups of these settlements along the top of Salisbury Plain and around areas with significant woodland (close to the New Forest and Savernake). In addition to these links with certain character types, there also seems to be some relation with topography – with some favouring upland locations along ridge tops
- It is also possible that some of the piecemeal settlements correlate with areas of former common land in the northern parts of the county – in places like Brinkworth and Minety. Ad hoc settlements would have existed at the periphery of large communal spaces (such as commons, meadows, grasslands and former open fields)
- Planned settlements seem to be fairly small in scale and reasonably well distributed, although there is a concentration in the northern part of the county.
- Few of the planned settlements seem to be associated with more modern settlements/additions – often represented by the cul-de-sac forms.
- Many of the planned settlement forms relate to farmsteads, and this explains their widespread distribution and separation in some cases from other rural settlements
- Linear settlement forms are less common than some of the other morphological types represented on the map. However, some of them are very extensive and represent some of the larger villages in Wiltshire
- While some linear settlements do exist in the north and west of the county, they are far more characteristic of settlements in the south, and in particular along the river valleys of the Salisbury area
- Many of the linear settlements line routeways (rivers, roads, canals) and have historic origins – street frontages would have been important for trade/commerce in the medieval and post medieval periods
- There seems to be an association between the linear and nucleated settlements and both of these forms tend to indicate settlements with more historic origins. Nucleations around the church/village green/manor or settlement along access routes are the most classic layouts for settlements in rural parishes
- The nucleated settlements tend to be moderate in size (with relatively few large or small examples) and focused in the northwest and southwest of the county
- However, some have expanded from this tightly packed core with the addition of ‘halos’ comprising cul-de-sacs of newer housing – this can be seen in and around the borough of Swindon and also in the areas surrounding Chippenham, Melksham and Bradford-on-Avon.
- As with the linear settlements, there is a correlation between the river valley landscapes (particularly in the south) and the creation of nucleated settlements, perhaps with clusters at important control points along the river or valley?

## 5.7 Summary

This analysis section has demonstrated just a few of the applications of HLC data and some of the patterns, trends and observations that can be made in relation to the landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon. In addition to examining facets of the modern landscape (explored through current Historic Character Types) it is also helpful to be able to look at trends at a county, regional or parish level. Similarly, the HLC dataset does contain a wealth of information about previous landscape character and attributes. This can be used to understand the evolution of both rural and urban areas and to explore the concepts of sense of place/identity and local distinctiveness and their relevance to a range of applications. Many other aspects of the landscape can be explored using the HLC data, and readers are encouraged to investigate the data themselves, setting its perspective alongside their own perceptions of the county and their familiar places within it. To summarise, the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC has considerable analytical potential, including:

- The ability to study general (Broad Types) and detailed (Narrow Types) historic character across large areas to look at trends and make strategic observations
- The opportunity to explore morphology (of settlements, woodland and fields etc.) at a county level and understand the character and identity of places or landscapes
- The evidence for previous historic character, including where relevant, the production of 'time-slices' enabling the evolution of towns and landscape to be understood
- The concepts of dominance and legibility of character at a landscape and area, rather than site-specific level, visualised through maps and statistics
- The relationships between land-use and landscape character –allowing the interplay of these two to be considered
- Assessing the roles of components in the landscape (boundary types, place names, morphologies, parcel sizes, vegetation and built forms) that can indicate present/past character and indicate whether landscapes are typical or unusual
- Providing baseline evidence for historic landscape character, stopping short of the subjective value judgements dependent on the time, purpose and context of particular applications
- The ability to use HLC as a framework for contextualising other datasets concerning the historic or natural dimensions of the environment when assessing trends, threats/opportunities or the formulation, or outcomes, of management strategies
- The synthesis of aerial photographs, modern and historic OS mapping, place name evidence to provide information on historic character in the present, above and beyond purely archaeological research. This creates a powerful evidence base that can be used in research, development and management strategies.

## **6. Historic Landscape Characterisation Case Studies**

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) was created to offer an insight into the character and evolution of the historic landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon. The data created by the project can be investigated and analysed by users to help them with issues that arise in their own work and research. Key user groups identified by the project comprise:

- **Decision makers within local authorities or national agencies**
- **Heritage professionals**
- **Landscape specialists**
- **Interested members of the public**

While these groups have been separated out, they are by no means mutually exclusive. A single user may encompass some, or all, of these groups.

Bearing this in mind, there are a number of issues that the Historic Landscape Characterisation data can help to address. In particular, the following aspects can be interrogated:

- **'Time slices'** – showing the evolution of modern landscape
- **Statistics** – a breakdown of historic landscape types, rarity, survival and characteristics
- **Narrative** – descriptions of historic landscape types and their significance and potential
- **New interpretations** – an ability to challenge the known and preconceptions
- **Relationships** – how does HLC relate to other heritage/environmental/planning-related datasets?

The following section of the project report gives a series of case studies where HLC data has been applied to meet a particular query or research objective. It will be shown how utilising and interpreting the data can offer useful conclusions and outcomes, and thus demonstrate the value of HLC as a resource to a wide user base.

Each of the case studies will follow a set format to allow them to be readily used and compared as necessary. This should also help to encourage users to make use of the data for similar purposes or in related scenarios they may encounter in their work.

### **6.1 Case Study Structure**

Each case study will comprise 4 principal sections, as well as accompanying maps and/or statistics generated from the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC to help them illustrate their point. The sections are as follows:

1. *Context/Issue* – a query or research question that needs to be answered, where HLC may be of assistance
2. *Application* – a brief discussion of how HLC data can be applied, what technique/approach could be adopted and what elements of the data are relevant

3. *Analysis* – a study of the HLC data and identification of trends/patterns, observations of narrative, commentary on character/identity and comparison of data
4. *Outcomes* – conclusions and issues raised by the HLC data and any ramifications for management, decision making or future research.

## 6.2 Case Study Types

A selection of case studies has been chosen to demonstrate some of the different scenarios where HLC has relevance and some of the different techniques that can be used to interpret the data to answer questions. The list of in-depth studies that can be read over the next few pages comprises:

- An urban environment – **Swindon**
- The impact of unusual land-use – **Salisbury Plain Training Area**
- A designated landscape – **Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site**
- Rural buildings in the landscape – **HLC and the Wiltshire Farmsteads Project**

Of course, there are many other circumstances where users will be able to make use of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset in their work. As such, downloads of GIS shapefiles and project documentation are available from the project webpage (<http://www.wshc.eu/our-services/archaeology/24-our-services/archaeology/113-historical-landscape-characterisation-project.html>) or on the Archaeology Data Service website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>).

## 6.3 Case Study 1: Swindon

### Context/Issue

Swindon is the largest urban centre in the county (despite Salisbury being designated a city) and it has grown very rapidly since the later post medieval period, to outgrow other more historic settlements. It is a dense urban environment but, like all big towns or cities in the UK, it displays a great deal of diversity and localised character. Swindon has Saxon origins (in the area named as 'Old Town') but is more recognised for its relatively recent historical connections with the transport industry with the advent of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway Works in 1841-1842 and the creation of the Honda car plant in the late 1980s.

The perceptions of Swindon vary widely amongst its residents but also further afield, and this demonstrates the importance of historic character in defining a place and the plurality of its application by people. It is worth considering that a whole range of historic landscape character Types make up the modern town; some of these are illustrated below:



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

While Swindon is a thriving town, and already has over 180,000 inhabitants, it continues to grow and has been designated as an expansion area by governmental policy. As such, it is important that decision making relating to this expansion considers the present and previous historic landscape character and the impact this has on the occupants and identity of Swindon.

Consequently the character and evolution of Swindon's landscape are highly relevant to current agendas and of wider interest. The HLC dataset is a tool that can help to shed some

light on the historic cultural processes that have produced the present landscape of Swindon Borough. In particular, the HLC data can be used to investigate some key questions such as:

- How has Swindon grown?
- What is the nature of expansion?
- What is/was the character of Swindon?
- Why has Swindon grown?

This case study shows the role Historic Landscape Characterisation data can play in understanding the character of Swindon. HLC data can be used in the development of future local planning documents/policies by providing robust evidence to use in decision making.

### Application

The HLC data can be used to elucidate the historical evolution of a present landscape's character. This works particularly well with urban environments, because the facets of urban character are very easy to identify and distinct from one another. Therefore, for this case study it may be helpful to look at the production of 'time-slices' as these:

- Document the evolution of the town in the recent past (from C18 onwards)
- Provide a broader contextualisation and complement for the Extensive Urban Surveys of Wiltshire's towns
- Capture the area-based historic distinctiveness of the urban area, transcending its individual elements
- Give a flavour of the changing or persistent identity over time

The time-slices work by demonstrating the dominant character of areas within Swindon for each time period. This results from querying the current and previous character types for each relevant HLC polygon and can be done at either the Broad or Narrow Type level, depending on the detail required.

The six chronological time periods (modern day to pre 18<sup>th</sup> century) illustrated by this case study are easily understood and interpreted from the map outputs alone, but supplementary statistics could also be produced to quantify the exact differences and changes in landscape that have occurred over time.

The use of time-slices also works particularly well with HLC data as one can work from the modern period backwards through time. This adheres closely with the approach adopted by project, where the focus is on elements of the past that survive and remain legible in the present, so their understanding can inform the management of future change. The starting point is the modern landscape.

### Analysis

Each map is accompanied by a short commentary which draws out the salient facts concerning the landscape character in the specific time period. As the aim is to look at the more general trends present in the HLC data for Swindon, the data has been presented at the Broad Type level in terms of the mapping. However the associated commentary makes

reference to the additional information provided by the Narrow Types and individual HLC records (represented by each polygon).

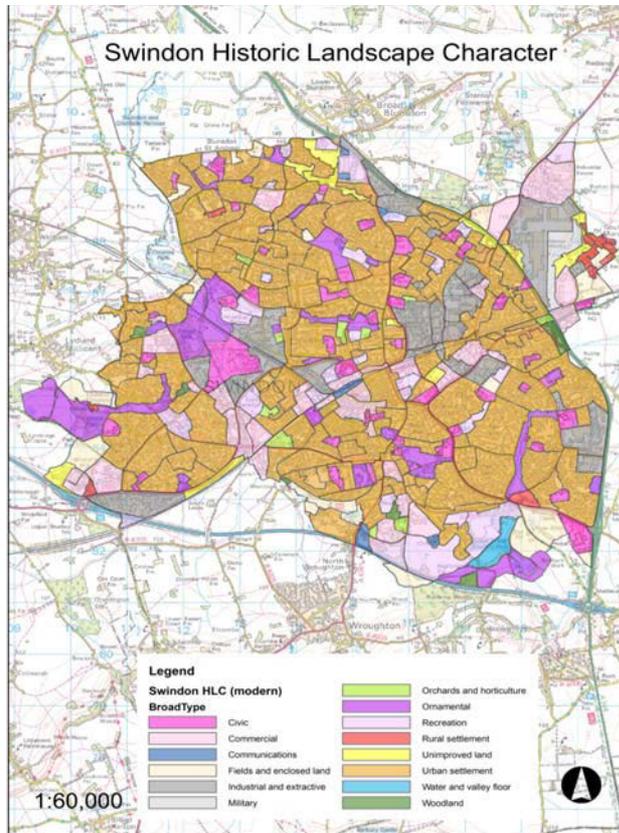


Figure 22

### Modern

In the present day, Swindon shows as a very large town dominated by blocks of urban housing. This has swamped the rather small historic core of Old Town as evident from the earlier period time-slices. Nevertheless, there are a surprising number of parks and recreational green spaces within the central and outlying areas. The present day industrial activity is focused on the transport routes (roads/railway), and while the Honda automotive works is distinctive, it is only one of several large businesses in the town. Very little space has been unexploited, with little marginal or undeveloped land. Similarly, there is a lack of woodland other than that associated with ornamental and designed landscapes.

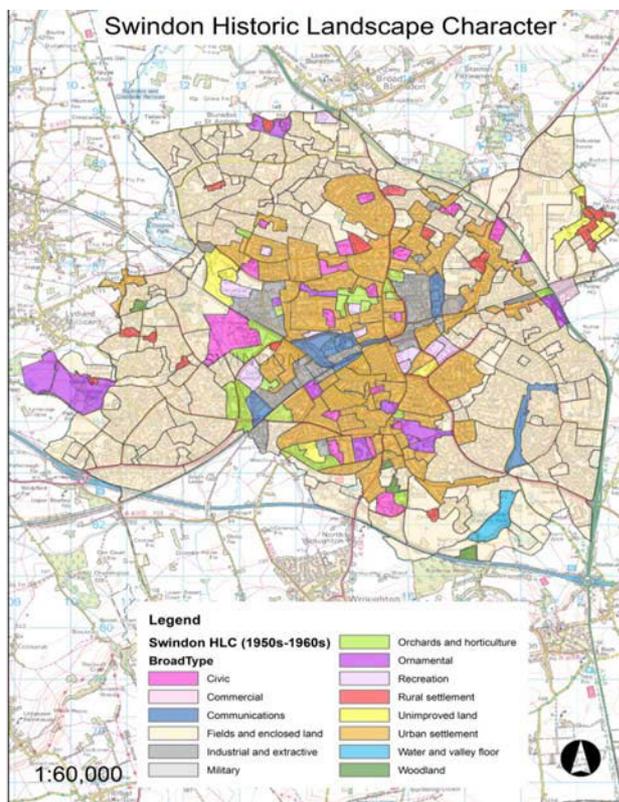


Figure 23

### 1950s-60s

During this period, Swindon was substantially smaller with many more fields, especially to the north and west. Houses built in these areas in later periods adhered closely to the field boundaries and land parcels established. While there are recreational space and amenities, these are fewer in number and focused on the periphery of the town (e.g. Lydiard Park). In this era, the railway works and stone quarry activities at Okus formed the main industries. Quite a proliferation of allotments existed in the urban core, associated with the recently built housing estates. It is also of note that a more diverse mix of housing types (both of urban and rural style – e.g. cottages and terraces) existed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Swindon.

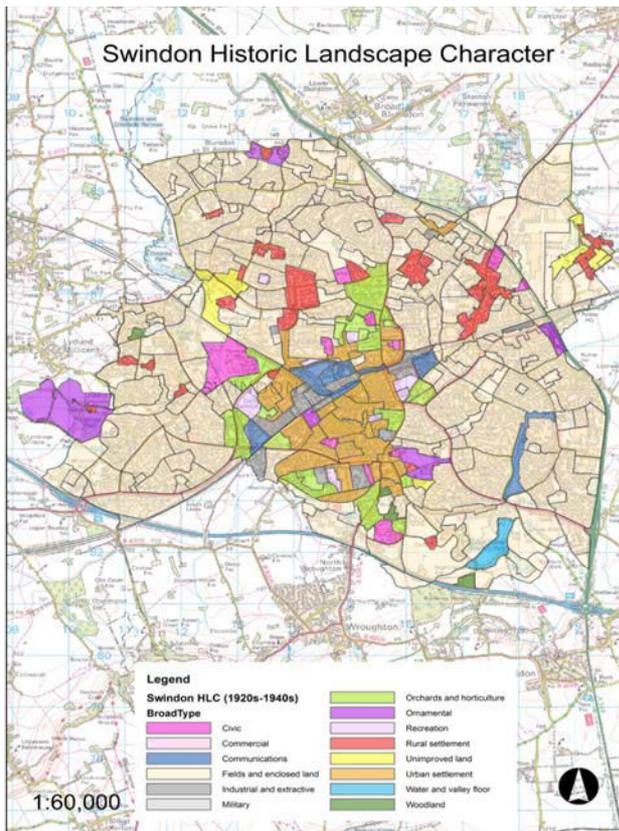


Figure 24

### 1920s-1940s

It is striking that in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there was little urban development north of the railway in Swindon. These areas were still rural in character and comprised large villages (such as Stratton St Margaret and Wanborough) that had yet to be absorbed into Swindon. Extensive farmland also existed within the vicinity of the town and produced goods for sale in its shops and markets. Those recreational spaces comprise parks related to substantial historic estates and there are few planned green spaces. Large blocks of allotment gardens exist and relate to the WWI and WWII periods, as well as the rise of urbanisation and a lack of gardens associated with inner city homes. It is worth remembering that some wartime industries would not have been mapped so may be absent from the HLC data.

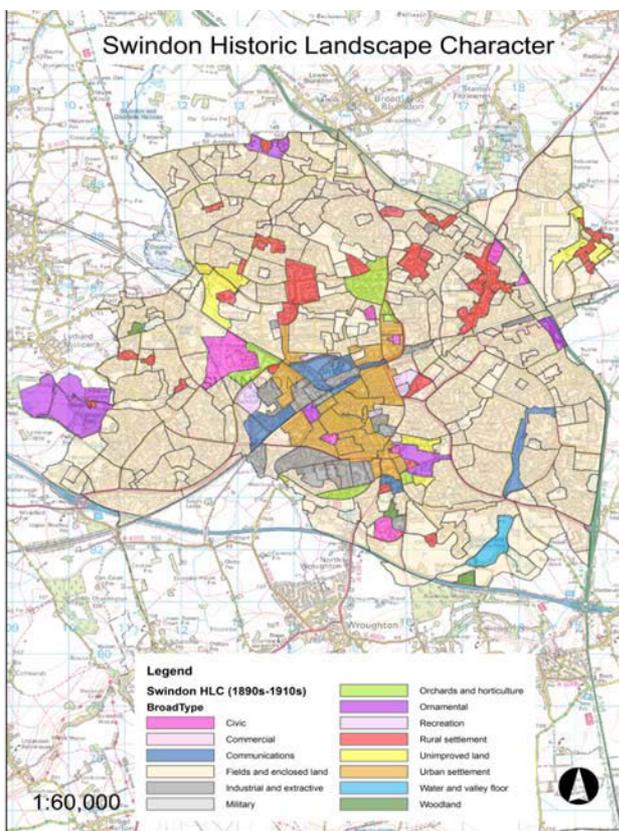


Figure 25

### 1890s-1910s

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Swindon had a strong industrial character. The main focus for industry and employment in the town would have been the stone quarries who exported their products across the county, making use of the new canals and railway lines. There were few recreational spaces, green areas or amenities within the core of the town itself. The relatively small size of the town would have ensured that the historic core around Old Town would have been relatively prominent (considering its hilltop location!). The town is still ringed by numerous villages and agricultural fields and would have been the trading hub for these large rural settlements. Some common or open land still survived and was yet to be placed into private ownership or developed for commercial purposes.

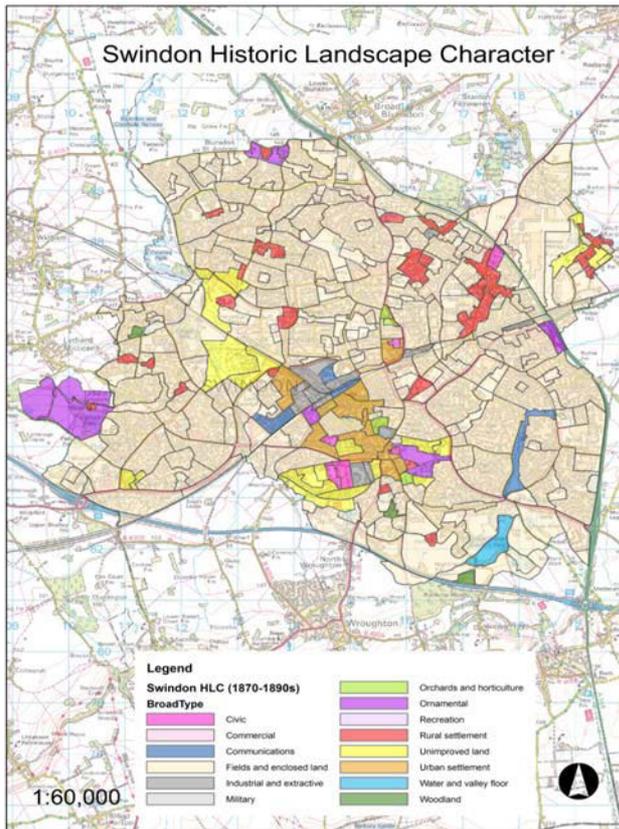


Figure 26

### 1870s-1890s

The town itself is much smaller than other towns in the county like Trowbridge and Westbury. There are a few villages in the locale of the town and some of these even appear to be nearly as extensive as Swindon itself, which seems to be tightly packed in the Old Town area. There is an abundance of open or common land in and around the town, and this gives it the feel of quite a small market town, akin to other settlements in Wiltshire. However, there is some industry within the town – mainly related to the railway which would then have been a relatively young industry.

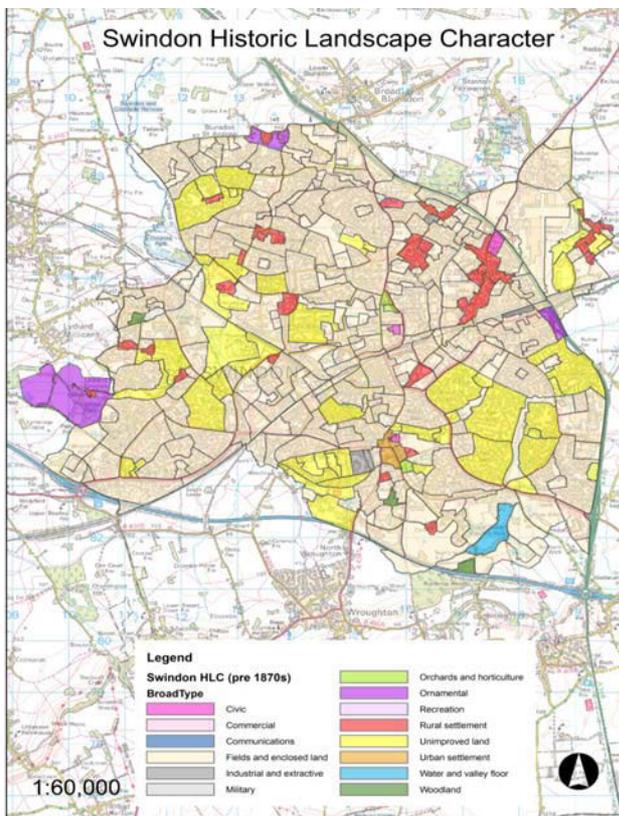


Figure 27

### Early 1800s

Prior to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Swindon is tiny and arguably a rural village rather than a town. At this point it is certainly smaller than other villages in the area, even though it has a similar historic origin and had been in existence since Saxon times. The settlement itself appears to be surrounded by a typical Wiltshire fieldscape with lots of common land and heath/grassland being interspersed between the arable fields. It seems to be something of a rural backwater, and not a very varied landscape with little woodland and few large estates. The limited range of route ways (there were few roads and tracks) gives it a somewhat isolated and tranquil appearance. Few landscape changes associated with expansion or urbanisation can be noted at this date. However, this time slice does confirm by its contrast with the later time slices, the massive affects which the appearance of

the railway/associated industries had on the pre-existing character of the place.

*N.B. While it is possible to use the 'time-slice' technique to go back further into Swindon's past, only limited change would be evident in Broad Character patterns from the earliest shown here.*

### Outcomes

By studying the HLC data, an insight has been gained into the character and evolution of Swindon. Some of the conclusions that could be drawn include:

- The railway and quarry industries were both historically important in Swindon, but the impact of the railway on the landscape's historic character remains more extensive and legible.
- The historic core of Swindon is very distinct but has been overwhelmed by the massive increase in urban housing that has been necessary for the increased population. However, housing estates in the north and west seem largely to respect the former field patterns (of post medieval or earlier origin).
- Presently, Swindon has a substantial proportion of green/recreational spaces, but these are largely modern creations linked to providing amenities for the new houses rather than historical parks, estates and woodland as is the case in other Wiltshire towns. This may, in part, be due to the strong Green Infrastructure policy that has been implemented across the Borough (Swindon Borough Council, 2011).
- Swindon was once one of a network of large villages and grew over time to absorb its neighbours. Elements of these other settlements have been retained and add to the distinct differences in character that can be observed across the town. Therefore Swindon does not have as homogenous a character as might be perceived by some.
- The presence of many allotment gardens in Swindon during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century captures a unique point in time, during the wartime years where land use priorities were different. The post war regeneration of Swindon and provision of housing is typical of numerous British towns of the period and Swindon is a good example of this process.
- By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Swindon had a selection of communication routes (canal, road, and rail) that have left their mark on the character of the town, its industries and its ability to be commercially successful.
- Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Swindon was a small market town and somewhat isolated from other major settlement in the county. It would have had a very rural feel, and the last of the agricultural fields that served it are now being developed and expanded to accommodate continuing present population pressure.

However, in addition to providing some detail and narrative about the evolution and development of the town and its urban landscape, the HLC data also poses some interesting questions about Swindon, such as:

- Did Swindon grow substantially due to its superior transport routes such as the canals, railway and later road system?

- Why did Swindon grow and become the dominant town when it could easily have been Stratton St Margaret or Wanborough that did so? After all they were once larger than Swindon in the pre 19<sup>th</sup> century, so could also have become dominant?
- In modern times, why has Swindon expanded in the pattern it has? Is this due to the reuse of available industrial land ripe for re-development or expansion into the former green belt on periphery to meet the housing demand?
- The stone quarry industry centred in the Okus area was a major focus for activity and commerce in Swindon and was broadly contemporary with the Great Western Railway Works. Therefore, was the presence of the quarrying industry as important as the railway in dictating the character of the town and encouraging its expansion?

So as can be seen, the value in using the HLC dataset is that it is designed to provide an understanding of the grain and narratives of the past within the present in order to inform the management of change for a culturally distinct future.

## 6.4 Case Study 2: Salisbury Plain Training Area

### Context/Issue

Salisbury Plain is a very distinctive part of Wiltshire and very extensive; comprising large swathes of open chalk downland. It is particularly of note due to its rich field archaeology (principally from the prehistoric and Roman periods) and the presence of the military. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) first acquired land on the plain in 1898, and continued to buy up land until the Second World War. The Defence Training Estate on Salisbury Plain (DTE SP) now occupies over 40,000 ha, meaning that military activity occurs widely across this distinctive landscape.



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6

As use of the plain increased, new camps and barracks were constructed at locations like Larkhill, Bulford and Tidworth. Other installations, like an aerodrome and railway line have come and gone, but still more areas are in active use as firing ranges, vehicle driving ranges and practice sites. All of these have had some effect on the landscape that can be perceived in the modern day and contributes to the local character.

Therefore, the character of Salisbury Plain is of particular interest to local people, archaeologists and the military alike. A study of the HLC dataset could offer insights into the evolution of the landscape, its characteristics and how recent land use has influenced the landscape. Questions that merit consideration include:

- What have the principal influences been on the historic landscape character?
- What are the threats to this landscape?
- How special or unusual is SPTA within Wiltshire?
- What is the legibility like for previous historic landscape character, and also archaeological sites?

The following sections intend to show how use of Historic Landscape Characterisation data can play a role in addressing these issues.

### Application

There are a number of ways to use the HLC data to investigate the character of the SPTA.

- Firstly, the application of ‘time-slices’ can be used to demonstrate the dominant character at given points in the past.
- Statistics based on landscape character can show the magnitude of change over time and what the driving factors were.
- Analysis of the landscape at both Broad Type and Narrow Type levels can help to describe and define the actual character of the landscape and challenge any preconceptions.
- Comparison of the HLC against archaeology on the HER can help to identify any trends in presence and survival of sites relative to landscape types.

Each of these methods will be presented in the subsequent pages and the HLC data will be analysed and discussed in order to shed light on the various questions. Application of the HLC data in this way could be undertaken on any number of sites and the methods shown here are widely applicable to any other landscape in Wiltshire.

### Analysis

The application of ‘time-slices’ is quite instructive in understanding the changes that have occurred in the landscape of the SPTA. Those presented on the following pages comprise:

- Modern historic landscape character maps – primarily based on OS maps and aerial photography and depicting the landscape in 2012 (the project start date)
  - These are shown at both a Broad Type and Narrow Type level so as to fully understand the evolution.
- Late post medieval historic landscape character maps – primarily based on multiple historic OS maps and depicting the landscape in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (c.1880s).
  - These are shown at both a Broad Type and Narrow Type level so as to fully understand the evolution.

It is worth noting that the individual polygon boundaries have been removed from the Narrow Type maps so as to show the landscape in a more seamless fashion, with the changes in character appearing more organic rather than with sharp breaks between areas of the landscape with different historic character.

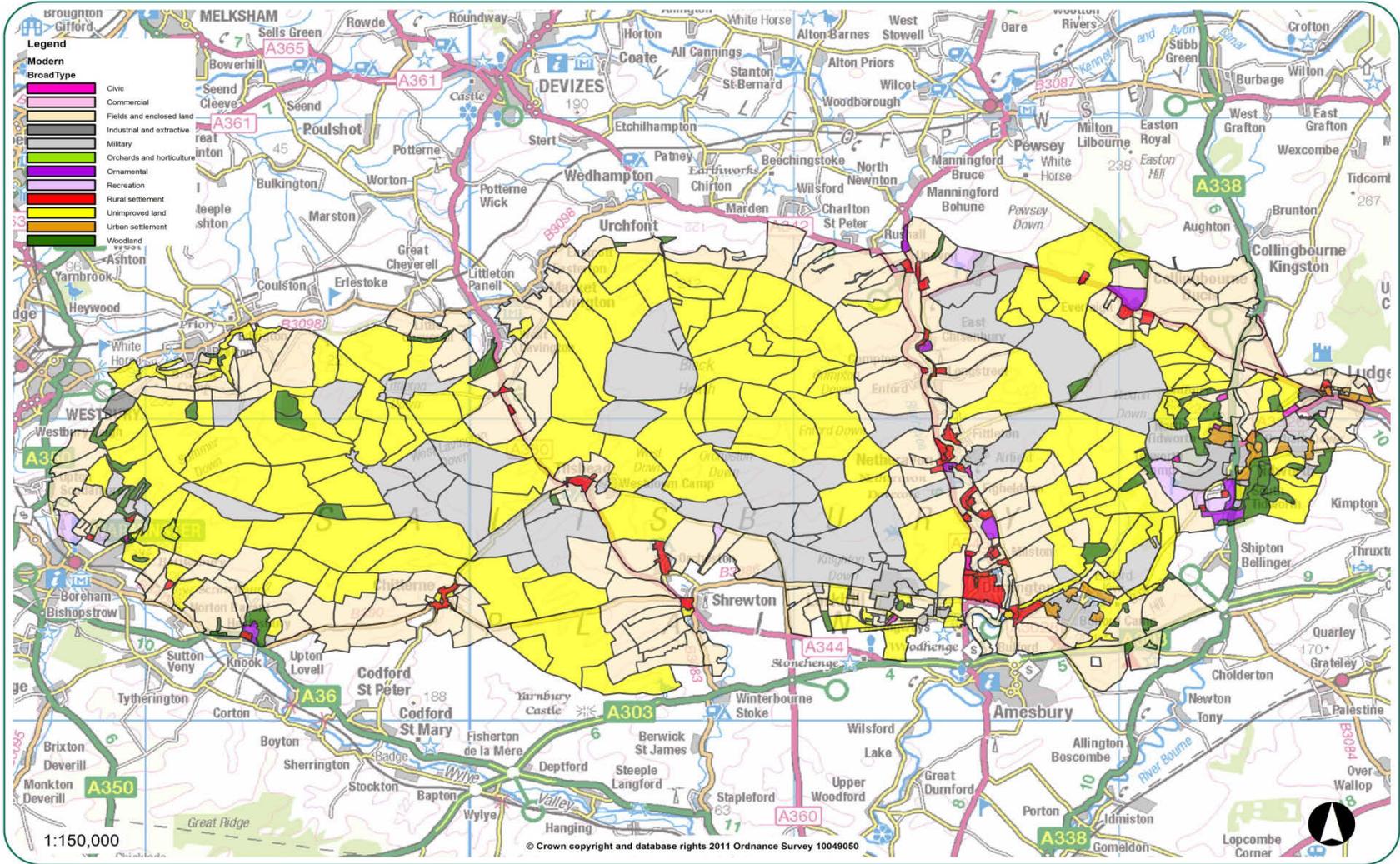


Figure 28

**Wiltshire and Swindon HLC**  
**Dominant Narrow Landscape Character Types for the Modern Period**

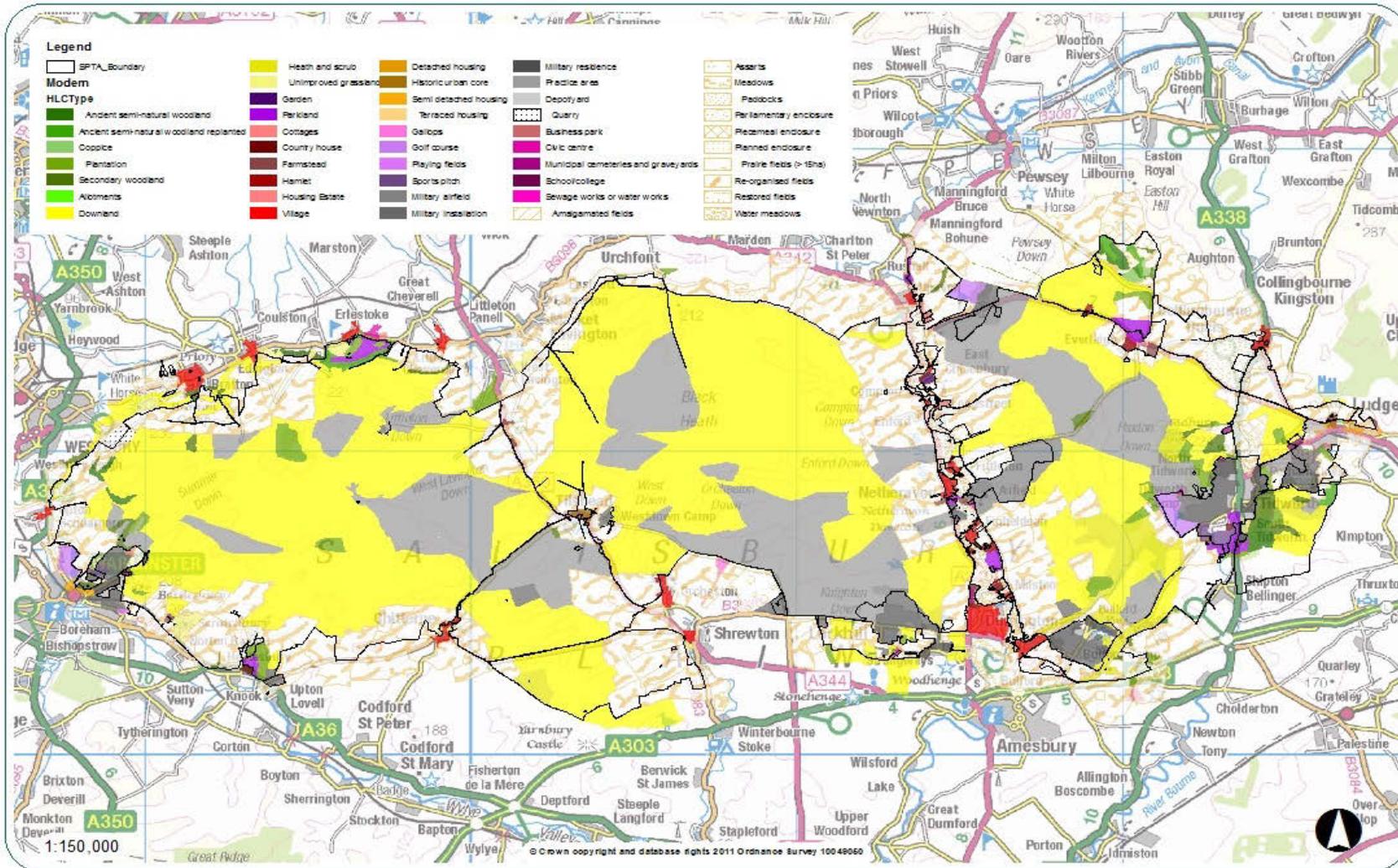


Figure 29

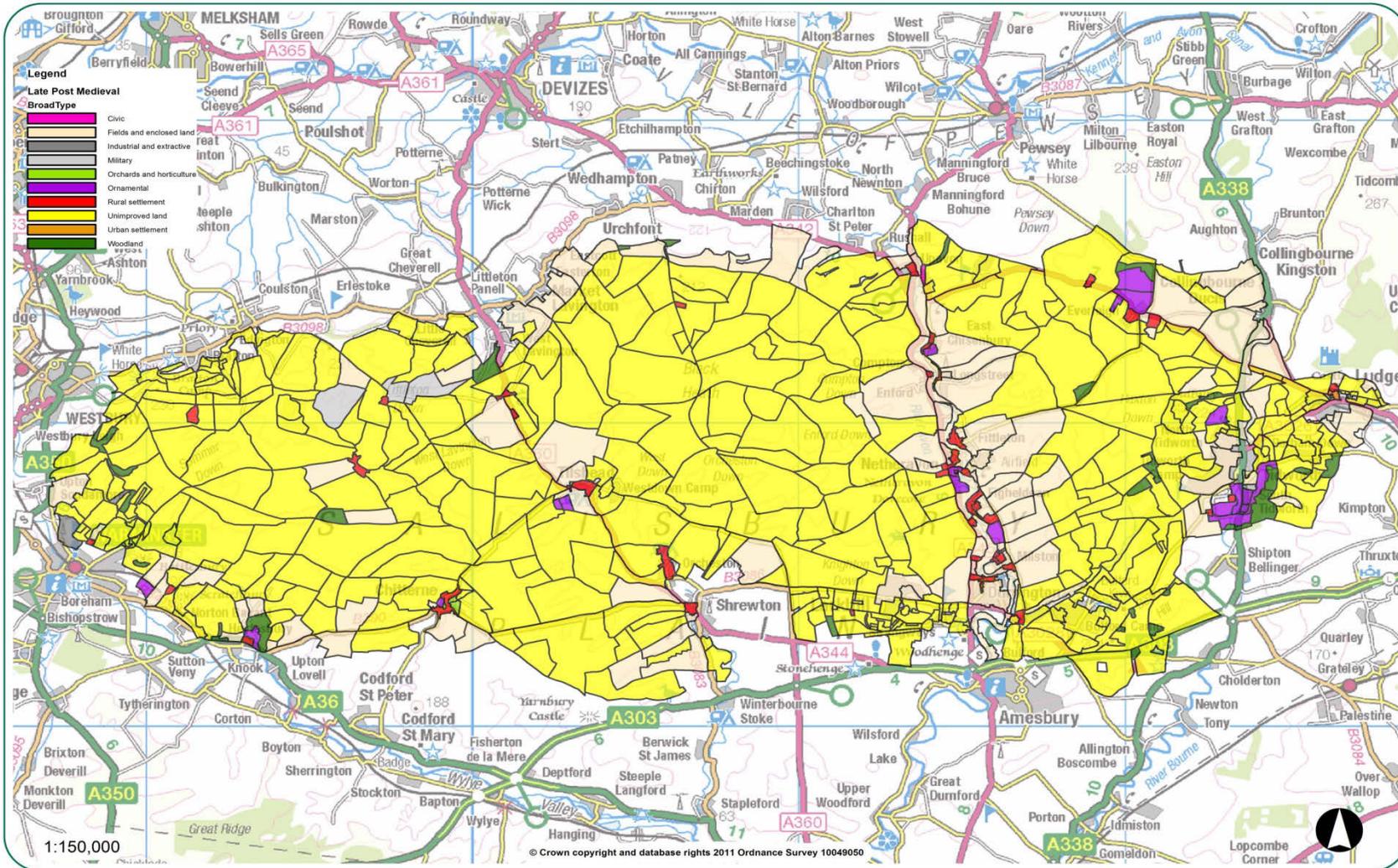


Figure 30

Wiltshire and Swindon HLC  
Dominant Narrow Character Types for the Late Post Medieval Period

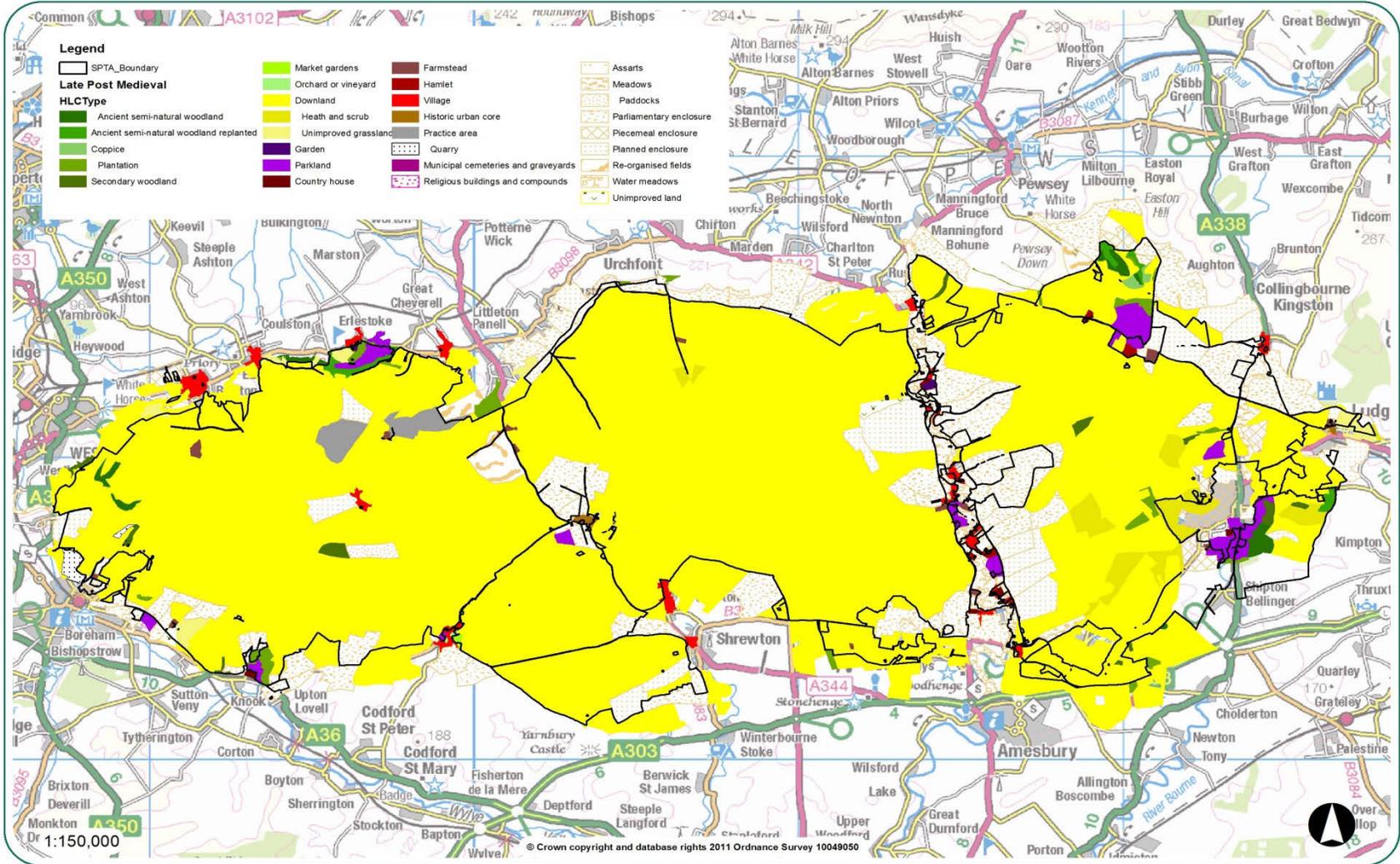


Figure 31

## *The Modern Landscape of SPTA*

The HLC data shows that in the modern period, the landscape of the training area is not a hugely diverse one – with it being dominated by a few particular historic character Types (primarily modern fields, downland and areas of military activity). While there is a relative lack of variety, this in itself is interesting when considering the landscape. The degree of landscape change is perhaps not as high as would be expected, with a relatively good continuity of historic character from preceding periods (both post medieval and earlier).

One of the main recent influences appears to be the advent of large agricultural fields which have been created in areas of former downland. These fields are a modern addition to the landscape and have little historic precedent. They exploit areas of downland that would formerly have been used for grazing. As we will see later in the case study, these fields preserve traces of former activities less well than the downland areas due to activities like boundary creation, ploughing and tree planting (for purposes like the creation of shelter belts).

There are of course some areas where the present day historic character has been influenced and determined by the military training activities that have taken place. However, only in areas where there are intense groupings of military features or zones of intense practice activities (like shell firing ranges) can the modern character be wholeheartedly defined as military. In other areas of the landscape, the ownership and activities of the military appear not to have fundamentally dominated the historic landscape character. For instance some areas used for driving practice, transit routes, and infantry training still retain the character of preceding periods and it remains legible. This is shown by the HLC records for such area, which detail elements of previous historic character which remain legible in the landscape (often in the form of earthworks, cropmarks or morphological traits of settlements and field systems, many of which are of prehistoric or Roman origin).

However, the modern HLC maps also show that certain aspects of the landscape have changed little over time. First and foremost, the settlement pattern has altered little. The settlements take the form of small villages and hamlets in the river valley bottoms and they often lie at the centre of the parish. These settlements have expanded little through time, so their historic form and layout survive quite well. Therefore, while there has certainly been some modern development, elements of the post medieval (and in some cases Saxon and medieval) village form remains. This lack of change in settlement pattern and form is typical in many parts of southern Wiltshire.

The modern map also demonstrates that a reasonably large proportion of downland still survives, in spite of the modern developments and land-use practices within the SPTA landscape. This is particularly the case in the central and western portions of the training area, on the land that is more distant from the barracks and camps that house the military personnel. These downland parcels maintain the earlier historic character of the landscape and have not changed for hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of years. This uncultivated grassland preserves archaeological remains of earlier human subsistence activities and this can be seen by overlaying HLC data with Historic Environment Record (HER) data.

## *The Post Medieval Landscape of SPTA*

As one would expect, during the post medieval period (and many of the earlier historic periods) the landscape of the SPTA was predominantly downland, as mapped on the HLC. The lack of mechanisation made the cultivation of this landscape challenging and the intrinsic value of the downland for livestock grazing ensured that vast swathes of the landscape remained unaltered since the Saxon/medieval periods. While some of the downland areas have experienced modern changes, a strong sense of their previous character and identity has been preserved. The form and layout of the fields that have replaced the downland parcels shown on the post medieval HLC map retain traces of this former character in their morphology, upland locations, associated place names and boundary form (with barbed wire fences predominating and preserving the relatively open nature of the landscape).

Those fields that do exist in the post medieval period tend to be immediately adjacent to the settlement areas and easy to access from them. Their size and morphology suggests that in some cases they consolidated open fields comprising strips which had Saxon or medieval origins. During this period, the higher ground would have been used for grazing but would not have been formally ordered until the later post medieval period when certain parts of SPTA were subject to Parliamentary Enclosure Acts. These late 19th century Acts did not create fields in these downland areas but did formalise ownership and partition of the land. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman field systems also existed in the northern portion of this downland area and a scattering of Roman settlements exist in the wider area.

Settlement patterns in this landscape are characteristically focussed on the river valleys and the HLC map shows continuity in the form and even extent of these villages and hamlets. However, there do appear to have been a few designed landscapes or parks in the post medieval period which have not survived into the modern period (denoted by the 'Ornamental' Broad Type). Nevertheless, these would not have heavily influenced the dominant overall character of this landscape. Similarly, there is continuity between the woodland cover (or lack thereof) on SPTA from at least the post medieval period onwards. This lack of trees when coupled with the presence of the chalk downland, large fields and valley bottom settlements reinforces the open, rolling and remote landscape which is associated with Salisbury Plain. As the HLC data shows, this character was well established by the post medieval period and survives relatively intact into the present day.

The HLC evidence also helps address these notions:

### ***'The character of Salisbury Plain Training Area is unusual'***

The Salisbury Plain Training Area is a very extensive military holding, and an iconic feature within the southern part of Wiltshire. While the military personnel, equipment and vehicles are very noticeable and add to the identity of local towns and villages, it would be interesting to study the detailed effects the military has had on the character of the *landscape*. By studying information gathered by the HLC project, it should be possible to see how far those effects from military use have altered the SPTA's previous historic character and how far they have altered the historic character the SPTA might be now be expected to have possessed without the military presence.

When considering the historic character of the SPTA another consideration is the underlying geology, as this has a substantial influence on the character and land-use of the area. Salisbury Plain is a chalk plateau, and this geology is widespread in the southern and eastern portions of Wiltshire. If the pre-modern landscape is considered (such as during the post medieval era) then it is apparent that Salisbury Plain shares many similar traits with other chalkland areas:

**Wiltshire Council** Late Post Medieval Broad Character Types on Chalk Geology  
Where everybody matters

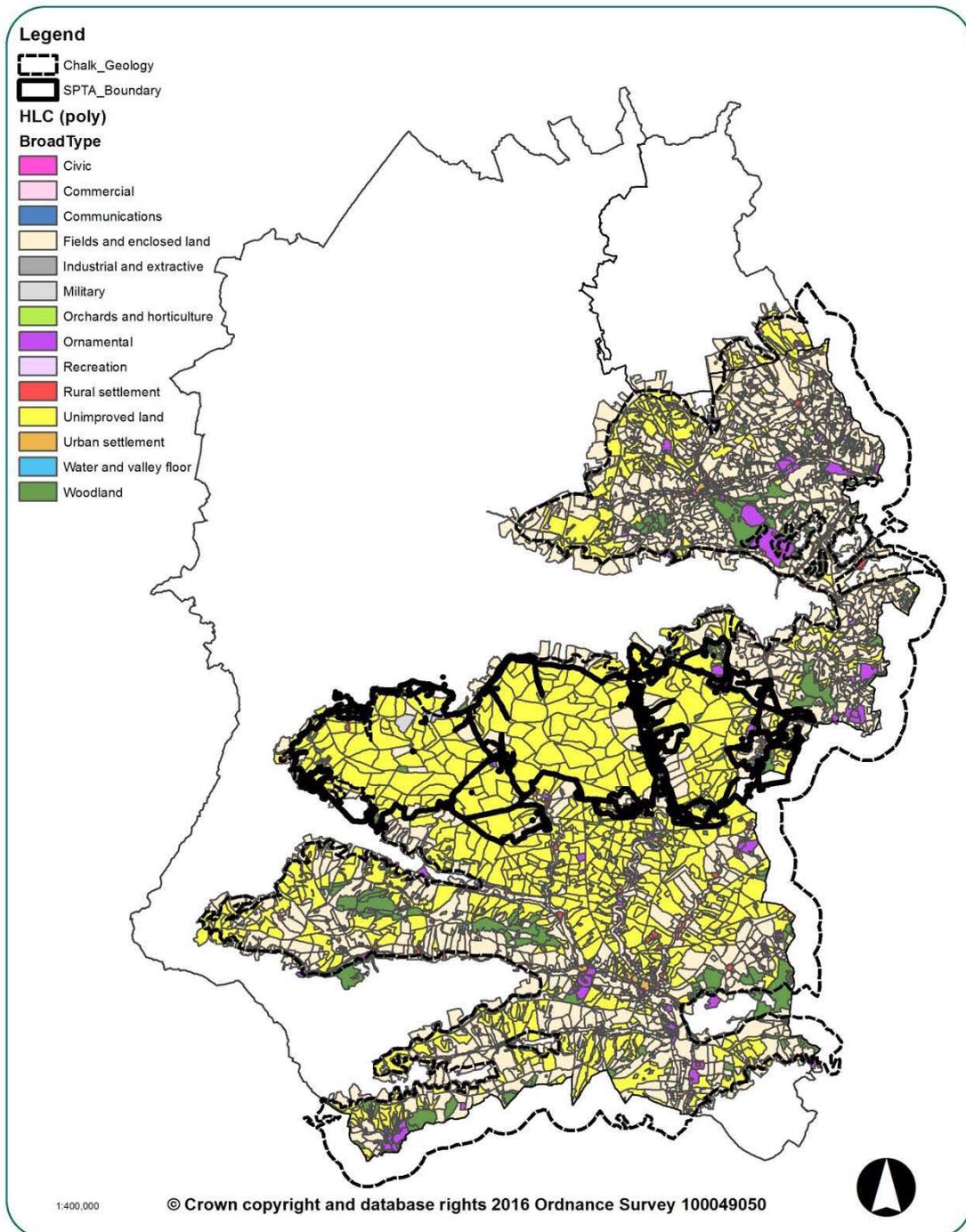


Figure 32

These areas comprise river valleys with settlements following the watercourse and associated fields surrounding the settlements, before the land rises to chalk downland used for grazing. During the later post medieval period this historic character is common across areas of chalk downland in areas like Marlborough Downs, the Winterbourne Valley and south of Swindon at the edge of the Lambourn Downs. This pattern of land use created a very distinct historic landscape character and was typical of large areas of Wiltshire from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, by the modern period, this landscape has changed:

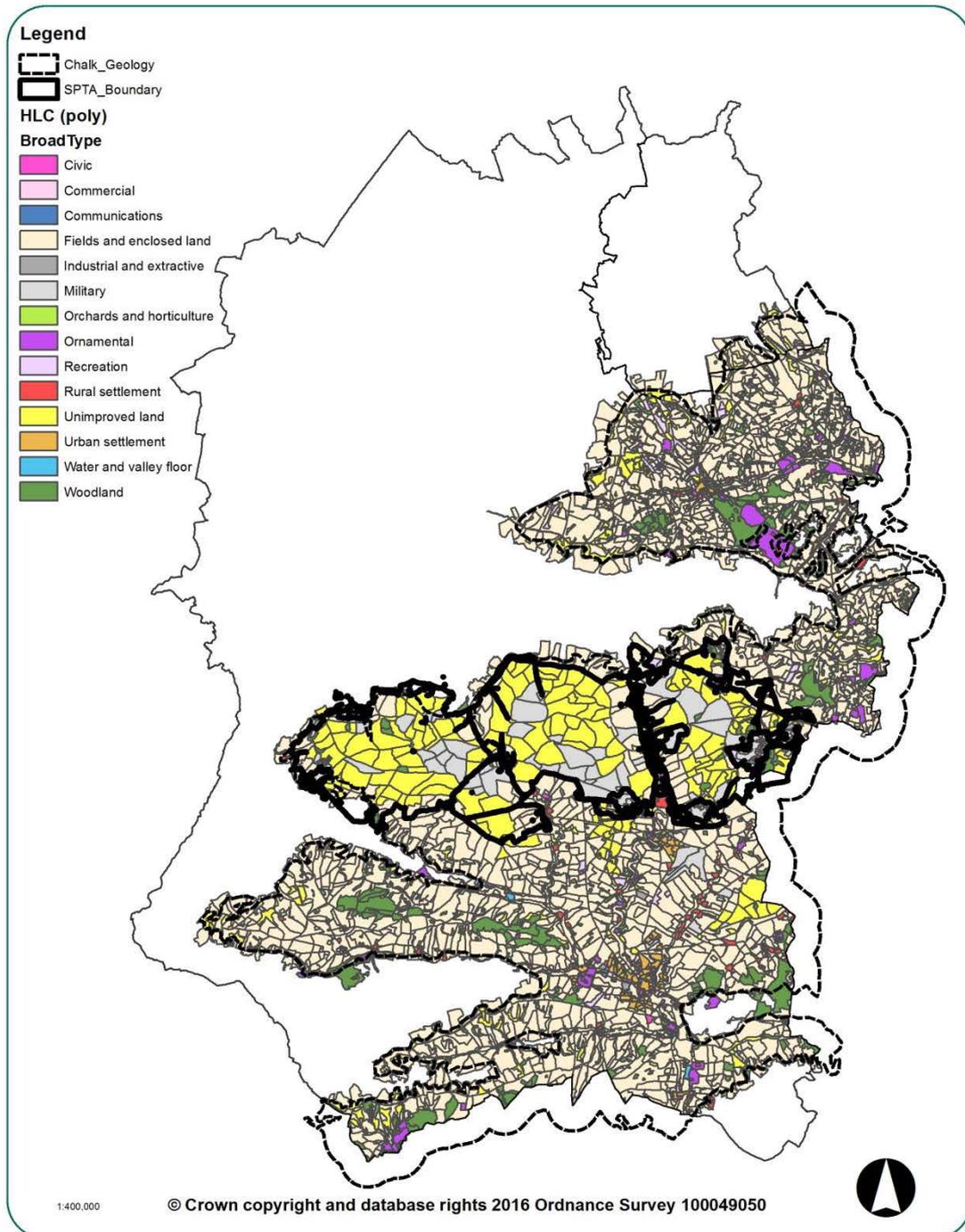


Figure 33

By the present day, large areas of surviving downland are rare across Wiltshire. There are a few concentrations in the Marlborough Downs area, and also in the south east near the Deverells. However, Salisbury Plain is clearly an exceptional example of survival of an upland chalk landscape as the HLC data demonstrates, with the eye being drawn to the large swathes of yellow which denotes unimproved land. It is also apparent from the HLC data that the continuity from earlier historic character (dating from the prehistoric to medieval period) is greater in the downland landscapes of Wiltshire. The map below depicts all of the areas of the county which have had such character identified through the HLC project:

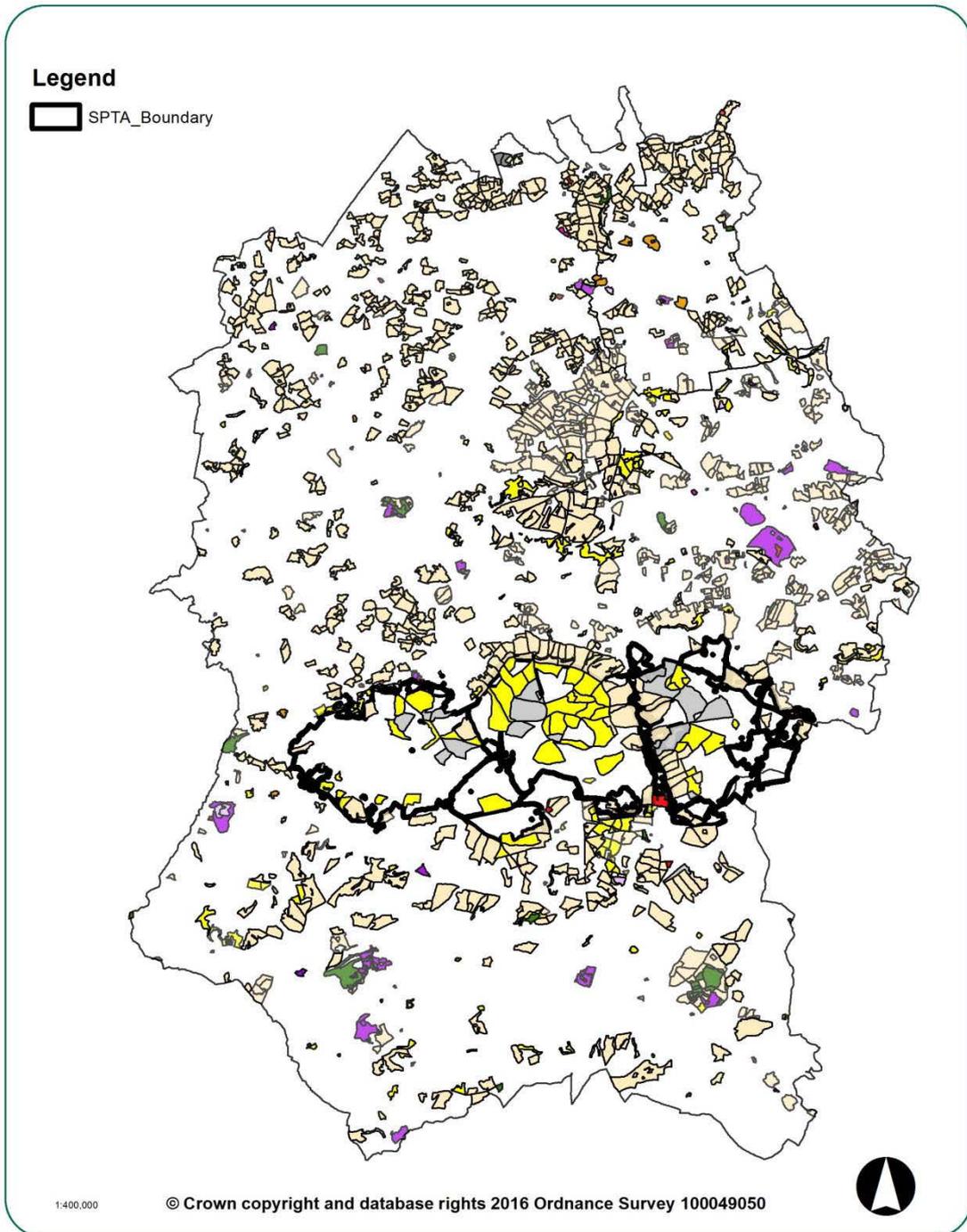


Figure 34

As can be seen, elements of previous character of prehistoric to medieval origin are present in about half of the SPTA. The large polygons created in this area also illustrate how extensive traces of this earlier character are. This notion of excellent survival of pre-post medieval character (the components of which are mainly archaeological monuments, earthworks and cropmarks) is even more obvious when the earliest historic character Types, dating to the prehistoric to Roman era, are mapped:

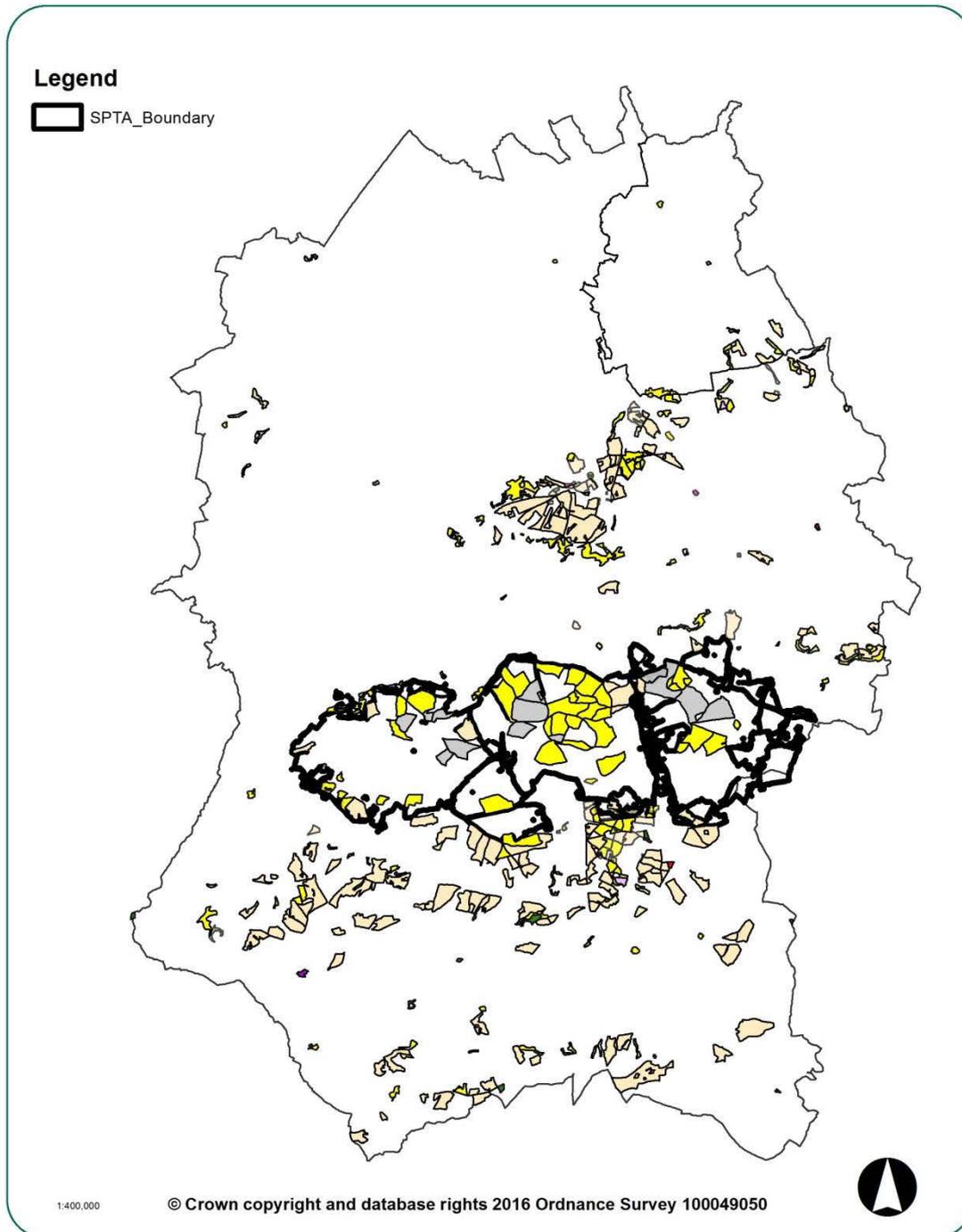


Figure 35

The concentration of these earlier periods' legible character in the SPTA is evident and readily comparable with the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site, which lies due north and south of SPTA respectively (although other clusters of this character can be discerned). It seems clear that the reasons for this continuity to the present of this area's long stability of historic character relate to the modern land use and management. As large swathes of Salisbury Plain are in military ownership, the land has not been intensively developed for housing, industrial or recreational purposes. In addition, there has been less opportunity to convert the downland into agricultural land for farming as this fits less well with

the needs of the MOD. This can be seen in direct contrast to the Marlborough Downs, where much of the ancient downland has been enclosed for farming or built upon.

Therefore the HLC data allows us to understand that while the historic landscape character of SPTA is typical for that of a chalk plateau area and not highly unusual historically, it is the maintenance of this historic landscape character into the present which is rare. This also enhances the legibility of early landscape components which are also relatively rare when the whole county is considered.

*So the SPTA is a typically chalk landscape but rare and exceptional for its present intactness and legibility of early characteristics (especially prehistoric and Roman).*

***‘The main threat to the historic landscape is military activity’***

At first glance it may appear that the biggest recent change to the SPTA landscape is the result of military activity on Salisbury Plain. A large amount of the land has a dominant military character in modernity, relative to the recent past (e.g. late post medieval period). This can be seen by comparing the percentage areas of the Broad Types as below:

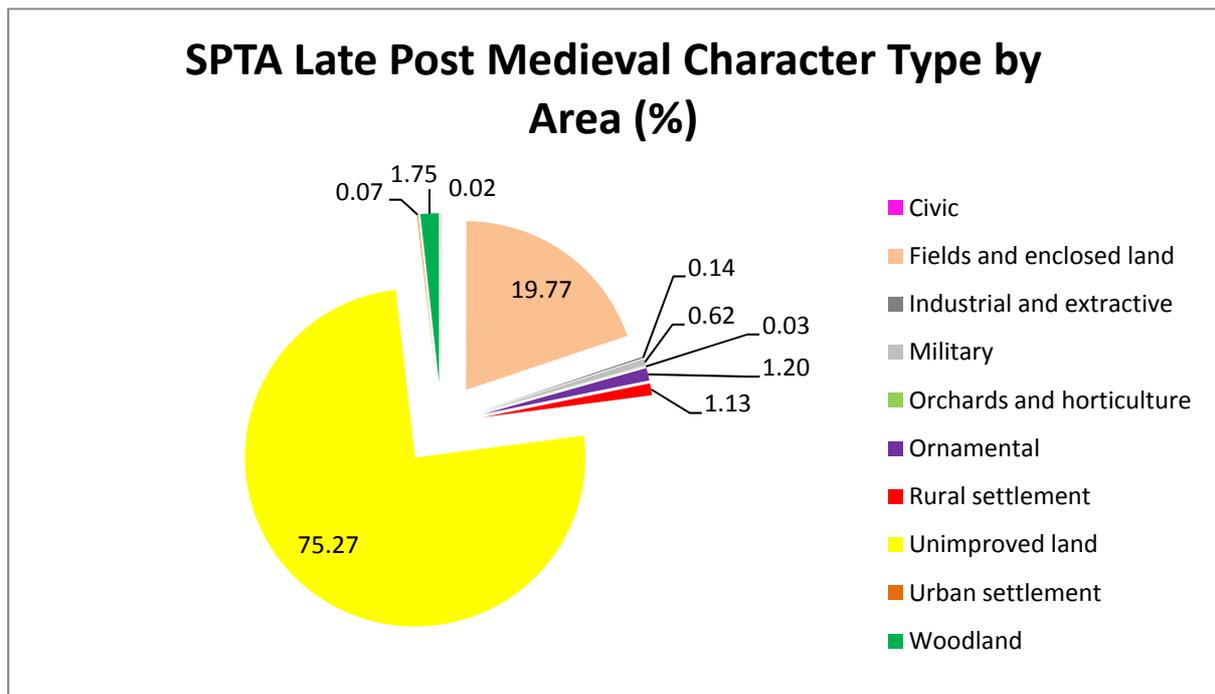


Figure 36

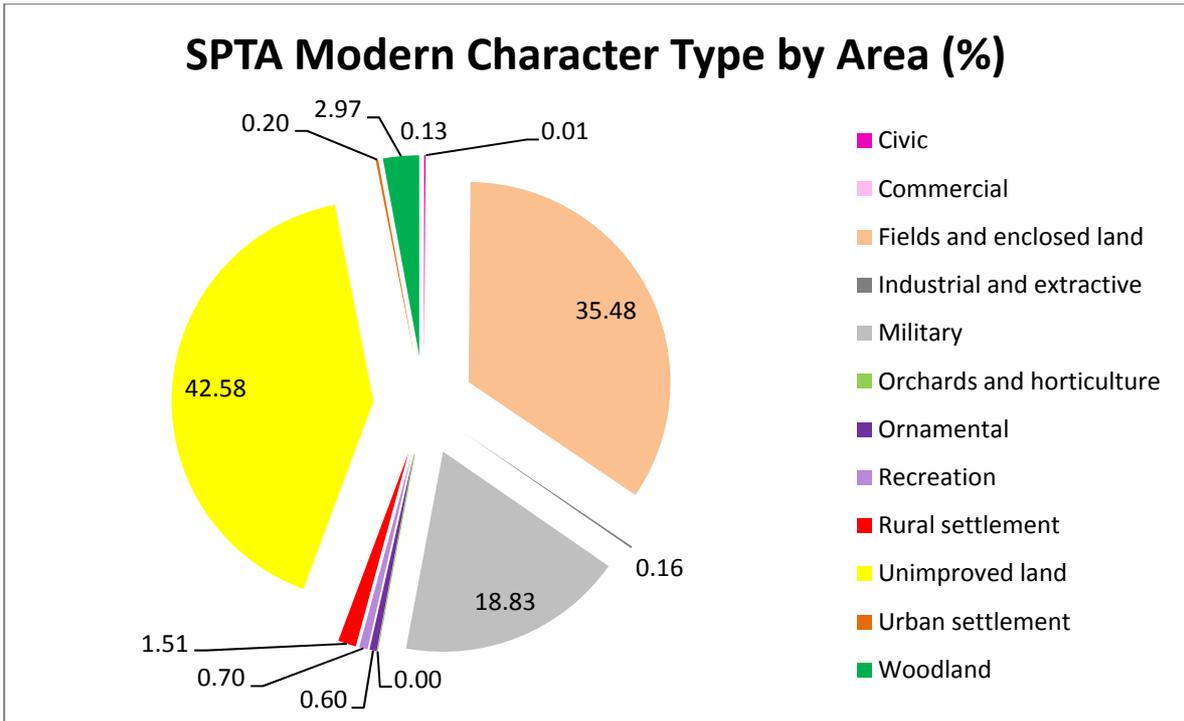


Figure 37

This shows an increase from 0.62% of the landscape being dominated by a military character in the late post medieval period (1870-1894) to 18.83% being of dominant military character in the modern period (2012-15). The majority of the land that now has a dominant military character comes from the conversion of former unimproved land (downland) or ornamental land (parkland). The other changes are the increase in woodland through plantation creation, either for aesthetic or agricultural purposes, and the near doubling of the percentage of land covered by the 'Fields and Enclosed Land' category. The relative evolution in historic landscape character from the late post medieval to modern period on the Salisbury Plain Training Area can be clearly observed below:

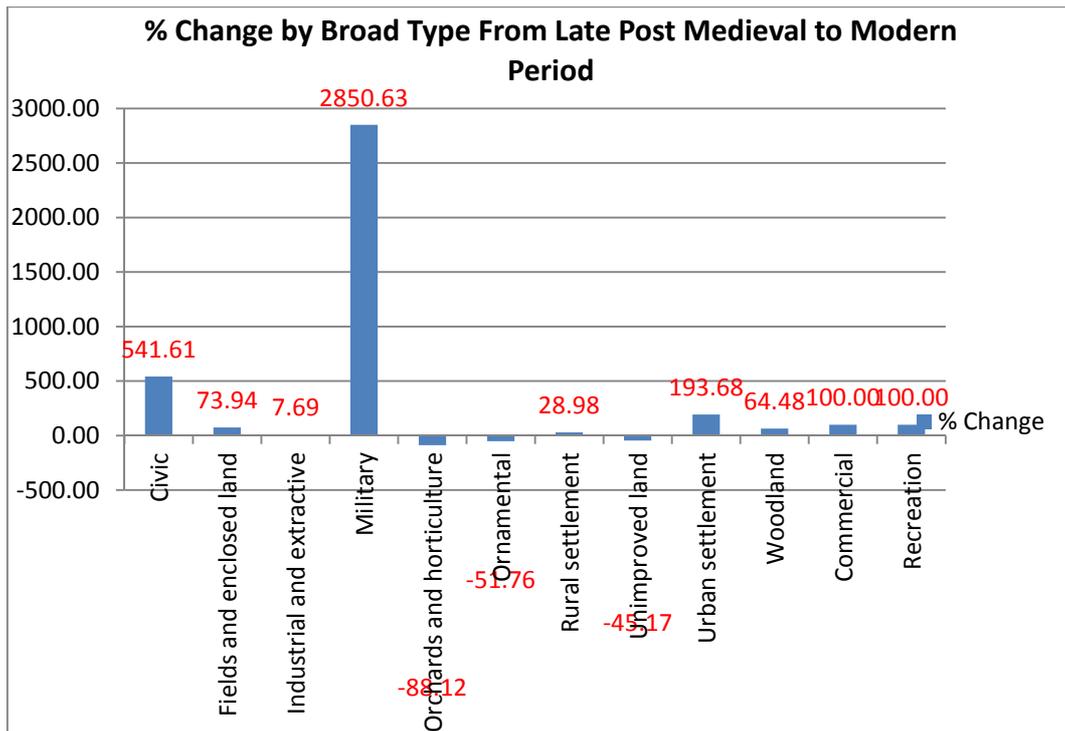


Figure 38

However, when looking at the actual area of the changes in the landscape of Salisbury Plain Training Area, there is another trend that becomes apparent. A fairly similar proportion of land that has been converted from the downland landscape into agricultural land (c. 6500 Ha) used in present day farming as there is military land created from this former downland (c. 7900 Ha). This trend can be somewhat masked by the rapid increase in military landscapes in the SPTA, but this is due to the very low area given over to military activity in the post medieval era, whereas even by the late post medieval period (1872-1894) conversion of downland into farmland was commonplace and on the increase. This more subtle alteration to the landscape can be highlighted by comparison of the size of areas of given character types:

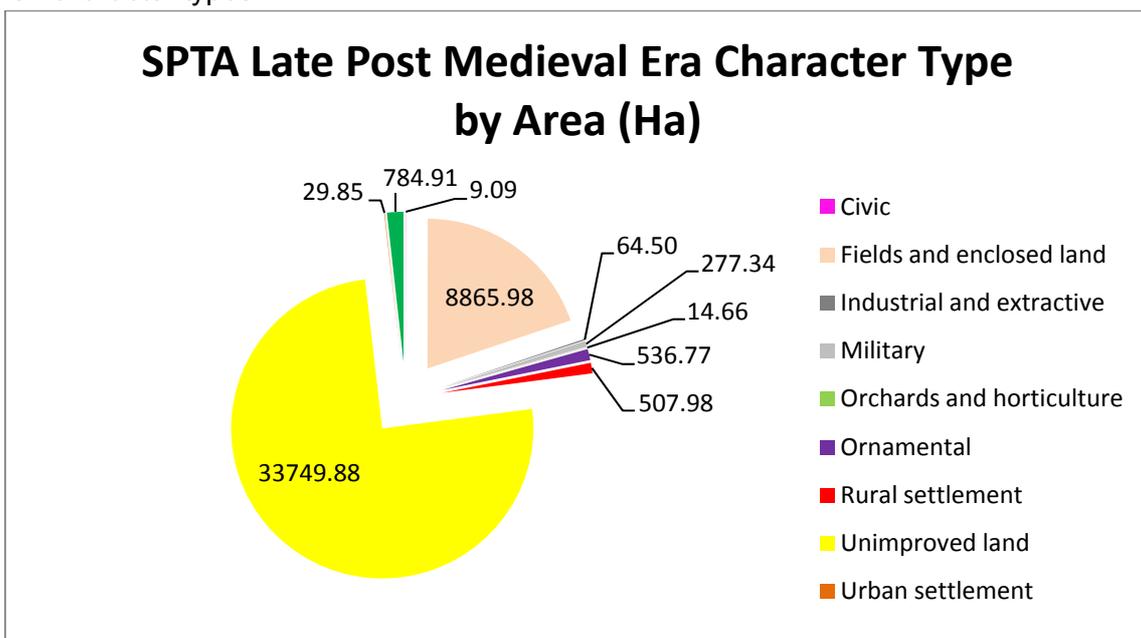


Figure 39

## SPTA Modern Era Character Type by Area (ha)

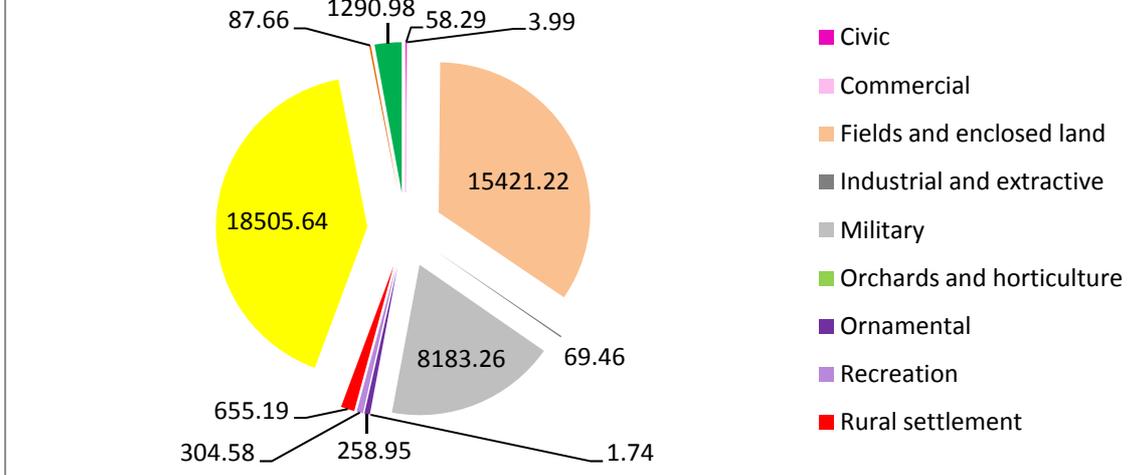


Figure 40

These charts show that while there is a clear decrease in the downland landscape, so characteristic of Salisbury Plain and favourable for the survival of early character features (see later in this case study), there is an almost equal increase in the amount of land dominated by military or agricultural character. It should also be noted that these charts also serve to illustrate the relatively unvaried character of the landscape of Salisbury Plain – with only a few Broad Types being represented in any great proportion. By analysing the changes in landscape character in graphical form, this proportionate increase in military landscapes/fieldscapes is even more obvious:

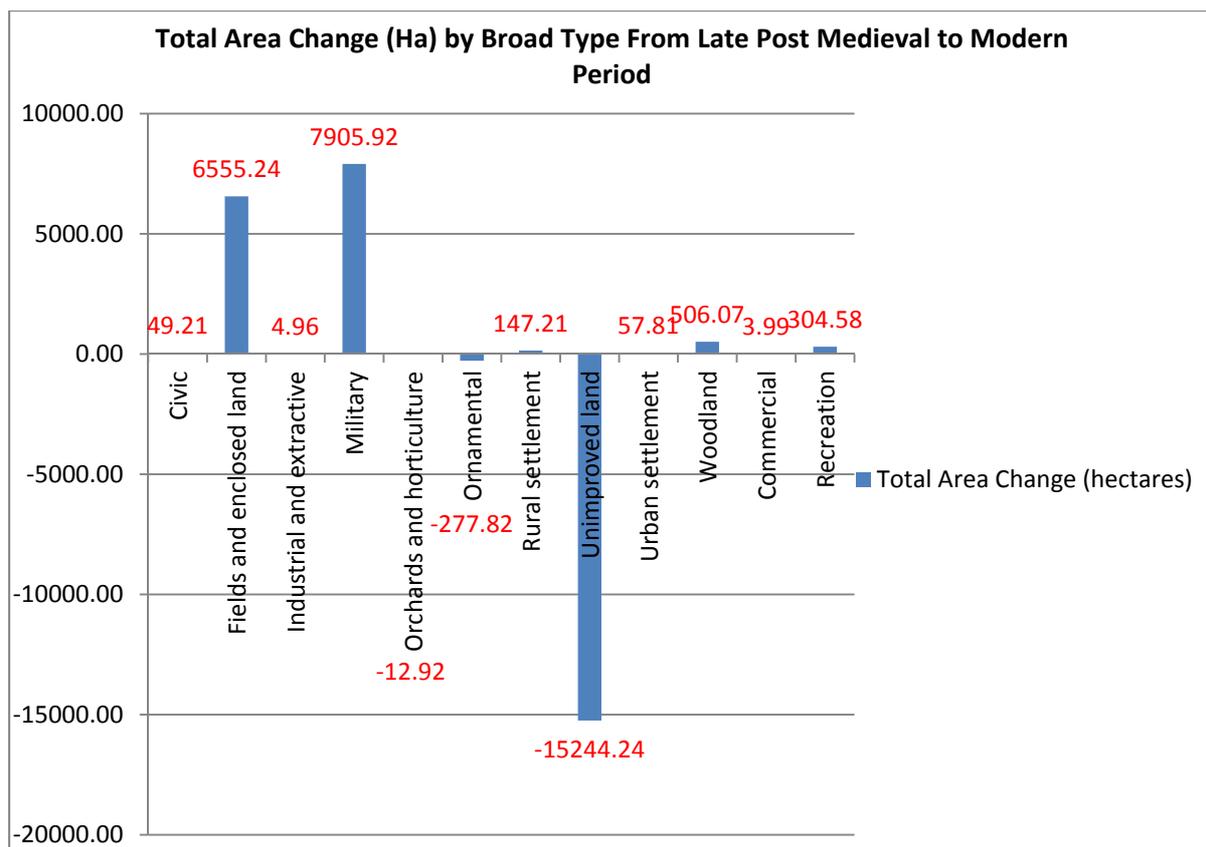


Figure 41

The salient figures to pick out include the increase from post medieval (C18/C19) to modern of Fields and Enclosed Land (+6555 ha), Military (+7906 ha) and Woodland (+506 ha) and the decrease of Unimproved Land (-15244 ha) and Ornamental (-278 ha).

Therefore, as can be seen the creation of new fields has had an equal impact (by area) on the landscape of Salisbury Plain to military camps and practice areas. The preservation of former historic character is arguably higher in military landscapes (see later) than fields due to the intensity of activity and the need to change the landscape. For example, large swathes of Salisbury Plain are firing areas/practice areas which preserve elements of the former downland character well. In contrast, the new fields are often imposed without regard to former character and layout and have been subject to mechanised agricultural practice which has potentially reduced the legibility of former character (particularly the prehistoric and Roman field systems and occupation areas).

From the above evidence it can be argued that military custodianship of the land has had a positive role in preserving iconic elements of the historic landscape.

### Outcomes

So looking at the maps and statistics provided by the HLC, we can both define the landscape and evolution of the SPTA and also challenge some preconceptions. Using the HLC the key facts concerning the SPTA are:

- It is not a very diverse landscape; it is still overwhelmingly historic chalk downland and historic river valley settlements offset by large modern fields and areas dominated by military activity.
- Much of the conversion of downland into fields occurred in the late post medieval/modern period – so a very modern impact on the landscape.
- Very little woodland, ornamental or industrial character exists in this area, either in modernity or historically.
- Earlier periods' character (prehistoric and Roman, but also Saxon/medieval) survives well within this area and remains legible in the modern landscape.
- It is an 'open' landscape without a high proportion of substantial formal boundaries (such as hedgerows, ditches and shelter belts).
- Settlements are generally small scale and occupy river valley bottoms, and many have at least post medieval origins and demonstrate elements of their original character in their layout, position and place name.
- It is the survival of the ancient downland landscape in such a coherent and extensive manner that is exceptional, rather than the intrinsic aspects of that historic character itself.
- While the influence of the military activities on the landscape is widespread, the extent and intensity of impact on the historic landscape is less than might be expected and could be argued as having had a positive effect.
- It is a *rare* but not *unusual* landscape and its designation as a SSSI (amongst other things) and high number/density of historic environment designations reflect this fact.
- In common with other areas of chalk downland, the main pressures for change to present historic character arise through the intensification of agricultural practices.

## 6.5 Case Study 3: HLC Data for the World Heritage Site

### Context/Issue

The sites of Stonehenge and Avebury are internationally famous as examples of prehistoric sites with a huge wealth of archaeological, cultural and spiritual value. They are iconic locations in the Wiltshire landscape and were inscribed together on the UNESCO World Heritage Site List in 1986. This made the *Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites* World Heritage Site (WHS) one of the earliest designated World Heritage Sites in the UK. The site is currently managed by a partnership of agencies (including English Heritage, Historic England, The National Trust and Wiltshire Council), private landowners and farmers. It also continues to be a source of intense academic research and a very valuable heritage asset, visitor attraction and protected landscape. The two areas of the World Heritage Site lie some 40km apart in central/southern Wiltshire.



Plate 7



Plate 8

While the stone-built henges form the foci for both areas, the World Heritage Site areas are also wider landscapes of interlinked monuments, features, fieldscapes and settlement areas. All of these aspects date from prehistory to the present day, and to almost every chronological epoch in between. This has led to the consideration of the World Heritage Site (WHS) as a special or unique area within Wiltshire, which provides an opportunity to study the evolution of social practices, settlement patterns, agricultural activity and ritual/ceremonial behaviours over a long duration.

Against this background of heightened interest and considerable study, it would be interesting to see what the HLC dataset created by this project can tell us about the landscapes of Avebury and Stonehenge. The HLC shows the present day landscape, but also offers some insight into its archaeological/historic dimension that can inform the WHS's management for the future. It looks at character at this broad scale (as opposed to a site level) and can be used to:

- Identify or confirm broad trends and narratives concerning landscape
- Provide information on the evolution and land use of the WHS
- Form a baseline dataset with which to compare other historic environment datasets
- Discuss change, survival and legibility of character within the landscape

The applications of HLC data that are outlined in the subsequent section investigate a selection of questions and themes that relate to the bulleted list above. This will demonstrate some of the potential of HLC data, and some of the utilities for it, but there are undoubtedly a number of other interesting lines of enquiry which could be explored further using the characterisation data.

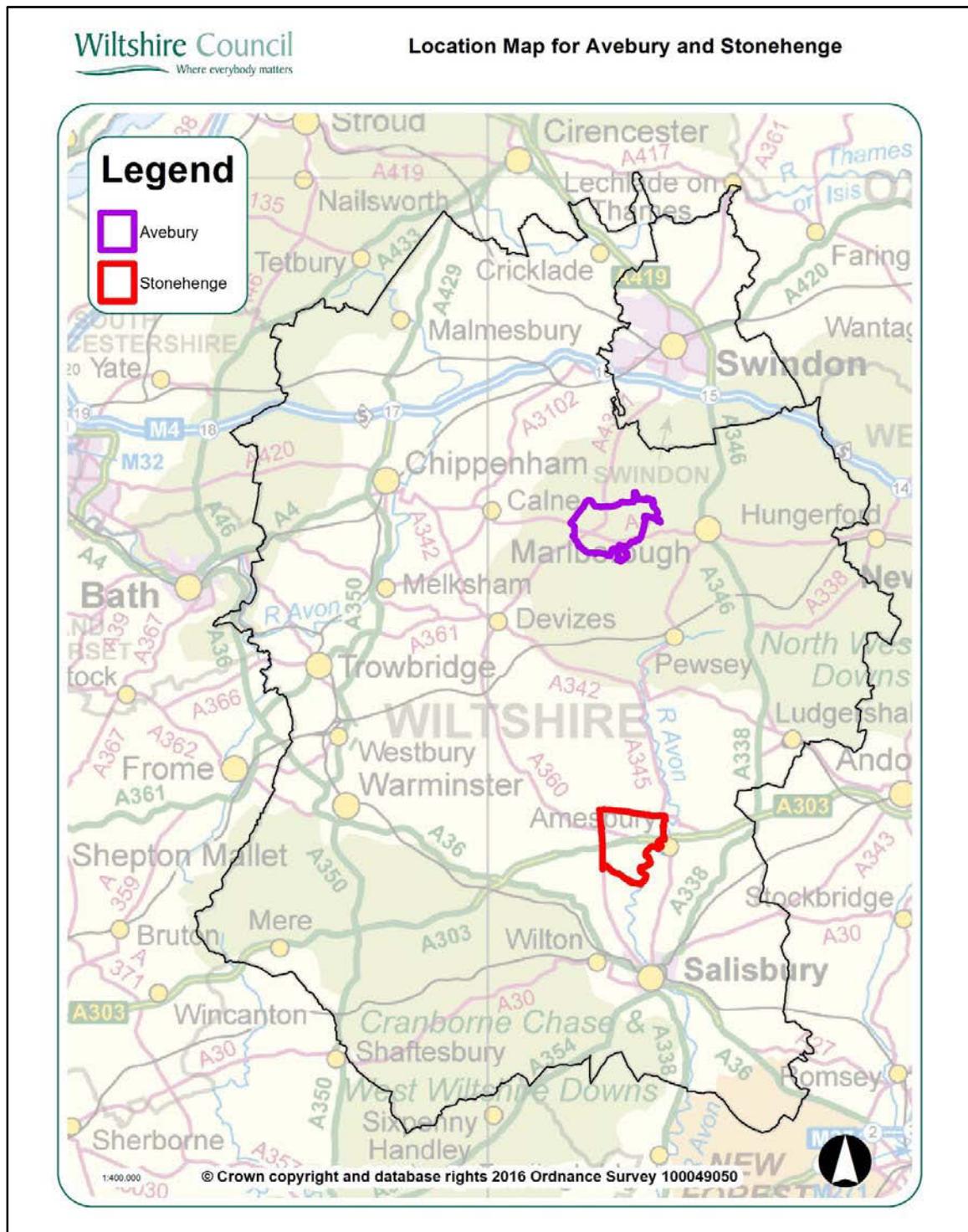


Figure 42

### **Important considerations for the World Heritage Site data:**

- *HLC not LCA*  
The data presented here relates to Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) not Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), although both exist for the WHS. HLC identifies and records the present day character of the landscape but examines the historical and archaeological processes which have influenced its form and also records time depth (i.e. previous character). It is focused on the human effects over time on the present landscape. LCA focuses on a multi-themed analysis, description and classification of the present day landscape. It does not record time depth. The HLC data takes the form of numerous landscape units (or polygons) whereas the LCA data takes the form of larger geographic areas defined by its multi-themed criteria.
- *HLC Methodology*  
The HLC project was purely desk-based and undertaken using a limited suite of sources: primarily comprising a selection of modern and historic maps and aerial photographs (see the Methodology section). While a larger number of sources were used to study the World Heritage Site than other areas of the county, it was still a rapid and broad brush study. Character was recorded on the basis of general dominance (in places where there were mixed character) and it was not possible at this County scale to record areas of under 1ha individually. The HLC focused on the legible character that could be identified from the available sources, and polygons were created on the basis of present day boundaries and divisions.

### Application

Avebury and Stonehenge are landscapes that provide a wealth of opportunities to analyse the HLC data; far more than can be presented here in this case study. However, a number of salient themes can be explored using the dataset and its associated mapping. These comprise:

- The differences in the landscapes of Avebury and Stonehenge
  - Looking at Broad Type and Narrow Type data
  - Presenting statistics on landscape character
- The influences of watercourses/ geology on the character of the World Heritage Site
  - Considering environmental influences on Historic Landscape Character
  - Comparison with similar landscapes (Salisbury Plain Training Area)
- The role of archaeology on the character of the World Heritage Site
  - Comparison with archaeology recorded by the Historic Environment Record
  - Discussion of legibility of archaeology at broad scale

## Analysis

The first aspect to consider is the differences and similarities in character that are highlighted by the HLC data for the Avebury and Stonehenge components of the World Heritage Site.

### *Broad Character Type Data*

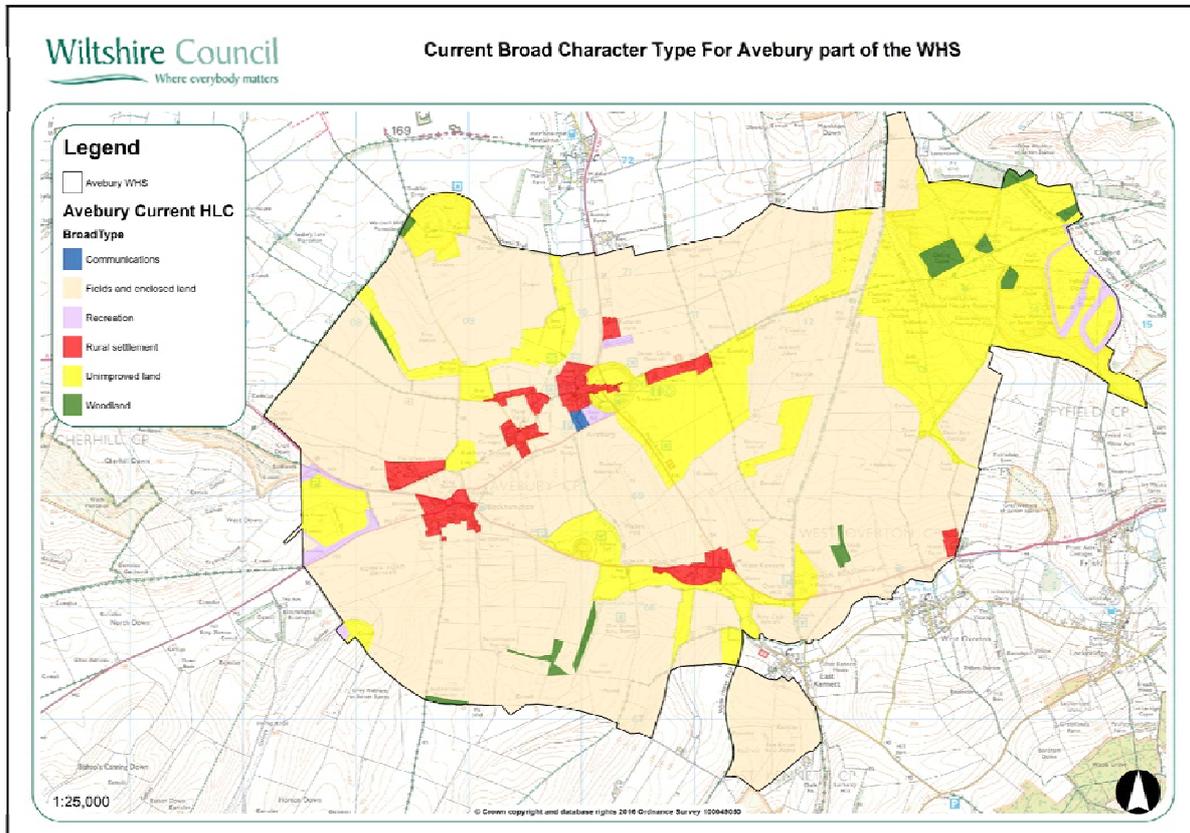


Figure 43

### **Avebury:**

- The landscape of the Avebury section of the World Heritage Site is not especially varied at a Broad Type level. It is dominated by fields, unimproved land and areas of rural settlement. Very little of the landscape is dominated by modern amenities, recreational/ornamental features (Avebury Manor was too small to map separately)
- Woodland is largely absent and seems to be associated with the nature reserve on Fyfield Down in the north-eastern part of the WHS, or the recent fields
- The unimproved land correlates with the principal archaeological monuments such as Avebury Henge, Windmill Hill and Silbury Hill. The landscape character here is interrelated with the management of these archaeological sites/areas through ownership and management agreements
- The majority of settlement areas lie in the centre of the WHS, and these have not expanded greatly in modernity. This central occupation gives rise to the notion of Avebury being a 'Living Landscape' as the village of Avebury dominates the core
- Only to a limited extent does the area's dominant character result from the henge being an attraction; the only other recreational facilities relate to the equine industry

- The landscape is heavily partitioned by routeways (roads, tracks and the river) and this has had an impact on the layout of both modern/historic fields

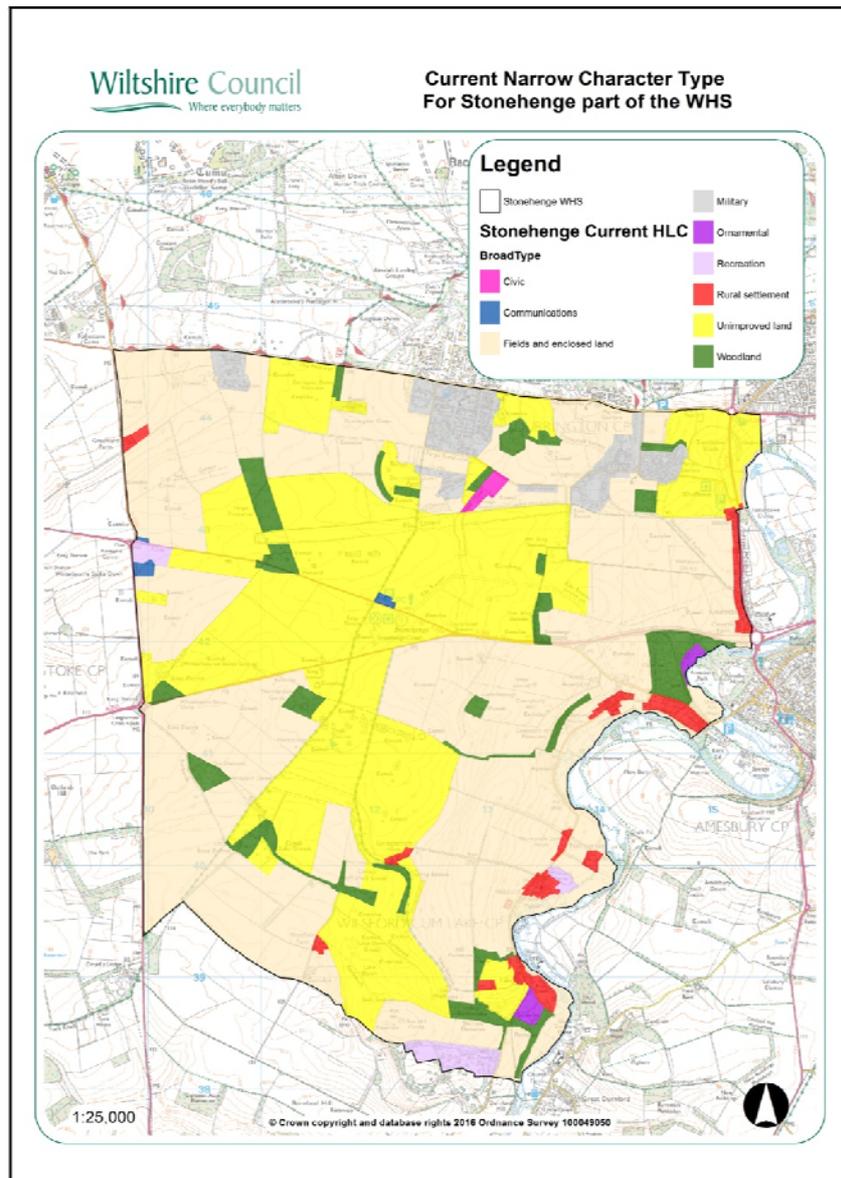


Figure 44

Stonehenge:

- Although the Stonehenge part of the WHS occupies a larger area, it nevertheless remains a more diverse landscape. In addition to the substantial areas of unimproved land and fields, there is a substantial woodland component, zones of military activity in the north and clear elements of designed or ornamental landscape
- Unlike at Avebury, the historic settlement areas lie at the periphery, concentrated to the east in the river valleys. The more modern military character areas penetrate further into the core of the site – possibly as a result of different landscape management and planning priorities
- The central part of the Stonehenge WHS is dominated by open or unimproved land and the fields by and large exist in the peripheral parts of the landscape – often accompanied by modern woodland planted to serve aesthetic/ agricultural purposes

- A degree of more modern landscape character can be observed in relation to the role of Stonehenge as a visitor attraction generating need for the associated visitor centre and parking zones
- There is a lack of development considering the size of this area (contrasting with similar landscapes in the Marlborough Downs).

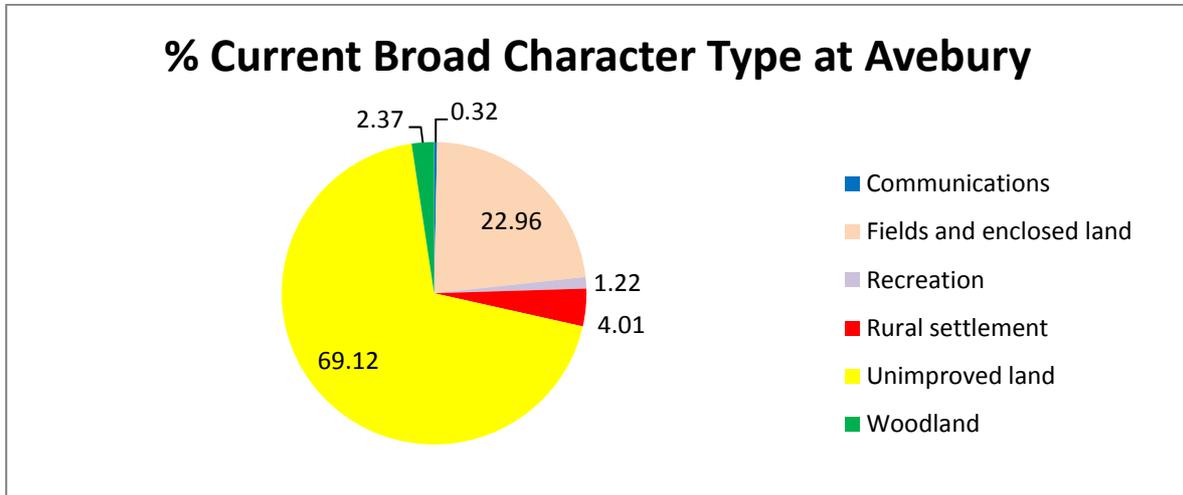


Figure 45

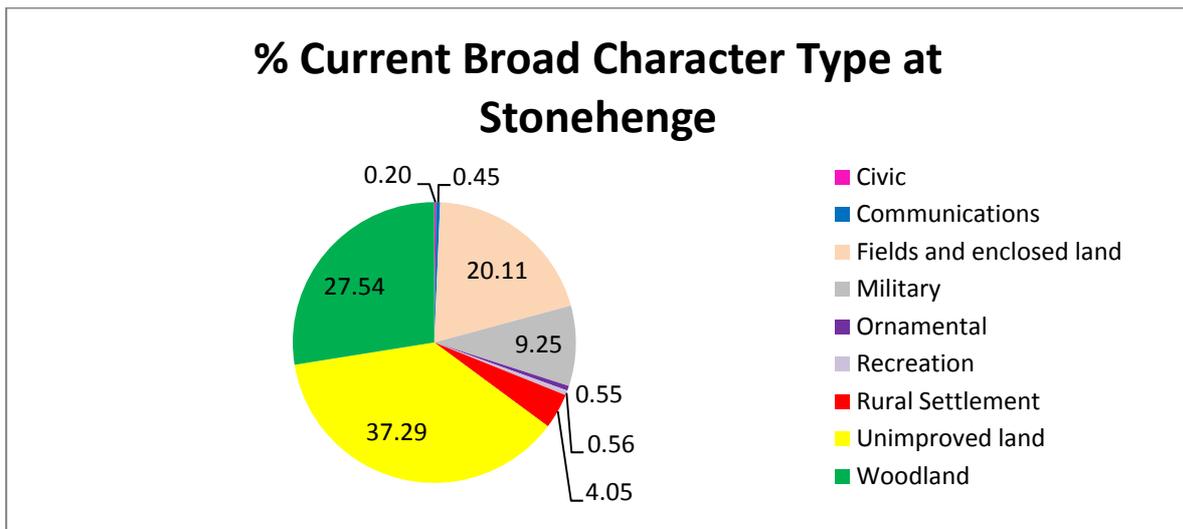


Figure 46

#### Comparing Stonehenge and Avebury:

- Woodland is a significant recent component to the Stonehenge landscape, whereas the relative absence at Avebury is more consistent with the previous landscape character (from the prehistoric to post medieval period)
- The northern part of the Stonehenge area has been encroached upon by expansion of military activities at Bulford/Durrington/Larkhill in modernity and the south has similarly been encroached upon by landscaped estates created during the post medieval era
- The Avebury WHS area is more finely subdivided by routes/trackways than the Stonehenge WHS area. This leads to the present day landscape of Avebury being presented at a finer grain overall

- Settlement form is dictated by local topography and routeways but remains small scale and limited to areas of historic occupation
- The presence of open/unimproved land is statistically more characteristic of the Avebury landscape than the Stonehenge landscape (not a common perception)
- Both areas are typical Wiltshire chalkland landscapes that are rural, sparsely occupied, open with big viewsheds (some impact on this by woodland at Stonehenge) and little modern infrastructure/development to serve their settlements
- No real pedigree for industrial or recreational activities in these landscapes – the properties of the WHS as an attraction have not unduly affected wider character

### Narrow Character

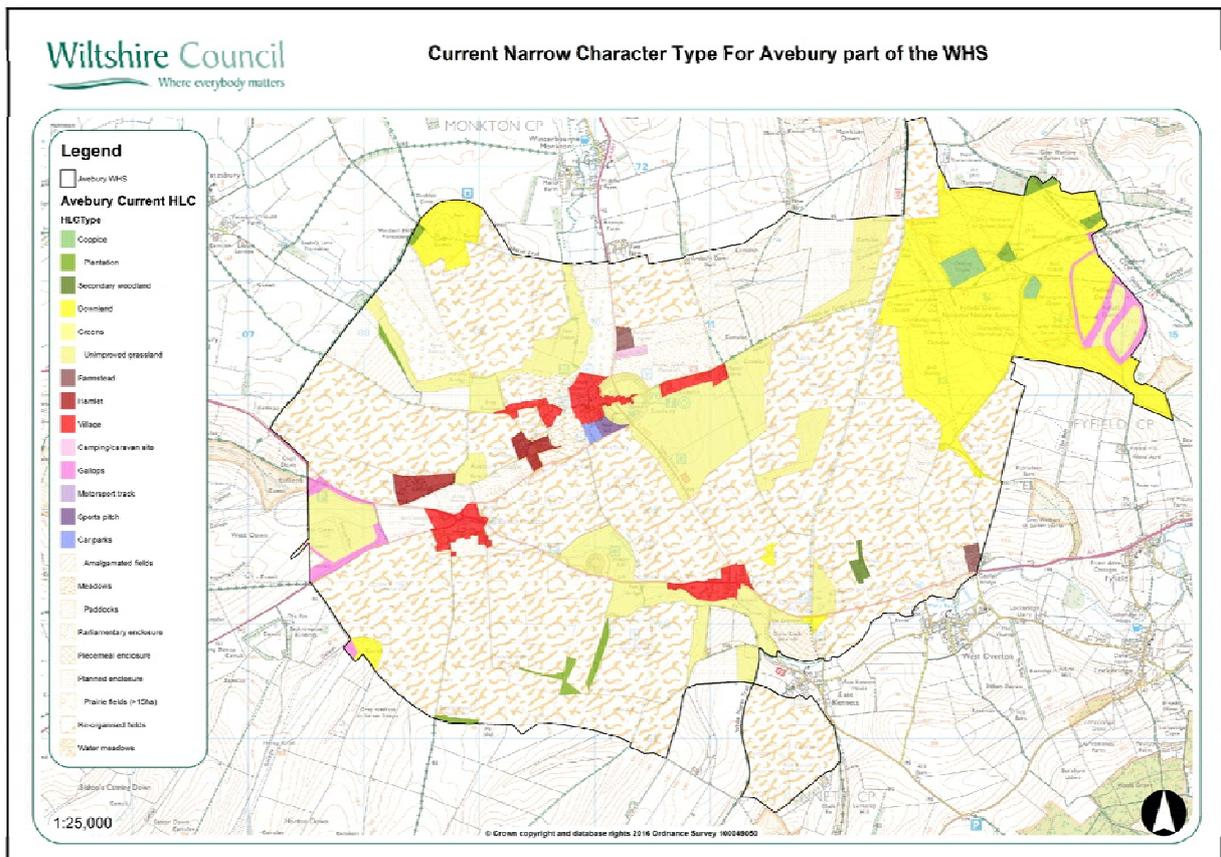


Figure 47

### Avebury:

- The fields which dominate the WHS are mainly modern and have seen boundary alterations and amalgamation. However, earlier fields (medieval and post medieval) do survive particularly in the areas removed from the village of Avebury itself
- Not a heavily farmed landscape until the late post medieval era and few large farmsteads can be identified within the WHS boundary – probably more pastoral
- Much of the open grassland is recent in origin and results from restoration linked to archaeological monuments. Historic downland mainly survives at Windmill Hill and on Fyfield Down which has become a nature reserve and been subject to tree planting
- While gallops have been created in the eastern/western areas, they are not obtrusive in the landscape, although there are few areas of equine industry in Wiltshire

- Settlements show very little expansion and modernisation and all retain historic plan forms and potentially early origins (from at least the medieval era)
- The landscape character and land use has been influenced by existing routeways, with a confluence of routes centred on Avebury henge itself
- Unlike other landscape based on chalk geology in Wiltshire, there was little formal enclosure through Parliamentary Enclosure Acts, nor any obvious common land
- Rural settlements are historically linked, demonstrate nucleate or linear plan forms and are geographically close to one another
- No substantial wooded areas exist within the Avebury area, and those that do are plantations of post medieval or modern date
- The high proportion of new fields correlates with the diminishing proportion of downland, as prairie fields (and similar types) are a typically a modern conversion

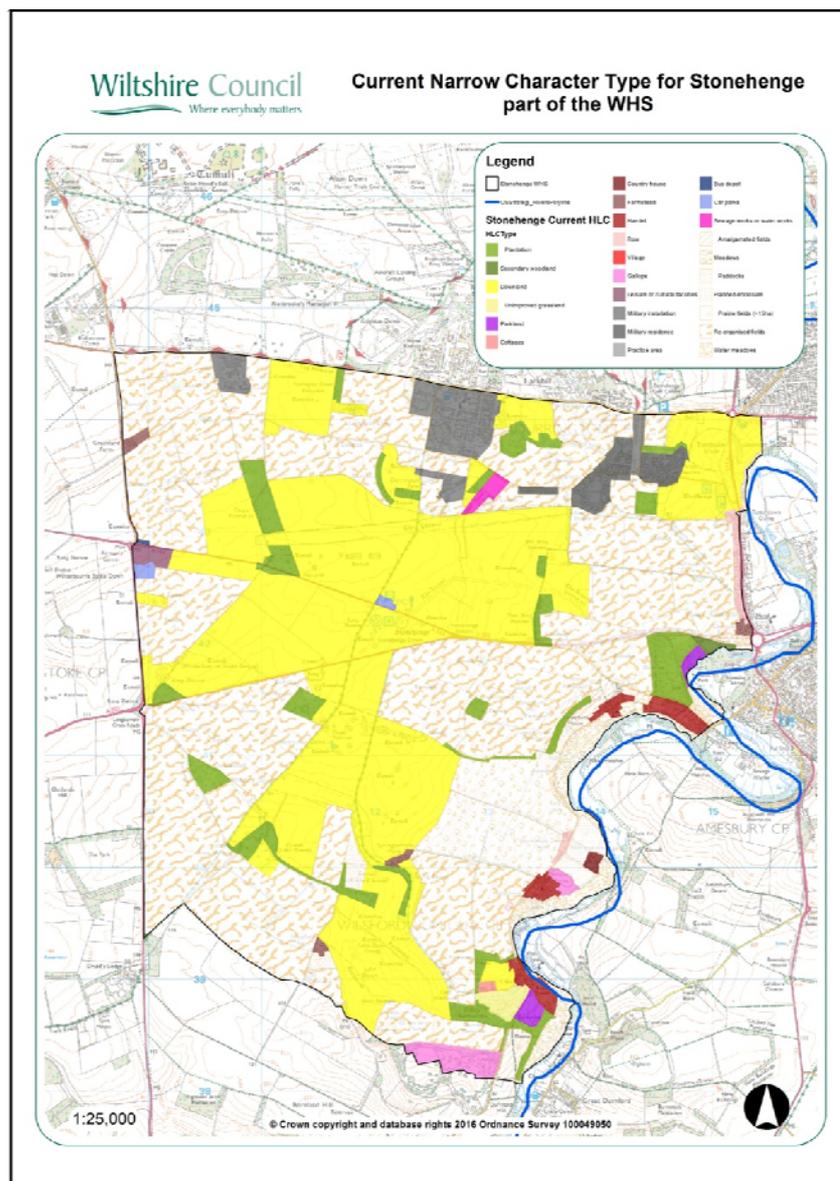


Figure 48

Stonehenge:

- Almost none of the fieldscapes that dominate the current landscape survive in their historic form. Virtually no planned, parliamentary, piecemeal or assarted fields exist
- However, the central portions, dominated by downland, are a much more even mix of ancient survivals and modern restorations (focusing on key archaeological sites)
- While there are large blocks of woodland, most are plantations set out in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century to enhance the landscape or contribute to the growing agricultural economy
- The parkland relates to later post medieval estates, but exists in areas of former occupation/settlement – such as the Lake deserted medieval village or at Vespasian’s Camp Iron Age hillfort. These estates focused on the river valleys
- Military character takes the form of installations/residential areas. These are more dominant/intrusive Types and tend to destroy earlier character features
- More farms exist within the Stonehenge part of the WHS, these account for the proliferation of modern fields but management plans have mitigated field expansion
- Settlement is limited to river valleys at the eastern edge of the WHS, and they have grown little, retain historic form and character and utilise water meadows

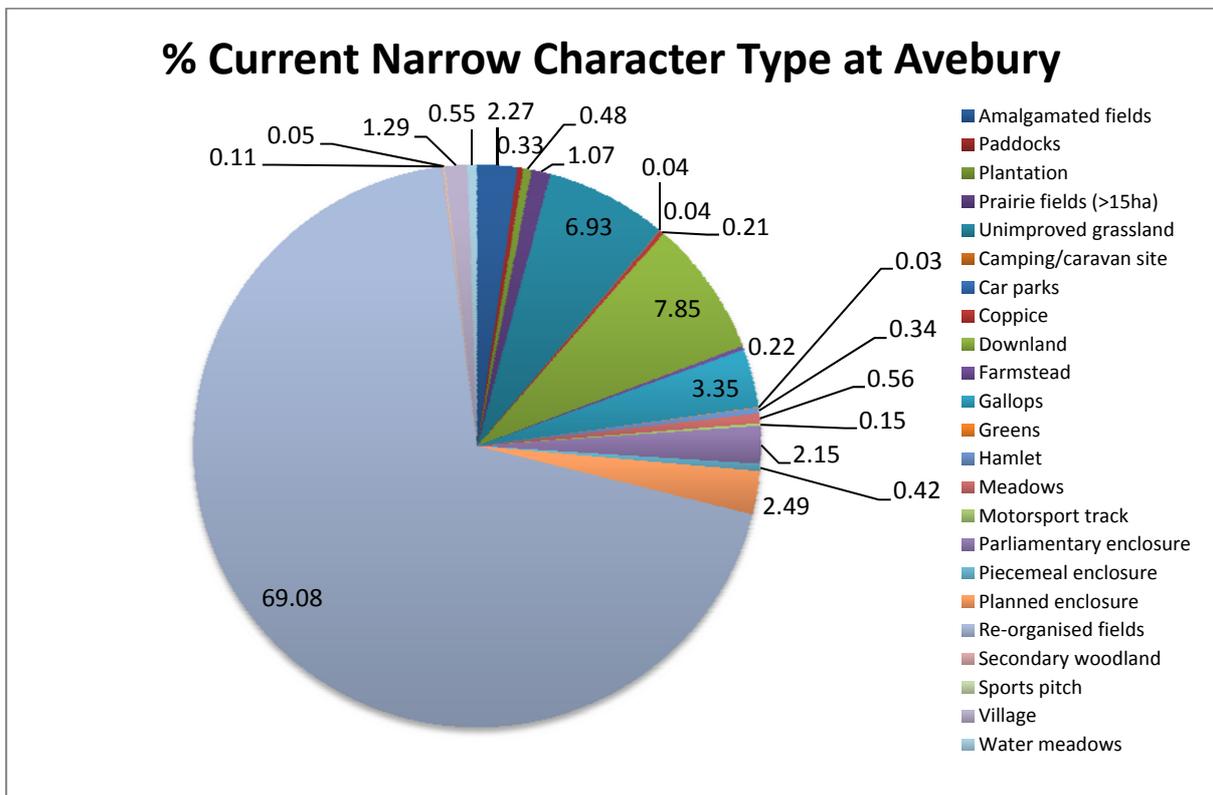


Figure 49

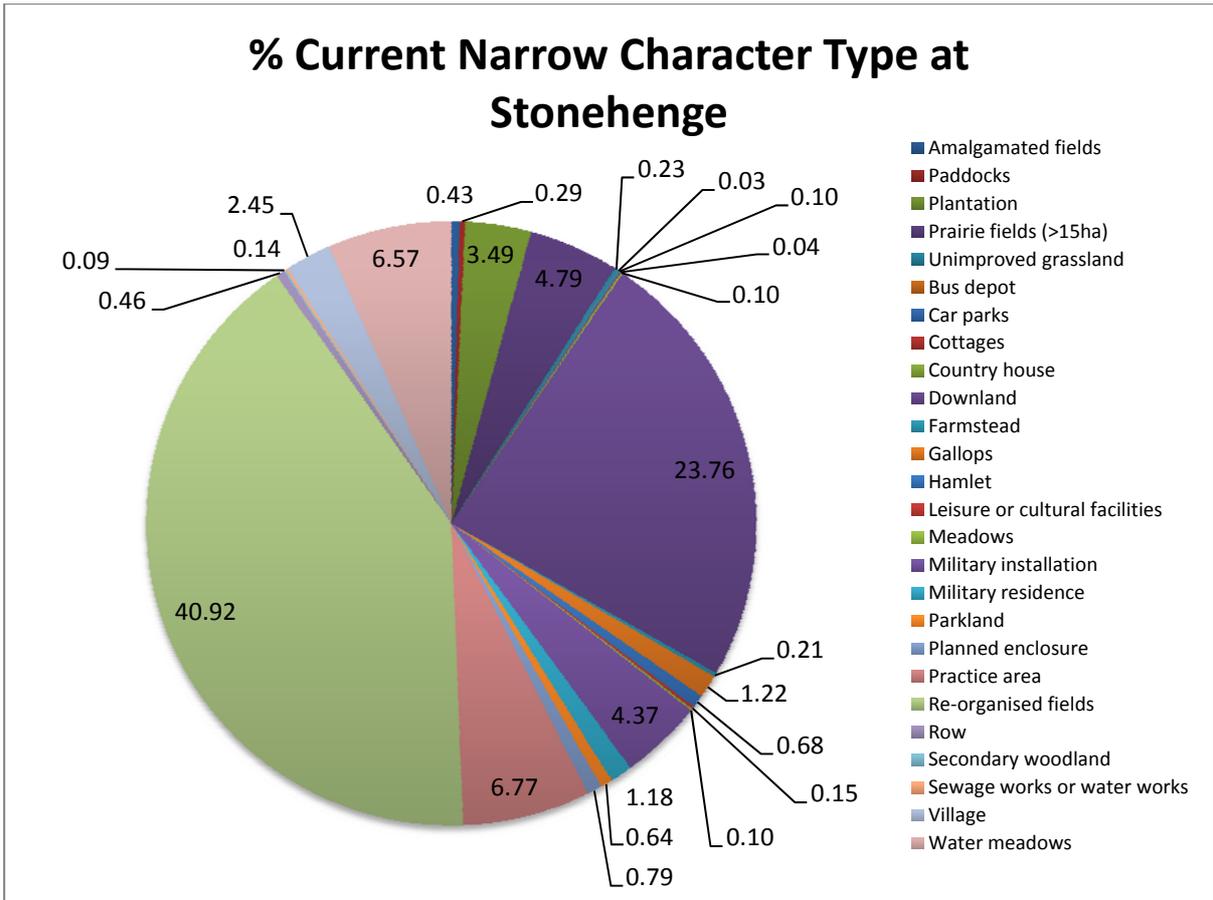


Figure 50

Conclusions regarding current historic character for both parts of the WHS:

- Both elements of the WHS contain the following narrow types: re-organised fields, amalgamated fields, plantation, downland, unimproved grassland, village, practice area and military installation
- Fieldscapes are overwhelmingly modern with few surviving medieval or post medieval examples. Some early fields (prehistoric or Roman) or actually more legible
- Reversion to downland/grassland due to management practices has helped to reverse the trend of expanding fieldscapes
- Rural settlement, in the form of villages and hamlets, tends to have considerable time depth in form and character, has undergone little modern change and lines routeways/rivers
- Woodland is generally limited and has fairly recent origins (late post medieval or modern creation date) as plantations to enhance views or for an agricultural purpose
- The modern infrastructure used to serve the tourist industry associated with the WHS has had a very limited impact on the character of the landscape at the scale of this HLC
- As with the Marlborough Downs/Wanborough Plain, the main recreational features are gallops created on former downland – but this is not intrusive modern historic character
- Neither landscape currently has a large number of farms, either within settlements or dispersed across the landscape, which suggests limited arable farming in the past and more of a pastoral economy

- The proportion of land dominated by military character (installations, housing and practice areas) is relatively limited, but these military landscapes are striking and do have some impact on the survival of previous character
- There was little Parliamentary enclosure of downland to form fields as demonstrated by the current/previous character types
- Routeways have helped to shape the more recent historic landscape character, as the presence of roads, trackways and rivers has influenced the grain of land use
- The exceptional preservation of downland on Fyfield Down has led to its designation as a nature reserve but this has not altered its historic character



Plate 9



Plate 10



Plate 11

### *The impact of watercourses and geology on HLC*

The HLC data can also be compared against the underlying geology and watercourses to see the influences these have had on character and land use.

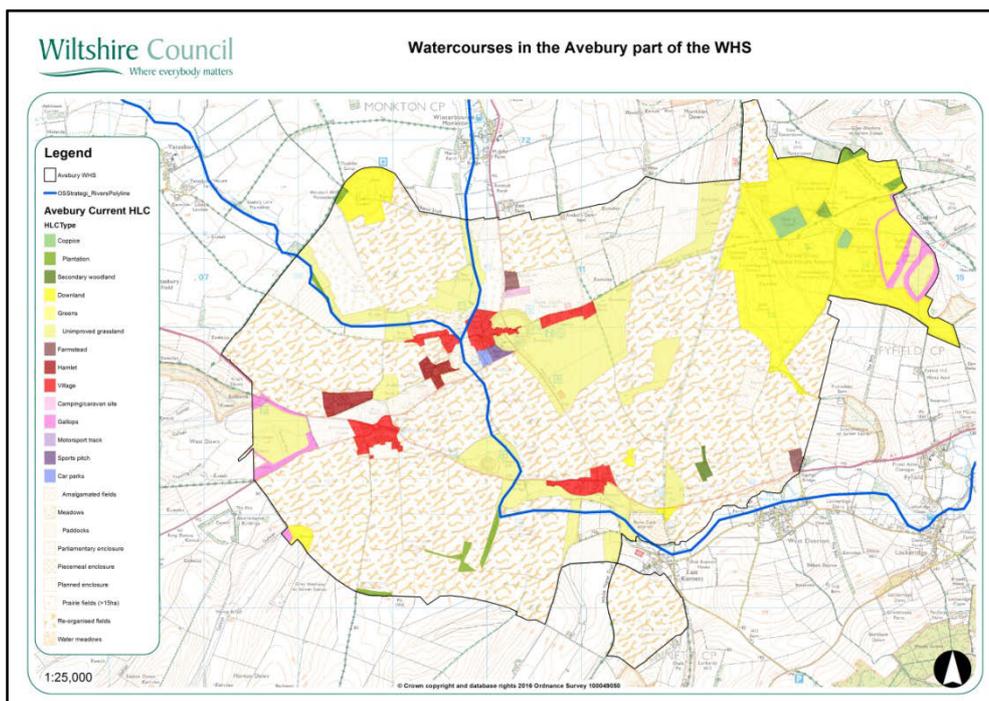


Figure 51

- Watercourses are central to Avebury and have strongly influenced settlement location with the villages and hamlets being close to the river
- Water meadows were created in the post medieval period to support pastoral agriculture, some survive outside Avebury village and more extensive systems have since disappeared – in common with other river valley landscapes
- Many important archaeological sites in Avebury align with watercourses and these areas either survive as historic grassland/downland or have been reinstated as such
- Traditionally upland areas away from the watercourses have changed little and retain the highest legibility of previous landscape character – especially ancient fields and ritual/ceremonial landscapes
- The fertile land around rivers has been increasingly exploited for farming, and fields have become larger and more orderly since the later post medieval period as a result of agricultural intensification
- However, those historic fields that do exist (with medieval or post medieval origins) with a planned, piecemeal or Parliamentary character lie adjacent to the river
- Unlike in other parts of the county, there is no surviving wetland or woodland associated with the river – it is probably that any such landscapes were removed a long time ago to enable fuller use of the landscape
- The hydrology is obviously linked to the topography and it is clear from the HLC data that these factors still have a substantial effect on land-use, especially considering the greater variance in topography at Avebury than at Stonehenge

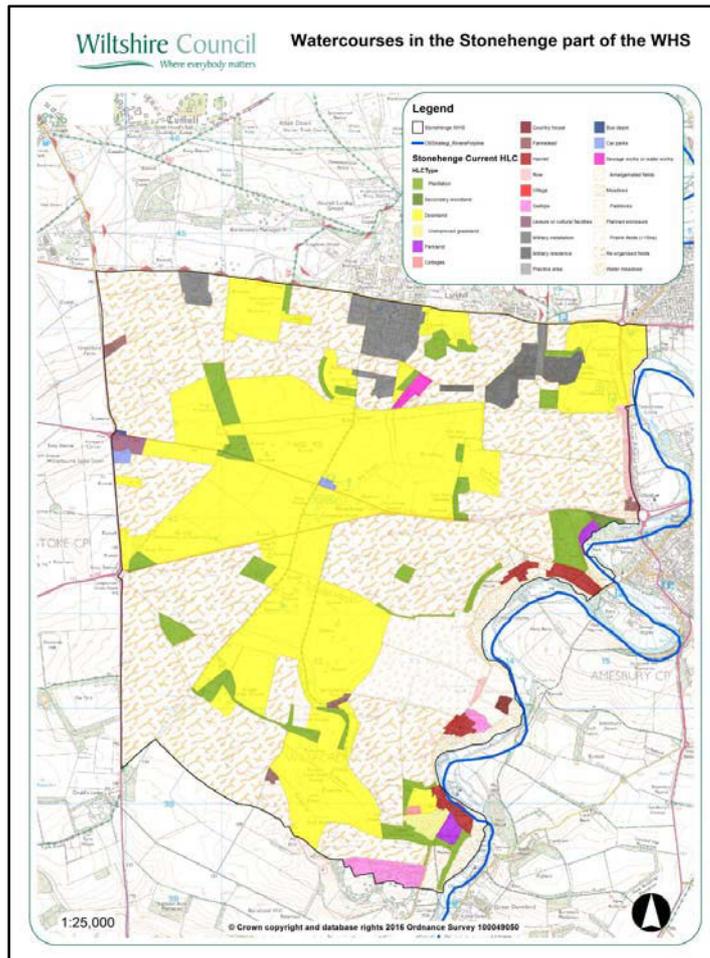
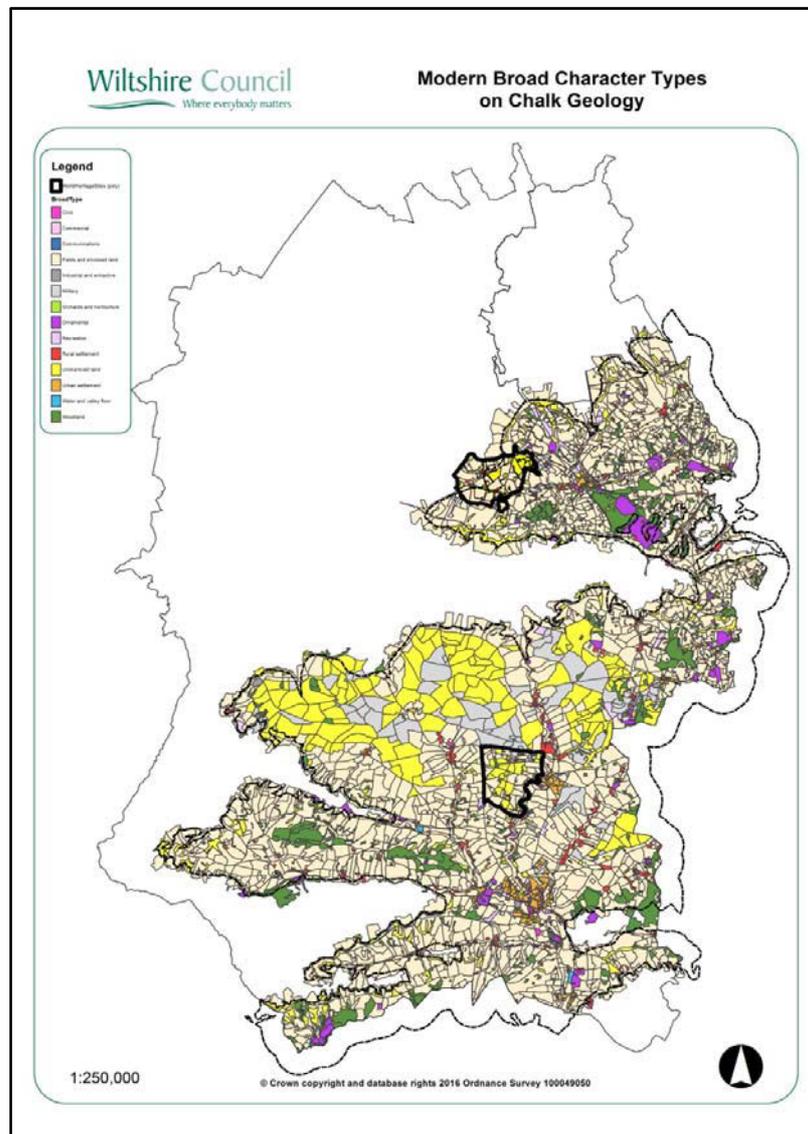


Figure 52

- The single major watercourse in the Stonehenge component of the WHS lies at the eastern periphery and primarily influences settlement form
- All the historic settlements line the river and have expanded little over time and retain their historic character through plan form and re-use of historic buildings
- The villages and hamlets are part of the classic river valley parish layout that can be seen throughout the south of the county; especially in the Salisbury area. These parishes have central riverside settlements, surrounded by agricultural fields, meadows in the hinterland and then grazing areas in the higher downland areas
- The presence of the river was drawn in to enhance the ornamental landscapes (parks) developed around some historic manors and their associated planting
- The river has clearly influenced the creation of previous ceremonial, occupation and potentially defensive landscapes. The river may have been a barrier, a line of communication, a routeway for transport/trade or a combination of all of these from the prehistoric era onwards. The associated landscapes remain legible in the HLC as hillforts, deserted settlements and funerary historic landscapes
- The only surviving historic fields (planned enclosures in the Normanton area) lie adjacent to the river which is a pattern repeated elsewhere in the county

**Geology:**

The underlying geology has had a clear influence on the character of the World Heritage Site, particularly at Stonehenge where it lies fully on the chalk. The maps below show the relationship between the chalk and the HLC, with the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS areas being highlighted:



**Figure 53**

The present day landscape of the WHS bears some similarities to, and differences from, other areas of the county. In terms of differences, the HLC data shows that there is a greater degree of surviving unimproved land than in many other chalk land areas (Salisbury Plain Training Area is the exception). There is also generally less woodland than in many of the chalk landscapes which accommodate ancient woodland/former Royal Forests (such as Savernake, and Grovely wood which both show on the map). When considered overall, there is perhaps less variation in the landscape than in some of the chalk landscapes to the south of Salisbury and in the area around Marlborough. In addition, the presence of the military in the northern part of Stonehenge is also a clear difference to the majority of other chalk land areas.

However, there are also many similarities in the landscape of the World Heritage Site and those that exist on the chalk elsewhere in the county. The scale of fields and their enclosure from downland is consistent with many other areas. The small scale settlements in the river valleys, and the exploitation of fields for meadows/water meadows, are also a classic feature of chalk landscapes in Wiltshire. The fact that the settlements related to the WHS have changed little is also consistent with some of the other settlements on the chalk, particularly in the southwest near Tisbury. While there are manorial landscapes in the areas of chalk geology, these are more limited than elsewhere (such as the clay vales in the northwest of Wiltshire), and again Stonehenge and Avebury are consistent with this trend.

So in the Modern period, there are various aspects in which the historic landscape character of the World Heritage Site is distinctive, but in modern land use it also shares much with other areas on the chalk. But the patterns change if one looks at the late post medieval period:

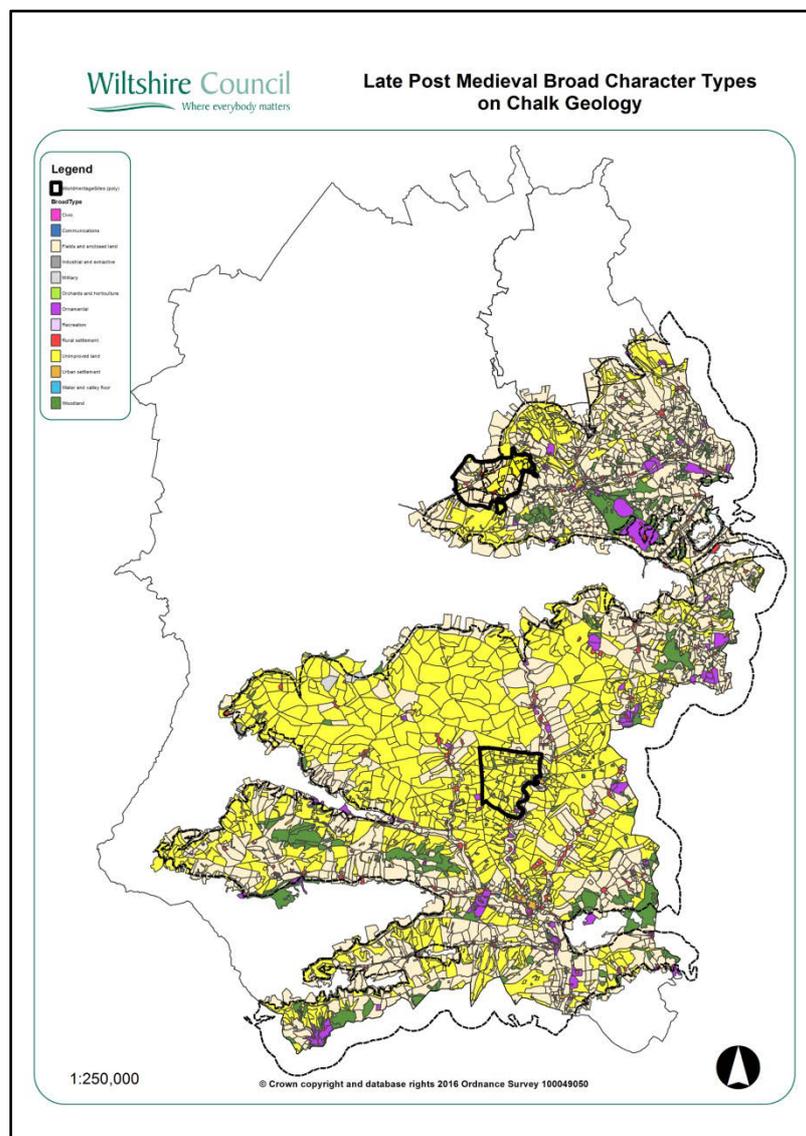


Figure 54

In the late post medieval period, the historic landscape character of the World Heritage Site was more or less entirely consistent with other chalk land areas of Wiltshire. Downland predominated and few large scale fields and enclosed areas existed, with agriculture

focused on the river valley and lowland areas. Settlement and amenities were sparse in these chalk landscapes and the local economy likely relied on pastoral agriculture. Unless relating to substantial ancient Royal Forest, woodland was sparse and mainly planted for aesthetic purposes.

*Archaeology in the WHS and the relationship to HLC*

Both Avebury and Stonehenge are of World Heritage Site status for the wealth and preservation of archaeology (especially of prehistoric date) that exist within their locale and the prehistoric cultural landscape narratives they possess. There is a great deal of upstanding archaeology, and as such it is useful to look at the HLC data in relation to the data recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER).

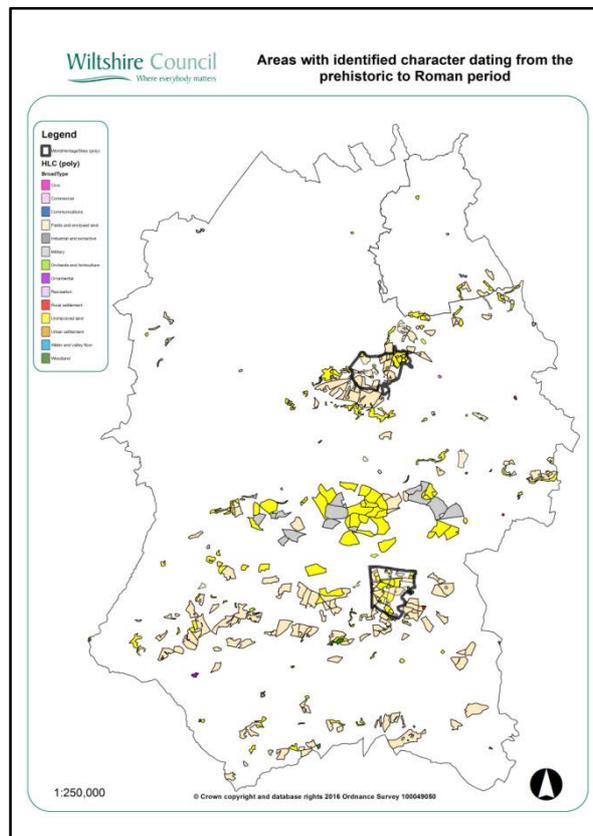


Figure 55

It can be seen that across the whole county, there is reasonably good survival and legibility of landscapes dominated by processes and activities of prehistoric origin. Both elements of the World Heritage Site contain a high proportion of landscapes where prehistoric character can be perceived. However, there are other clusters in the county such as on Salisbury Plain, within the Kennet valley and across the northwest clay vales. This might suggest that while Stonehenge and Avebury have good survival and legibility of ‘ancient landscapes’ they are not unique or uncommon in this respect.

When the map for the early chronological periods (prehistoric and Roman) is studied the concentration of landscapes with significant time depth, as demonstrated by the HLC types, is very high within both the Stonehenge and Avebury parts of the World Heritage Site. The

only other area with a similar density of legible 'early' character is Salisbury Plain (especially within the Training Area) which was discussed in the previous case study. As such, the HLC provides further evidence for the presence of so many Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments across a substantial area, and their inter-relationships, creating an unparalleled prehistoric landscape. In addition, during the last few decades there has been a programme of reverting parts of the landscape back to open downland which at least creates a feel of the original setting of the archaeological monuments, even if it is a modern re-imagining.

At a closer level this can be shown by comparing the HLC and HER data for Avebury/Stonehenge. This clearly shows the relationship between archaeology and the present landscape's historic character. The following trends can be observed on the resulting map overlays:

- The HER records a high proportion of recorded archaeology in the downland areas, but also within modern fields – less shows up in woodland but this may be due to a lack of study or visibility, especially from the air
- Monuments survive less well in the densely developed parts of the military installation at Stonehenge, although the present settlements preserve their earlier historic character
- The impact of re-organisation and amalgamation of historic fields across many areas of the World Heritage Site varies in relation to early (prehistoric and Roman) character – the degree of change and intensity of use affects its survival
- The earthworks of water meadows survive well at both Avebury and Stonehenge and are clearly represented by both the HER and HLC datasets
- Areas reverted back to grassland or downland at Avebury and Stonehenge relate to key monuments in the landscape and they are the result of recent land management
- The modern recreational features (such as the gallops) have been created in areas where the HER maps fewer archaeological sites and monuments. The reasons for this are currently unclear.
- The density of archaeology recorded in the land immediately surrounding both henges is probably the result of intense study rather than due to a landscape connection
- The topography has to some extent influenced the earlier and present landscape character and the survival of archaeological features. More remote or upland locations preserve their relatively early historic character best, even though many have been in agricultural use in more recent times
- At Avebury, the north-western portion of the WHS is not on the chalk and this may have had an impact on the recording of archaeological features on the HER

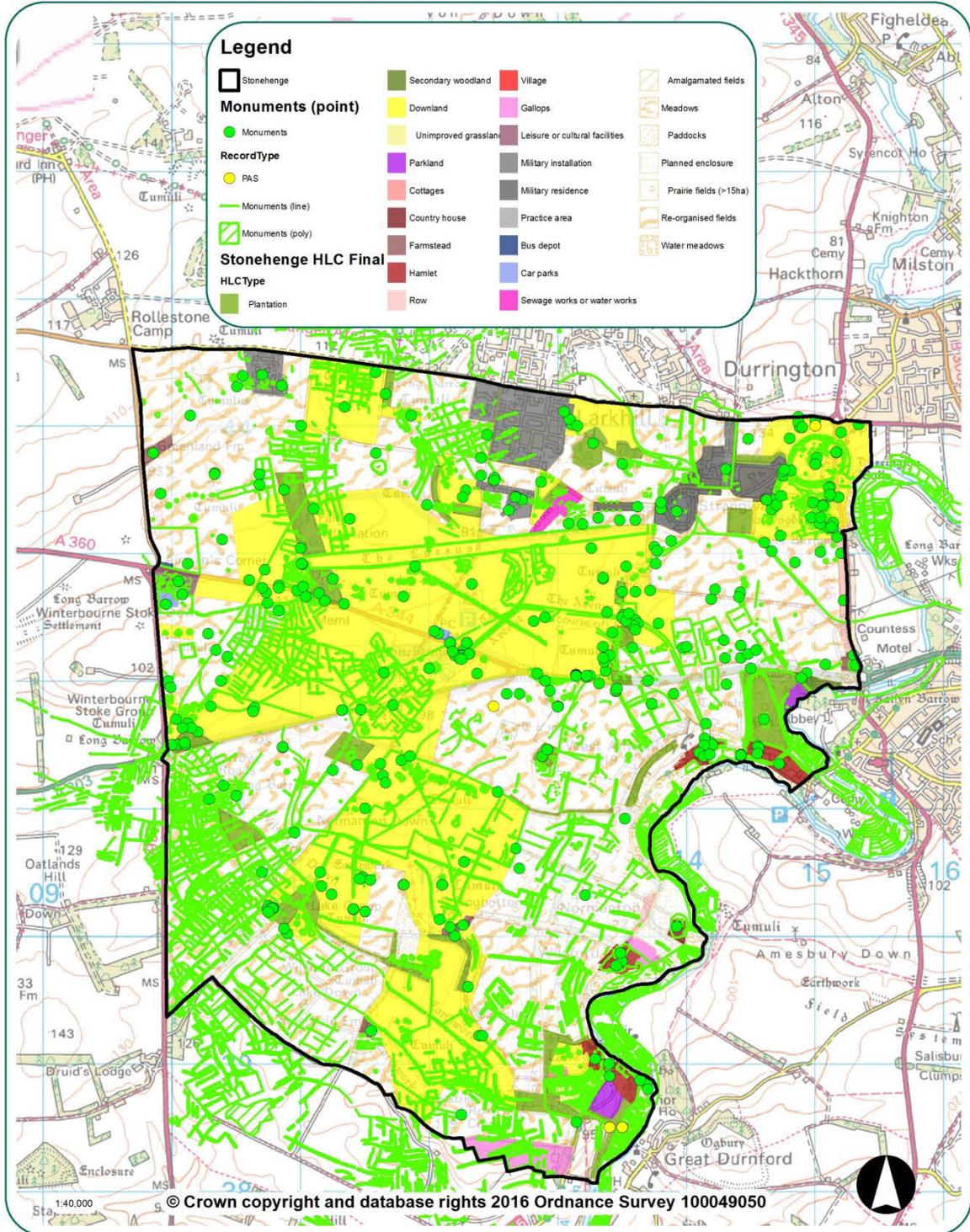


Figure 56

Archaeology recorded on the Historic Environment Record  
for the Avebury part of the World Heritage Site

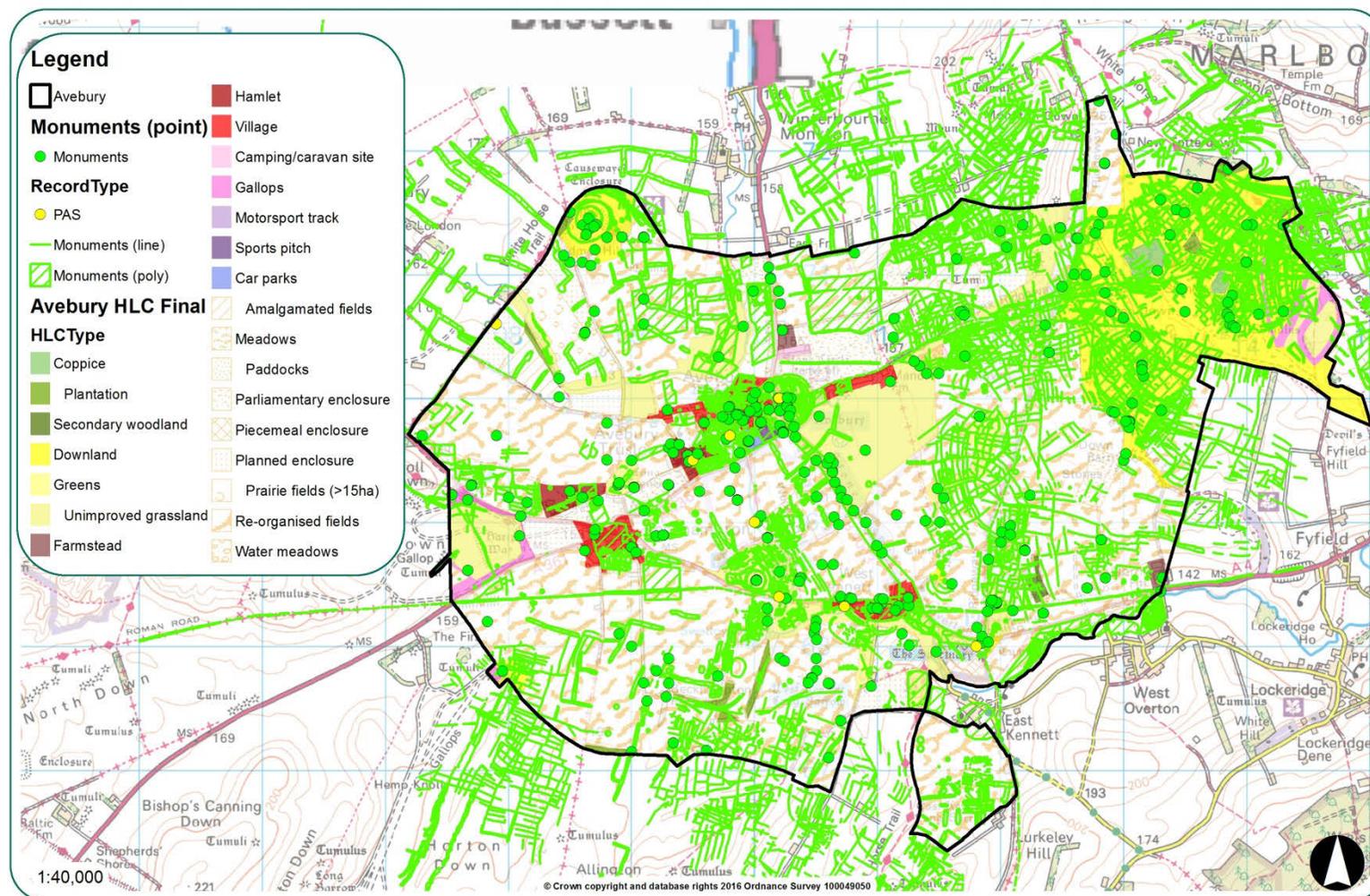


Figure 57

*N.B. The archaeology on the HER in green on Figures 56 & 57 derives from fieldwork, aerial photographs, historic/modern maps and archaeological research, while the data in yellow is derived from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) which records and catalogues archaeological artefacts and finds.*

## Outcomes

As this case study has demonstrated, there are numerous ways in which to use HLC data to analyse and interpret the landscape character and evolution of the *Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites* World Heritage Site. Other themes and theories could be explored using the information and attributes recorded by the HLC project, and the data itself could be modified or enhanced in the future to help deepen the complexity of analysis. Nevertheless, the HLC can be seen to have identified certain trends and highlighted certain factors that merit consideration when studying Avebury and Stonehenge:

- The WHS is by and large a typical chalk downland landscape, that bears similarities with other areas set on similar geology elsewhere in the county
- However, the survival (assisted by reversion schemes) of this landscape's character is highly unusual and contributes to the 'special' qualities of the WHS
- The survival and density of the archaeology within the WHS affected relatively recent land use and character, and is the major reason for the survival of these archaeologically-rich chalk landscapes.
- There are parallels between the historic landscape character of the WHS and the SPTA. The nature of the ownership and management of these parts of Wiltshire has led to the retention and enhancement of the important very early prehistoric aspects embedded within their present historic character
- Neither WHS area's landscape is hugely varied, and there has been a lack of modern development, with few landscapes dominated by infrastructure or recreational facilities. This may reflect the successes of late 20<sup>th</sup> century management initiatives
- Woodland is not a dominant landscape feature at Avebury, and is a recent (late post medieval and modern) addition to Stonehenge. These were landscapes that were open and remote in character from the prehistoric period
- While farming and agriculture has had an impact on the WHS, particularly since the late post medieval period, there are still areas of farmland where the prehistoric character remains legible across substantial areas
- It is the legibility of the prehistoric character that particularly sets the WHS apart from other areas in Wiltshire and Swindon. Later features such as Saxon/medieval field systems and lynchets do exist within the WHS areas but also exist in significant concentrations elsewhere
- The proportion, extent and survival of prehistoric to Roman coaxial fields, brick shaped fields and ceremonial/ritual sites within the WHS is exceptional and unusual
- The presence of watercourses has influenced both the present and previous historic character of the rich landscape at both Avebury and Stonehenge. The HLC (and much recent research) seems to show that landscapes dominated by ritual/ceremonial activity are associated with the rivers and streams and some of the historic fields were situated at riverine locations

- Both parts of the WHS had post medieval water meadows which made use of the river for grazing and hay production
- Villages/hamlets at Avebury and Stonehenge have expanded little over time and bear many similarities in form and character to other river valley settlements elsewhere
- Farm location and size, when considered with the field size and morphology, suggests a pastoral agricultural history even though much land is now arable
- Few ornamental areas are recorded as the dominant current character. Most, like Avebury Manor, are too small to be recorded separately (so are subsumed within polygons dominated by other Character Types)

## 6.6 Case Study 4: HLC Data and Wiltshire Farmsteads Data

### Context/Issue

While the HLC dataset is a powerful tool to analyse the landscape in its own right, it is also a useful comparator to use in conjunction with other historic environment datasets. One such dataset is the Wiltshire Farmsteads Project, which was produced by Forum Heritage Services (in 2014) in conjunction with Historic England and Wiltshire Buildings Record. The Farmsteads Project mapped, recorded and analysed all of the historic farmsteads in the county and how they changed and evolved over time. This evidence base for farmsteads was intended to increase understanding of how traditional farm buildings contribute to local distinctiveness and sense of place.



Plate 12



Plate 13

The HLC dataset can provide a spatial framework to help understand how elements of the landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon, such as the form and scale of fields, are the result of past patterns of historic land use and settlement. When compared with the Farmsteads Project data it can help to:

- Identify links between farmstead location and the landscape/historic landscape
- Investigate by date and form whether there are relationships between farmsteads and particular landscapes
- Look at farmsteads at a parish level to see if local narratives of character can be identified
- Help to define particular farmstead character areas on the basis of the synthesis of HLC and farmstead data.

### Application

There are several ways of using the HLC data and Farmsteads Project data to investigate any patterns or trends in their relationship:

- Comparison of farmsteads data and HLC data at a county level – looking at Broad Types in the landscape and demonstrating general trends in the areas they occupy

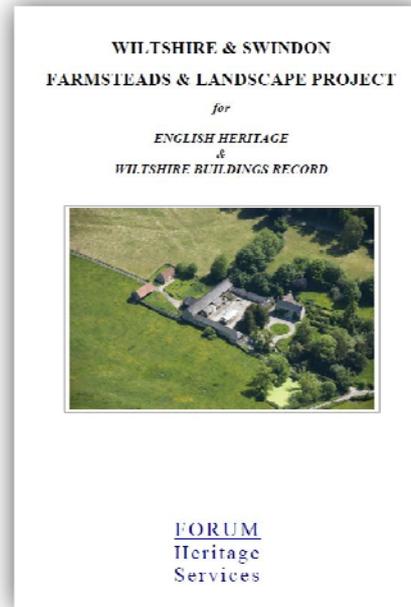
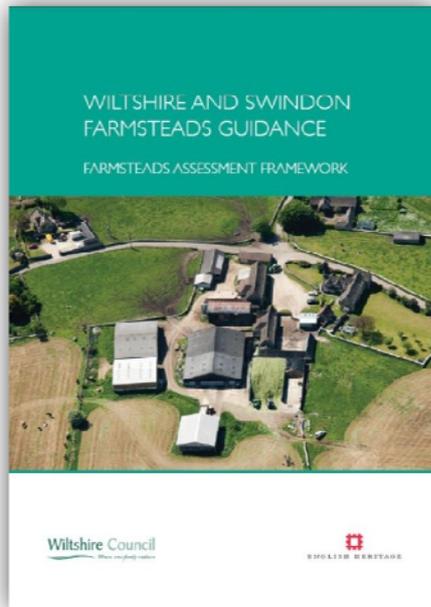
- Analysis of farmsteads data at a parish level using Narrow Type data to show local examples of the interplay between agricultural buildings and the landscapes which they occupy
  - through the production of maps
  - through the study of statistics
- Use of HLC and Farmsteads data to generate farmstead character zones – similar to the National Character Areas, but defined on the basis of the relationships between these datasets

Each of these methods will be presented in the subsequent pages and the HLC data will be analysed and discussed in order to answer the relevant questions. Analysis of the HLC data could be performed in relation to various attributes recorded by the Farmsteads Project – here it is primarily built form, but one could also look at date, survival or component type.

The study of Wiltshire's farmsteads, which Historic England funded, can serve as a starting point for anyone wishing to undertake survey or research.

- The ***Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Assessment Framework*** provides guidance for those considering the conversion of farm buildings and the development of farmsteads at the earliest possible stage in the planning process.
- The ***Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Character Statement*** provides an introductory summary followed by fully-illustrated guidance on the character and significance of the county's traditional farmsteads and buildings. Questions to guide future research are appended to this.
- The ***Farmstead and Landscape Statements*** contain more detailed information for each of the National Character Areas (as defined by Natural England) which are wholly or partly within the county.
- The ***Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads and Landscapes Project Report*** summarises the results of mapping 4028 farmsteads and 2745 outfarms and field barns across the county. These have been entered on to the county's Historic Environment Record, together with a User Guide on how to use the records.
- The ***Historic Environment Record User Guide*** shows how to use this data when visiting (online, or at the History Centre) the county HER.
- The ***Farmsteads Recording and Research Guidance*** is written for volunteers who are working in building recording groups or who are thinking of operating within one.

Further information about the Wiltshire Farmsteads Project is available from the following webpage: <http://www.wshc.eu/our-services/archaeology/24-our-services/archaeology/226-wiltshire-farmsteads-project.html>



### Analysis: Farmstead Types and HLC

The first set of maps that are presented in the following section look at the location of farmsteads of a particular plan form in relation to Broad HLC Types at a county scale. The Farmstead Project recorded various plan forms, which are characteristic of different eras, functions and farming practices. In broad terms these are:

- *Courtyard plans* (78% of all recorded farmsteads), which have the working buildings arranged in loose or regular form around one or more sides of a yard, or more than one yard. The largest are found in arable-farming areas of planned and reorganised large fields, and the smallest in dairying and common-edge areas.
- *Dispersed plan* farmsteads (17%) which either have no focal yard area or consist of several scattered yards and are generally closely associated with wood-pasture areas to the west and north. Larger dispersed multi-yard farmsteads are, unusually, also found in the villages within the chalk downs.
- *Linear* and other farmsteads, where the house and working buildings are attached and in-line, are concentrated around areas of historic common land in the north and west of the county.

These patterns display a long-recognised contrast between the large arable-based farms of the downlands and the Vale of Pewsey, and the numerous smaller dairying farms intermixed with mixed farming in the north and west of Wiltshire. The lowest densities of farmsteads are found in the chalk downs, in land enclosed in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the highest in dairying and stock-rearing areas where irregular 17<sup>th</sup> century and earlier fields are also concentrated. Multi-yard farmsteads, whether dispersed (8.6%) or regular (28%) in form, are the dominant type and reflect the need to subdivide farmsteads into separate yards for cattle, sometimes served by their own barns where corn was processed and straw spread in the yards.

The abbreviations used are summarised below:

- DISPCI = *Dispersed cluster plan*
- DISPdw = *Dispersed driftway plan*
- DISPmy = *Dispersed multi-yard plan*
- LP = *L-plan*
- LC = *Loose courtyard (numbers show how many sides formed by attached buildings)*
- LCL = *Loose courtyard L-plan*
- RC = *Regular courtyard plan*
- RCL = *Regular courtyard L-plan*
- RCU = *Regular courtyard U-plan*
- RCmy = *Regular courtyard multi-yard*

### Dispersed Plans

There are three main types:

Dispersed cluster plans are loosely arranged groups of buildings, often with no defined yard area, set within an irregular paddock. They are strongly associated with areas of smallest farms and smallholdings close to former rough land and common and areas of irregular fields resulting from the clearance of woodland in the medieval period. Occasionally this plan type is found on larger farmsteads associated with areas of ancient enclosure. In Wiltshire and Swindon dispersed cluster plans are mostly found in the clay vales of the north and west of the area and on the edge of the New Forest in the southeast. However, some dispersed cluster farmsteads were recorded in the chalk landscapes with a small concentration in the Savernake area of the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs and occasional examples in the chalk valleys.

Dispersed multi-yard plans have their working buildings arranged around two or more yards, usually irregularly arranged and detached from one another. In some cases the yards can also be associated with a trackway so that the farmstead also has dispersed driftway character. These farmsteads typically result from incremental growth and can comprise a mix of loose courtyard and regular courtyard arrangements.

Farmstead Mapping in other parts of England – particularly in an area from Hampshire to Kent - has demonstrated that dispersed multi-yard plans are closely associated with the management of cattle. Whilst dispersed multi-yards are found in highest numbers in the vale landscapes of the north and west, examples were also recorded in the chalk landscapes. This is in contrast to most other chalk landscapes in southern England where this plan type is rare.

Dispersed driftway plans, where the buildings and yards are arranged along a driftway/routeway, are rare in Wiltshire and Swindon.

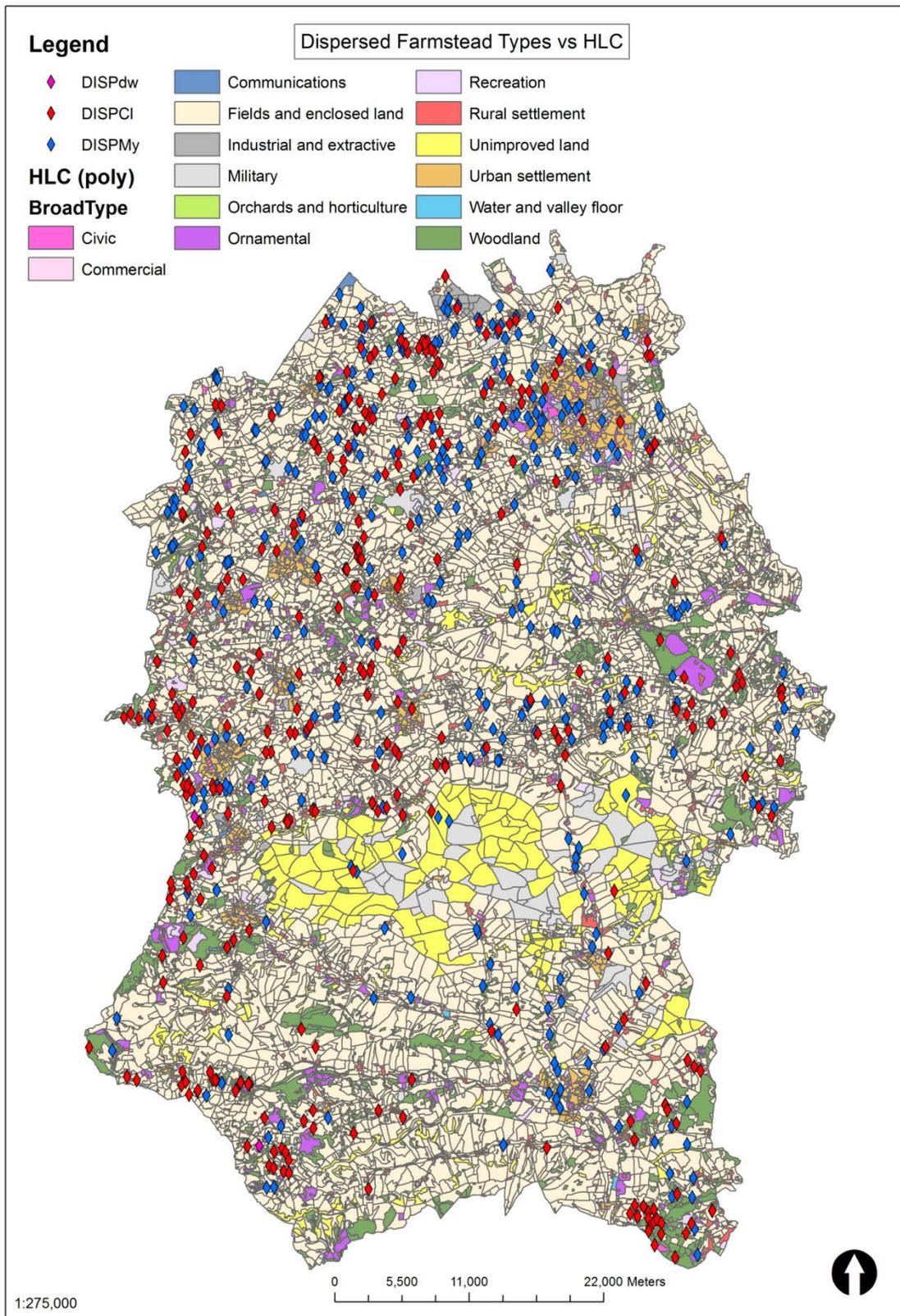


Figure 58

HLC analysis has shown that:

- These are concentrated in the northwest of the county, having some correlation with routeways and river valleys, with very few in the downlands
- There are clear links to areas of ancient woodland and assarted fields – this is particularly obvious in the southern part of the county
- The majority of these farms lie outside the settlements – especially in the smaller hamlets and villages
- They seem to be favoured in valley bottoms and away from steep escarpments
- Potential association with medieval open fields (and strips they are comprised of), as there is good survival and legibility of these in the northern portion of the county

#### Linear plans and L-plans with houses attached in-line with working buildings

Linear plans have the farmhouse and a farm building, usually a barn, attached in-line with little or no difference in the width of the two elements. Any detached buildings are typically small-scale, such as pigsties and calf houses.

Attached L-plans are linear farmsteads that have been built as or extended into an overall L-plan. Both of these plan types are commonly found in the upland and upland fringe areas of England. In southern England they are mostly found on the fringes of heathland and other areas of common land.

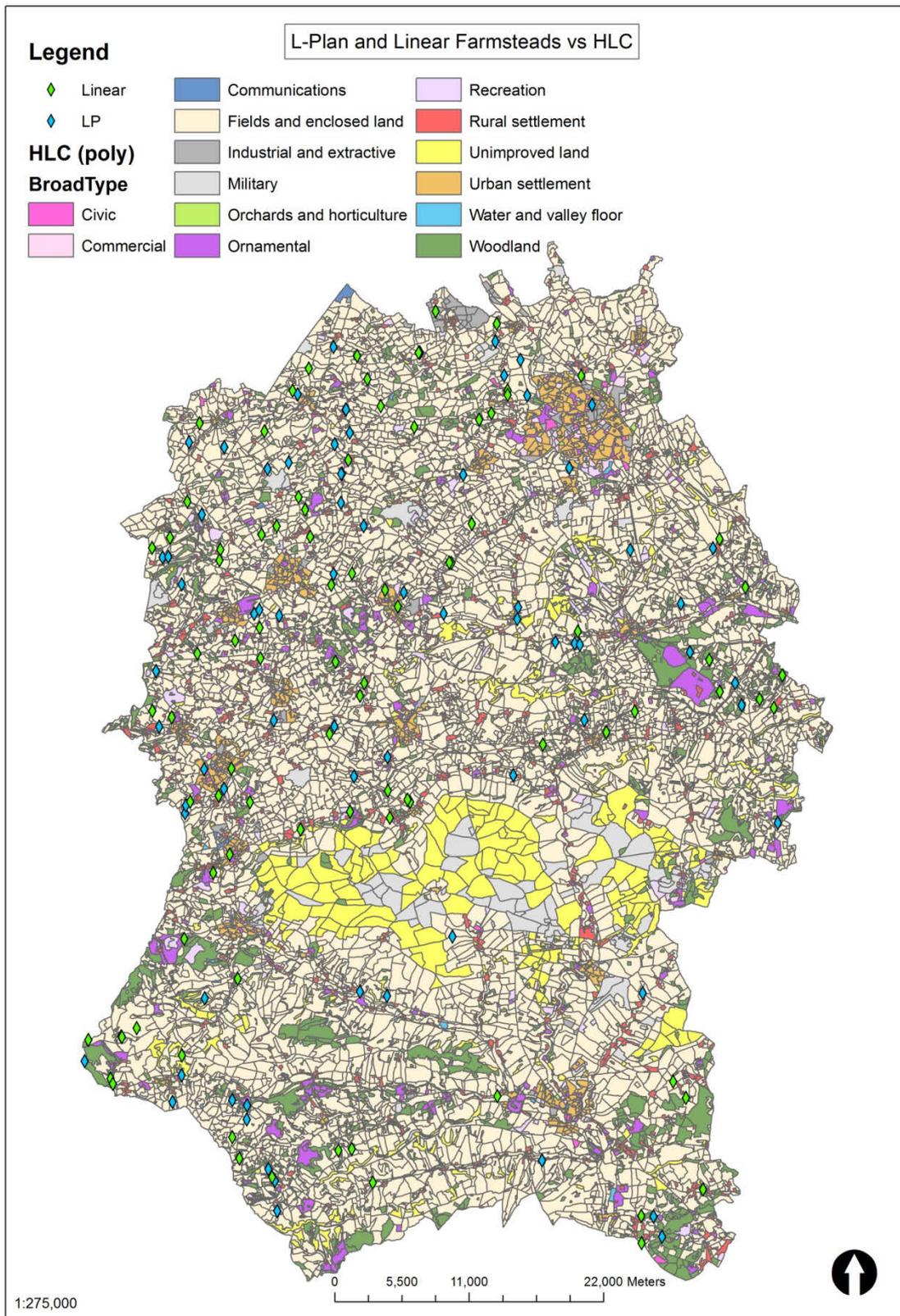


Figure 59

Analysis against HLC has shown that:

- They mostly lie outside settlements, and do not relate as closely to roads and rivers as other types
- They are often situated in the heart of fields and are strongly associated with pre-18<sup>th</sup> century piecemeal enclosure and former common land

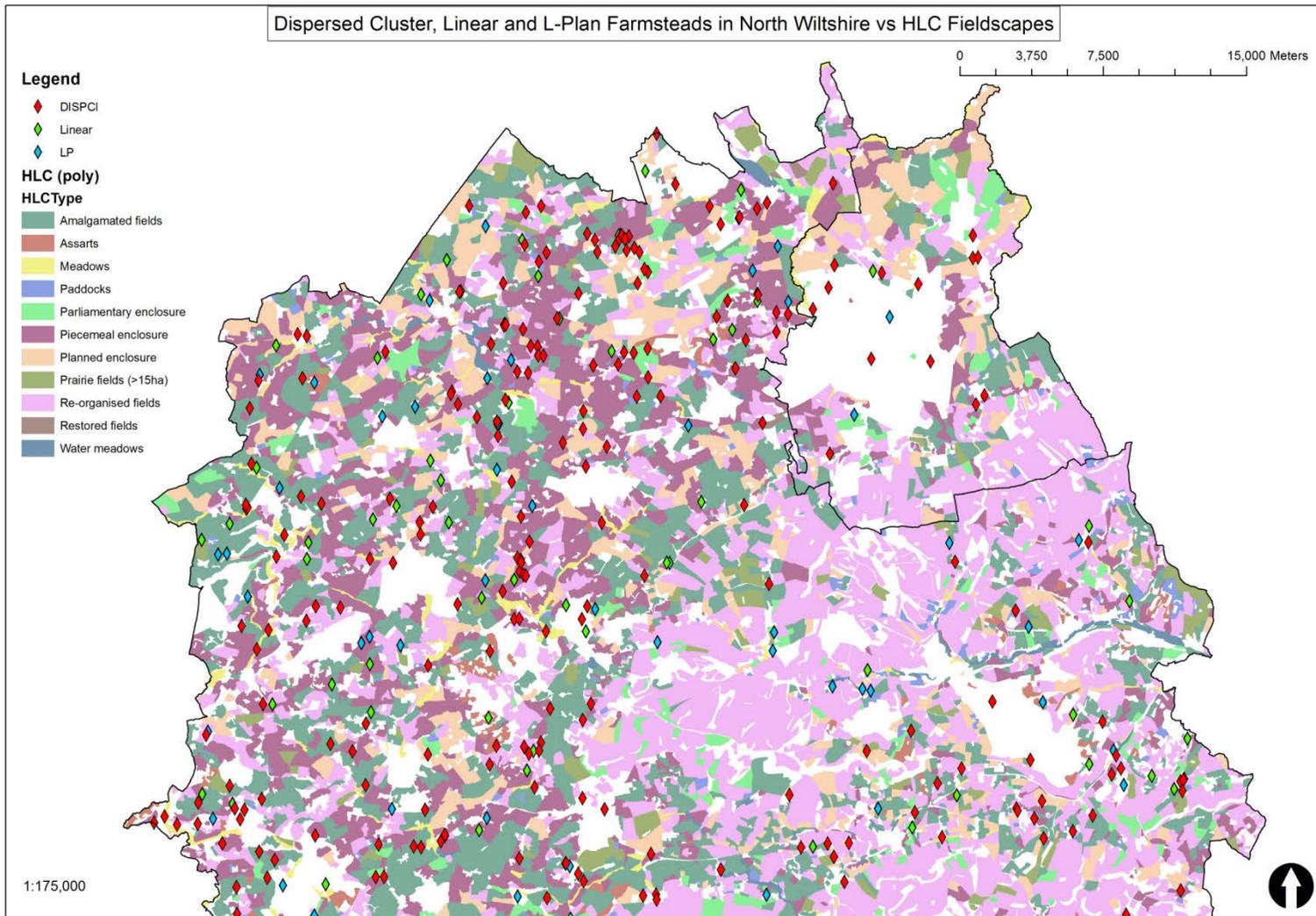


Figure 60

## Courtyard Plans

The most common forms of farmstead layout are courtyard plans, where the working buildings are arranged around one or more yards. They fall into broad categories of loose courtyard plans, where the buildings are detached and loosely arranged around one or more sides of the yard (22% of recorded farmsteads in Wiltshire), regular courtyard plans, where the buildings are interlinked and formally arranged (44% of Wiltshire farmsteads) and L-shaped plans with additional buildings facing the yard (12% of farmsteads).

The largest courtyard farms are found on high-status sites, estate farms and in the arable vales, wolds and downlands of England. Cattle yards developed as areas for treading straw from the threshing barn into manure.

The smallest loose courtyard plans, with buildings to one or two sides of the yard, are associated with smaller farmsteads across the whole area, especially in the north and west. They can be found in both piecemeal and planned enclosure fields, and associated with old medieval fields in the central and northern portions of the county.

Those in chalk areas have been subject to high rates of partial or total loss as a result of the continuing restructuring and enlargement of farms across the downlands since around 1900, also reflected in high degree of field loss recorded in HLC.

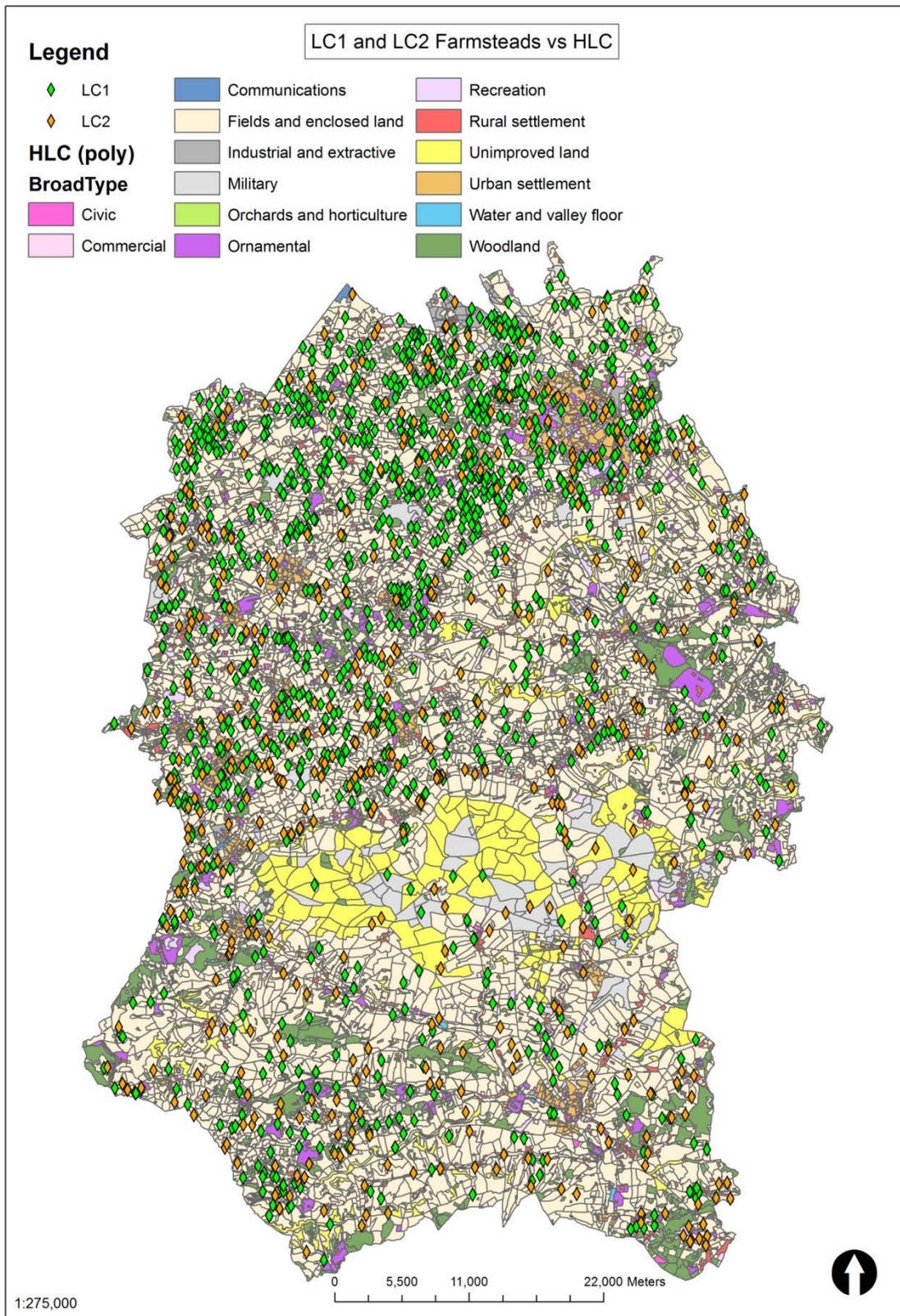


Figure 61

Analysis against HLC has shown that:

- They are closely aligned with the river valleys and ribbon settlements
- Most have close geographic association with settlements, both rural and urban – often with multiple farms of these types existing within the villages, hamlets and towns

The largest loose courtyard plans, with buildings to three or four sides of the yard, are widely distributed but associated with downland settlements and river valleys.

Analysis against HLC suggest a strong association with larger settlements and towns with very few sited out amongst the fields, but also with some links to designed parklands of the later post-medieval period.

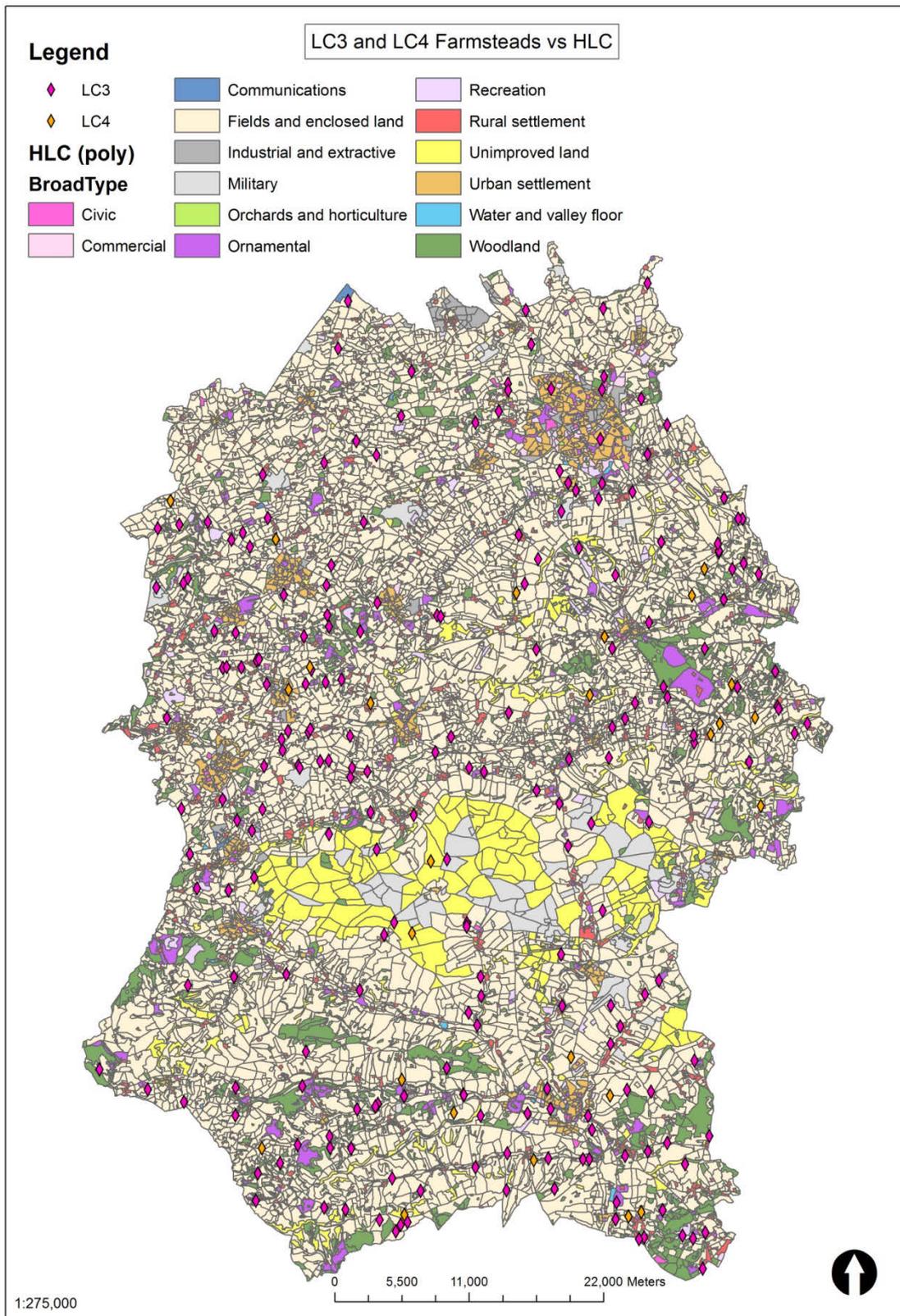


Figure 62

### Regular courtyard plans

Regular Courtyard plans consist of linked ranges, often the result of a single phase of building, set around one or more cattle yards but some are the result of incremental growth.

They are mostly of 19th century date and usually display greater consistency in the use of materials and constructional detail, often employing more non-local materials like Welsh slate, than other farmstead types. Very few examples other than L-shaped plans are shown on the tithe maps of the 1830s-40s.

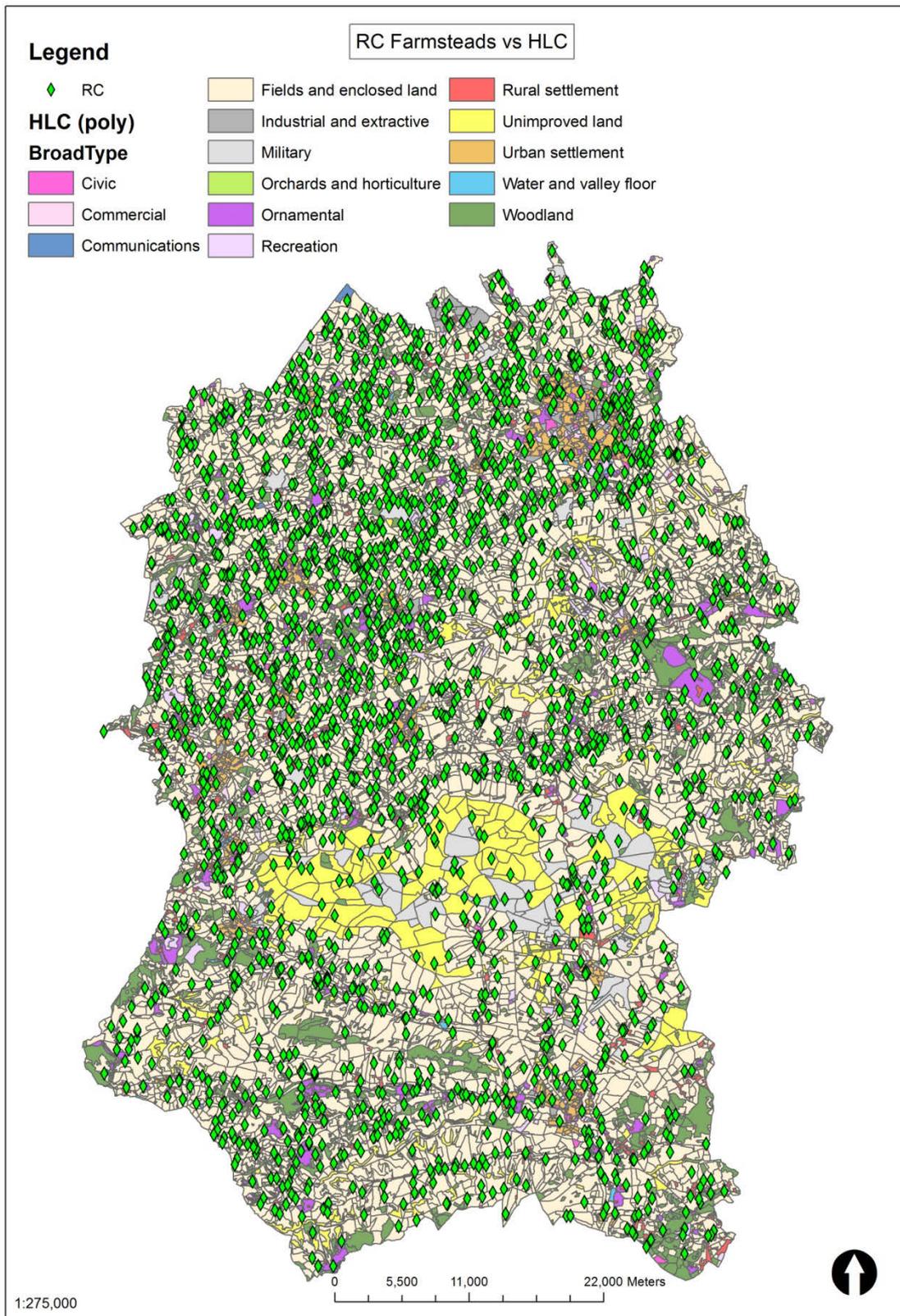


Figure 63

Analysis against HLC affirms the interpretation from the Farmstead Mapping report:

- A widespread distribution across the county, reflecting the density of farmsteads in the landscape as a whole
- Contrasting to the smaller dispersed, loose courtyard and linear types, they concentrate in areas away from woodland and ancient forests.
- Genuine mixture of farms inside and outside settlements, with some concentrations within market towns

#### Regular L-plans and U-plans

Being typically associated with small to medium scale farms, Regular L-plans are not a major feature of the chalk downland areas although some planned examples were built on the farmsteads of some of the large estates. They are more common in the west of the historic county. U-plan farmsteads are mostly found in the chalk downlands and they were often built away from the river valleys.

This would suggest that they were built during the period of enclosure of the open fields and downland, largely undertaken in the 18th and 19th centuries, with some possibly constructed as outfarms which developed into farmsteads. Many of these U-plans sited away from the valleys have been subject to high levels of change whilst examples in the west of Wiltshire tend to survive with lower levels of change.

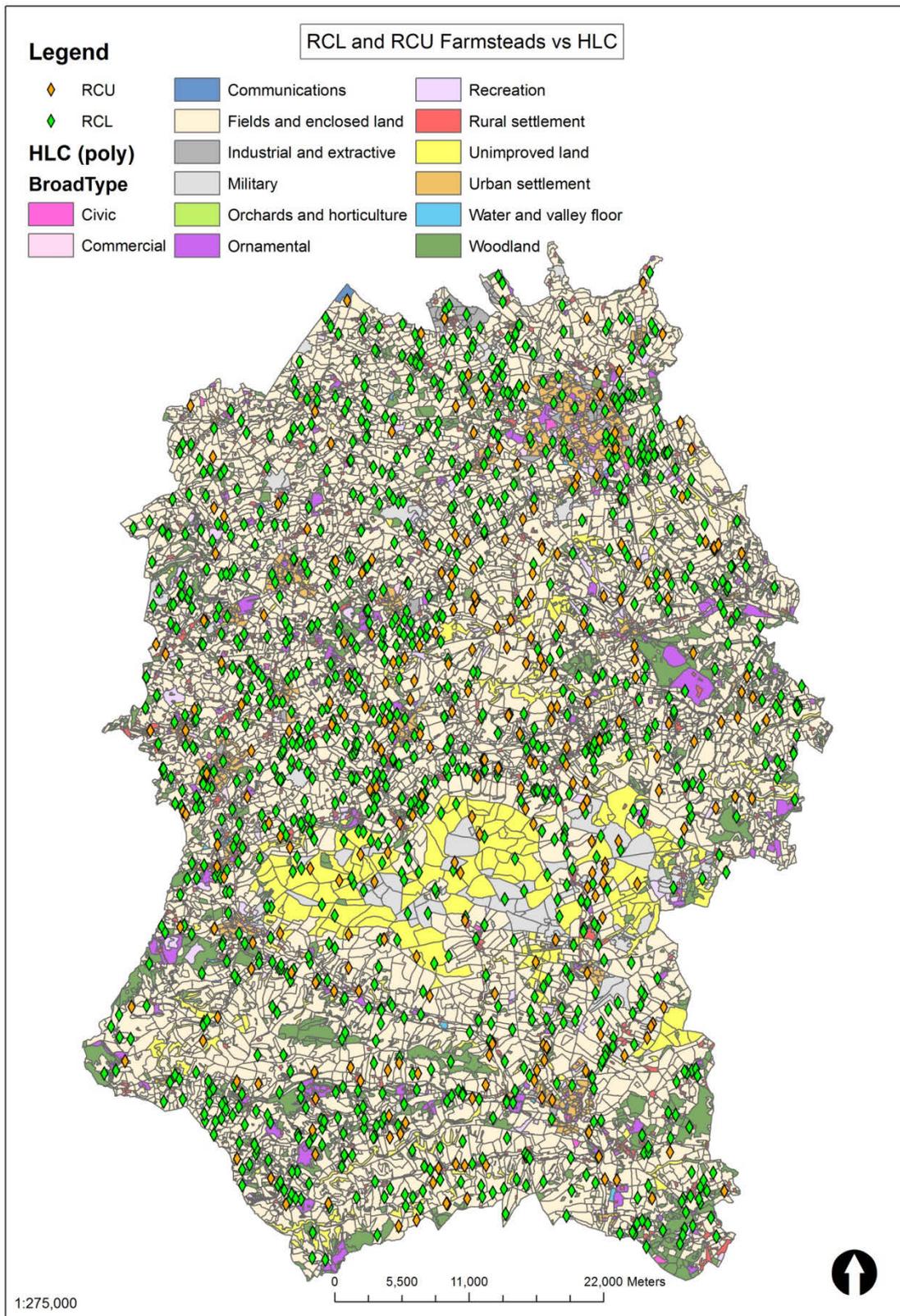


Figure 64

Analysis against HLC suggests:

- Correlation with the L-plans and the river valleys (U-plans sited away from valleys)
- Many of these seem to be set away from wooded areas
- Many of the RCL farms are clustered close to each other, sometimes inter-visible

#### Regular Multi-yards

These are farmsteads with multiple yards, (two or more) which are grouped together and arranged regularly.

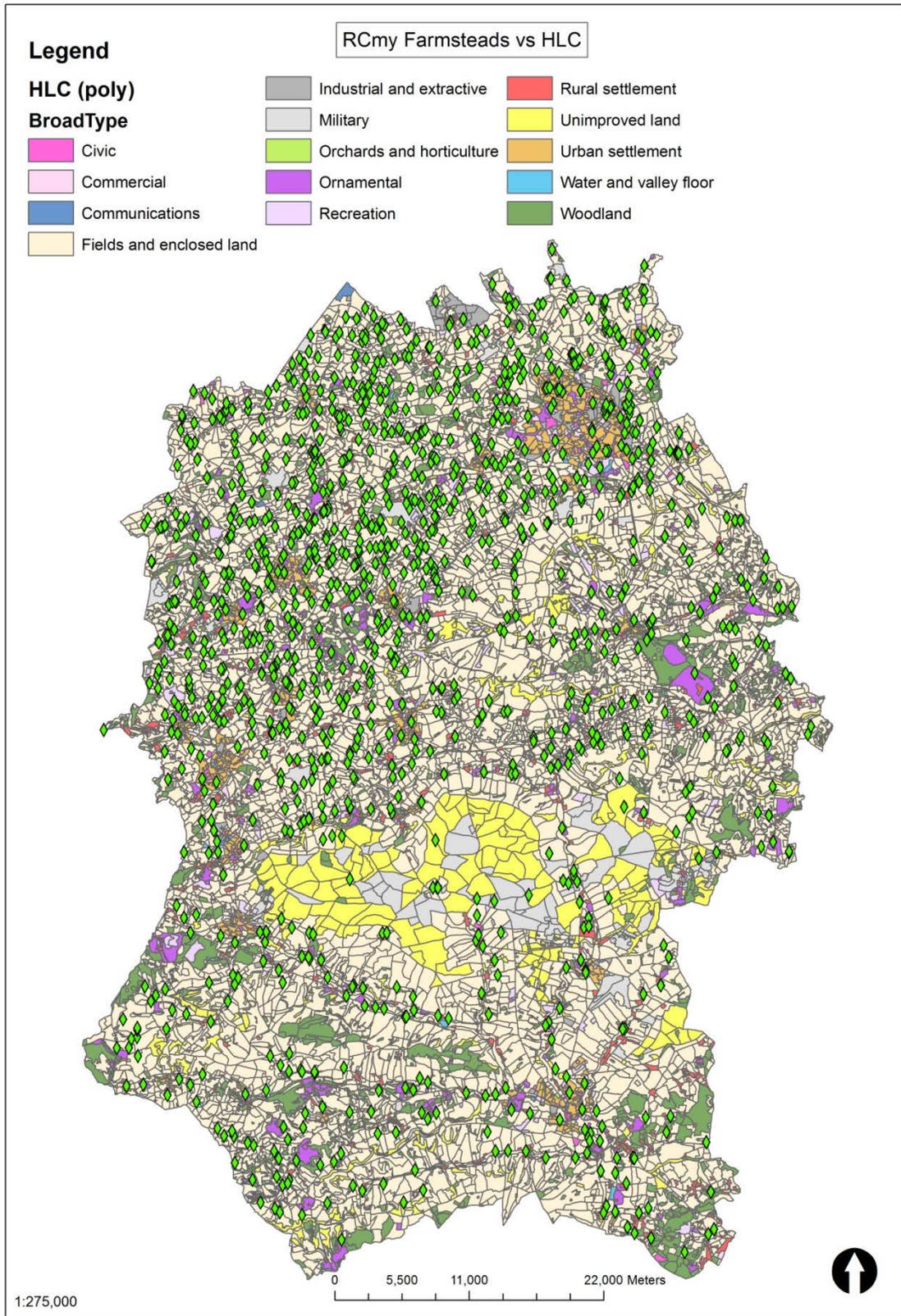


Figure 65

Regular multi-yards are the most common plan type across Wiltshire. High numbers survive with less than 50% loss in the vales landscapes and the Cotswolds. In Hampshire-Kent these farmsteads appear to be strongly associated with areas of mixed farming where the management of cattle was an important feature.

Analysis against HLC shows:

- A strong association with settlements, downland valleys
- Interestingly, as their form suggests piecemeal development albeit less so than with dispersed multi-yards, they have some correlation with less organised fields
- Many of the farmsteads, even those that survive with most of their historic form intact, exist in areas that have been subject to fairly extensive re-organisation. This suggests adaptability to changing requirements

#### Full Regular Courtyard, E-shaped and other large-scale Regular Courtyard plan types

These generally large farmsteads are most closely associated with the chalk areas, particularly the Salisbury Plain and Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase character areas.

Within Salisbury Plain a number of full regular courtyard farmsteads were constructed outside of the river valleys, possibly associated with enclosure of open fields and the conversion of downland to arable during the 18th and 19th centuries.

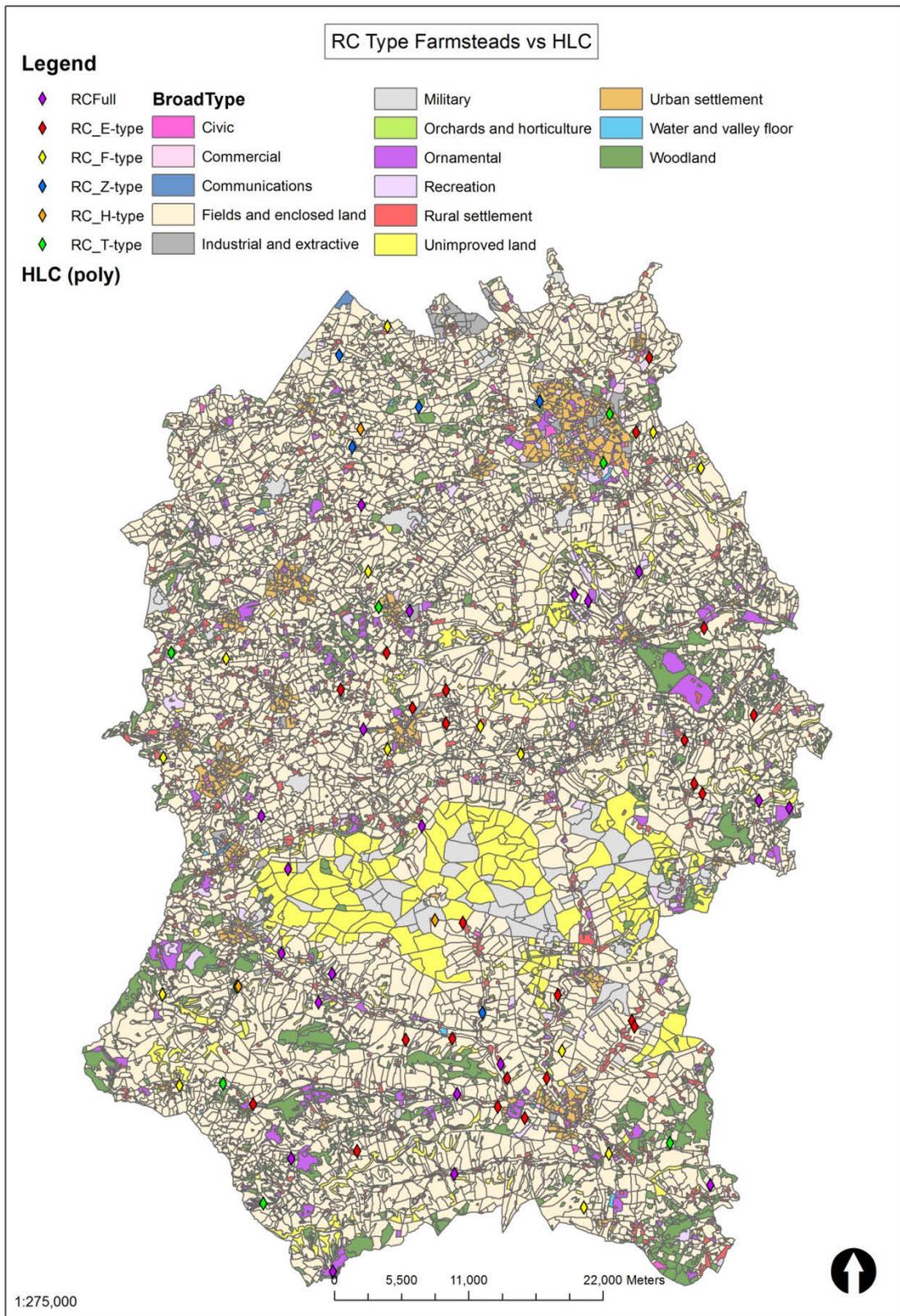


Figure 66

### L-shaped courtyard plans with additional buildings to the third and fourth sides of the yard

These are semi-regular farmsteads that have two linked ranges to form an L-shaped element with additional detached buildings to one or both of the other sides of the yard. Such plans can develop through the addition of, for example, a shelter shed being attached to an earlier barn within an existing Loose Courtyard arrangement, or represent a planned group with a Regular L-range with one or more additional buildings.

These farmstead plans generally represent medium to large scale farmsteads and this is reflected by the higher than average proportions recorded in the three principal chalkland character areas; Salisbury Plain, Berkshire and Marlborough Downs, and the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase.

However, greater levels of change to farmsteads of these plan types in the downland areas means that the most complete examples of these plans are found in the west of Wiltshire.

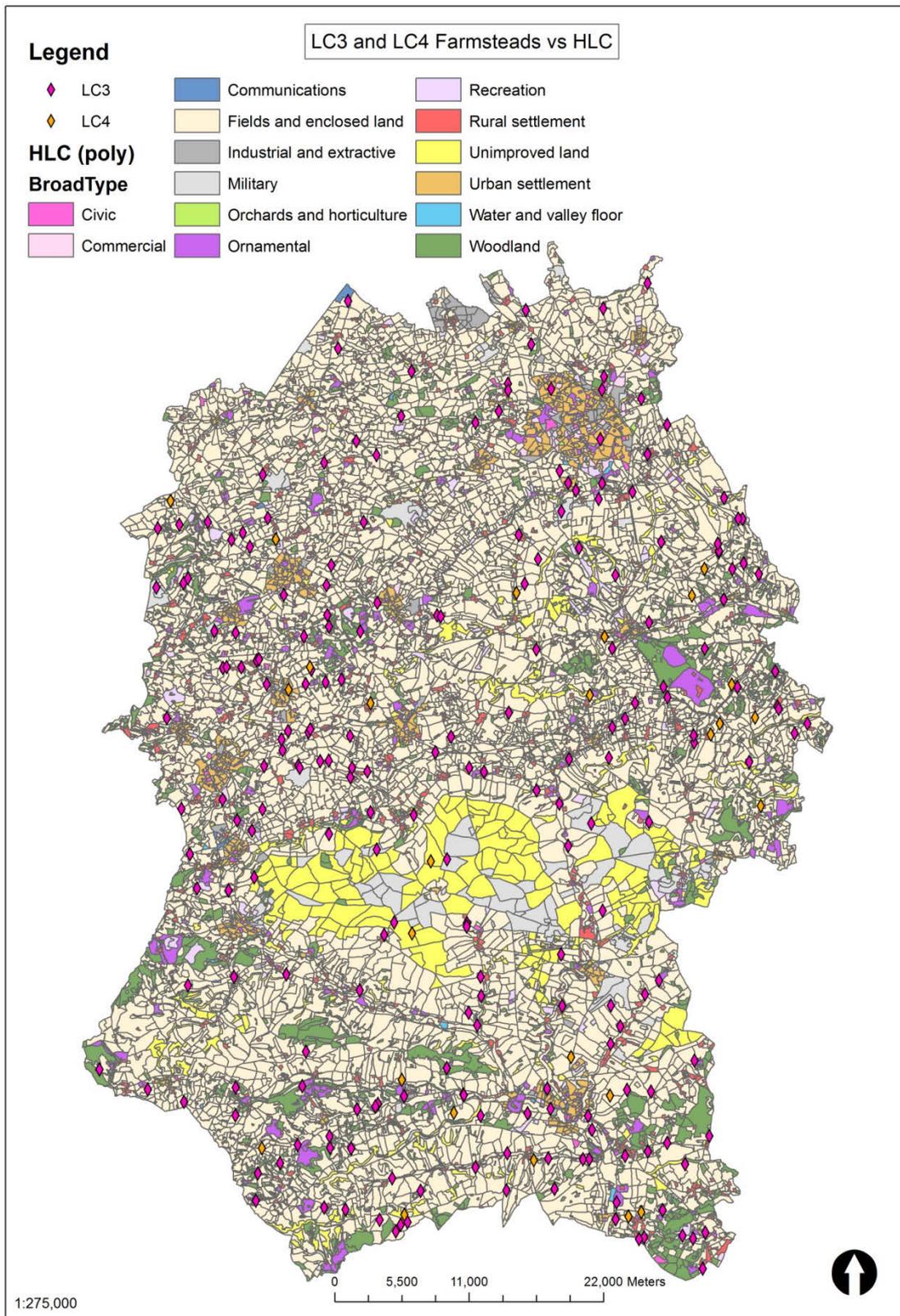


Figure 67

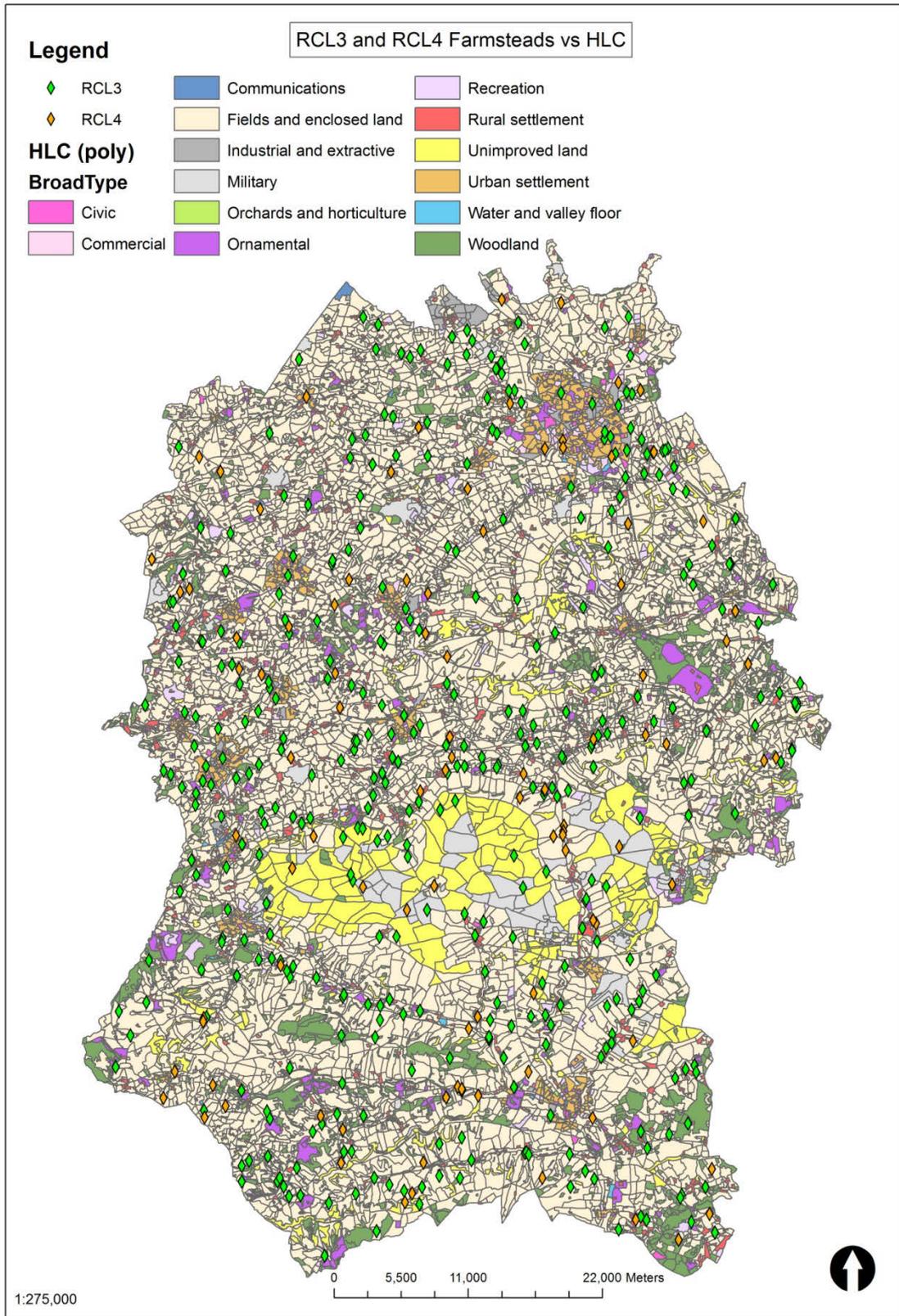


Figure 68

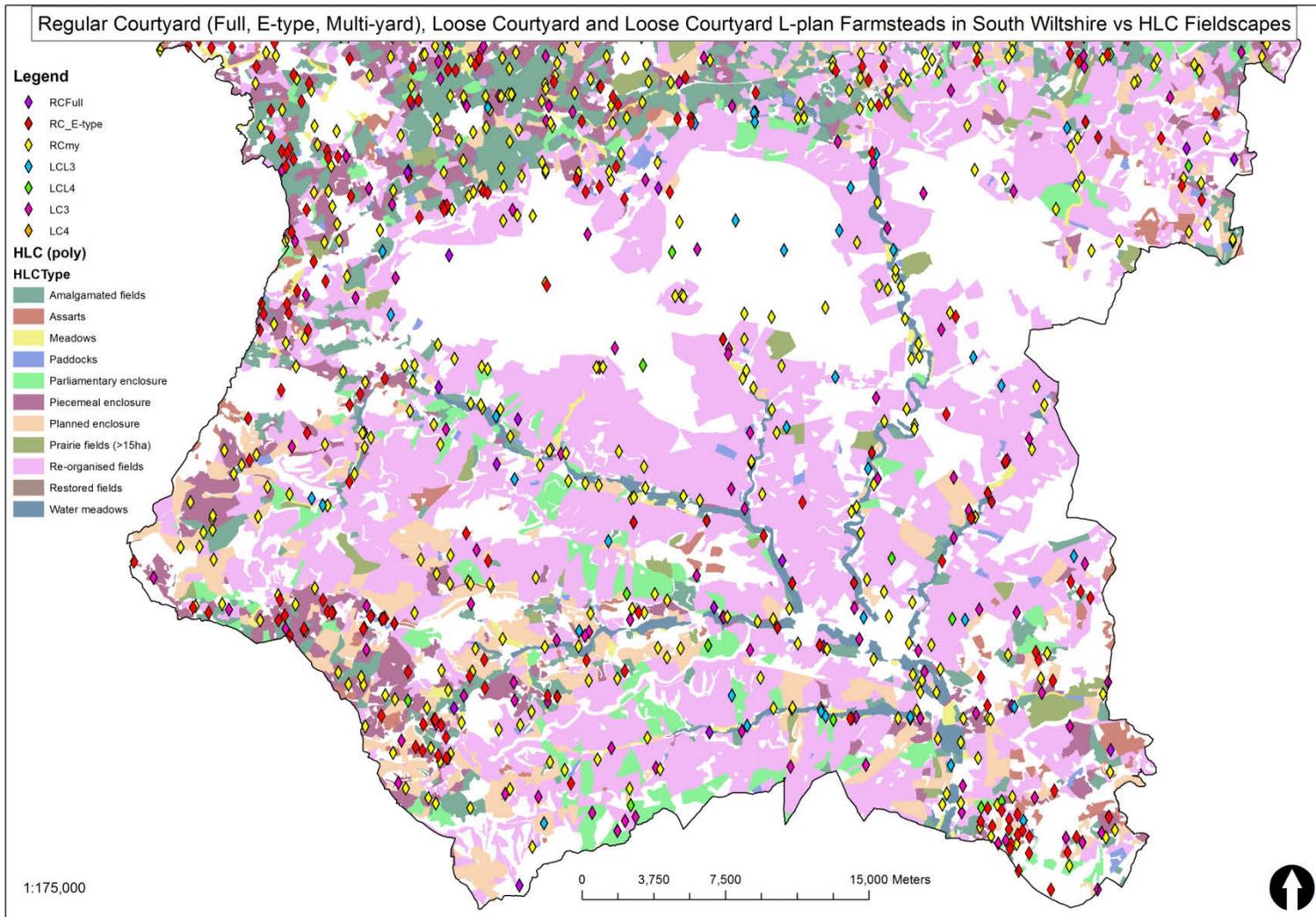


Figure 69

## Field barns and outfarms

Field barns and outfarms are set within the fields away from the main farmstead. The larger outfarm groups consisting of medium scale courtyards are clearly concentrated within the chalkland landscapes of Salisbury Plain, Berkshire and Marlborough Downs and the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase where the distribution map shows them set away from the valley based settlements, particularly along the Salisbury Avon. The large farms that these complexes served means that they appear in lower densities in the landscape and are accordingly found in lower numbers – they represent 8.2% of outfarm sites recorded. The small courtyard groups, 31.9% of recorded sites, have a building to one side of a yard and are concentrated in the north-west of the study area and, to a lesser extent along the Vale of Wardour. However, the greatest proportion of sites recorded consists of single buildings, sometimes with two or more individual buildings in close proximity. This group represented 38% of sites recorded from the 2nd edition OS map. These sites are also concentrated in the north-west of the county.

Analysis against HLC affirms these patterns and also:

- The dense cluster of single field barns for cattle around the central market towns suggests a link to dispersed holdings that supplement income from trade, the cloth and other industries
- The correlation of single field barns with river valleys, low-lying areas and cleared woodland (medieval assarts) also suggests the desire to house cattle close to abundant sources of hay and other forage but also to avoid poaching of the surrounding ground through housing cattle in yards and buildings
- Field barns frequently located in fields enlarged since c.1900, which helps to explain the high rates of loss
- The largest outfarms, with buildings to three or four sides of the yard, are strongly associated with piecemeal and regular enclosure of medieval strip fields
- Smaller outfarms, with buildings to two sides of the yard, are concentrated in areas enclosed from medieval farmland in the north of the county

## *Summary of distribution patterns*

Looking at all of the maps on the previous pages, and also interrogating some of the Narrow Type data behind the Broad Types represented, highlight some other interesting observations. Looking at all of the maps on the previous pages, and also interrogating some of the Narrow Type data behind the Broad Types represented, affirm the observations made in the *Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Mapping Report* (Edwards and Lake 2014) and in the *Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Character Statement*:

- The largest-scale regular courtyard type farmsteads are associated with landscapes of large-scale re-organised regular or piecemeal enclosures. These exist outside many of the settlement areas
- The regular courtyard with multi-yard farmstead types are associated with older sites/landscape types/settlements where they exist in the chalkland (i.e. primarily downland) landscapes

- In some instances there seems to be a connection between the regular courtyard and multi-yard farmsteads and manorial sites (indicated by country houses and parkland).
- Some dispersed-plan farmsteads are associated with L-plan/linear farmsteads in areas of small-scale fields, or at the edge of former common land
- Dispersed multi-yard farmsteads are associated with landscapes of stock management elsewhere in England, but in Wiltshire they occur in downland and vale settlements to the east (in contrast to the Hampshire, Sussex and Kent Downs). There seems to be a routeway east-west through the Vale of Pewsey where this trait can be observed – the dispersed multi-yards and barns are scattered around roads and tracks – suggesting a relationship of these plan forms to droveways taking livestock to markets further east.

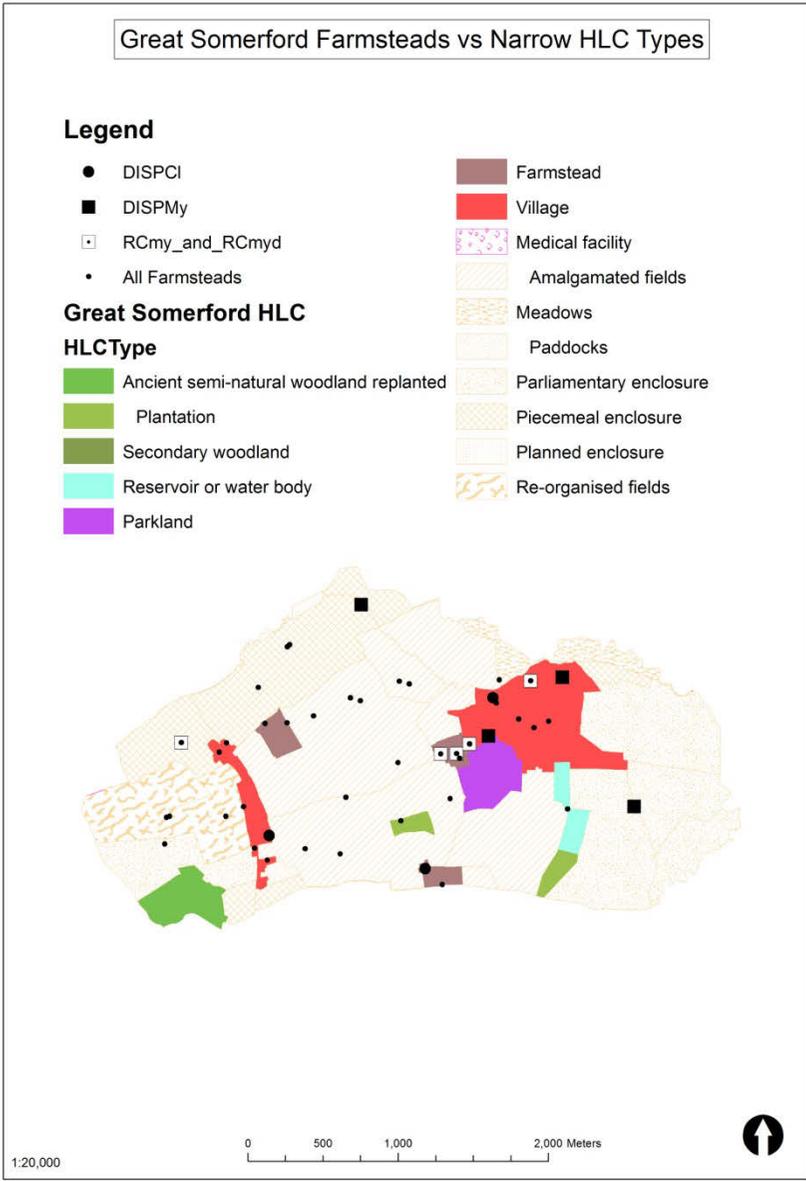
It is also useful to study the distributions of historic farmsteads against their HLC context at a parish level, to see what narratives emerge relating to everyday life and land-use. Further to this, four parishes, in distinctly different landscapes, were evaluated following their initial analysis in the *Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads Mapping Report* (Edwards and Lake 2014). These were:

1. Great Somerford (north of Wiltshire – Dauntsey Vale)
2. Sedgemoor and Semley (southwest of Wiltshire – Dorset border)
3. West Overton (centre of Wiltshire – Kennet valley)
4. Minety (north of Wiltshire – Cotswold area)

The results of this analysis, and fieldwalking with Jeremy Lake of Historic England and the Wiltshire Buildings Record, are summarised on the following pages.

#### 1. *Great Somerford (Dauntsey Vale in Avon Vales)*

- Most pre-1700 farmsteads located in a nucleated and secondary settlements, which had access to extensive pastures and open fields on better soils where some ridge and furrow survives. Only one farmstead located in 17<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of the common and the remainder in C19 enclosure of remaining medieval farmland.
- Mixed farming economy reflected in 9 out of 19 farmsteads being dispersed and regular multi-yard complexes in c.1900, most of the remainder being large-scale courtyard plans. Dispersed cluster plans concentrated in heathland.
- Fieldwalking suggests high levels of rebuilding in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of the farmhouses within the settlements. High levels of post-1900 change reflected in HLC 'Amalgamated fields' and loss of historic form of traditional farmsteads.
- All field barns and outfarm buildings have been lost. Concentration of field barns for cattle sited in small pre-1809 enclosures for pasture, and outfarms with some field barns of post-1800 date within the area of the open fields to the west of the village and within the post-1809 enclosures west of Startley.



Figures 70

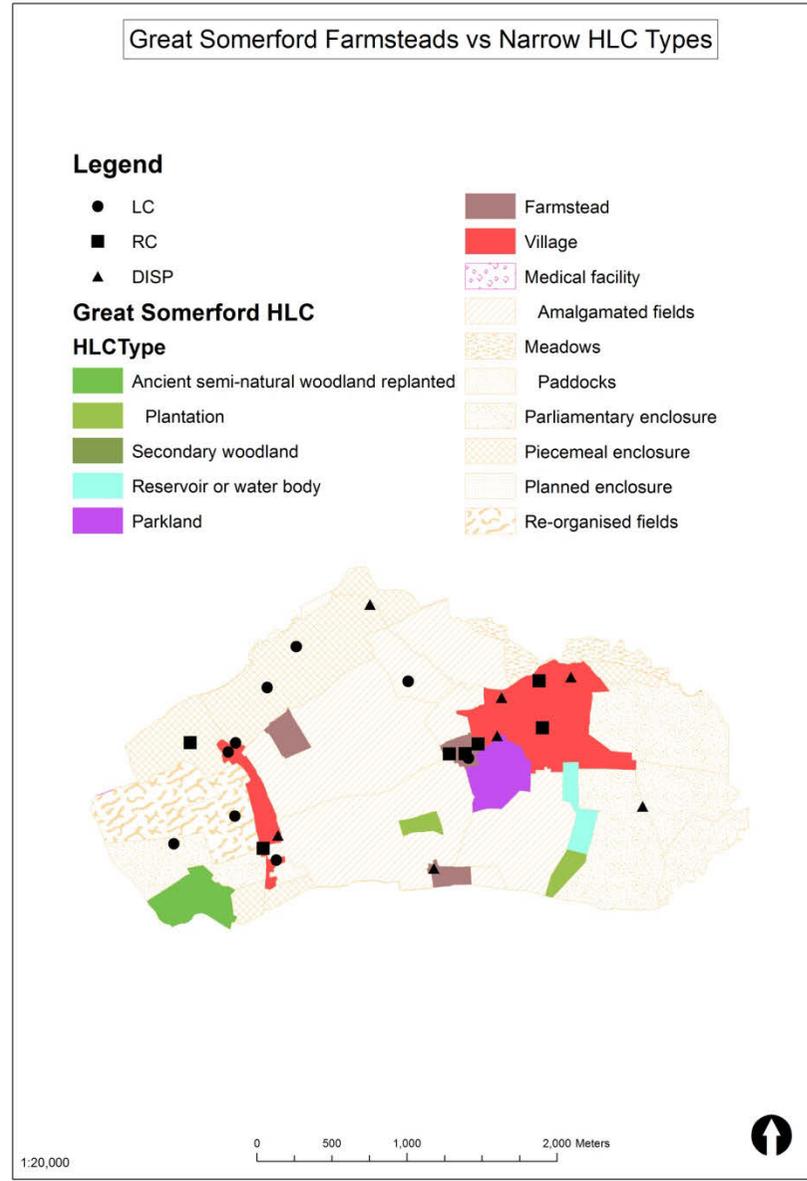


Figure 71

2. *Sedgehill and Semley (Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour, southwest of Wiltshire)*

- Farmsteads within the Royal Forest of Selwood dispersed in landscape displaying a mixture of planned, piecemeal, assarts and meadow land. Some of the farms surround former open or common land. Many sit astride routeways, which is a characteristic of such areas of medieval dispersed settlement.
- High rate of loss of farmsteads prior to 19<sup>th</sup> century due to amalgamation of small farms created through inheritance practices, these small farms predominantly engaged in pastoral farming. This area was historically characterised – since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century – by an active land market resulting in both smaller farms and farm amalgamation.
- Dynamic change also reflected in low survival of pre-17<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads (only 3 out of 27 sites have houses of this period, no recorded pre-1800 working buildings). Some links exist between the ‘Assarts’ HLC type (presumably from the ancient woodland) and the dispersed cluster farmsteads typical of this HLC type but even these have been affected by 19<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding.
- High levels of 19<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding affirmed by fieldwalking and also reflected also in 44% being regular courtyard plans.
- Lower levels of 20<sup>th</sup> century change reflected in relatively high proportion of recorded farmsteads (63%) retain more than 50% of their historic form as shown on the 2nd Edition map. Almost 15% are now represented by the farmhouse only and 11% have been totally lost.
- This is a contrasting pattern to other anciently-enclosed landscapes where farmsteads have been mapped in Hampshire, Sussex and Wiltshire, and where there is a relatively high survival of pre-1700 houses and working buildings.

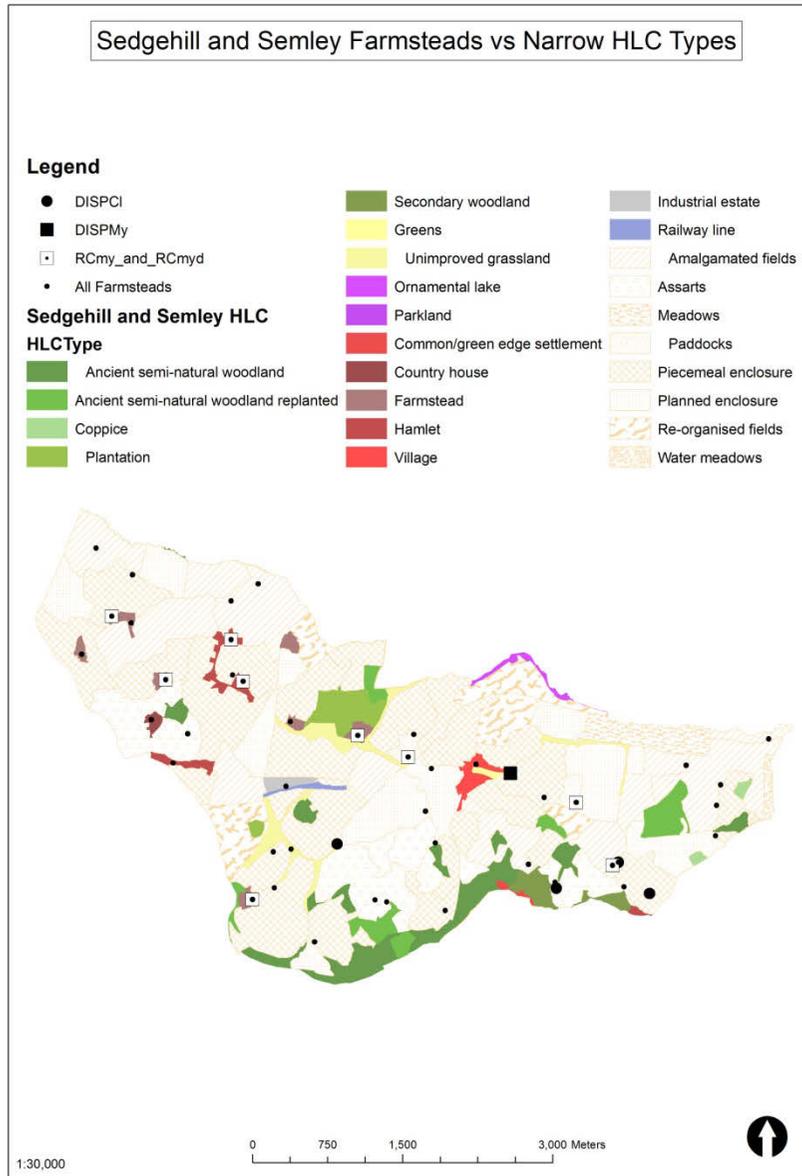


Figure 72

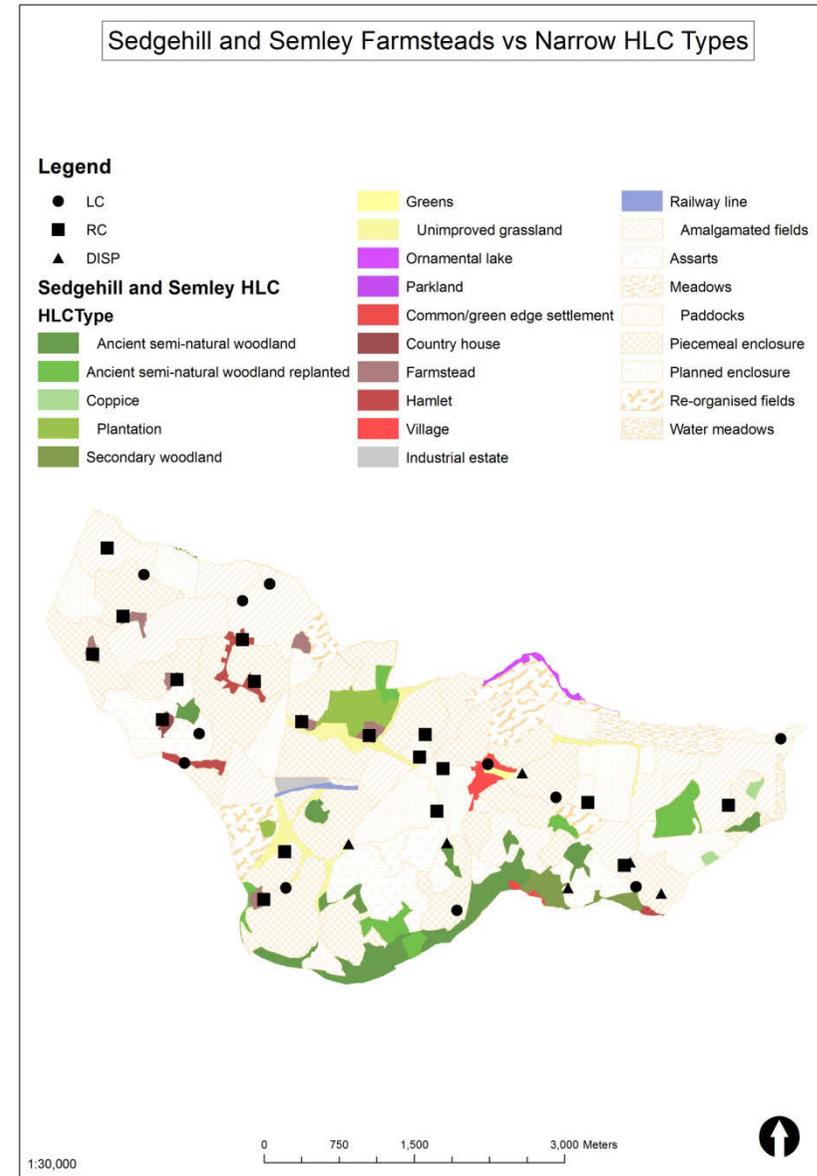


Figure 73

### 3. *West Overton (Kennet valley, Berkshire and Marlborough Downs)*

- The large-scale courtyard-plan farmsteads and landscape context are representative of the wider character of the downlands of central southern England.
- Low density of large sheep-corn farmsteads (eight), including four multi-yards (dispersed and courtyard), which developed within settlements of West Overton and Lockeridge and astride routes and tracks in large-scale fields enclosed on piecemeal and planned basis from medieval open fields, in which were also located outfarms. As in other downland areas, the smaller-scale farmsteads (two) were built to L-shaped plans.
- Unlike in the other parishes, the farms here seem to lie at the edges of large field systems rather than in the centre of them.
- The vast majority of fields within the parish have been amalgamated over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and most farmsteads have lost all or some of their historic form.
- Only 3 farmsteads have pre-1800 buildings (with one barn), and fieldwalking shows that all farmsteads were substantially rebuilt with additional cattle yards, stabling and enlarged/additional barns in the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

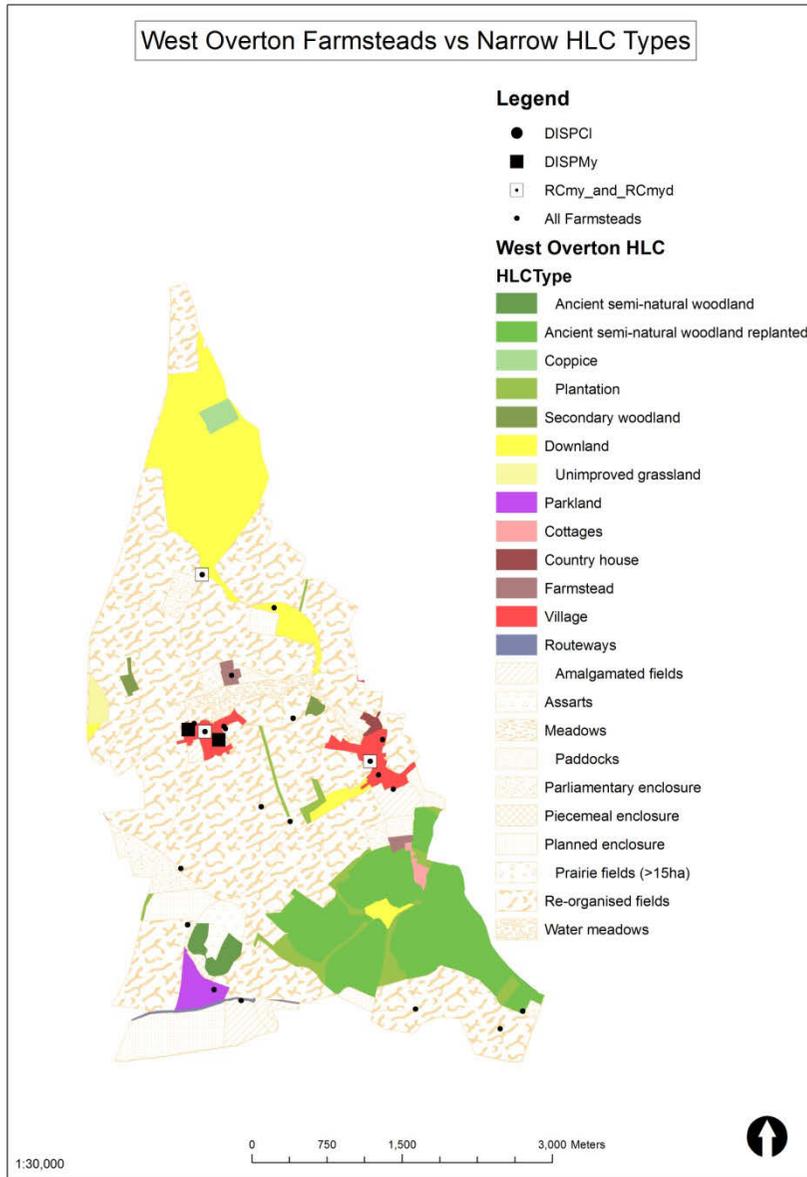


Figure 74

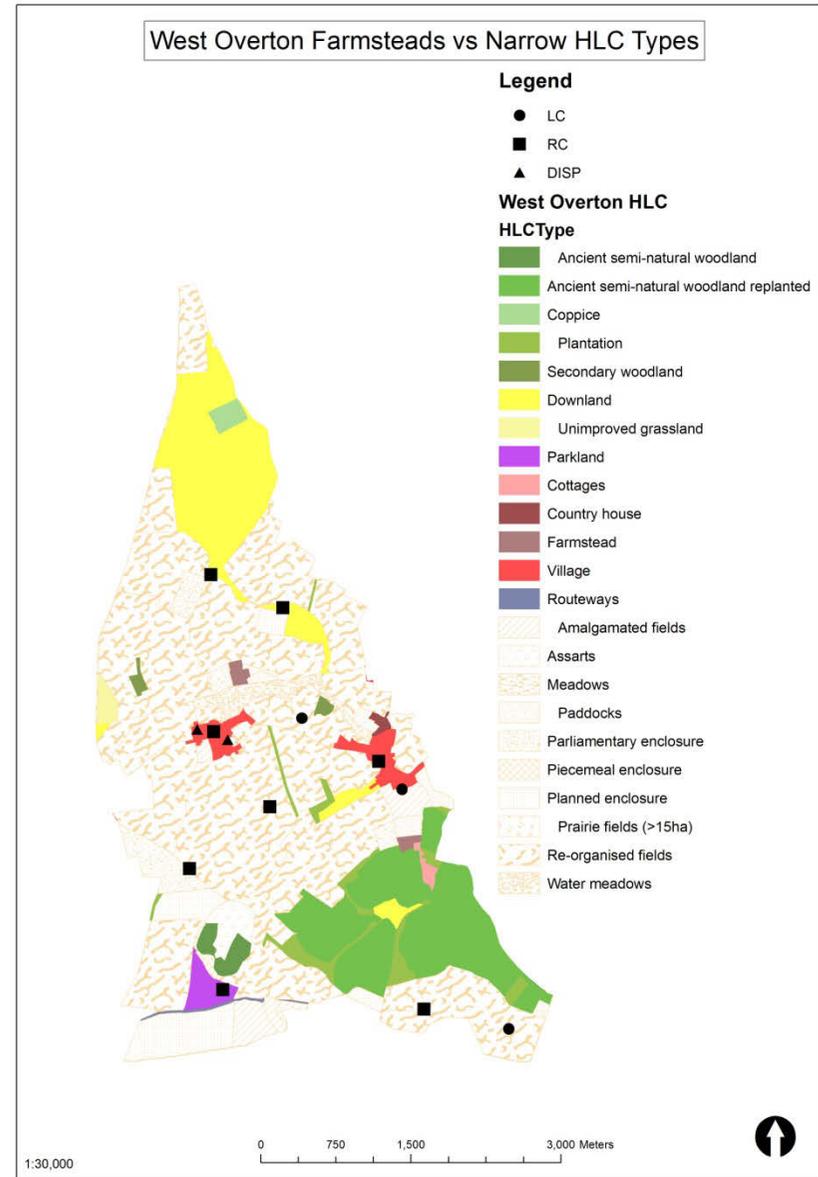


Figure 75

#### 4. *Minety (Cotswolds, north of Wiltshire)*

- This is an area of dispersed settlement where pre-17<sup>th</sup> century enclosure was intermixed with large areas of common subject to enclosure from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This has resulted in strong contrasts between different parts of the parish.
- Farmsteads to the south relate to 17<sup>th</sup> century and later regular enclosure of common, with planned blocks of woodland. Any pre-19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are very rare, and even the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads (eg Derryfield) give an impression of 'pioneer' settlements in an open landscape.
- In the north the fields are generally small to medium scale with some being very irregular in shape and typical of assarting, The four farmsteads that have 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses are all located within dispersed multi-yard plans on the edge of areas of ancient enclosure over-looking former common land subject to regular enclosure, indicating the importance of having access to both enclosed land and common grazing.
- Others with unrecorded buildings relate to smaller farmsteads with 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings (though field survey shows that some have earlier cores) which retain dispersed plan forms or are loose courtyard with working buildings to only one side of the yard.

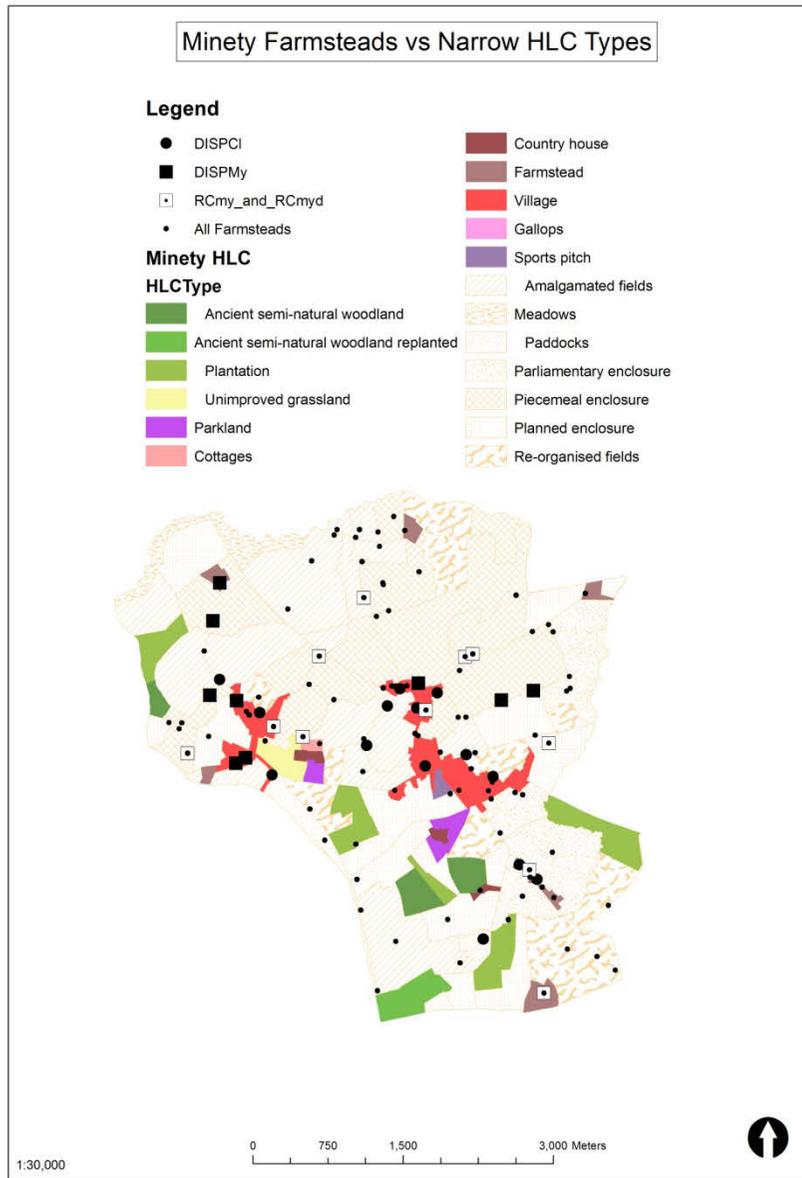


Figure 76

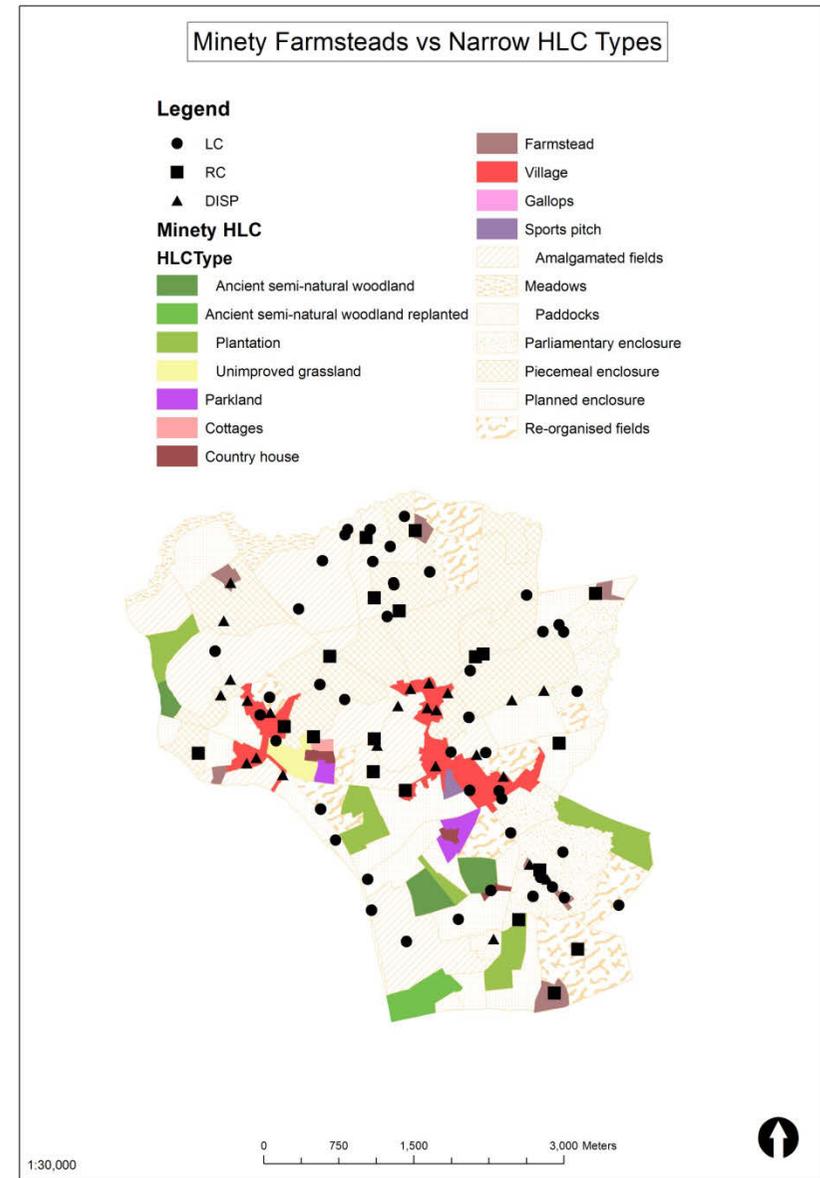


Figure 77

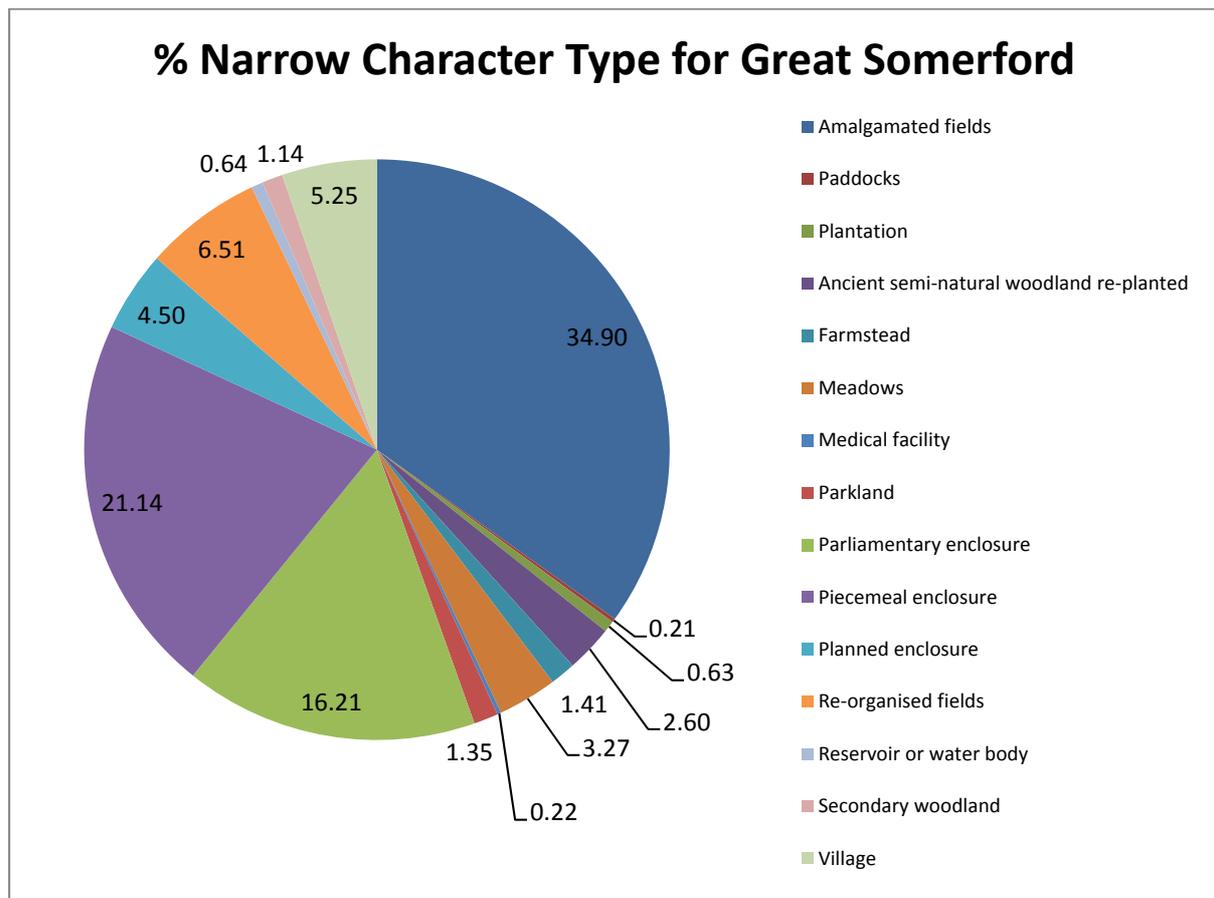


Figure 78

#### *Narrow Types and Farmsteads*

- A parish set on the fertile clays of the north of the county but not a very diverse present landscape character
- This parish is dominated by fields; almost overwhelmingly so. As land traditionally suited to farming, many of the fields have historic origins as demonstrated by the proportion of Parliamentary and piecemeal examples
- Those more modern fields tend to be amalgamated and these preserve much of the character of the earlier fields they modify; in this case mainly piecemeal fields
- The presence of meadow land and ancient woodland supplements the notion that this parish has not changed greatly over time, and the village has historic origins and form – with the parkland relating to the former manorial holding
- The picture of a rural parish is enhanced by the very limited area dominated by modern landscape character types such as the medical facility and reservoir
- The majority of farms are of a courtyard style and located in amongst the fields, some relating to the early post-medieval piecemeal enclosures and other to former common land that was enclosed by Parliamentary Act in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Those that exist within the settlement areas seem to be dispersed in form or include multiple yards – the sheer number of farms reflects the number of former manors



- Those dispersed farms that do exist surround the ancient forest on land that has been assarted (cleared under licence) of wood. Their form and date link to the land management system may be indicative of areas subject to forest law?
- Rebuilding of farms into those with courtyards may reflect the eventual enclosure of a previously open landscape – as most of these farms of 19<sup>th</sup> century date

West Overton

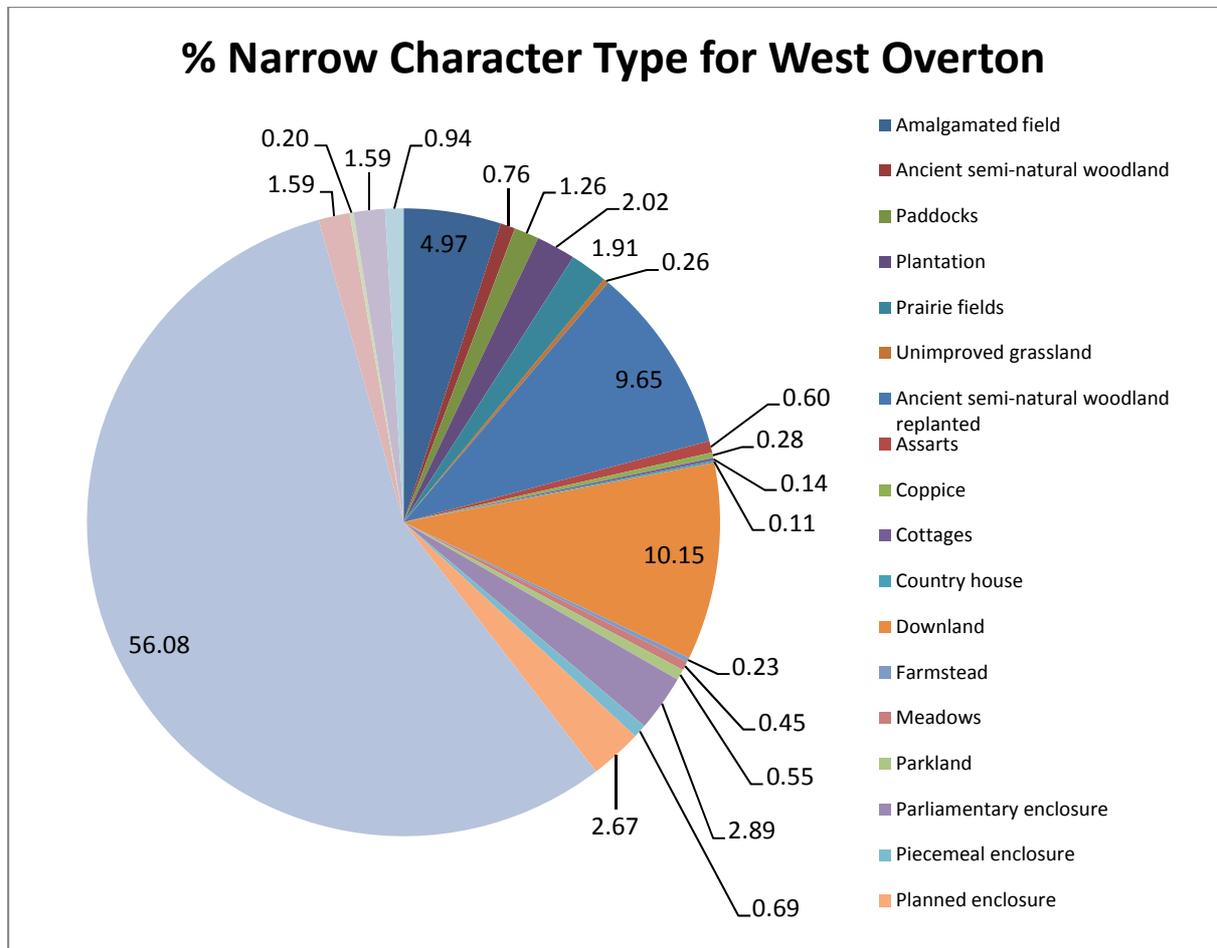


Figure 80

*Narrow Types and Farmsteads*

- This is a parish set in a chalk downland landscape, and so it varies greatly in its character and farmsteads relative to the others discussed so far
- The vast majority of fields are modern types and many have been formed by enclosing formerly open downland, although a proportion of downland survives
- Part of the area is occupied by West Woods, this is not a landscape characterised by forest management and exploitation
- Fieldscapes are large and include new prairie fields and other sizeable re-organised examples. Those historic fields that do exist tend to be later planned types
- Very few farmsteads exist in the parish, and most lie within settlement areas, down in the river valleys. The former downland areas have limited numbers of farmsteads to serve them, but they tend to be larger in size – perhaps to aid self sufficiency in this remote part of Wiltshire?

- As elsewhere, those farm set in the landscape tend to be the courtyard forms which may have been redeveloped during agricultural intensification during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whereas the manorial farms inside settlements may have more dispersed plan forms
- The HLC data generally shows that there has been little increase in the occupation of this landscape – more that formerly more valuable resources (such as downland for grazing and ancient woodland for timber and fuel for industrial activities) have been sidelined in favour of increasing arable agriculture

### Minety

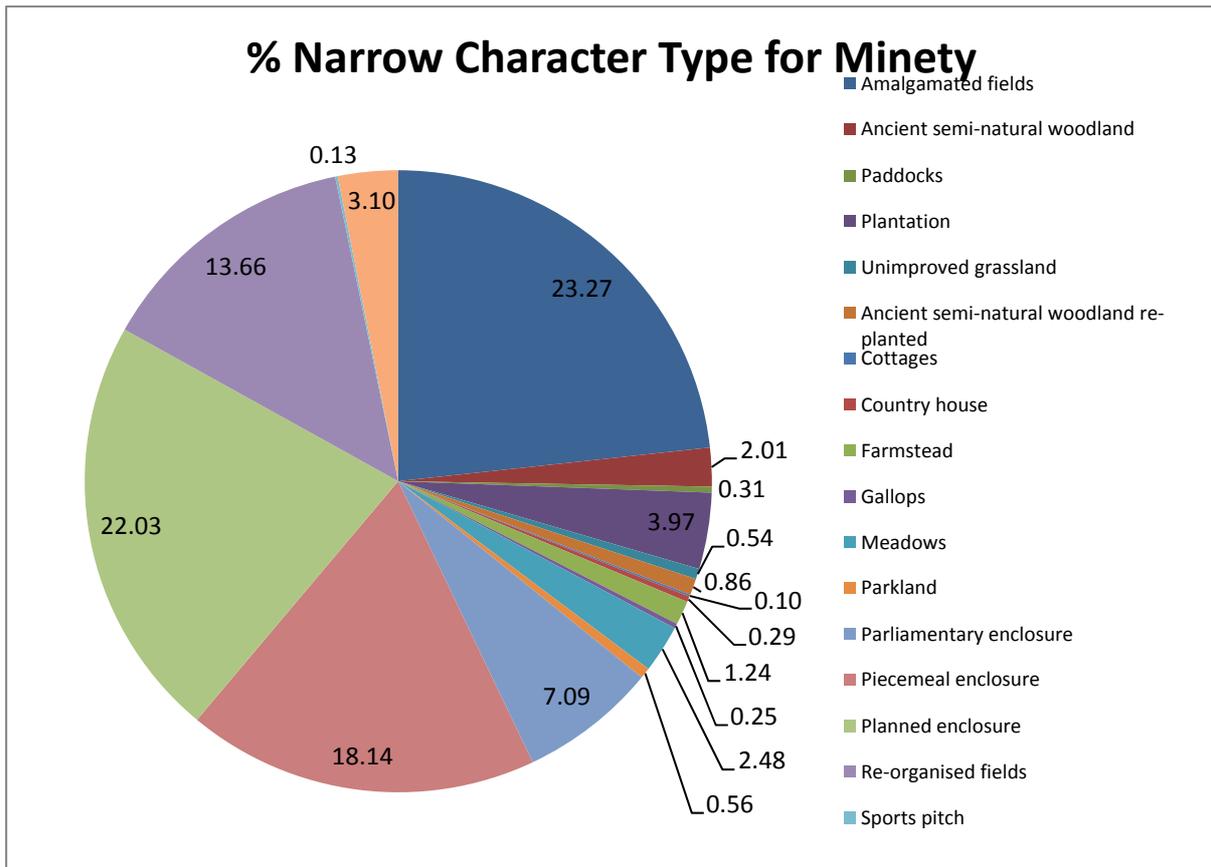


Figure 81

### *Narrow Types and Farmsteads*

- Minety is a similar parish in many ways to Great Somerford, it exists on the fertile clays and is dominated by fields; although a greater variety of types can be observed
- Fields are roughly evenly divided between modern and historic examples and split between earlier irregular forms and later orderly forms (planned and Parliamentary).
- The other obvious components in the parish are the plantations and clumps of ancient woodland (part of Braden Forest) that principally lie to the south of the village
- The older woodland relates to the manor which later has associated parkland, whereas the plantations relate to agricultural practices and ring the altered fields
- Some modern facilities relating to recreation and leisure have been created in the form of gallops, paddocks and sports pitches – but these are not intrusive landscapes
- Numerous farmsteads exist in the parish, many of those in settlements are dispersed and those in the fields are courtyard types but multi-yards remain locally common

- The HLC data and farmstead distribution suggests a landscape subject to ancient and more modern enclosure. The presence of grassland, meadows and piecemeal fields (later amalgamated) suggests common land and/or an open landscape
- The number of farmsteads and presence of previous landscape types suitable for grazing animals suggest a history of pastoral farming; this is common in forest areas
- The name Minety Moor also indicates landscape character, and the size and character of enclosures in the northern part of the parish demonstrate this openness, along with the presence of farms encircling former common land

### Farmsteads Character Map

Finally, the analysis and synthesis of the HLC data and Farmsteads Project data has enabled the production of a 'Farmsteads Character' map. This is presented below and has been devised by comparing Broad/Narrow HLC types against the distributions of farmsteads by their plan form. This has been used to devise geographic zones where there are consistent patterns of farming landscapes and associated farmsteads. These zones bear relation to the National Character Areas, but have subtle differences and their own narratives relating to the evolution of agricultural buildings across Wiltshire.

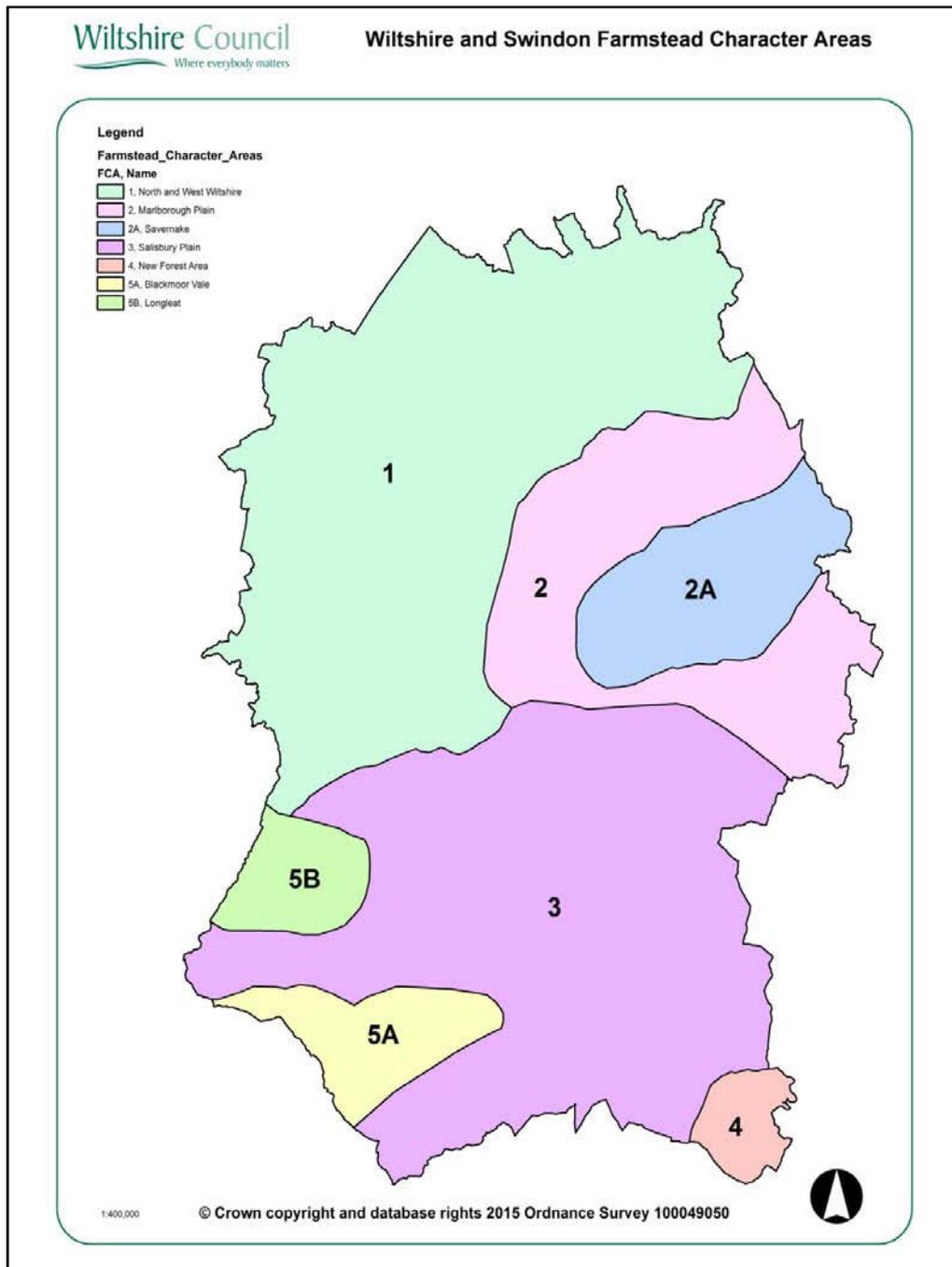


Figure 82

The associated brief farmstead narratives to accompany these zones are outlined here (provided by J. Lake (Historic England) in 2015) and will be elaborated on in future papers:

## **1 – North and West Wiltshire**

The highest densities of farmsteads, and the greatest variety in terms of layout and scale, are concentrated in this area where there was the greatest diversity of farming economies – stock rearing and dairying around commons and woodland, to large arable farms which were also involved in dairying. Distinctions can be drawn between:

- The Cotswolds which is dominated by its medium to large-scale courtyard plans for processing corn and housing cattle. The largest of these, and the most regular in their plan form, are concentrated within the large-scale regular fields dating from late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure on the plateaux.
- The Upper Thames Clay Vales and the Midvale Ridge where farmsteads developed within villages and later as a result of the enclosure of the medieval open fields around them
- The Avon Vales where small to medium-scale farmsteads, with an historic emphasis on stock fattening and dairying with some arable production, relate to a mixed settlement pattern of small villages and hamlets, and are also intermixed with larger-scale including multi-yard farmsteads.

## **2 – Marlborough Plain and 2A – Savernake**

This has a much lower density of farmsteads, but they display a greater range of types than the southern chalk downs (Area 3). Within this area (2A) is the Forest of Savernake, where there are high densities of small-scale farmsteads including linear and dispersed cluster plans. These were commonly into courtyard forms in the 18th/19th centuries.

## **3 – Salisbury Plain**

Salisbury Plain has the lowest densities of farmsteads and the largest fields in Wiltshire, matching the historic character of the downlands in neighbouring Hampshire. The extensive chalk landscapes are dissected by a number of river valleys where settlement is concentrated, and within which large-scale courtyard farmsteads developed, for processing corn and often accommodating large numbers of cattle. Large-scale fields were enclosed from downland and remnant farmland from the medieval period, and are strongly associated with large-scale courtyard farmsteads. The flood plains provided meadowland. The arable fields on the valley were mostly enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries creating large fields with straight boundaries where the topography allowed.

## **4 – New Forest Area**

This is a heavily wooded area on the county border; with much character relating to the New Forest. The historic landscape and associated farmsteads reflect a pastoral rather than arable economy and farmsteads encircle former area of woodland, set into assarted areas. Many of the older examples are of the dispersed type, but rebuilding into courtyard form (more regular than loose examples) may suggest a shift away from a forest economy from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

## **5A – Blackmoor Vale and 5B – Longleat**

The small and medium scale irregular fields, small areas of woodland and hedgerow trees represent a predominantly pastoral landscape that was being enclosed through the clearance of woodland before the 14th century. Dispersed across the landscape and linked by a complex network of roads, tracks and strips of common are small farmsteads (of

courtyard and dispersed plan form), many of which can be traced to the medieval period through documentary sources.

### Outcomes

Analysis of the HLC dataset against the Wiltshire Farmsteads Project dataset has affirmed and deepened the analysis of farmsteads presented in the *Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads and Landscapes Project Report*:

- Farmsteads do have a clear relationship with the character of the landscapes they occupy, along with the underlying geology of Wiltshire
- Comparing HLC and Farmsteads data shows that certain farmstead forms and HLC Types are linked, and provide information on what farming practices were favoured and how these practices relate to landscape character
- Combining farmstead types and HLC Types allows the definition of farmstead character zones, where the trends between the two datasets can be defined and described for discrete parts of the county
- Evolution of the present agricultural landscape (i.e. enclosure of common land, open fields and downland along with assarting of woodland) that can be observed through the HLC dataset is mirrored and explained by changes to farm buildings
- Regional differences in farming practice can be related to the historic character of the landscape. This is an important factor when considering historic farm buildings in addition to their access to local routeways (tracks, roads, rivers, canals and railways), relationship to particular trades/industries and their geographic location within Wiltshire
- Comparing the two datasets can highlight the differences and similarities of farming at a parish level (which is a microcosm of everyday life in the county from the medieval to modern era)
- It seems that survival of historic farm buildings can be linked to the landscapes they inhabit and the historic character of the areas in which they exist. This may relate to changes in land use/character of areas or the historic pedigree (whether intensive or non-intensive) for farming in the different regions of the county

## 7. Conclusions

### 7.1 Summary

Between April 2012 and April 2016 Wiltshire Council, in collaboration with Swindon Borough Council and funded by Historic England, carried out a programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC). The project successfully completed the following:

- The creation of a full HLC dataset for the whole county of Wiltshire (including Swindon) which comprised 14,447 HLC records and polygons relating to 14 Broad Landscape Types and over 100 Narrow Types
- The dataset was fully integrated into the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER), so as to be available for data searches and enquiries
- Review and analysis of the HLC data, and comparison with other historic environment datasets, to identify patterns and narratives
- Case studies showing how HLC data can be applied to investigate a variety of themes, sites and theories relating to the modern/historic landscape
- Descriptions of historic landscape Types (both Broad and Narrow) to enable their identification, enhance understanding of their evolution and issues relating to their survival and legibility
- Various HLC products including: a written/digital Project Report, a GIS dataset with attribute data and associated HLC Type text descriptions, HLC database records, outreach presentations and display materials and a project webpage

These outcomes have undoubtedly enhanced the understanding of the historic character, evolution and composition of the county. As such, it forms a valuable addition to the suite of evidence bases available to decision makers and researchers, both at a national and local level. While the data was used internally by the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Team from an early stage to inform development management advice, research frameworks and historic environment strategies, it was only made more widely available to external partners, commercial bodies and members of the public after the completion of this report.

For the duration of the project Wiltshire Council, and in particular the HLC Officer, worked hard to engage with stakeholders and potential end users and to foster a sense of enthusiasm for the project dataset and the wider discipline of Historic Landscape Characterisation. Opportunities for outreach and dissemination were identified and capitalised on, and this included:

- Production of a project webpage (<http://www.wshc.eu/our-services/archaeology/24-our-services/archaeology/113-historical-landscape-characterisation-project.html>), display boards, fliers and PowerPoint presentations explaining/showcasing the HLC
- Regular meetings with the project stakeholders to showcase results, analysis and ideas. These meetings also enabled feedback to be gained on the nature, scope and presentation of the HLC Project
- Presentations to interested parties and local/national groups – including a paper given at the annual conference of the Society for Landscape Studies, involvement in

the West Midlands Characterisation Group and talks to visitors to the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham

- Raising the profile and publicising the availability and uses of the HLC data to related projects. These include the *Know Your Place West of England Project* (HLF and South Gloucestershire Council), *Wiltshire Farmsteads Project* (Historic England and WBR), *Laying Bare the Landscape Project* (Historic England and Oxford University), *Wiltshire Special Landscape Areas Project* (Wiltshire Council), *NAIS West Wiltshire Project* (Historic England) and the *National HLC Project* (Natural England and Historic England)
- Membership of the North Wessex Downs AONB HLC Steering Committee – enabling discussion on the applications, format, presentation and potential of HLC data

## 7.2 Meeting objectives

Having completed the HLC dataset and the accompanying report, the following section summarises how the project objectives set out in the introductory chapter have been met, and any areas where further work is required:

1. *To deliver an evidence base for spatial and environmental planning at all levels*
  - An ArcGIS dataset with underlying records in an MS Access-based database (HBSMR) exist for the whole county
  - This will be available to Planning Officers, Landscape Officers, Conservation Officers and Archaeological Advisors working for Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council
  - It will also be distributed via the medium of enquiries to the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) to commercial developers, consultancies and researchers
2. *To complete HLC for the World Heritage Site*
  - Both areas of the WHS (Stonehenge and Avebury) now have HLC data that is consistent and comprehensive, and fully contextualised with their surrounding areas.
  - This HLC has been carried out to a finer grain than elsewhere in the county and was created using more sources (present and past) to add depth
3. *To re-do or incorporate the HLC data that exists for the AONB areas in Wiltshire*
  - A unified dataset has been created for the whole county, with the CCWWD AONB and NWD AONB HLC translated into the new format and the Cotswolds AONB dataset completely re-done
  - The new Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset made use of the existing AONB datasets when translating and re-characterising and retains their spatial integrity through the re-use of their polygons
4. *To produce an urban HLC element based on the Extensive Urban Survey reports*
  - HLC data exists for all 29 EUS towns, and this was created in collaboration with the existing EUS reports (and in particular their plan forms)
  - HLC data for Pewsey (which was not covered by the original EUS study) was also created using the same methodology

- Potential exists for the further update and enhancement of the EUS data on the basis of the HLC dataset
5. *To develop an access and retrieval system for all potential users of the new HLC*
    - The archiving of the HLC records in the HBSMR database, which is also used for HER data, designations and development management consultations, enables easy comparison and overlay of the different data and advice streams
    - The use of the HBSMR module also allows easy querying and depiction of the HLC data and visual depiction through a linked ArcGIS component
    - The integration of the HLC dataset into the Wiltshire and Swindon HER also enables its storage, curation and safeguarding into the future
  6. *To deliver outputs that will inform consultation for land management agreements*
    - The HLC dataset provides valuable information on character, evolution and historic grain of the present landscape at a strategic scale
    - This makes the HLC suitable for use/consideration in various forward-looking land management initiatives such as stewardship schemes, woodland grant schemes
  7. *To produce an HLC that supports/informs outreach and educational programmes*
    - The HLC outreach materials and presentations have demonstrated an interest in characterisation data and how it can be used to assist local/national research
    - It feeds into a sense of place/identity which is now very pertinent to the communities of both Wiltshire and Swindon
    - Including the HLC data with the HER data when responding to enquiries will enable it to reach a wider audience of individuals/groups interested in heritage
  8. *To produce a dataset that is compatible with those of adjacent counties*
    - The methodology of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC project was devised based on approaches adopted by other similar projects in adjacent counties and for the AONB areas within Wiltshire
    - Discussions and exchange of ideas was also instigated with Oxfordshire County Council who were also in process of producing their own HLC dataset
    - Advice and guidance from Historic England should enable the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset to be integrated into Natural England's National HLC Project without difficulty
  9. *To deliver a universal HLC in a format suitable to all identified/ potential future users*
    - The HLC products take a number of forms: web content, hardcopy/digital reports and outreach material, electronic presentations, bespoke large display boards, database and GIS dataset
    - These varied HLC resources should be suitable for professional/amateur users as well as to assisting in local/national research and, of relevance to the forward-looking management of change, the provision of historic environment advice, creation of research frameworks, development strategies, neighbourhood planning, land management initiatives and landscape/setting studies

### 7.3 Disseminating the HLC dataset

As has been found in other parts of England, further work will be advisable to facilitate the use of the HLC dataset and to make it as accessible as possible to a wide audience. There is clearly a need to interpret and describe HLC at a varied depth, scale and level so that it is relevant and satisfying to all potential users, again in ways that have been developed elsewhere. Therefore future ambitions might include:

- A detailed and interactive HLC website to replace the current webpage. This would be highly visual, thematic, accessible and perhaps allow some user contributions of their landscape perceptions to sit alongside the HLC. It could also, or in addition, provide access to HLC data in conjunction with other online environmental data provision relevant to the planning process
- A slimmed down HLC publication focusing on the character types and narratives to be more appealing to the general public but also provide a readily-available guide for professional users to understand the historic character perspective of HLC terms which may have other more colloquial usages.
- Providing training/orientation sessions for key user groups such as local authority planning officers/conservation officers, archaeological contractors, decision makers in national bodies, local societies and those involved in higher education (college and university level)
- Production of digital media to promote HLC – short videos, data CDs, HLC toolkits etc. Obviously the content and degree of re-working of the HLC material would depend on the intended purpose

These ideas would help to improve the use and understanding of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset.

### 7.4 Themes for Further Research

The Wiltshire and Swindon HLC project has identified a number of interesting themes and narratives that could be suitable for further research. These could be addressed in several ways depending on the scale and subject of the research: by further developing the existing HLC or by undertaking finer grained HLC of smaller study areas; by conducting more detailed analyses of the HLC or, as commonly undertaken elsewhere, by comparing its understanding with that of other environmental datasets, historic or otherwise, and examining the patterns that emerge. Some of the key areas largely of historic concern to be considered could include:

- Manorial estates and parks
  - The HLC highlighted the large number of former manors and estates, where grand residences were accompanied by parkland, woodland and settlement areas
  - This manorial landscape seems to be characteristic of central Wiltshire and is perhaps an unexpected narrative that could be further investigated
  - HLC data could be combine with tithe maps, historical documents, parish records and other archival sources to help increase the understanding of the

effect estates and manors had on the landscape and lives of the occupants of Wiltshire

- Woodland and Royal Forest
  - Wiltshire has a large number of ancient woodlands and areas of former Royal Forest, and their survival, character and settings have been identified by the HLC dataset
  - It may be that the HLC dataset, in combination with other area-based resources relating to the historic and natural dimensions of the environment, could contribute fresh insights into the agricultural, subsistence and administrative effects the Royal Forests had on the lives of past people
  - Modification and finer grained characterisation of wooded areas would be needed by the HLC would provide a good baseline dataset
- Fieldscapes and enclosure
  - As the HLC dataset demonstrated, the historic character of Wiltshire is overwhelmingly rural and comprises fieldscapes of considerably varied time depths
  - A finer grained study of field character, style, evolution and relationships between HLC Types and settlement areas would be highly relevant and interesting for management and conservation purposes
  - The attribute and Type data recorded by the HLC project would form a starting point for such detailed work, drawing in other area-based resources such as LIDAR, and historic archives to contribute to a multi-faceted research approach
- Industrial landscapes
  - While the county undoubtedly has an important industrial past, this was relatively small scale and so not readily picked up at the strategic scale of the HLC dataset: future finer-grained work would capture that industrial component of the landscape, or a thematic characterisation analogous to that undertaken on Wiltshire farmsteads
  - Such a dataset/analysis would help feed into forward-looking development planning and management and into research frameworks for local areas where industrial aspects are a stronger element of historic character (such as Westbury, Swindon and Trowbridge)
  - Study of the historic landscape character of industrial areas would also be a useful theme in any future efforts to update the county's Extensive Urban Surveys

### 7.5 Future work

The creation of the HLC dataset for Wiltshire and Swindon, and its subsequent analysis/interpretation, has indicated a number of potential follow-on projects that merit consideration. These projects also centre on historic characterisation and would use the HLC data as an evidence base, which could then be adapted and expanded to serve new purposes. The primary ideas are outlined below:

1. *Produce Historic Character Areas (HCAs) or Historic Character Zones (HCZs)*
  - Other local authorities have followed up the creation of their own HLC datasets by defining either HCAs or HCZs
  - There are distinct advantages to consolidating the more numerous and detailed individual HLC records into a more generalised dataset based on geographic areas
  - One application of these HCAs/HCZs is to allow a broader assessment of the historic and archaeological dimensions of the landscape
2. *Update the Extensive Urban Surveys/Create a Rural Settlement Survey*
  - While the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC has made use of the existing Extensive Urban Surveys, these should usefully be updated if it is to have a more effective role in planning
  - The information about historic landscape character and its time-depth recorded by the HLC dataset could inform more detailed/revised plan forms, information about the hinterland of settlements and the better contextualised survival of heritage assets in Wiltshire's townscapes/landscapes.
  - The scope of a future EUS enhancement could usefully be extended to cover the character of some of the larger rural settlements in Wiltshire, especially those prone to expansion from future housing allocations. Obviously other evidence bases relating to the historic environment and landscape would be needed to compile these studies but the HLC offers an valuable contextualising evidence base
3. *Build Constraint or ALERT mapping*
  - There is a need for a strategic dataset to identify areas of significance in Wiltshire and Swindon relating to the historic environment and landscape
  - This would help inform spatial planning strategies, the nature of development management consultations and their advice, designations work, targeting of stewardship schemes etc. This would be of real help to advisors, planners and conservation staff
  - Such a dataset would contain records and a mapped component and would likely be created using evidence bases like the HER and HLC – along with other datasets that identify survival, rarity, significance and character of assets/areas/landscapes
4. *Build Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs)*
  - Many HLC Types also comprise landscape areas sharing similar management pressures bearing on similar sensitive aspects of the historic environment. Unenclosed downland may offer such an example. For these areas HEAPs provide an integrated and evidence-based management response, analogous for the historic environment to Biodiversity Action Plans.
  - HEAPs provide assessment of the historic character, building on the HLC, and its significances for the area's range of interested parties. They identify and assess the area's forces for change, their positive and negative impacts, and identify other aspects for which the area has environmental significance. From that evidence base, HEAPs identify management objectives and strategies for achieving them.
  - HEAPs, now undertaken by various Local Authorities and AONBs, provide a clearly-stated, evidence-based strategy for historic environment management,

fully integrated with other environmental management objectives and commitments, and integrated with the breadth of an area's present communities of interest, providing a focus for liaison and engagement to underpin the implementation of the HEAP strategy.

It is hoped that this report will be a helpful guide for those wishing to use the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC in their work, as well as highlighting the potential of characterisation data in the forward-looking management of change and a range of research opportunities. The report outlines some of the interesting themes, patterns and narratives relating to the landscape of the county as well as identifying options for follow-up work. As an integral part of the Wiltshire and Swindon HER, it is anticipated that the HLC will be widely used by the public and professionals interested in how Wiltshire's past has shaped its familiar present landscape and can help maintain its culturally distinctive future.

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## **Appendix 1: Historic Landscape Character Broad Type Descriptions**

The following section details the 14 Historic Landscape Broad Character Types used in the Wiltshire and Swindon project.

These descriptions are intended to help readers understand and identify these basic categories of historic landscape character. The details here help to contextualise the discussions, analysis and application of data at the Broad Type level. It is hoped that these descriptions, style guides and narratives will allow the reader to identify and understand areas with these historic landscape character types.

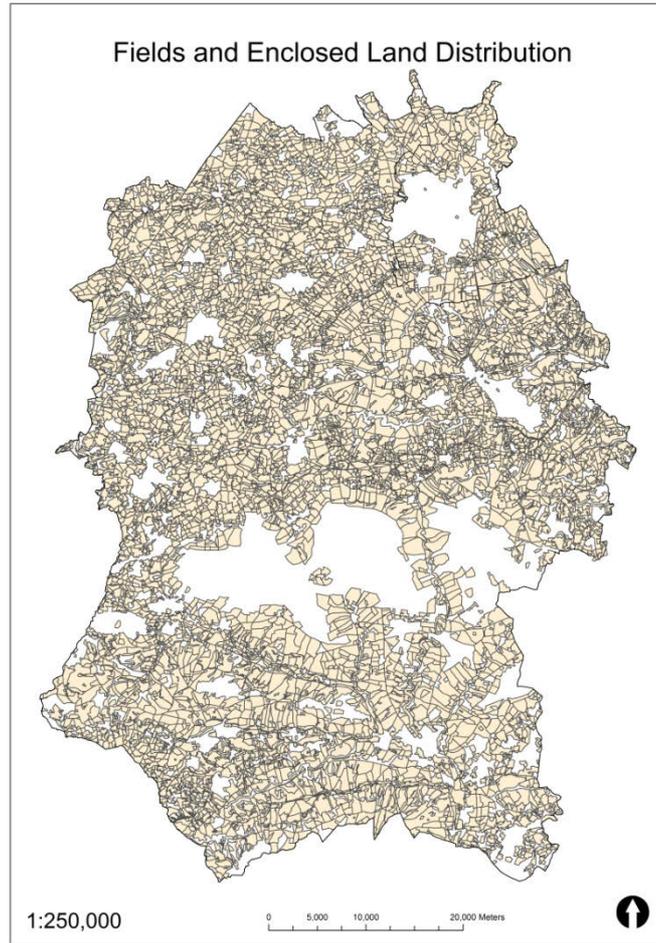
These Broad Types are recorded for each and every polygon in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset, and are the default display category for these polygons in the GIS component of the project. The individual HLC records in the database also reflect elements of the information presented for the 14 types in this section.

Each of the 14 Broad Types is discussed in turn using a consistent format with plain language in order to maximise their accessibility. Each Broad Type Description has the following information:

- *Type Distribution*
  - A map showing where the Broad HLC type exists in the present day
- *Introduction*
  - A brief description and definition of what the Broad HLC type is and salient background information relating to the type
- *Distribution*
  - A discussion of where this Broad HLC type can be found presently and where it is absent, along with any associated reasons
- *Images*
  - Iconic images of Wiltshire and Swindon to demonstrate the Broad HLC Type
- *Principal Historical Processes*
  - Detailed discussion of the origins of the Broad Type with a focus on the any processes or influences that have had an impact on its distribution and frequency
- *Components*
  - Brief discussion of features that are commonly associated with or included within areas of the Broad Type – often these help with identification
- *Rarity*
  - How rare or common the Broad HLC type is relative to other Broad HLC types
- *Survival and Coherence*
  - Discussion of how robust/fragile the Broad HLC type is and what has affected this, as well as information on how easy it is to identify
- *Time Depth*
  - Brief discussion of how well previous HLC character types survive within this type and what previous HLC character types are typical
- *Statistics*
  - Information from the HLC polygons mapped in the GIS detailing coverage of the Broad HLC Type

## Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Fields and Enclosed Land

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

This type primarily comprises field parcels of one form or another, used for agricultural activity (grazing, arable, stock keeping and water management). The creation of fields has origins in the later prehistoric era and examples of fields from all time periods remain legible in different parts of the county.

### Distribution

This type is the major current character type of the county and is very widely distributed. The notable exceptions occur around large areas of forest (e.g. Savernake), swathes of surviving downland (e.g. Salisbury Plain), areas dominated by parkland (e.g. Bowood) and around the larger urban settlements (e.g. Swindon).

## Images



Plate 14

## Principal Historical Processes

The history of this type has very early origins, with examples from the later prehistoric period surviving and remaining legible in certain areas. In addition, remnants of fossilised medieval fields (open fields comprised of strips or furlongs) are still legible in certain areas of the landscape. The process of formalised enclosure has early post medieval origins, and accelerated in the latter part of this period – particularly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when enclosure by Parliamentary Act became prevalent in certain parts of the county. More recently, there have been substantial changes to the fieldscapes of Wiltshire and Swindon with re-shaping and boundary change being commonplace.

## Components

The fields in the county vary hugely, both in terms of size, morphology and boundary type. These features help to identify the particular field type (e.g. assart, planned field etc.) and can often be characteristic of particular formation processes that led to the creation of the field or enclosure.

## Rarity

Fields are abundant and comprise the most dominant current landscape character for Wiltshire and Swindon.

## Survival and Coherence

Field boundaries have been both gained (through subdivision of existing field parcels), and lost (through combination/amalgamation), in the county. The general trend is that boundaries have been lost in the north, where smaller fields have been combined to make large holdings more suitable for modern agriculture. However, in the south, many field boundaries have been instated to divide up former open land (most typically downland) as there has been a desire to exploit more marginal land for arable agriculture.

Fields are easily recognisable, but the nuances in their individual morphologies and history are less easily accessible.

### Time Depth

A large proportion of the fields identified in the county demonstrate evidence for a previous landscape character. In many instances, this former character relates to other earlier enclosure episodes, but sometimes to the actual enclosure of an open area or landscape that had ornamental or recreational purposes.

### Statistics

#### *Area*

The Fields and Enclosed Land type covers 243,602 ha, which constitutes 69.87% of the county.

#### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 7580 polygons which equates to 52.47% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

#### *Average Polygon size*

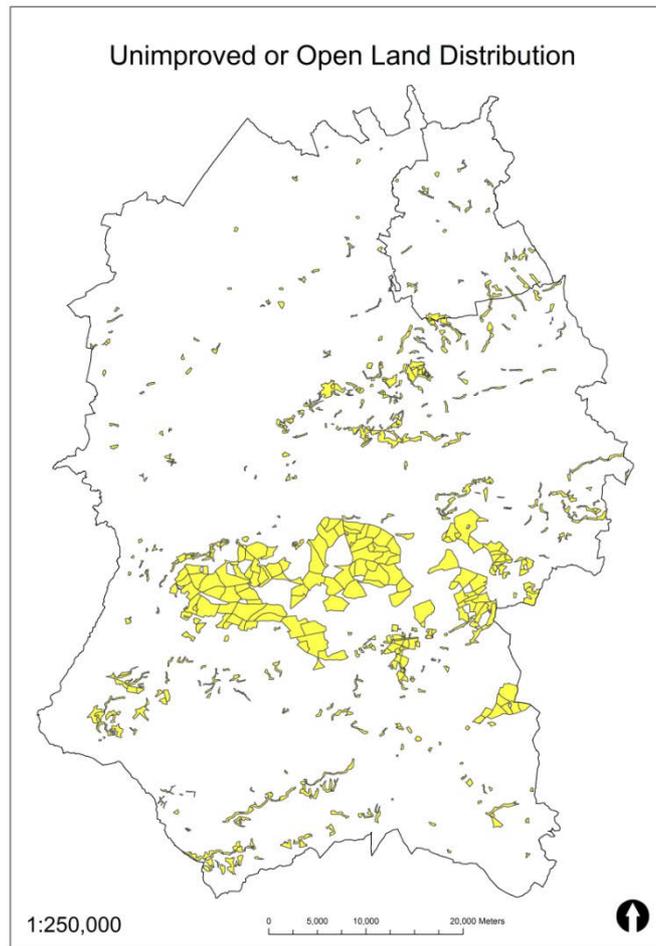
Each polygon averages 32.14 ha in size.

#### *Previous Coverage*

6294 polygons (43.57% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Fields and Enclosed Land category. These polygons comprise an area of 175953.90 ha (50.47% of the whole county area)

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Unimproved or Open Land**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

Some areas of Unimproved or Open Land survive within Wiltshire and Swindon, in spite of the recent exploitation of these areas for agricultural, residential, military or recreational use. These include patches of downland, greens, heathland, marsh and bog. The amount of surviving open and unimproved land is far smaller than was present in the past. The biggest impact on this has been the intensification of agriculture, residential development and creating recreational facilities.

### Distribution

The Unimproved or Open Land category has a very distinctive distribution, and links very closely with the geology and topography of the land. The two principal foci are Salisbury Plain in the centre and south and the Marlborough Downs in the northeast. Much of the rest of the land that has been classified as Unimproved or Open lies within the Rover valleys that

### Images



Plate 15

### Principal Historical Processes

The open chalk downland that survives represents traces of a much larger downland landscape that was integral to the sheep and corn system of farming that was widely used in Wiltshire. While some of this land has been transformed into fields, some has survived due to its ownership by the military – whose activities have not fundamentally altered the character of large areas of downland.

The other type of open or unimproved land relates to areas of liminal or marginal land which lie at the edge of settlements or field systems that were not favourable or suitable for agriculture – such as heath or marsh land. However, it is worth noting that some of these areas were subject to common rights and would have had value to the local community for grazing and foraging purposes. However, from the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries these were encroached upon by private land owners and this process has continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

### Components

The areas of unimproved land vary somewhat in size, with some downland areas being very extensive and other areas proving to be small parcels. In many cases this landscape character type has associated ground cover (scrub, furze, bushes etc.) or woodland and is irregular in form, with little partitioning or division of the landscape. Some areas are now in military use, particularly for training, but this does not always form the dominant character of the landscape (even if the usage has changed in more recent times).

### Rarity

This Broad Character Type is not common, but is typical for certain parts of the county – such as the central/southern region around Devizes, Pewsey and Salisbury.

## Survival and Coherence

While only a fraction of the former open or unimproved land survives in Wiltshire, where it does still exist, it retains much of its historic character and the defining characteristics that identify it. However, where it has been altered there are often traces of its character fossilised in the present day. It also retains much of the very early character that can be readily identified in the county, with the marginal upland locations helping to preserve features that would doubtlessly be lost in lowland locations. It could be argued that only in the areas of former ancient forest (e.g. Savernake, Chute and Braydon etc.) would this type of landscape been totally absent.

Where this character type is present it is very distinctive and easily recognisable. This is particularly the case with the swathes of downland that are present in the central and southern portions of the county. Some of the more marginal land is harder to identify as it lies at the periphery of more dominant landscape character types.

## Time Depth

Out of all of the broad character types studied as part of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project, the time depth of this category is the most impressive. As the land in question has been exploited less and subject to less change, there is excellent survival of prehistoric, Roman and medieval field systems (and on occasion settlement sites).

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Unimproved and Open Land type covers 28,640 ha, which constitutes 8.22% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 636 polygons which equates to 4.4% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### *Average Polygon size*

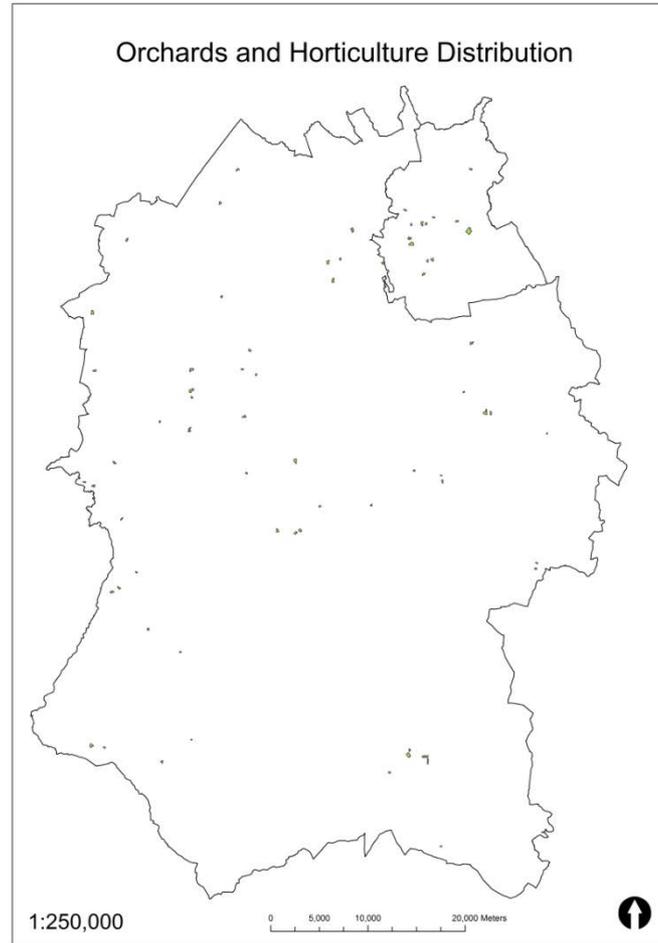
Each polygon averages 45.03 ha in size.

### *Previous Coverage*

2484 polygons (17.19% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Unimproved and Open Land category. These polygons comprise an area of 97238.58 ha (27.89% of the whole county area).

## Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Orchards and Horticulture

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

This landscape type relates principally to orchards, allotments, market gardens and plant nurseries/garden centres. Many of these are a fairly recent phenomenon, and no obvious examples dating to the pre-post medieval period can be easily identified.

### Distribution

This type of landscape character is quite rare in the present day and is mainly linked to major urban centres, where green space for the inhabitants takes the form of allotments or market gardens. While some villages retain small orchards, the majority of these have been lost in the last 200 years to residential development. Those that do remain tend to exist for a commercial purpose. During the post medieval period it would have been far more common to have orchard and fruit trees in small plots in and around villages and hamlets. The rise of large-scale agricultural production and land ownership would have made these orchards more marginal. Obviously, the advent of plant nurseries and garden centres is a modern phenomenon linked to increased recreational and hobby time for individuals, although some designed parkland landscapes do have nurseries for young plants.

## Principal Historical Processes

The majority of the features that fall within this landscape category date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century or later. While there are clear historical references to orchards in the medieval period, it is unlikely that many of these survive into modernity. It is also worth noting that the historic orchards would have been planted at a much lower density than they are today so this will impact on their survival. In addition to this, the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project aimed to record the majority of landscape character types when they were 2ha or more in size, and this would preclude a large number of the historic orchards which, as previously stated, were very small in size.

## Components

Orchards tend to be small enclosed land parcels dominated by fruit trees, with vineyards being similar with the use of rows of vines for the production of grapes.

The more modern landscape types in this category are very distinctive. Allotments and market gardens tend to be set within towns and villages and set out in a series of linear strips, each of which is individually owned and managed. Plant nurseries and garden centres tend to be large facilities at the edge of settlements, with growing areas, car parking and retail buildings. This makes them very easy to identify on any map source or photograph.

## Rarity

This landscape character type is rare, but this is due to the small size of the features often meaning they were not suitable for individual digitisation. Nevertheless, the tradition of horticulture and orchards is not as strong in Wiltshire as it is in neighbouring counties like Dorset and Somerset.

## Survival and Coherence

Orchards and vineyards are a fairly fragile type and have disappeared rapidly over time. Small pockets of fruit trees do survive in some of the rural settlements but they do not form a coherent character. Allotments and market gardens survive better, but some areas of these which were present in the early C20 have now been given over to residential development.

## Time Depth

This landscape character type is small in scale and rarely offers an insight into previous land use. This is especially the case with some of the larger commercial garden centres and nurseries which have developed in a way that has removed all traces of prior character.

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Orchards and Horticulture type covers 316ha, which constitutes 0.09% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 71 polygons which equates to 0.49% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

*Av Polygon size*

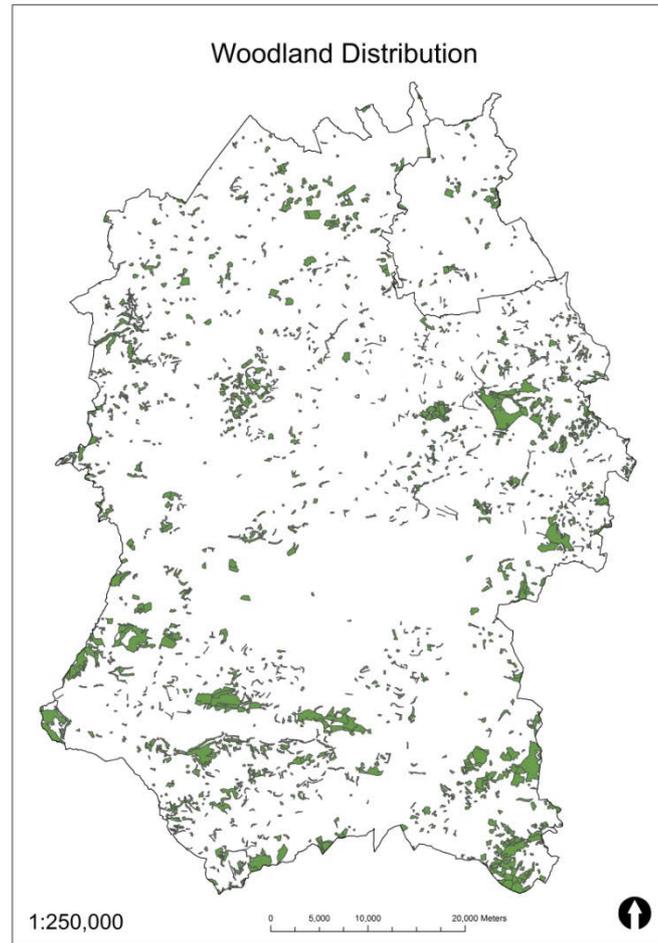
Each polygon averages 4.45 ha in size.

*Previous Coverage*

265 polygons (1.8% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Orchards and Horticulture category. These polygons comprise an area of 1733.43 ha (0.50% of the whole county area).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Woodland**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

This type comprises woodland of all types and forms. This varies from the ancient woodland (semi-natural and re-planted) relating to the former forests and extensive woodland which characterised particular areas of the county, to modern plantations and coppices planted for agricultural or ornamental purposes. Some of the wood likely has medieval origins, with associations with royal estates, manors and hunting activities. Some later woodlands were planted to create a source of timber, to shelter fields and holdings or to enhance the landscape. Significant blocks of woodland survive in the eastern portion of the county as well as in the south on the borders with Hampshire (in the east) and Somerset (in the west).

### Distribution

Woodland is fairly common across the county, with the only notable gaps occurring around major settlements, or the chalk downlands in the Salisbury Plain area. However, large blocks of surviving woodland are relatively uncommon, which makes the large swathes of woodland associated with Savernake, Chute Forest, Braydon Forest, Longleat and Grovely Wood striking and locally distinctive. However, the general pattern across the county is of dispersed woodland that has survived in amongst the fields and settlements, or been planted to supplement them.

## Images



Plate 16

## Principal Historical Processes

The woodland that exists within Wiltshire is diverse in both its character and extent. The largest examples tend to have early origins and are woodland that is marked as 'ancient' by the Natural England Woodland Inventory (that is to say woodland with an origin of pre 1650). Many of these large woods have earlier origins dating back to at least the medieval era, as established forests. While these areas account for a large hectarage of woodland in the county, the majority of woodland blocks are far smaller in scope and relate to processes of plantation, coppicing and pasturing. In the post medieval period these wooded areas would have been exploited for the timber resource they provided, whereas in more recent times they have been more frequently created for agricultural purposes.

## Components

The woodland in the county can be described as either broadleaf, coniferous, or a mixture of the two. Generally the more established woodland blocks comprise broadleaf trees, with the more recent woodland tending to have a higher proportion of coniferous ones. Of course the tree type and form of the woodland relates closely to its purpose and origin, and these factors have been used to identify the different Narrow Types that are present in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset.

## Rarity

Woodland is fairly typical and is the third most common current landscape character type present in the county. While the larger blocks of wood are few and far between, most parishes and landscapes include some elements of woodland. The only obvious exceptions are urban areas and on the chalk downlands.

## Survival and Coherence

The overall trend for Wiltshire is that of woodland loss, although the rate of felling has declined in the modern era. Clearance of woodland for agriculture was widespread in the medieval and post medieval period and has greatly diminished the extent of the woodland in the county. While there have been recent episodes of planting for timber production, and regeneration of ancient woodland for leisure, habitat and commercial purposes the overall proportion of woodland has not increased greatly.

Woodland is easy to identify and its name, location, form and composition often give a strong indication of its purpose and character.

## Time Depth

Woodland, by its nature does not allow easy identification of earlier character. This is particularly the case when considering it from a desktop study with only maps and aerial photography to study. Some later woodland planted in more recent times (later post medieval and modern) retains some indication of the former land use, which is typically open land or former fields. In addition, occasionally earthworks of much earlier activity can be identified as surviving in the woodland or dictating its form. However, in many cases it is difficult to identify the exact age of the woodland and what the character of the landscape would have been prior to its existence.

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Woodland type covers 25,508 ha, which constitutes 7.32% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 2069 polygons which equates to 14.32% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### *Av Polygon size*

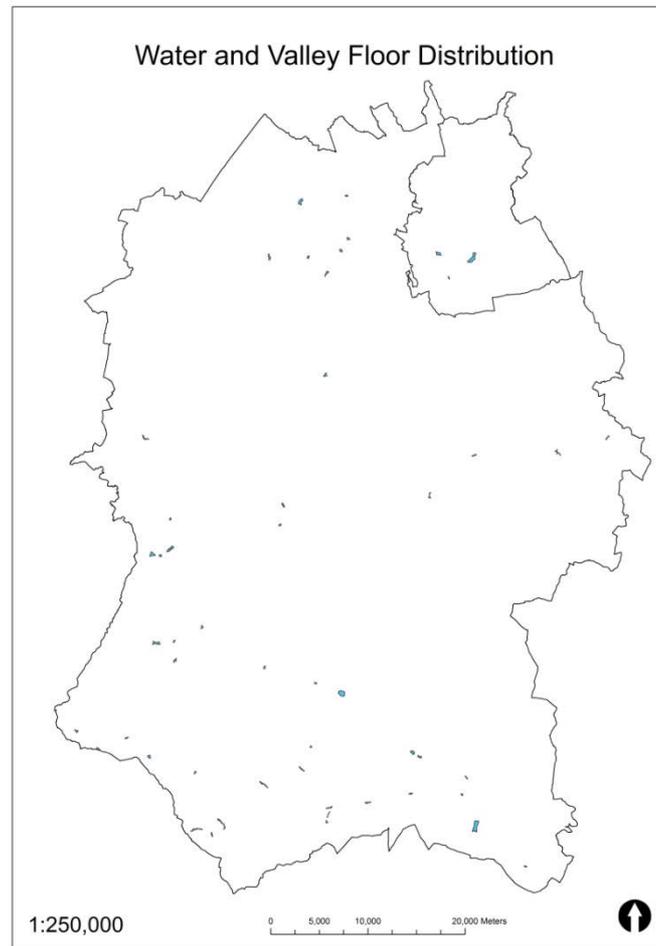
Each polygon averages 12.33 ha in size.

### *Previous Coverage*

185 polygons (1.28%) have a previous character type from the Woodland category. These polygons comprise an area of 3033.76 ha (0.87% of the whole county).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Water and Valley Floor**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

Wiltshire is criss-crossed by several important rivers (see earlier hydrology map) which have created distinctive landscape character in the associated river valleys. These principally comprise the Avon and Kennet in the northern and central part of the county and the Borne, Wylde and Nadder in the south of the county. The creation of features using this water, such as fishponds and osier beds, has added aesthetic and economic value. While quite rare and fragile, some do survive in association with later post medieval landscape parks and the water meadow systems that provided the life blood of the river valley settlements in the past.

### Distribution

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the features that fall within this broad category are associated with rivers and lie within river valley locations, close to the waterways that support them. They cluster particularly around Salisbury and make use of the Avon and Wylde. Those that lie further away from the major river courses have associations with medieval and post medieval manors and foundations; with this being particularly the case with fishponds. Some of the more modern fish ponds/lakes are associated with recreational areas or parkland, but the modern fish farms still occupy traditional riverside locations as one would expect.

## Images



Plate 17

## Principal Historical Processes

The evidence illustrates that exploitation of rivers and streams for economic benefit has medieval origins. While some medieval fishponds do survive, the majority of the features in this category have a later post medieval date. During these periods, the transport links across, and out of, the county would have aided the trade in fresh river produce to other towns and cities.

## Components

These features as a rule follow natural topography and the routes of watercourses, and are as such sinuous and irregular in shape. Some of the later features like the watercress beds and fish farms were carefully planned affairs and tend to be of a more regular shape. Nevertheless, all of these features require some degree of engineering and their appearance is manmade even though natural features are utilised to some extent.

## Rarity

These features are rare and are distinct to the river valleys in the south of the county, although some do exist in other parts. Those of post medieval origin represent a unique period of exploitation of riverine resources that occurred in the latter half of the C19.

## Survival and Coherence

Many of the larger features, and those of more recent origin, survive reasonably well into modernity. However, some of the small features like osier beds and early fishponds are easily damaged, have fallen from use and so have diminished in number and quality.

## Time Depth

This landscape character type is small in scale and rarely offers an insight into previous land use. Often the construction and implementation of such features has impacted on and removed the obvious traces of previous landscape character.

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Water and Valley Floor type covers 350 ha, which constitutes 0.10% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 57 polygons which equates to 0.39% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### *Av Polygon size*

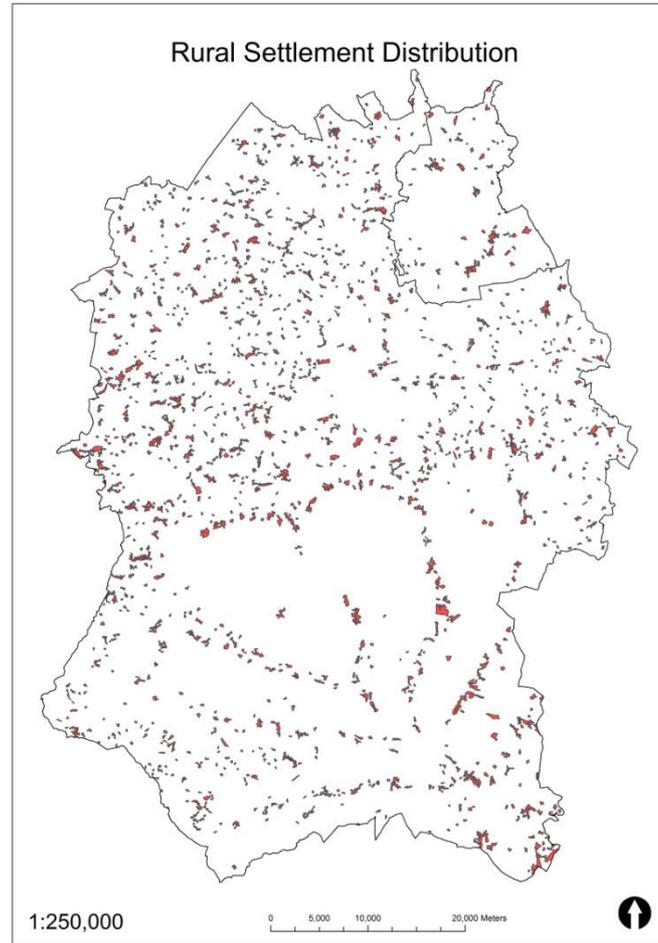
Each polygon averages 6.14 ha in size.

### *Previous Coverage*

3 polygons (0.02% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Water and Valley Floor category. These comprise an area of 15.45 ha (0.11% of the whole county area).

## Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Rural Settlement

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

Wiltshire is full of rural settlements: be they villages, hamlets, farmsteads or grand country houses. Indeed, while there are some large towns, the character of the typical Wiltshire parish is defined by these settlements hubs that are set in amongst the varied landscape. Many settlements have Saxon or medieval origins, and the historic cores of settlements remain legible in the present day despite the frequent expansions that have occurred since the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. They relate strongly with associated field systems, designed parkland manors and blocks of woodland. Many of these settlements have highly distinctive and localised vernacular styles. In addition, the fossilised traces of some abandoned settlements of medieval and earlier date can be identified in certain locations across the county.

### Distribution

Rural settlements are commonplace and are widely distributed across the county. Logically, many follow well established routeways or watercourses and this is particularly the case in the southern portion of the county. The northwest of the county has perhaps the greatest concentration of villages, farms and hamlets and these seem to surround the important market towns of Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Westbury, Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon.

In contrast there is a generally lower level of occupation in the southern half of the county (notwithstanding Salisbury). In addition, some villages have now been absorbed into the larger urban conurbations (such as is the case with Swindon).

### Images



Plate 18

### Principal Historical Processes

The focus to most of the rural settlements in Wiltshire is the pre 19<sup>th</sup> century plan form that can still be identified in many cases. Such layouts often have Saxon or medieval origins and place name evidence and listing in the Domesday Book make these earlier origins clear. The three major rural settlement forms are nucleated, linear and dispersed or piecemeal. The typical nucleated villages cluster around a central church, green or manor house, while the linear and dispersed settlements usually align with routeways and waterways. During the later post medieval period, settlement expanded into areas that were previously more marginal and there was also conglomeration and loss of some existing settlements. This occurred around many of the county's towns – which are discussed more fully in the urban settlement section.

### Components

The form, layout and character of the features recorded in the Rural Settlement category vary enormously. For the majority of them, an historic core with a selection of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings survives and remains legible, with a combination of modern infill and expansion making up the rest of the settlement. In some instances there are strong associations with manorial holdings and parkland, churches or particular industries and these dominate the settlement and heavily influence their character. The number of entirely new settlements is more limited, although there has been some encroachment since the 19<sup>th</sup> century into open or common land, and the rapid expansion of isolated dwellings into small communities.

## Rarity

Rural settlements are a common site in Wiltshire, perhaps in some ways due to the relatively limited number of very large urban centres (with only Swindon and Salisbury being of the highest order of magnitude). They occupy an approximately similar proportion of the county in hectareage to the urban settlements discussed later.

## Survival and Coherence

There is generally good continuity in settlement pattern over time in Wiltshire. The existing pre 19<sup>th</sup> century settlements have only seen major change in fairly recent times. The changes in settlement seem to be more pronounced in the northern and western parts of the county, with a slightly slower pace of change in the majority of the southern and eastern parts of Wiltshire.

Settlement is obviously easy to identify, although the classification by exact Narrow Type can prove challenging in certain circumstances. As such the subtleties of settlement character and history can only be readily understood through the detailed study of maps and aerial photography.

## Time Depth

Some settlements preserve traces of earlier land use – either through infilling old field parcels, retaining field boundaries, preserving ornamental features or the survival of trees that were once part of larger woodland or orchards.

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Rural Settlement type covers 12,283 ha, which constitutes 3.52% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 1995 polygons which equates to 13.81% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### *Av Polygon size*

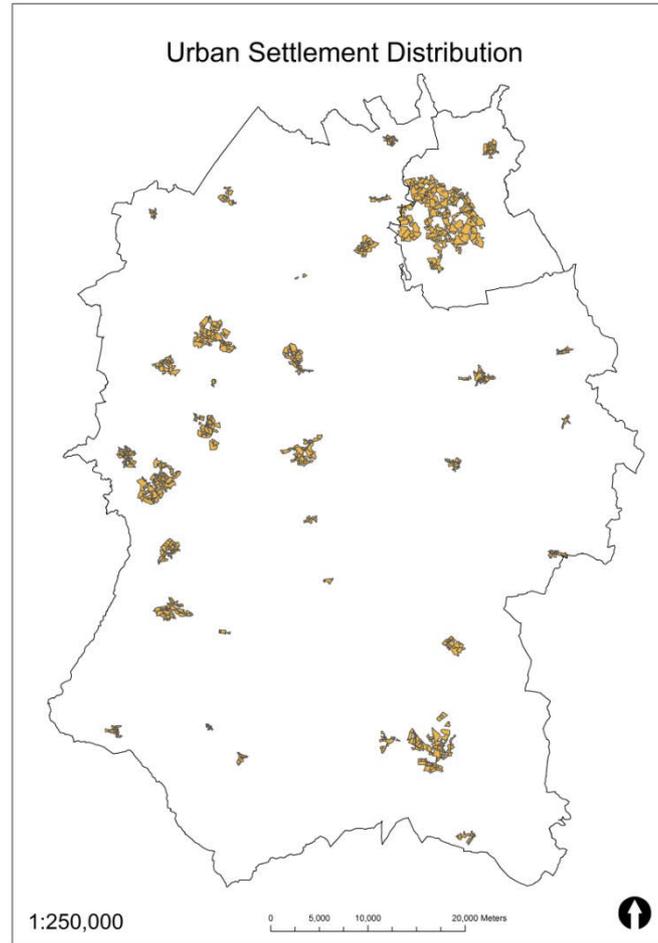
Each polygon averages 6.16 ha in size.

### *Previous Coverage*

539 polygons (3.73% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Rural Settlement category. These polygons comprise an area of 3578.67 ha (1.03% of the whole county area).

## Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Urban Settlement

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

Wiltshire is generally not regarded as a county with a particularly urban character. While it has a number of towns, most of these are relatively modest in scale, with only really Swindon and Trowbridge being very extensive. It does have one city, Salisbury, but even this has a rural and feel to it, as there are extensive green areas, water meadows and fields in an around the settlement area. The majority of the other urban settlements are market towns and have only really grown since the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most retain historic cores, some of which have Saxon or medieval origins, and various architectural and planned elements survive to attest to their growth and evolution.

It is worth noting that for the purposes of the HLC project, a steer was taken from the Wiltshire Extensive Urban Survey (produced 2001-04) to determine which settlements were urban in character. A few other settlements demonstrated an urban rather than rural character (notably Pewsey) but the principal list of towns provided by the EUS project has not fundamentally altered since its publication. In any case, the character of these EUS settlements was re-analysed and the urban nature verified in all cases.

## Distribution

As one would expect, the towns in Wiltshire are fairly evenly distributed across the county. Many form the hubs for trade, occupation and social activities so they exist in all landscape zones and occupy strategic sites. Nevertheless, there is a preponderance of towns in the central portion of the county in the Kennet and Avon Vales. Settlement is generally less dense in the southern part of the county, probably as a result of the topography and slightly poorer transport links. This has resulted in more small scale and rural settlements (often following river valleys) in this area which impacts on the distribution of settlements with an urban character.

## Images



Plate 19

## Principal Historical Processes

While all of the towns in Wiltshire have expanded since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (some like Swindon considerably so) all of them have earlier origins. They are mentioned in the Domesday Book, but some have pre-medieval origins with some evolving from Saxon or even Roman predecessors. In most towns these early and historic cores are preserved and continue to form the focal point of the town as well as retaining some of the most interesting and aesthetically pleasing vernacular architecture. Settlement patterns for towns vary greatly, with some areas set out in gridiron and geometric patterns or in a series of cul-de-sacs. The expansion in the size of towns occurred in line with increased industrialisation in the later post medieval period, which precipitated a centralisation of population who helped to spur on the scope and opportunities for living within an urban environment.

## Components

The form, layout and character of the features recorded in the Urban Settlement category vary enormously. For the majority of them, an historic core with a selection of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings survives and remains legible. In many towns, the core is then surrounded by amenities, civic buildings, recreational and ornamental spaces. Often the more modern industrial, commercial and residential areas lie further out of the town centre, and have been built on a combination of green field and brown field sites. As the major production centres within the county, the towns hosted some fairly large industrial concerns. While many of these are no longer active, their former presence has had a substantive effect on the

character of these urban settlements. No convincing examples exist within the county of entirely new towns that are entirely separate from any existing settlements.

### Rarity

Towns are fairly uncommon in Wiltshire, as the majority of settlements are smaller in scale and rural. Interestingly, in terms of area the proportion of Wiltshire covered by the Urban Settlement category and the proportion covered by the Rural Settlement category. However, the number of inhabitants in the urban towns greatly exceeds those who live in rural settlements.

### Survival and Coherence

There is strong continuity in settlement pattern in Wiltshire. All of the major towns are well established and have surviving elements of historic character. In some places very early town planning can be seen (Salisbury) and coherent historic cores remain legible in all of these urban settlements. In some instances the historic elements have shrunk, but these still remain legible in the present day. However, most of the urban landscapes of the county have a recent origin and constitute swathes of modern housing built to accommodate their burgeoning populations.

Settlement is obviously easy to identify, although the classification by exact Narrow Type can prove challenging in certain circumstances. As such the subtleties of settlement character and history can only be readily understood through the detailed study of maps and aerial photography.

### Time Depth

Some urban areas preserve traces of earlier land use – either through infilling old field parcels, retaining field boundaries, preserving ornamental features or the survival of trees that were once part of larger woodland or orchards. In addition, as many of the towns once had big industries relating to manufacturing of goods (be it bricks, beer, iron, railway infrastructure/locomotives or fabric), elements of this former character still survive, even if sites have been repurposed.

### Statistics

#### *Area*

The Urban Settlement type covers 9740ha, which constitutes 2.79% of the county.

#### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 729 polygons which equates to 5.05% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

#### *Av Polygon size*

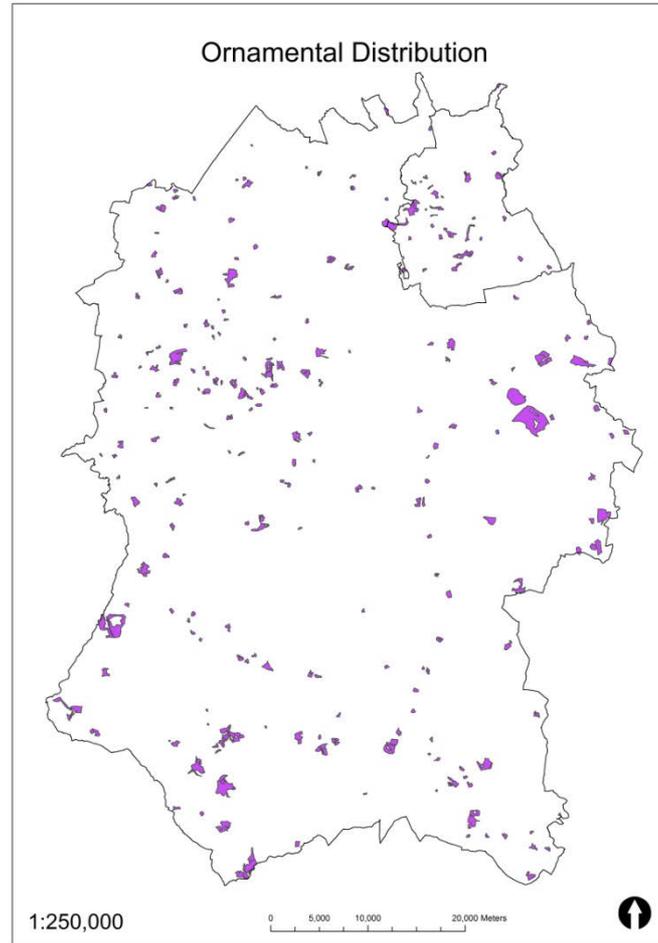
Each polygon averages 13.36ha in size.

#### *Previous Coverage*

45 polygons (0.31% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Urban Settlement category. These polygons comprise an area of 333.81ha (0.10% of the whole county area).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Ornamental**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

This type comprises parks and gardens, the majority of which have late post medieval or modern origins. Many of these are associated with grand country houses or former manorial seats of the nobility (or royalty). Some are very large in scale and scope, whereas others are more modest but nevertheless, all of them form focal points in the landscape and were designed to please the eye. Some incorporate older elements relating to medieval hunting and estates but this can be determined from the historic maps and sometimes from the aerial photography too.

### Distribution

This type is reasonably well distributed across the county, but there are particular concentrations around Savernake Forest, Tollard Royal, Fonthill Gifford, Bowood, Corsham and Lydiard Tregoze. There is also a strong correlation with settlements in the river valleys in the south of the county having small ornamental parks associated with the old manors which existed within each village from at least the post medieval period.

## Images



Plate 20

## Principal Historical Processes

The earliest traces of parkland have origins as medieval deer parks and hunting chases. The outline and boundaries of these early features often influenced the layout of later designed and ornamental parks. However, it should be seen that the majority of the parks and gardens within Wiltshire have 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century origins as landscapes with designed views, organised planting and ornamental features. Some of the parks associated with the large urban towns are more modern creations to provide pleasant green space within new residential areas.

## Components

The components present in the parks and gardens of this Broad Type vary from example to example. Those that evolved from deer parks typically have remnants of their park pale and designed elements which were added later. Many of the parks and gardens focus on a grand house, and these typically have elaborate drives and promenades, carefully crafted views, ornamental plantings and lawns and the occasional water feature. Walled gardens with specialist planting schemes are not uncommon either. The quantity of features present is usually proportional to the size of the estate or manor.

## Rarity

While there are a number of ornamental landscapes within Wiltshire, they are not common and thus tend to be a significant influence on the local character of an area. Some parkland has been lost but this does not heavily influence the overall quantity of designed landscapes that remain to be enjoyed.

## Survival and Coherence

There has been a decline in the number of parks and gardens since the later post medieval period as their upkeep and maintenance is expensive. However, some are still in private ownership and others are now visitor attractions (such as at Longleat and Bowood). In many instances, the larger parklands survive well and are clearly legible in the landscape. Where they are closely associated with settlements, they form part of its identity and character (as is the case in Corsham for example).

While this Broad Type is very recognisable in the landscape, it can be challenging to understand the full range of complex features that relate to the history and evolution of each individual example.

### Time Depth

The majority of the parks and gardens in Wiltshire evolved gradually over time. Some betray evidence of woodland that was felled or fields that were enclosed to help create them. In other areas of designed landscape there has not been substantial ground disturbance so evidence of very early agriculture or occupation (from the medieval period and before) can be identified.

### Statistics

#### *Area*

The Ornamental type covers 7179 hectares which constitutes 2.06% of the county.

#### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 323 polygons which equates to 2.24% of all the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

#### *Av Polygon size*

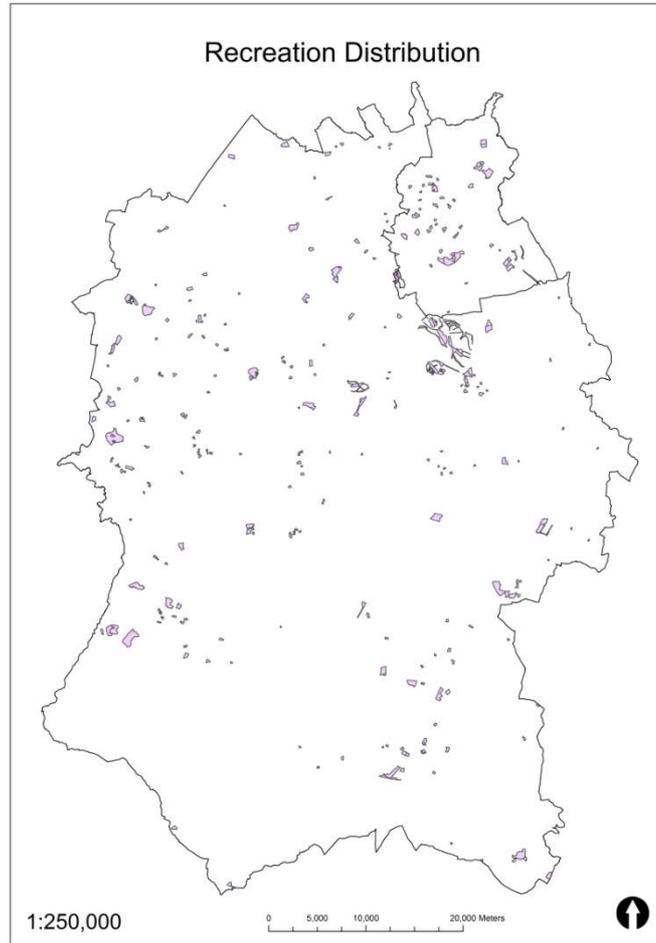
Each polygon averages 22.23 ha in size.

#### *Previous Coverage*

340 polygons (2.35% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Ornamental category. These polygons comprise an area of 6405.39 ha (1.84% of the whole county area).

## Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Recreation

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

This type is one of the most diverse of all landscape character types, but all have the common characteristic of being a man made leisure space or facility. With the exception of medieval deer parks (created for the enjoyment of hunting), all of the other features recorded in this category have a post medieval or modern origin. Most are associated with rural and urban settlement areas and they vary from large landscape-scale enterprises like golf courses to small playing fields for the enjoyment of the local residents.

### Distribution

This type is reasonably well distributed across the county, but with some focus on the northern portion – perhaps due to the higher density of settlement in this part of the county. There is an obvious gap in areas of downland but also in the southwest around Hindon and Mere. A fair proportion of recreational landscape character types cluster around Swindon and its borough, and these are the likely result of the need to cater for the town's inhabitants.

## Images



Plate 21

## Principal Historical Processes

A small proportion of recreational facilities (such as playing fields and gallops/stables) have a late post medieval origin, but the vast majority of the features described by this category have 20<sup>th</sup> century or later origins. This is probably due to the increasing amount of leisure time available to ordinary people, the increased ability to travel to access facilities and the needs of a more urban society to enjoy outdoor activities.

By and large, the impact of these facilities is fairly low as they are typically modest in scale and don't cluster in any particular parts of the county. One of the few exceptions to this is golf courses, which can be quite large and take in a diverse range of landscapes – many of which are subsequently altered. In the north and northeast of the county there are also landscape features relating to racehorse training and ownership, and some of these can also be fairly extensive in scope.

## Components

In order to create recreational facilities, it is often necessary to heavily alter and modify the existing landscape. As such, many of the distinctive features associated with recreation are alien and manmade intrusions such as bunkers, tarmac race tracks, stadium seating and modern sports centre buildings. It is usually the case that these recreation spaces are detached from the rest of the landscape, often as a result of screening provided by fences, hedges and barriers. While some are more open spaces in nature (e.g. playing fields), many are complexes of buildings, kiosks, clubhouses and grandstands.

## Rarity

Features within this Broad Type are uncommon but not rare, as many settlements have some recreational space associated with them.

## Survival and Coherence

As the vast majority of recreational features are modern, they survive well and are easy to identify due to their highly legible forms. Most facilities are still in use and are thus maintained.

## Time Depth

While some such features have late post medieval origins, most are modern. Nevertheless, some retain evidence of previous landscape character, in the form of ridge and furrow, tree cover, re-use of old field boundaries or through lack of substantial modification (such as is the case with gallops that have been created in downland areas). However, heavily developed sites such as leisure centres and many golf courses, have truncated or removed evidence of the previous landscape character.

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Recreation type covers 4281 ha, which constitutes 1.23% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 296 polygons which equates to 2.05% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### *Av Polygon size*

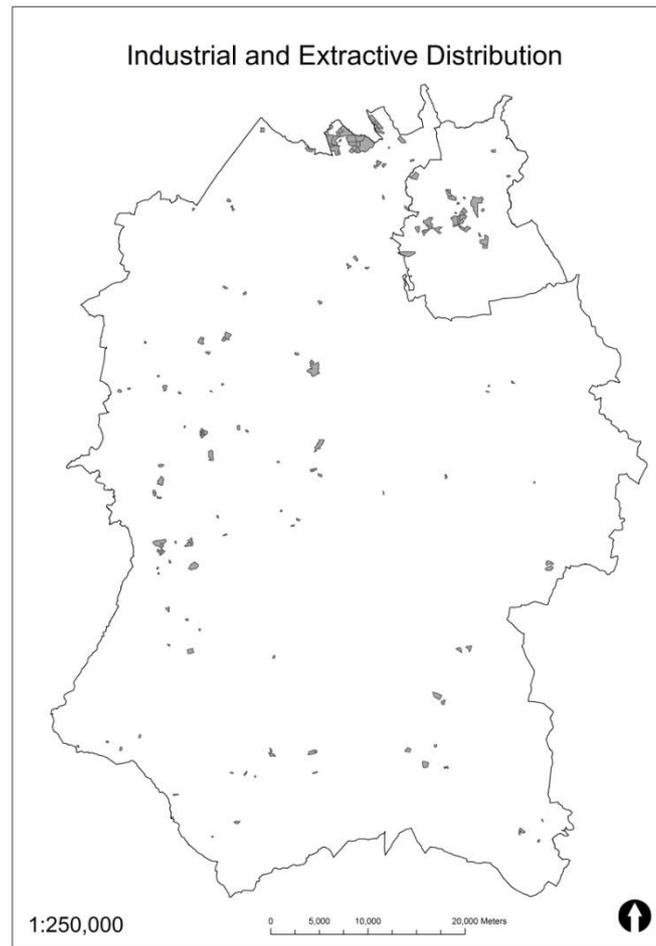
Each polygon averages 14.46ha in size.

### *Previous Coverage*

153 polygons (1.06% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Recreation category. These polygons comprise an area of 5662.37 ha (1.62% of the whole county area).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Industrial and Extractive**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

Industry in Wiltshire and Swindon has played a part in shaping the landscape and character of the county today. The major industries were focused on the major towns like Swindon, Trowbridge and Westbury which were well connected to other parts of the county and beyond to help ensure a distribution of the goods produced. In addition to these main industrial centres, there were more localised practices on a smaller scale which exploited the local geology and watercourses. Many of these mills and quarries have since fallen from use, but their character remains legible in the present day landscape.

The more modern industrial picture differs slightly from that visible on the later post medieval sources. Rather than focusing on the large scale utilisation of natural resources, there are far more small industrial estates, workshops, depots and factories situated in an around the rural and urban settlements providing revenue and employment for the local area in the form of small businesses. This is not to say that some of the larger, historic, industries do not survive in some form. For instance the centre of Swindon is still dominated by the railway works and infrastructure associated with the Great Western Railway, and buildings relating to textile and fabric mills can still be observed in Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and

elsewhere. The most clear modern industry perhaps, relates to the gravel extraction in the Ashton Keynes, Latton and Marston Maisey area.

### Distribution

There is a focus for industrial activity on the north and northwest parts of the county. This may relate in part to the geology (with exploitation for stone, gravel and sand), but also due to the excellent transport network that exists in and around Swindon. The majority of industries that survive lie within the modern towns; where they are easy to access and provide employment opportunities for the local community. It is likely that many smaller industrial concerns have fallen from use, or are too small in scale to be identified by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### Images



Plate 22

### Principal Historical Processes

Exploitation of the land to create resources for building and manufacture is not a new phenomenon, but the industrial landscapes that do survive are by and large of post medieval date or later. Stone quarrying has historic origins at Okus in Swindon and more recently sand and gravel extraction in the Thames Vale area. While chalk extraction was important to construction and agriculture in the south of the county, few areas of quarrying survive or are extensive enough to merit recording. In fact, it should be seen that much of the industry still focuses on the areas of clay that lie in the Avon Vale area.

However, many sites such as industrial estates and workshops relate to the increasing industrialisation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and can be seen as a modern occurrence. It is these larger scale industrial areas that are perhaps the most legible.

### Components

The components of industrial sites in Wiltshire and Swindon vary enormously – depending on the industry to which they relate. Mills have mill buildings, leats and millponds, while factories have sheds, outbuildings if old and car parking and building complexes if modern.

Quarries are easy to identify from their association with exposed stone faces and disturbed ground. It is worth noting that some former quarries are now water filled lakes or reservoirs, but their original character remains clearly legible.

### Rarity

Despite the widespread nature of industry in the county on the past, the surviving examples are rare. Most of the features identified in the HLC project have fairly recent origins, but some features are distinctive locally and have a substantial impact on the landscape they inhabit.

### Survival and Coherence

Industrial sites with historic origins are frequently redeveloped or regenerated and as such often survive poorly. While surviving elements can be identified at a ground level they are not always clear from the mapping sources and aerial photographs. Some of the larger historical sites survive (such as Westbury ironworks), while others remain in use (like the railway at Swindon), but many smaller industries have disappeared. Of course, many of the modern industrial features are in use and are expanding to meet demand so they are much more obvious and coherent in their character.

### Time Depth

While a proportion of industrial sites retain some elements of former land use, many have been heavily developed and expanded in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and so have removed all traces of prior character. Those that display time depth best are the historic industrial sites which have either not fallen from use, have yet to be redeveloped, or have been converted in a manner sympathetic to their character.

### Statistics

#### *Area*

The Industrial and Extractive type covers 2754 hectares, which constitutes 0.79% of the county.

#### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 164 polygons which equates to 1.14% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

#### *Av Polygon size*

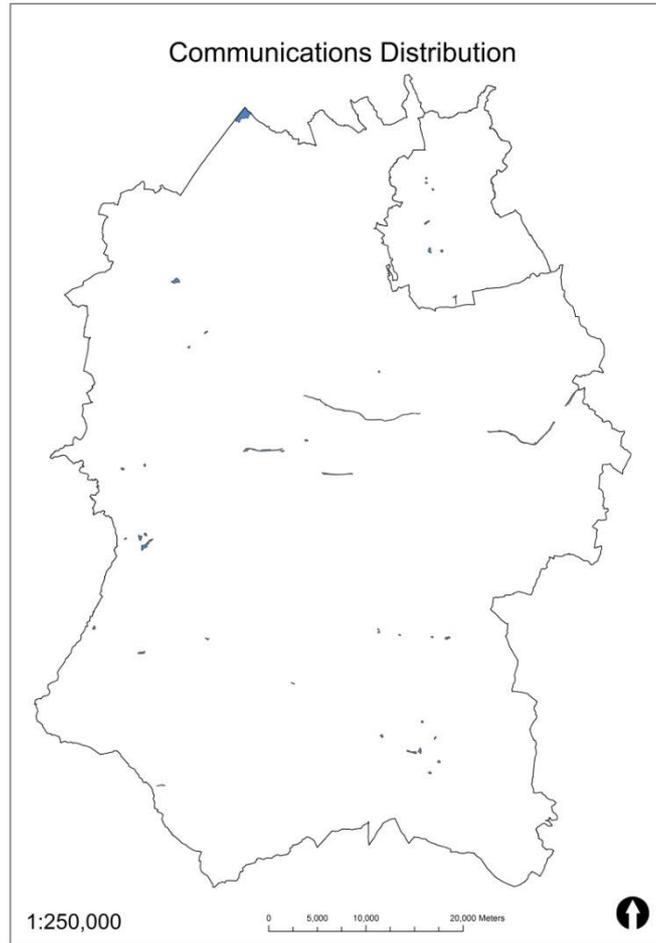
Each polygon averages 16.79 ha in size.

#### *Previous Coverage*

115 polygons (0.80% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Recreation category. These polygons comprise an area of 869.41 ha (0.25% of the whole county area).

## Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Communications

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

Communication networks have always been of importance, as they allow travel across the landscape for work, trade and enjoyment. While the majority of inland communications take the form of roads and tracks there are other features in the landscape which also relate to travel. These principally relate to railways, canals and airports/airfields, and all of these exist within parts of the Wiltshire landscape. Features such as canals and railways have later post medieval origins (during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries), whereas air travel is a recent phenomenon. Also of note, are the former routeways that traverse parts of the county and some of these have early origins, such as the Ridgeway which runs from West Kennett to the northeast for some 87 miles. Such features are rare but impact upon their local landscape in a significant way. This category also includes associated infrastructure associated with communication such as depots, stations, services and car parks.

For the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project it was decided not to map modern roads and railway lines, as this would prove time consuming, complex and unhelpfully subdivide the landscape unduly. Where relict canals and railway lines exist and remain legible they have been recorded (though this is not common). Roman roads, where they have not been overlaid with the modern roads, are also perceptible in certain areas. However, many

features in this category are also not sufficiently extensive or dominant in the landscape to merit separate recording. By lifting away this mainly very recent activity, the truer landscape can be perceived. As such, few landscapes dominated by communications infrastructure exist within the county and those that do tend to link to former industries (like the Great Western Railway) or to the expansion of urban conurbations which require facilities like park and ride bus systems to ease access. Despite this, some routeways can be implicitly seen in the landscape as they are boundaries that mark clear divisions in the landscape character; with differing histories of land use lying on either side.

### Distribution

These features are sparsely distributed, in the main due to the methodological approach necessitated by the characterisation process. Where they do occur, is around the urban centres (particularly Swindon) and along rivers where canal existed and beside parts of the rail network.

### Images



Plate 23

### Principal Historical Processes

While division and traversal of the landscape have an ancient pedigree, the majority of the communications features which dominate the landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon have late post medieval and modern origins. The canals that exploit the Kennet and Avon have 18<sup>th</sup> century origins, while those that use Thames and Severn have 18<sup>th</sup> century origins. The railways came to the county in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through the work of the Great Western Railway. Many of the networks established in this period were enhanced and updated over time and survive into modernity. Indeed, the railway industry is still significant in modern Swindon and the impact it has had on the character of the town and its surroundings remains readily apparent. Other features in this category, such as bus depots and airports, are very recent in origin and represent the evolution of modern society where the ability to travel for work and leisure purposes has become increasingly important.

## Components

The components of the Communication landscape type mainly comprise features such as car parks, depots, stations, service and runways. These are often distinct, easy to recognise and at odds with the surrounding landscape – from which they are frequently divorced. Such sites are often screened or landscaped so as to enhance their appearance or to hide them altogether.

## Rarity

Due to the recording methodology of the HLC project, these features are very rare, but often have a distinct impact on their local landscapes.

## Survival and Coherence

As most features are modern they survive quite well. However, many of the historic routeways and their associated infrastructure/buildings have been lost, obscured, or are too small to dominant the character of the landscapes within which they exist. Where sites and features do survive, they are very recognisable although the evidence for some disused railways and canals is not so easily appreciated.

## Time Depth

Little previous landscape character can be identified for the landscape dominated by communication sites and features. Modern developments obscure prior character, and those landscapes with historic origins are well established enough that it is not easy to identify former character from the available sources.

## Statistics

### Area

The Communications type covers 471ha, which constitutes 0.14% of the county.

### No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 47 polygons which equates to 0.33% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### Av Polygon size

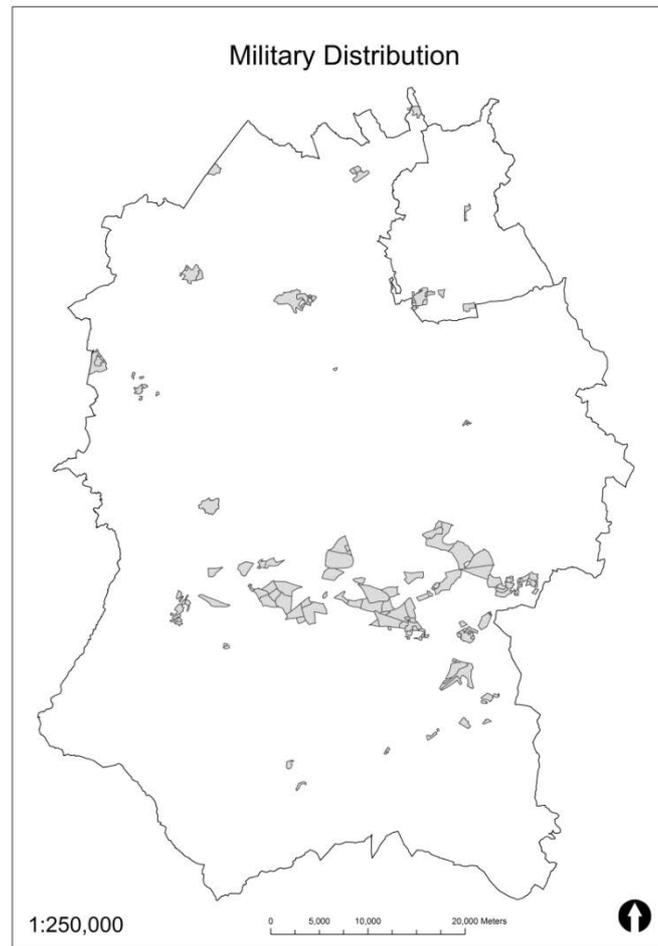
Each polygon averages 10.02ha in size.

### Previous Coverage

35 polygons (0.24% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Recreation category. These polygons comprise an area of 265.66 ha (0.08% of the whole county area).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Military**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

The military have a strong presence in Wiltshire and have done so since the later post medieval period (C18 onwards). A number of camps, practice areas and RAF airfields exist across the county, and while some have fallen from use, others continue to expand and develop. This is especially the case with the sites in the Salisbury Plain Training Area (such as at Durrington, Bulford and Larkhill) which are being readied for the return of British troops who have been based abroad. The military, and the landscapes associated with their activities are seen as characteristic of the county and are certainly of local significance and interest in the areas where they cluster.

Only where military activity forms the dominant landscape character of the area, has this broad type been recorded as the current type. Despite appearances, it could be argued that many areas that are owned by the military have not had their landscape affected unduly by their stewardship. For instance, within the Salisbury Plain Training Area (which is owned by the MOD and covers an area of c.41,000 ha) there are large swathes of land which while in use for target firing and practice manoeuvres, retain their open chalk downland character. Some other military features have not survived to be recorded, are not substantial enough or

were of a nature that did not strongly influence the landscape (such as temporary camps and airstrips).

Nevertheless, where the military sites remain active they are highly distinctive and can be easily recognised from maps and aerial photographs. Although characterising some of the features can be challenging as there is limited information available concerning individual facilities, due to their role in national security.

### Distribution

The distribution of military sites is uneven and heavily focused on Salisbury Plain. Other major sites tend to lie in the north of the county at Wroughton, Fairford and Colerne – but many of these are RAF airfields, as a pose to army establishments.

### Images



Plate 24

### Principal Historical Processes

The military have been prominent land owners in the county since the later post medieval period and have increased their holdings in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The majority of military camps, bases and airfields have First World War or Second World War origins, but they have continued in use into the present day. Some former military sites have reverted to agriculture or nature, and some have been converted into business and industrial units but much of their original character remains legible.

### Components

The components of each site from this category are tailored to their purpose. In general, features comprise, runways, barracks, bunkers, mess buildings, housing, bunds, training areas, firing ranges and ancillary buildings. They are distinct in their military character and frequent cluster around named establishments – although some more isolated outliers exist.

### Rarity

Across the county, military landscapes are uncommon but they are typical in the Salisbury Plain area, where they form an important component of the landscape character.

## Survival and Coherence

In the main, military sites survive well and their features cluster together within camps, which adds to their legibility and coherence. They are very recognisable in the landscape, even from the mapping, although most are not accessible to most people due to their associated security. While some facilities and buildings have been repurposed, they often retain some of the character of their previous usage.

## Time Depth

Some military sites have the capacity to retain elements of earlier character. Sometimes this is due to the survival of archaeological monuments and features within their limits. Other times the shape and form of the camps and establishments have been influenced by former fields, woods, and other land parcels. The notion that the military activity has removed all traces of early character has been proven untrue in many areas of the county.

## Statistics

### *Area*

The Military type covers 11,212 ha, which constitutes 3.22% of the county.

### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 155 polygons which equates to 1.07% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

### *Av Polygon size*

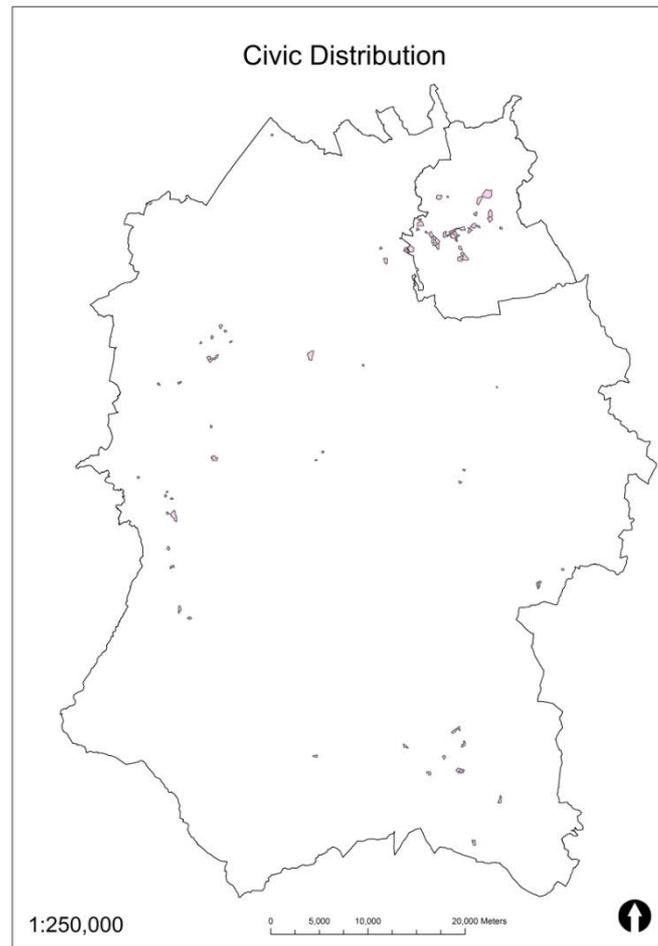
Each polygon averages 72.34 ha in size.

### *Previous Coverage*

78 polygons (0.54% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Military category. These polygons comprise an area of 1341.20ha (0.38% of the whole county area).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Civic**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

The features in this category are very varied, and relate to services and facilities, accessed and required by occupants in the towns and villages of the county. Some of these, like civic buildings, are situated within settlements, but others are deliberately set away due to their nature and purpose (e.g. sewage works). While there are some historic examples within this category, such as churches (some of Saxon or medieval origin), schools and former workhouses – the vast majority of them are of 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century date. It should be remembered that many sites that relate to civic activity or infrastructure are small in extent, and those that were not 1ha or larger were not recorded separately in this project, which may explain the sparsity of features that could be considered common place.

Within this category, an important previous landscape character type has been recorded. This concerns the ritual and ceremonial landscapes that were prevalent particularly during the prehistoric period. These include the barrow cemeteries, enclosures, henges, cursus monuments that dominate parts of the county and remain legible today. While they differ greatly to the other 'civic' sites and features, they do serve a societal function and so are best placed within this Broad Type.

## Distribution

The bulk of features and sites recorded in this category cluster around the major towns and centres of the county. This is particularly the case with civic buildings, schools and religious buildings. Some of the waterworks and sewage works are situated along water courses, but due to the scale of the features recorded, few exist within rural areas – hence the large blank areas across various sections of the county.

## Images



Plate 25

## Principal Historical Processes

Many of the features in this category are modern in origin and developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries to provide a better standard of living for the occupants of Wiltshire. However, some of the religious and ritual features and landscapes have much older origins and date from the prehistoric, Saxon or medieval periods. While some of these civic landscapes have changed over time (so that their former use is represented as a previous type) others remain intact into modernity.

## Components

This category represents a diverse range of features and thus is comprised of fairly varied components. Some landscapes are occupied by specialist engineering and ancillary buildings, while others are occupied by modern service buildings with car parking and associated landscaping or green space. Features such as landfill and cemeteries tend to have a more extensive and open nature, but are certainly clearly identifiable.

## Rarity

Large scale civic features and landscapes are rare in Wiltshire. While there are undoubtedly lots of small utility sites, schools, churches and emergency service facilities these are not easy to identify at the scale of the project and are often incorporated into other larger areas with a different dominant character.

## Survival and Coherence

Where they do exist, civic landscapes with their associated structures, buildings and engineered layouts survive well. This is particularly the case where they are modern and in use. They are very easy to identify from the maps and aerial photographs, although they are often integrated into settlements or other urban landscapes.

### Time Depth

Many of the areas classified within this category have been heavily modified over time and don't preserve much in the way of previous character. Some areas that have been converted into civic facilities within towns will betray some evidence of their former use but this is uncommon. However, it is worth noting that some civic sites have a great longevity and that other features within this category (such as ritual and ceremonial landscapes) remain legible as previous types in areas where the current landscape character has changed.

### Statistics

#### *Area*

The Civic type covers 1356 ha which constitutes 0.39% of the county.

#### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 243 polygons which equates to 1.68% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

#### *Av Polygon size*

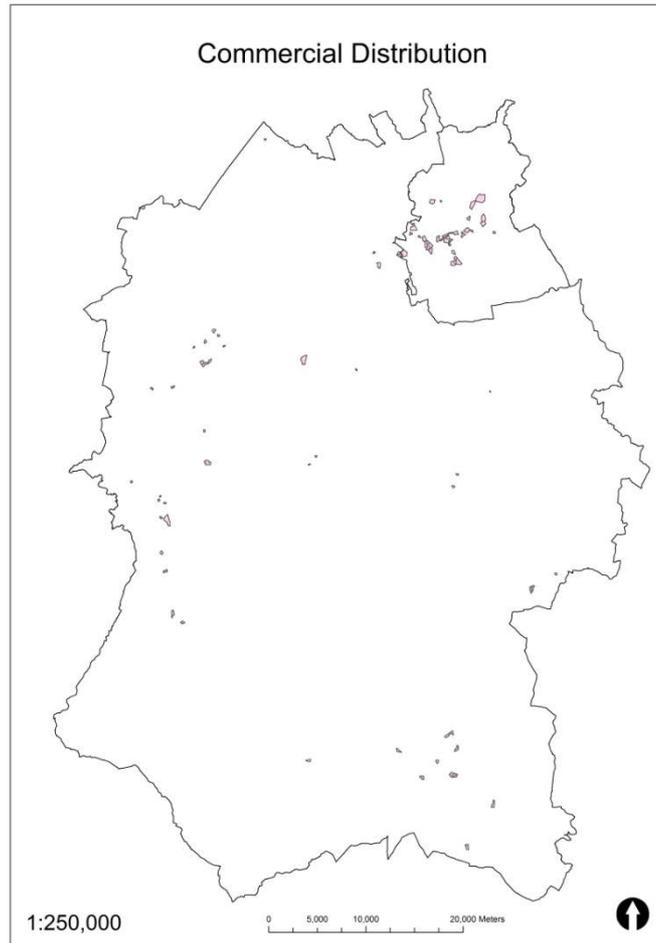
Each polygon averages 5.58ha in size.

#### *Previous Coverage*

146 polygons (1.01% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Civic category. These polygons comprise an area of 3590.69ha (1.03% of the whole county area).

## **Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Commercial**

### Type Distribution



### Introduction

This category of landscape character relates more or less entirely to features and sites that are modern in origin. Business parks, retail outlets, warehouses and offices have 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century origins. Some of the sites and features in this category are too small to map individually or are incorporated within other larger areas with a different dominant character type. Due to the nature of this category, many of the areas with this character are clearly associated with settlement areas.

### Distribution

As the majority of these sites relate to large urban centres, the distribution is limited overall and does tend to focus on the principal urban centres. As such, many commercial features exist within the central and northern portions of the county, with an emphasis on Swindon.

## Images



Plate 26

## Principal Historical Processes

While shops and markets have existed since the earliest periods, those that survive now have mainly post medieval or modern origins. The commercial environment has expanded to cater for the more numerous consumers of a modern society and the diverse needs that they have. Towns and villages have always formed the logical hubs for shopping, trading and working and the sites/features in this class represent the growth of these activities. While in the past it could be seen that many of the commercial areas were interspersed within other landscape types (like the rural and urban settlements), some of the most modern commercial enterprises occupy large stand-alone sites which are self contained and thus heavily influence the local landscape.

## Components

The sites and features recorded in this category comprise modern office buildings, large warehouses and storage areas, shops and shopping centres, retail parks, business parks with associated car parks and landscaped grounds. These buildings are often functional and typically serve a large number of consumers and workers alike. They are obviously man made and are easy to identify at ground level, but sometimes more tricky to see on maps and aerial photographs.

## Rarity

Commercial entities that exist separate to other more dominant character areas (such as historic urban centres) and are large in scale are fairly rare in Wiltshire. Those examples recorded here are those that clearly stand out as being purely related to commercial purposes and it should perhaps be observed that many such commercial centres have a mixed character and as such they are underrepresented in this study.

## Survival and Coherence

As most of the landscapes with a dominant commercial character are modern they survive well and are coherent. However, they can be difficult to identify at the scale of recording used in this project, and are sometimes incorporated into areas with a larger and more

dominant different landscape character. In densely packed urban areas it is also often difficult to separate the commercial areas from other areas as the character and land use is often mixed within these hubs.

#### Time Depth

Very little evidence of previous landscape character survives in commercial areas. This is often because they are large and purpose built facilities and sites which have been developed in a way that has removed or masked any prior character.

#### Statistics

##### *Area*

The Commercial type covers 933ha, which constitutes 0.27% of the county.

##### *No of Polygons*

This Broad Type comprises 82 polygons which equates to 0.57% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

##### *Av Polygon size*

Each polygon averages 11.38ha in size.

##### *Previous Coverage*

1 polygon (c.0.01% of all polygons) has a previous character type from the commercial category This polygon has an area of 8.96 ha (c.0.01% of the whole county area).

## **Appendix 2: Historic Landscape Character Narrow Type Descriptions**

The following section details the 98 Historic Landscape Narrow Character Types used in the Wiltshire and Swindon project.

These descriptions are intended to help readers understand and identify these basic categories of historic landscape character. The details here help to contextualise the discussions, analysis and application of data at the Narrow Type level. It is hoped that these descriptions, style guides and narratives will allow the reader to identify and understand areas with these historic landscape character types.

These Narrow Types are recorded for each and every polygon in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset, and are the default display category for these polygons in the GIS component of the project. The individual HLC records in the database also reflect elements of the information presented for the 98 types in this section.

Each of the 98 Narrow Types is discussed in turn using a consistent format with plain language in order to maximise their accessibility. Each Narrow Type Description has the following information:

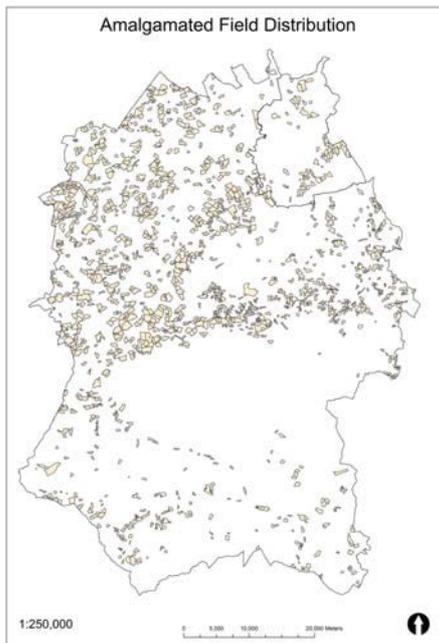
- *Definition*
  - A brief definition of what is meant by the Narrow HLC type – mostly done using the NMR's Thesaurus Listings for Historic Characterisation
- *Distribution*
  - A map showing where the Narrow HLC type exists in the present day and discussion of patterns/trends of the distribution
- *Principal Historical Processes*
  - Detailed discussion of the origins of the Narrow Type with a focus on the any processes or influences that have had an impact on its distribution and frequency
- *Identification/Components*
  - Brief list of features that are commonly associated with, or included within, areas of the Narrow Type and how to identify the Narrow Type
- *Rarity/Survival*
  - How rare or common the Narrow HLC type is relative to other Narrow HLC types along with a discussion of how robust/fragile the Narrow HLC type is and what has affected its survival

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Amalgamated fields

### Definition

Enlarged fields, created by the amalgamation by boundary removal of smaller fields, mainly since the 19th century and usually since the Second World War. Usually done to ease mechanised working and increase productivity.

### Distribution



They occupy c.39,957 ha

Fairly widespread, but a focus in the northern part of the county where the proliferation of small fields were enlarged from the post medieval period onwards

Absence in downland areas in the south and east of the county where widespread formal enclosure is a later occurrence

Not prevalent around heavily wooded areas and ancient forests

Some correlation with land around major towns and villages where older, communally used fields were modified over time

### Historical Processes

These fields are mainly modern in origin and the result of the intensification and mechanisation of farming. They tend to replace former post medieval piecemeal and planned fields (more commonly the former) and can be linked to the rise of individual rather than collective ownership of land. The process of amalgamating fields involves removal of boundaries, some of which may once have been demarcated by hedges or woodland.

### Identification/Components

- Generally larger fields as this is the desired effect.
- Morphology depends on former field combined, but often irregular.
- Varied boundaries but with some historic hedgerows/trees surviving.
- Traces of former boundaries often visible on modern maps and photographs.

### Rarity/Survival

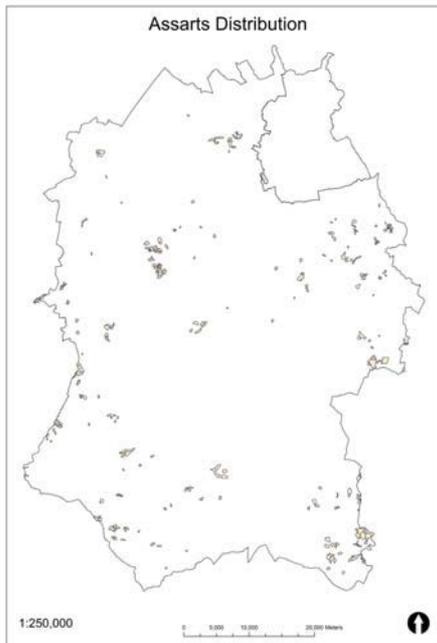
These fields are modern and so survive quite well. Once they have been created they tend not to be modified much, and they are fairly distinctive in the landscape, and not easily confused with other types. Previous field systems are often legible in amalgamated fields.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Assarts**

### **Definition**

Land enclosed from woodland. Required licence in medieval period. Term applied more generally in landscape history. Can include planned and regular enclosures and piecemeal irregular ones too. Often still with numerous trees on boundaries.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.3887 ha

Scattered clusters of assarts exist across the county but they are obviously closely linked to woodland

Primarily distributed in areas that had/or have areas of ancient woodland or forests

Some relationship to areas of land cleared for settlement, so there can be correlation with older villages and hamlets

Limited presence around well established urban centres

### **Historical Processes**

Most assarts are of post medieval date but some can be of medieval origin. The process of assarting from the medieval period onwards was the result of increasing population pressure and the need for more agricultural land and settlement space. As woodland became a less communal resource, there was an increasing desire to clear land for tenant farmers or industrial purposes. Some post medieval tree plantations have also been thinned down in modernity to free up land for recreational and agricultural purposes.

### **Identification/Components**

- Generally small fields that are associated with to extant woodland.
- Often have wavy boundaries lined with trees or thick hedgerows.
- Occasionally take the form of open areas within dense woodland or plantations.
- Cluster on parish boundaries and can be associated with common land or heath.

### **Rarity/Survival**

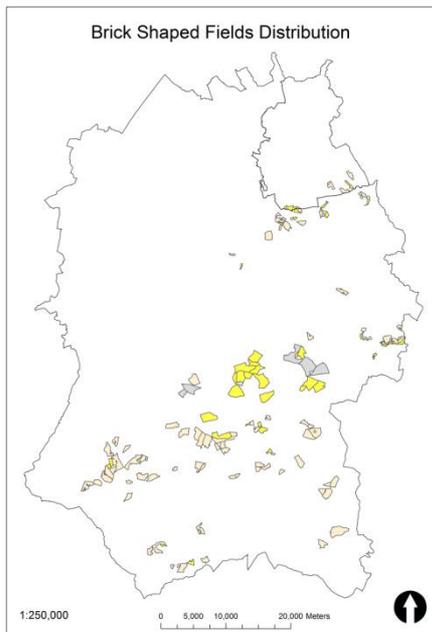
These fields are hard to identify and quite rare. They survive poorly as removal of wooded and hedged boundaries is common in modern farming, and many assarts have been incorporated into other fields. Some have been replanted recently so are hard to spot.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Brick shaped fields

### Definition

Patterns of early fields, often prehistoric in origin, that are roughly rectilinear with sinuous sides and that share a common general orientation without having the dominant lines of coaxial fields. Sometimes called Celtic Fields.

### Distribution



They occupy c.12478 ha

These very early field systems are uncommon but do survive across the county; but primarily in the southern and western portions

They survive best in areas without intensive activity such as in downland or military areas but are occasionally fossilised in modern field systems

They sometimes survive in association with prehistoric or Roman settlement or ceremonial areas/landscapes

### Historical Processes

These fields represent one of the earliest formalised farming systems in Britain. They tend to date from the Bronze Age to Iron Age period, but can extend in use into the Roman period. They are quite distinct in form and are comprised of earthworks and ditches which set out fairly square/rectangular parcels. Due to their early date they seem not to have hedged, tree-lined or fenced boundaries but instead can spread quite extensively across a wide area. They survive as cropmarks or earthworks and are often characterized by their proximity to other contemporary features such as enclosures, trackways and farms and settlements. Field size may suggest that they were each cultivated by one individual or family.

### Identification/Components

- Small to medium size fields that show up as cropmarks or earthworks
- Rectangular in form and associated with enclosures, settlements and trackways
- Survive well in downland areas, military areas, upland/marginal areas and parkland
- Sometimes help define boundaries of later field systems – particularly medieval ones

### Rarity/Survival

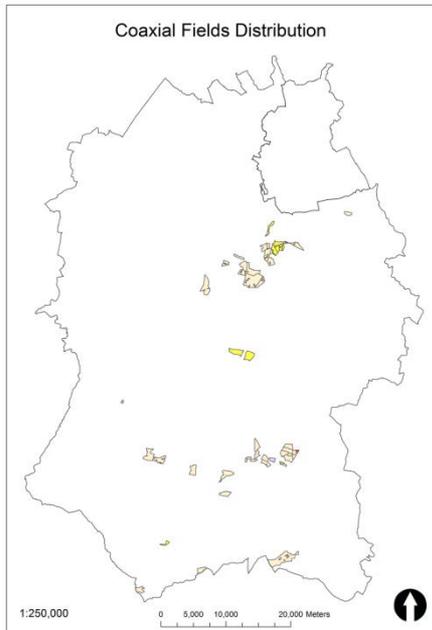
Prehistoric and Roman fields rarely survive into modernity and are a valuable insight into early farming practices. They are distinct and contribute to local character where they survive (e.g. on Fyfield Down) due to their interaction with other prehistoric or Roman occupation areas. They are easily lost due to their antiquity and ephemeral nature so tend to survive best in areas not under intensive modern agriculture or development.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Coaxial fields**

### **Definition**

Field system with prevailing orientation. Most boundaries are straight and closely align with main axis or run perpendicular to it. Suggestive of early planned land allotment.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.4586 ha

These very early field systems are uncommon but do survive across the county; but primarily in the southern and central portions

They survive best in areas without intensive activity such as in downland or military areas but are occasionally fossilised in modern field systems

They sometimes survive in association with prehistoric or Roman settlement or ceremonial areas/landscapes

### **Historical Processes**

These fields represent one of the earliest formalised farming systems in Britain. They tend to date from the Bronze Age to Iron Age period, but can extend in use into the Roman period. They are quite distinct in form and are comprised of earthworks and ditches which set out chains of regular parcels. Due to their early date they seem not to have hedged, tree-lined or fenced boundaries but instead can spread quite extensively across a wide area. They survive as cropmarks or earthworks and are often characterized by their proximity to other contemporary features such as enclosures, trackways and former farms and settlements. They have a prevailing orientation and are much narrower than brick-shaped fields.

### **Identification/Components**

- Small to medium size fields that show up as cropmarks or earthworks
- Regular in form with a prevailing orientation and associated with other early features
- Survive well in downland areas, military areas, upland/marginal areas and parkland
- Sometimes help define boundaries of later field systems – particularly medieval ones

### **Rarity/Survival**

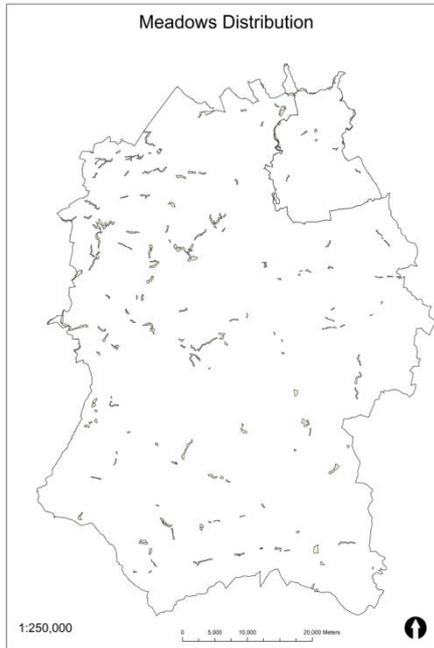
Prehistoric and Roman fields rarely survive into modernity and are a valuable insight into early farming practices. They are distinct and contribute to local character where they survive (e.g. on Fyfield Down) due to their interaction with other contemporary features. They are vulnerable due to their antiquity and ephemeral nature so tend to survive best in areas not under intensive modern agriculture or development.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Meadows

### Definition

Permanent grassland, usually enclosed with stock-proof boundaries. Low-lying and damp or hard by farmstead, receiving yard dung. Ideally lush, and mown for hay. Also secure convenient grazing for young or sickly livestock. Common or individually held.

### Distribution



They occupy c.3718 ha

Fairly even distribution across the county, with all areas being represented

Very closely correlated with watercourses and areas of formal water meadows

Tend to be linked in linear chains rather than isolated examples

Association with rural settlements in river valleys

### Historical Processes

These fields were used for the cultivation of hay and for grazing of livestock. Most have later post medieval origins, but some have place names which could indicate an older origin. They were created in a variety of landscapes including upland/hillside locations and wet lowland areas. Meadows would have been more commonplace in the past and possibly associated with most rural settlements and farms.

### Identification/Components

- Generally small fields
- Sinuous boundaries and irregular enclosed forms
- Associated with watercourses, both major (rivers) and minor (streams, brooks)
- Association with engineered water meadow systems and scrub/scattered woodland

### Rarity/Survival

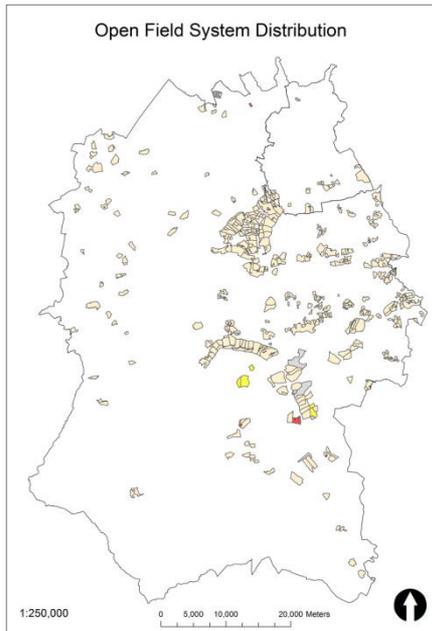
Meadow land is relatively rare and is a fragile landscape type that is easily affected by development and agriculture. Their cohesion has been eroded over time and the preservation of substantial grassy parcels only really occurs in the river valleys. Some of the meadow land would have been converted into water meadows in the C18 and C19 which would have resulted in the loss of earlier character. Often it is their location rather than form which allows the meadows to be identified, in comparison to other agricultural holdings.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Open field system**

### **Definition**

System of fields in which several farmers held land in common, intermixed in narrow strips assessable via length and width, with low or no separating boundaries. Mostly medieval. Few survive. Lost to piecemeal or planned enclosure, from the 13th to 20th century.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.23,522 ha

Open fields are uncommon but not rare and they are reasonably well distributed but with a focus on the central parts of the county

They survive well in some modern fields but have been removed in other instances

Open fields tend to surround settlements – both towns and villages

There is no particular correlation with any other particular landscape character types

### **Historical Processes**

The open field system of farming has medieval origins and survived in some places until the early post medieval period. Under the system, each manor, village or town had two or three large fields subdivided into strips or furlongs. These narrow plots were farmed or used to graze animals by tenants and left unfenced – hence the name 'open fields'. Each tenant had several furlongs and some were left fallow to ensure continued soil fertility. The right of pasture on fallowed and harvested fields was held in common and necessitated cooperation among the tenants. By the early post medieval period, many open fields had been altered and enclosed to allow more intensive agriculture and livestock rearing. Private landowners enclosed the landscape and demarcated boundaries with hedges, trees, ditches and fences.

### **Identification/Components**

- In this project former open fields are identified by their morphology and place name and not on the presence of ridge and furrow (unlike the strip field type)
- Fields are often large and have jointed or reverse s-shape boundaries and are semi-irregular or irregular in shape
- Fields are named by direction or by settlement and lie adjacent to villages/towns

### **Rarity/Survival**

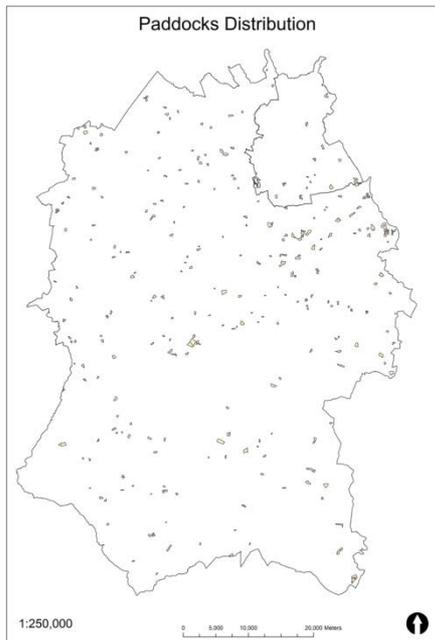
While open fields are not common, they do survive well in certain localities. However, they are at risk from boundary re-shaping and modern subdivision. Their overall form is distinct and provides a direct link to the medieval character of each settlement they surround.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Paddocks**

### **Definition**

Enclosed fields for horses. Usually a modern adaptation of part of an earlier field system.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.2731 ha

Widely distributed, but with a preponderance in the northern and central parts of the county

Less prevalent in wooded and downland areas

Related to farmsteads and the edge of rural settlement areas

Only recorded where there are significantly-sized groups of paddocks

Related to areas where the horse racing industry is based

### **Historical Processes**

Paddocks are a modern phenomenon and have been created by parcelling off and subdividing older agricultural fields to set them aside primarily for the keeping horses. The equestrian industry has grown over time and this has led to an increase in paddock creation, particularly on land unfavourable for arable farming. Their creation has eroded the form and coherence of post medieval and earlier field systems, although they do in some instances retain older boundaries and forms within their structure.

### **Identification/Components**

- Very small and regular-shaped plots, often grouped together in clusters
- Lots of fenced or lightly hedged boundaries
- Some consideration of earlier field layout and components
- At edge of settlements or associated with equestrian concerns

### **Rarity/Survival**

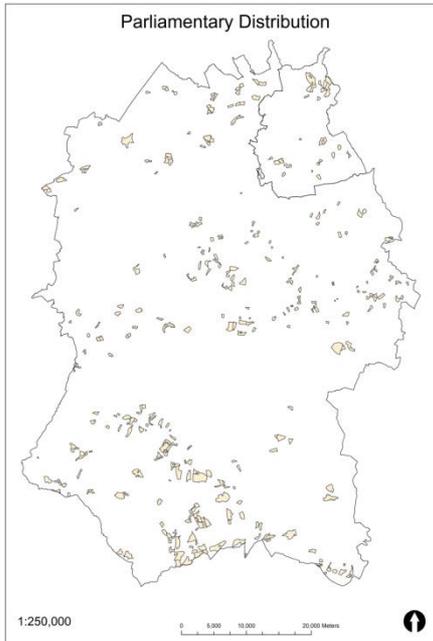
As these are fairly recent and increasing in number, they are not under threat of survival. They are also becoming increasingly common in rural counties like Wiltshire, where there has been an adhoc/piecemeal spread of this enclosure type. Paddocks can only be considered the dominant landscape character where they exist in sufficient numbers, as individual holdings can be very small. While they are distinctive, they do not offer a great opportunity to perceive time depth in the areas where they do occur.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Parliamentary enclosure**

### **Definition**

Field patterns usually rectilinear and regular with straight boundaries and access lanes, fixed by surveyors, resulting from Parliamentary Enclosure of large areas of common arable (open fields) and rough ground. Mainly occurred during the 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.11,161 ha

Concentrations in the southwest, central and north-eastern parts of the county

Tend to survive in clusters rather than as isolated examples due to former communal land being enclosed by Act

No particular correlations with woodland or settlement areas

Some enclosure of downland areas

### **Historical Processes**

Fields created by this formal process of enclosure tend to date from 1750-1850, when the Enclosure Acts were passed by parliament. This process changed whole landscapes at a stroke and took communal land (fields, meadows, heath, scrub and downland) and placed it into private ownership. As such, they chart the rise of the individual over the collective at a landscape level. The regimented and surveyed fields created by this process replaced and obscured some of the older fieldscapes which dated for the medieval period and earlier.

### **Identification/Components**

- Very regular fields with straight boundaries due to surveying
- Clearly demarcated boundaries – often hedged
- Imposed on the landscape without regard for form and layout of earlier fields
- Sometimes align with parish boundaries, due to the period they were set out in

### **Rarity/Survival**

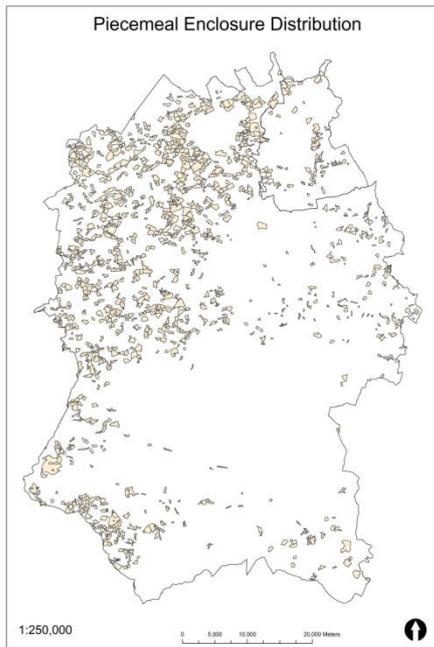
Such fields occur occasionally and are locally prevalent in certain areas. While these fields are distinct, a good many have since been altered and lost. Where they do survive they are distinct, and despite their nature they do on occasion fossilise earlier character types through mirroring of boundaries and making use of older boundaries where they were deemed suitable.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Piecemeal enclosure**

### **Definition**

Field systems derived from gradual enclosure of open fields, usually from C13 to C17 & C18 when Parliamentary Enclosure dominated. Individual strips or groups enclosed by landholders, leaving elements of the former open field pattern visible.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.35,284 ha

They are relatively common but are predominantly found in the west and northwest of the county

Few survive in the south of the county where there are large swathes of downland and areas of woodland

Many survive in the landscape around the market towns

Lost through urban expansion and modern alteration of fields

### **Historical Processes**

The vast majority of piecemeal enclosures are of post medieval date; with some examples being in the early part of this period. They represent an informal and ad-hoc enclosure of land, in many cases from the medieval open field system, where holdings comprise of strips or furlongs. Some of these medieval fields are still fossilised within these later post medieval enclosures. Those fields defined by topography tend to be more irregular and sinuous and on occasion preserve strip lynchets. Other piecemeal enclosures result from agreements between landowners in the post medieval era; using existing boundaries and topography.

### **Identification/Components**

- Fields are of variable size but are semi-irregular or irregular in shape
- Boundaries are less orderly and can be thickly wooded or defined by watercourses
- Some have reverse s-shape boundaries or are sinuous due to the presence of former medieval ridge and furrow field systems
- Associated with old trackways, woodland and historic villages

### **Rarity/Survival**

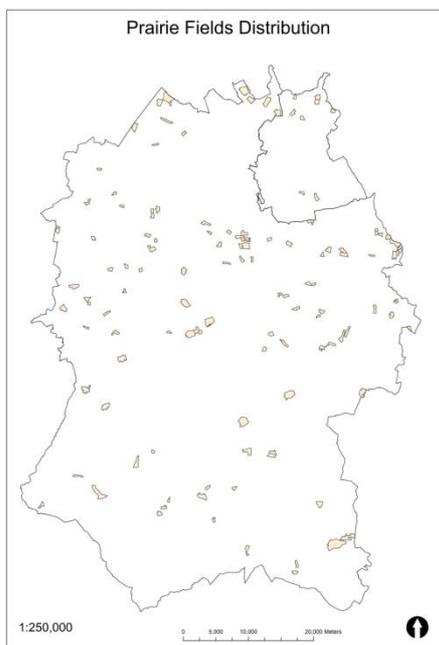
These fields are quite distinct but some appear similar to assarts. They are not uncommon but have been affected by boundary loss and re-ordering in recent times. The best examples are the semi-irregular fields which fossilise medieval field systems, and these can be quite extensive. However, establishing the true antiquity of piecemeal enclosures is challenging.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Prairie fields

### Definition

Patterns of very large fields, some with boundaries over 1km long. Usually resulting from post WWII combination of holdings and the removal of earlier boundaries creating land units convenient for highly mechanised arable, or for extensive livestock raising.

### Distribution



They occupy c.6291 ha

Not common but well distributed across the county

Occur in the south where some large swathes of downland have been enclosed for arable purposes

Tend to be set away from settlements in areas that were either previously open or part of extensive older field systems

Many in upland areas and set away from watercourses and the bottom of river valleys

Only possible for them to exist in remote locations due to their size

### Historical Processes

These fields are one of the most recent additions to the landscape. They have come into being to allow either exploitation of land that was formerly hard to use for agriculture (poor soils, inaccessible etc.) or to make it easier to use land that was once a series of smaller fields. This process started in the first half of the C20 and has increased since this period. These very large fields tend to occur in blocks and are obvious in areas of former downland, or in amongst post medieval piecemeal or planned fields. However, they have not been imposed on the landscape and instead seem to be more organic and respect existing boundaries and topographic features, which helps to preserve traces of earlier character.

### Identification/Components

- Extremely large fields which are normally regular or semi-irregular in form
- Boundaries either demarcated by verges, ditches, fences or light hedges
- They exist in isolated or marginal areas and often in upland areas
- They typically respect parish boundaries, tracks and topography

### Rarity/Survival

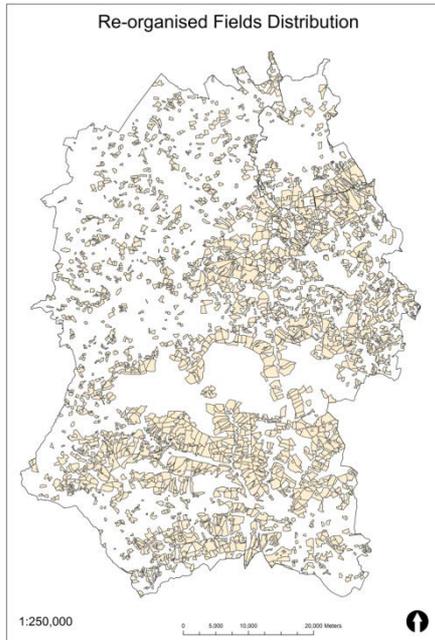
These fields are currently uncommon but may well increase in frequency over time. As they are a modern re-shaping of the landscape they are not under threat of change. Prairie fields are distinct due to their size and location, and are not easily confused with other types. They are not as destructive of previous landscape character as may be assumed.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Reorganised fields**

### **Definition**

Field pattern of any type or date that has been subject to revision, through either insertion or removal of boundaries, but where the original form is still legible.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.105,589 ha

They are the most common modern landscape type and are abundant in all parts of the county

They are absent from some downland and military areas that are not suitable for agriculture

Other gaps in the distribution relate to large extant woodland blocks and substantial urban settlements where any existing green space is not in agricultural use

Interspersed with surviving historic (mainly post medieval) fields

### **Historical Processes**

These fields are primarily modern and have been created by altering, modifying and re-arranging existing post medieval and medieval fields. They also represent the late enclosure of open areas and conversion of other character types (such as parkland, orchards, settlement etc.) into fields. They arise through changes in farming practice and the recent intensification of agriculture. Re-organised fields often have new boundaries created to subdivide older holdings, re-aligned orientation or modified/replacement boundaries. In this instance, this landscape type encompasses re-planned, modified and new fields as discussed in the CCWWD AONB and NWD AONB HLC dataset.

### **Components**

- Very variable morphology and size – nothing characteristic for this type
- Virtually all types of boundaries – wooded, hedged, tree-lined, ditched
- Not necessarily any correlation between the current form and earlier character
- Tend to preserve legible elements of former character – e.g. old boundaries, veteran trees, designed features, ridge and furrow or industrial sites being identifiable

### **Rarity/Survival**

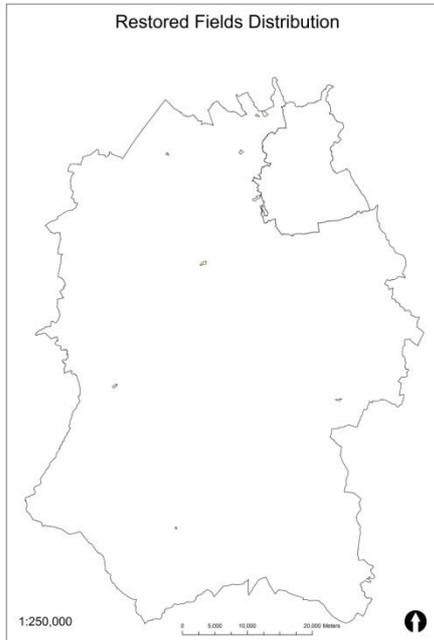
This type is the most prevalent across Wiltshire and Swindon, and may even increase further over time as even modern fields are themselves altered. They are part of an ongoing process of landscape change but as they are not distinctive, they cannot be viewed as under threat. Their most important facet is their ability to preserve earlier landscape character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Restored fields**

### **Definition**

Fields created on the surface of restored land, such as that landscaped from the former dumps of coal mines. Modern and often regular.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.224 ha

These fields are hard to identify and so rare that their distribution is scattered

They are associated with areas of former quarrying and extraction and so are slightly more prevalent in the north, where the gravels exist

No other patterns or correlations can be identified, though they may be slightly under represented

### **Historical Processes**

These fields are all modern and have been created by converting areas of former quarrying and extraction into agricultural fields by restoring the landscape. This process is the result of either a desire to bring more land into use for farming or to remove unsightly areas from the landscape. In counties with more of a tradition of quarrying and aggregate extraction, this landscape character type would have been more prevalent. Of course, some of the areas within Wiltshire where these industries did occur lie within present day urban areas, where rather than restoration of fields, it was desirable to build elements of urban infrastructure or housing.

### **Components**

- Varied, but generally irregular field parcels and boundaries as quarry features are not regular
- Mixed in size, but tending towards slightly larger parcels as restoring localised and small scale quarrying not always necessary
- Boundaries tend to be modern and not well established, as these are new landscapes.

### **Rarity/Survival**

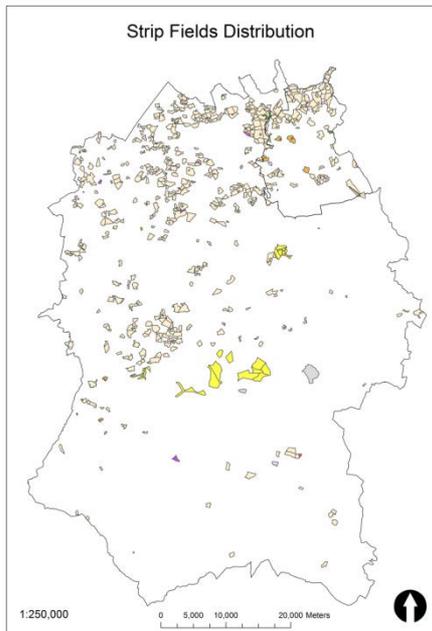
This landscape character type is relatively rare, due to the limited amount of extraction and quarrying generally present in Wiltshire. Restored fields can also be hard to identify. As they are modern they are not under threat of change and are not especially distinctive features.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Strip fields

### Definition

Long narrow plots of land within an open field. Also used for those plots once enclosed and held in severalty, the form in which most now survive. Some Saxon ones but most medieval.

### Distribution



They occupy c.23,299 ha

Strip fields are relatively uncommon but there are dense clusters in the northern and western parts of the county

They survive well in modern fields and downland areas but have been removed in other instances

Strip fields tend to surround settlements – both towns and villages

As they are principally identified by ridge and furrow they can be hard to spot on the available sources so are probably slightly under represented

### Historical Processes

Strip fields or furlongs form part of the medieval open field system but some may have earlier, Saxon, origins. They are elongated strips of land with a reverse s-shape profiles caused by the method of turning the oxen teams which ploughed the land. This ploughing creates headlands as well as very distinct ridges and furrows in the land and these are characteristic of this agricultural system. Tenants in each manor farmed or grazed animals on these strips, and were part of a communal farming enterprise. However, by the early post medieval period, many strips (as part of open fields) had been lost to more formalized and privately owned fields (usually piecemeal ones but also planned and parliamentary ones) which were used more intensively and demarcated by hedges, trees, ditches and fences.

### Identification/Components

- In this project, former strip fields are identified by their morphology, place name and the presence of ridge and furrow (unlike the open field type)
- Fields have jointed or reverse s-shape boundaries and are semi-irregular, irregular or sinuous in shape. They tend to be relatively small in size, despite modern alterations
- Cropmarks or earthworks of ridge and furrow (narrow and broad rig) show on aerial photographs and are occasionally mapped on modern and historic OS maps

### Rarity/Survival

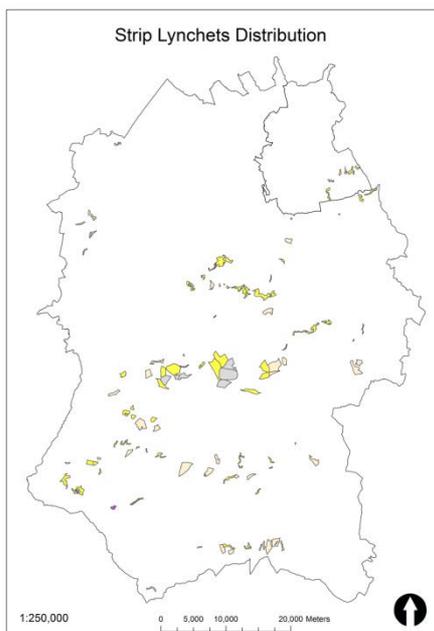
While strip fields are not common, they do survive well in certain localities. However, they are at risk from boundary re-shaping and modern subdivision. Their overall form is distinct and provides a direct link to the medieval character of each settlement they surround.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Strip lynchets**

### **Definition**

A lynchet is a bank of earth that builds up on the downslope of land ploughed over a long period of time. The disturbed soil slips down the hillside to create a positive lynchet while the area reduced in level becomes a negative lynchet. The ridged landform can be cultivated and this practice was common in upland areas from the prehistoric to medieval era.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.6981 ha

Strip lynchets are uncommon but do survive in remote upland locations

Those that do exist are concentrated in the central and southern portions of the county

They are very clearly legible in downland landscapes but some are fossilised in modern field systems

They are sometimes associated with areas of open fields/strip fields where there is a sloping landform (i.e. the open fields have not been set out in an entirely flat part of the landscape)

### **Historical Processes**

Strip lynchets were created by ploughing or cutting cultivation terraces into hillslopes in upland areas within Wiltshire. It has also been argued that some of these strip lynchets have formed by natural erosion and weathering of the land. Whatever the case, the ridges formed by this process were then used to grow crops such as cereals. This agricultural strategy has origins in the Bronze Age but continued to be used until the medieval era in some places. While many of the modern fields that have replaced these strip lynchets lack the need for such earthworks due to the improvements in mechanised agriculture, they still retain the historic lynchets in a fossilised form which is quite distinctive.

### **Identification/Components**

- Exist in upland locations and tend to follow topography, so are often sinuous in form
- Tend to be small in size and their earthworks are fossilised within existing character
- Not usually associated with settlements but sometimes close to open/strip fields
- Survive well in downland and military areas where there is not intensive land use

### **Rarity/Survival**

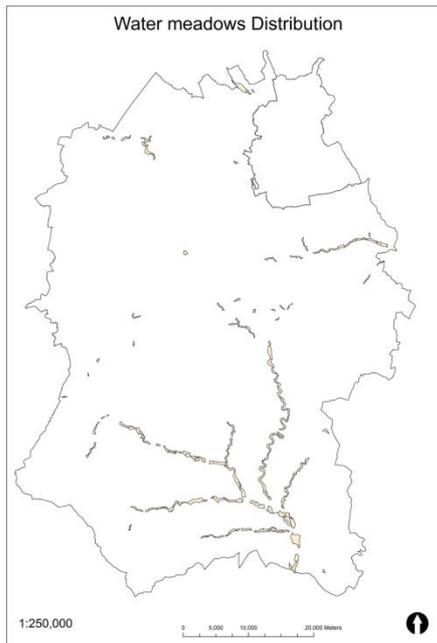
Strip lynchets are rare, but can only exist in upland areas. They are at risk from intensive agriculture which flattens their characteristic earthworks and removes the old cultivation pattern. Where they do exist they are quite striking reminders of early farming techniques.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Water meadows

### Definition

Controlled irrigation to draw nutrient-rich silts and material onto valley-bottom grassland to increase hay yields and enable earlier mowing. Early modern agricultural improvement; normally now no longer operated though earthworks may survive.

### Distribution



They occupy c.4657 ha

Their distribution is obviously linked to the watercourses and rivers in the county

They survive particularly well in the south of the county in the area around Salisbury

Some water meadows will have been affected by the creation of canals in the C18 and C19

They would likely have been more extensive in the past and some will have been lost

### Historical Processes

Water meadows played an important role in the agricultural economy from the C17 to C19. Grass produced on water meadows was crucial to farmers and was a characteristic element of the exploitation of chalk downlands of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. Their sophisticated engineering allowed the watering of meadows to be controlled which was important in the sheep and corn system of agriculture. The advantage of such systems was making land available for grazing before it would naturally be ready, and this allowed the keeping of greater numbers of livestock.

### Identification/Components

- They lie adjacent to watercourses and are sinuous in their form
- They have wavy boundaries marked by ditches and on occasion vegetation
- Elements of the engineering survive in the form of sluices, hatches, drains, channels, beds, culverts and bridges
- Elements appear 'ridge and furrow' like when viewed on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

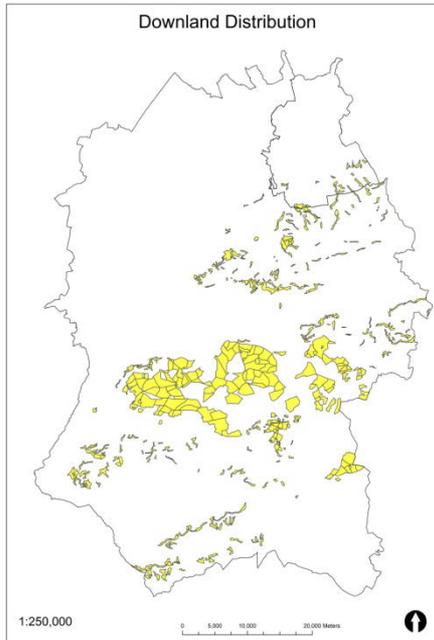
Water meadows are uncommon and have certainly been lost over time. They are very distinct and characteristic in the landscape and would once have been locally common. No water meadows remain in use, and their survival is threatened by development and changes in agricultural practice. Recently, schemes to restore such features have been proposed.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Downland**

### **Definition**

An area of rolling upland terrain characterised by chalk escarpments separated by vales of softer earth.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.25,593 ha

The downland clusters in the areas around the chalk outcrops – primarily around Salisbury Plain and Marlborough Down

Other examples survive along the river valleys and there is a correlation with watercourses

Naturally the downland does not survive in and around urban areas, or in areas of heavy woodland

Heavily affected by the increase in agricultural farming in the county since the late C19 and C20

### **Historical Processes**

The surviving downland represents a fraction of what would once have been broad belts of chalk grassland. While in the C19 it formed an important part of the local farming practices, much has been lost in the present day to more intense agriculture, with the exploitation of formerly marginal land. These downland areas would have been used for grazing of livestock and the animals in turn would have fertilised the land. Where downland still exists, these practices continue but other areas are in use as nature reserves or survive in amongst the military training areas in the south of the county.

### **Identification/Components**

- Large areas of short cropped downland in mainly irregular parcels
- Varied boundaries, but often not heavily delineated – often just fences or light hedges
- Often associated with patches of scrub, woodland or furze
- Good preservation of earlier character, particularly prehistoric and Roman fields, ritual/ceremonial landscapes and settlement areas

### **Rarity/Survival**

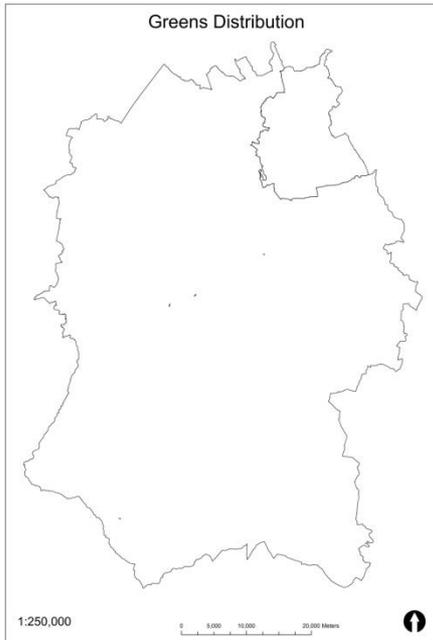
Downland is uncommon but not rare, and in some parts of the county it is locally distinct. It tends to survive in upland or marginal areas, where there has not been a need to create additional fields or settlement areas. While some areas have been affected by military activity, this has had less of an adverse effect than the modern farming. It is vulnerable to change and of interest because it tends to preserve earlier character so well.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Greens

### Definition

Area of often grassy ground, usually common, normally situated at the centre of a village or hamlet, sometimes within or near a town. Usually maintained by grazing.

### Distribution



They occupy c.8 ha

Very few greens associated with hamlets or villages are large enough to be recorded as individual character areas

Distribution of current type is limited, but there would have been many more in the past

Obviously they closely correlate with settlement areas

### Historical Processes

From the Saxon/medieval period onwards, many of the villages and hamlets and small towns would have had a green. This communal grassy area would have been used for grazing animals, public meetings, fairs and community celebrations. Often these would lie at the heart of a settlement, but if settlements were agglomerated, they could sometimes end up on the periphery. Many greens are very small and don't register at a landscape scale. Others have been absorbed into other recreational spaces or simply been developed. These reasons explain the paucity of the distribution for the current character types.

### Identification/Components

- Small grassy areas associated with settlements, and often located at their core
- Sometimes have a pond or a number of veteran trees
- Usually named as greens or have a clearly identified purpose on historic/modern maps.
- Almost always unenclosed land, which links to its communal ownership and exploitation

### Rarity/Survival

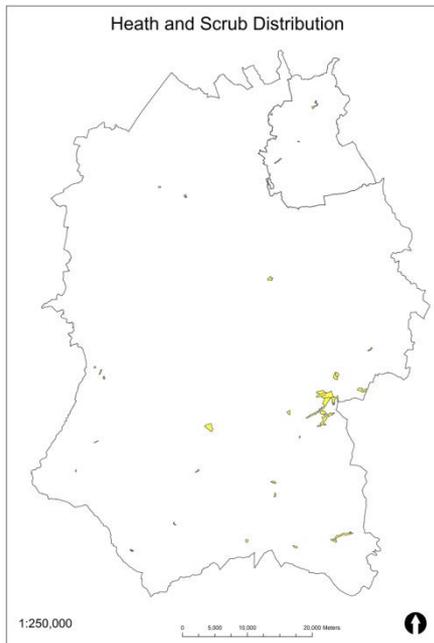
Large examples of greens are very rare and where they do exist they are locally distinct. They link to older (particularly medieval) settlement layouts and a more communal existence. Smaller examples do survive reasonable well and are often protected from development, although they are usually too small to be identified and recorded at a landscape scale.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Heath and scrub**

### **Definition**

Unimproved, but grazed area of low-growing woody shrubby vegetation, including heathers and gorses, sometimes in a mosaic with grassland and damp areas. Sometimes including groups of small trees.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.1054 ha

Areas of heath survive in remote or liminal locations, but are widely distributed

Heath land often survives in locations where there are patches of downland or woodland

Some areas of scrub have an association with wet areas or watercourses

### **Historical Processes**

These areas are more-or-less natural and tend not to have been managed. They tend to be areas with acidic soils, but this has not prevented their exploitation for agricultural or recreational purposes. They survive in marginal areas where there has been no need to fundamentally change their character. Areas of heath can have fairly ancient origins (similar to the downland character type) and do preserve elements of earlier character reasonably well, on the occasions they do survive. They are often named on historic and modern mapping and are quite distinctive.

### **Identification/Components**

- Grassy and marginal areas without subdivision into parcels
- Sometimes associated with scrubby vegetation and trees
- Tend to have few formalised boundaries and have an open feel to them.
- Often named to indicate their character and retain elements of earlier character

### **Rarity/Survival**

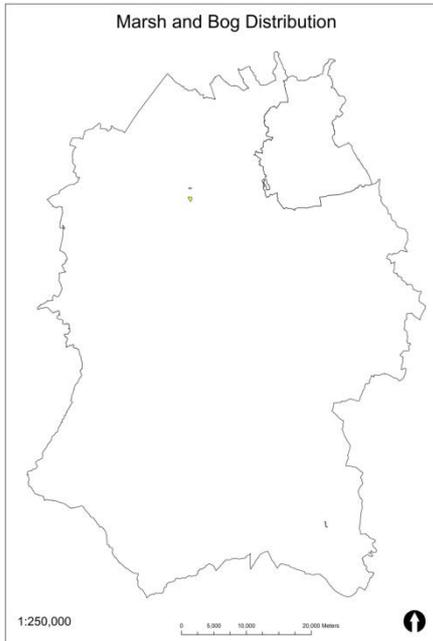
Areas of heath and scrub tend to be relatively rare and don't survive well, unless they exist within designated special areas (AONBs, SSSIs, World Heritage Sites, Protected Landscapes etc). Heath land is vulnerable to change and intensification of agriculture. It is of interest because it tends to preserve earlier character so well – especially early fields and ritual landscapes.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Marsh and bog**

### **Definition**

Low-lying land often covered by water and usually with peaty vegetation. Used seasonally for grazing. Historically, peat was sometimes cut as domestic fuel and the area also used for trapping wildfowl.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.50 ha

Very rare and so an extremely limited distribution

Small in size so they tend not to exist or be identifiable at a landscape scale

Clearly associated with watercourses and wetland areas

Often form part of other landscape character types like heath and grassland, secondary woodland, meadows and parkland

### **Historical Processes**

These pieces of land, where they survive, represent wet areas which were not expedient or economic to drain. They typically exist in areas with associated watercourses, such as in some of the river valleys (although those on the chalk are mainly well drained). Within the landscape, they are frequently surrounded by meadows, valley-bottom fields or close to features like water meadows. By their very nature they are naturalistic parts of the landscape that have not been exploited or adapted by man.

### **Identification/Components**

- Small scale and irregular parcels of land with wavy or sinuous outlines
- Often very overgrown and associated with scrubby vegetation or trees
- Frequently named as such on historic and modern maps
- Located near to rivers, streams, brooks and ponds

### **Rarity/Survival**

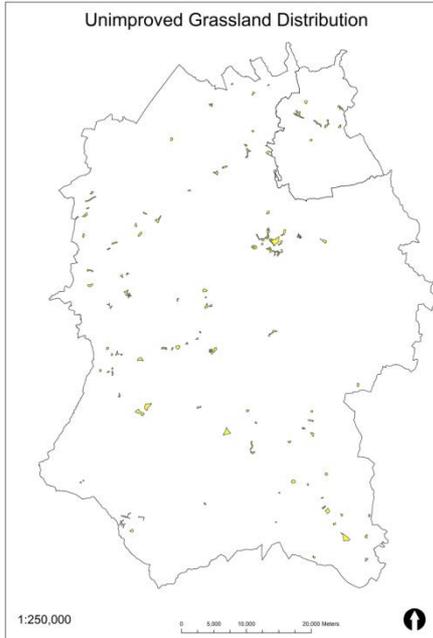
Marshland and bogs are rare within the county, but many areas that could be classified as this character type are too small to be mapped or identified at a landscape level. While marshland would have been more prevalent in the past (as alluded to by place name evidence) it would only have been of distinction at a local level. While it is sensitive to change, any areas of marsh and bog are unlikely to be exploited for settlement and agriculture if they have not been already.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Unimproved grassland**

### Definition

Open areas of grazing or grassland which have not been formally managed.

### Distribution



They occupy c.1611 ha

Sparse but fairly even distribution across the county

Some areas associated with marginal landscapes but others lie closer to both rural and urban settlement areas

Different to areas of downland and heath land which have much more particular distributions based on the underlying geology

Some of the distribution gaps exist in areas of chalk downland in the south and east of the county

### Historical Processes

These areas are more-or-less natural and tend not to have been managed. While land with this character can survive anywhere, parcels of grassland tend to survive in marginal areas where there has been no need to fundamentally change their character through intensive use of the landscape.

### Identification/Components

- Grassy and marginal areas, often without subdivision into parcels
- Sometimes associated with scrubby vegetation and trees
- Tend to have few formalised boundaries and have an open feel to them.
- Sometimes named to indicate their character and retain elements of earlier character

### Rarity/Survival

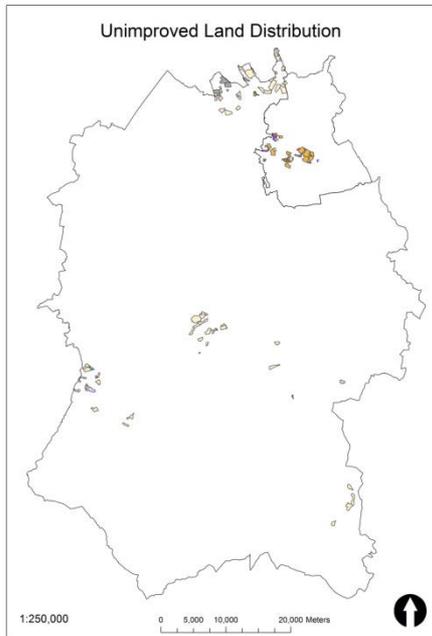
Areas with this landscape character are not uncommon, but as they tend to be very small in size, they tend to have been subsumed into areas with a more dominant character. They can occur in rural or semi-urban settings, with some land around settlements not being put to a formal use or kept as a natural green space. In many cases the lack of change to the character of such areas helps to preserve elements of earlier character – sometimes visible as cropmarks or earthworks on aerial photographs.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Unimproved land**

### Definition

For areas of open, unenclosed and unimproved land where the type of coverage (i.e. grass, heath/scrub etc.) cannot be readily determined.

### Distribution



They occupy c.3088 ha

Something of a catch-all term for areas where there was clearly an open character in the past but where the function of this land could not be determined

Patchy distribution because in most cases a more detailed character/function could be determined from the available map/photographic sources

Mix of wasteland in rural or urban areas but often poorly legible

Could be grouped with unimproved grassland in many cases?

### Historical Processes

Throughout history, there have been areas of the landscape that have been under exploited or have lapsed into disuse after being used for particular purposes (such as occupation, farming or industrial purposes). Sometimes it is apparent from the current character or surrounding areas of landscape that a particular tranche of the landscape was unimproved or waste land in the past. Such areas could have been present in built up or isolated areas and they tend to be depicted in an uncertain manner on historic mapping sources – with no indications of character from place name evidence or landform/location.

### Identification/Components

- Limited ability to identify – something of a catch all term to characterise all areas with a clearly open but undefined character in the past
- Blank areas on historic maps or marginal zones that existed between areas of more definite and identifiable character
- No ability to use place name, geological or topographical evidence to characterise the landscape.

### Rarity/Survival

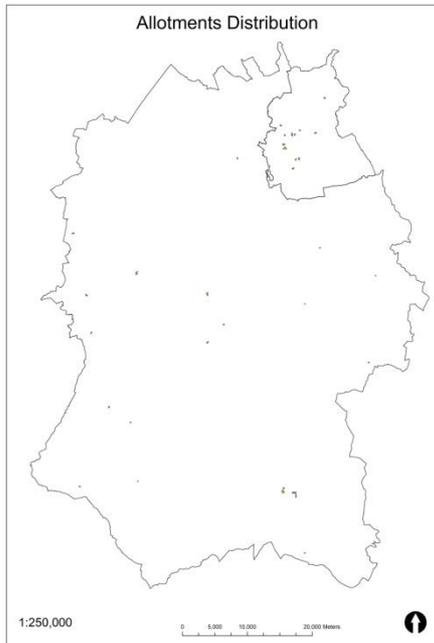
Such areas of uncertain character are rare, and by their very nature are not especially valuable in understanding the past landscape. All have been subsequently re-developed and can perhaps be assumed to have been set aside or waste ground – whether in rural or urban contexts.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Allotments**

### **Definition**

Land, often public, let out to individuals or an individual for the purposes of cultivation or other land use. Often in numerous small parcels, sometimes individually fenced.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.116 ha

Due to their small size they are often not the dominant character of a landscape/area. As such they are quite rare

Their distribution is sparse and scattered across the county

They are clearly associated with settlements (principally towns and villages) and provide a green space for those in built-up areas

Sometimes combined with other character types

### **Historical Processes**

Allotments are typically let out by local government organisations, or private allotment associations, to allow the growing of food. They have late post medieval origins (18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century) and would once have been small plots of land which would have allowed the rearing of livestock in addition to the growing of fruit and vegetables. The majority of allotments identified by this HLC project relate to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and have continued in use. Some allotments relate to the wartime periods, and the initiative to 'Dig for Victory'. Whatever their origin, they remain popular in towns and villages and are valued for their green credentials.

### **Identification/Components**

- Small and very regular parcels located in and around settlement areas
- Sometimes subdivided by fences or hedges but also can be open with no dividers
- Associated structures like sheds, water butts, raised beds and small bushes/shrubs
- Do not exist in very rural locations as there is no need for formalised green space

### **Rarity/Survival**

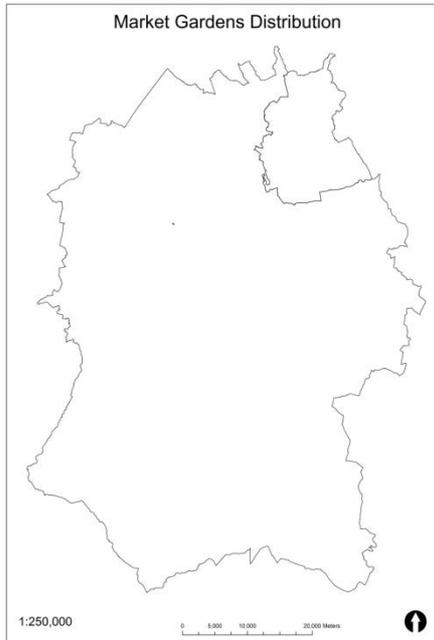
They are fairly rare in Wiltshire and Swindon, but not have been recorded in some instances due to their small size. While they do survive relatively well, and are very distinct, some allotment land has been given to development recently – particularly in larger urban centres. Due to their structured nature, they do not preserve previous character type well.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Market gardens**

### Definition

An area of land used to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers to be sold at markets.

### Distribution



They occupy c.3 ha

As these are principally a historic rather than present landscape character type in Wiltshire there are almost no surviving examples

Much of what might be represented by this type in the present day has been encompassed by the plant nursery/garden centre and allotments type

Modern day Wiltshire and Swindon has little precedent for market gardening, and those that do exist are too small to be identified as dominant character areas

### Historical Processes

Traditionally, "market garden" was used to contrast farms devoted to raising vegetables and berries a specialized type of farming, with the larger branches of grain, dairy, and orchard fruit farming. Simply put, a market garden was simply a vegetable plot (like an allotment) the produce of which the farmer used to sell as opposed to use to feed his or her family. These growing areas have origins dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and were particularly prevalent in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sometimes these market gardens made use of railway lines and canals to get their fresh produce to market further afield.

### Identification/Components

- Typically small land parcels located in and around settlement areas
- Varied areas within the market garden to grow different crops and often not delineated
- Associated structures like sheds, greenhouses, raised beds and poly tunnels
- Sometimes associated with transport like railways or canals to get produce to market

### Rarity/Survival

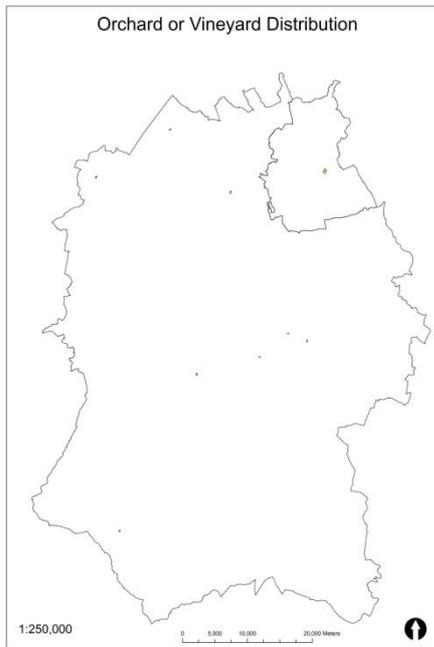
This character type typically relates to historic rather than current landscape character. Market gardens existed in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to allow the sale of locally grown produce, but most have disappeared now. Some have evolved into allotments, plant nurseries/garden centres or farms but almost all have disappeared from the landscape (or cannot be mapped due to their small size). Any that remain are rare examples of this historic farming process.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Orchards and vineyards**

### Definition

An enclosed area of land or garden for the growing of fruit-bearing trees or land and associated buildings where grapevines are cultivated.

### Distribution



They occupy c.49 ha

Orchards large enough to map and/or constitute the dominant character are rare

Their limited distribution is scattered across the county but they do seem to have some association with settlement areas

Many orchards have disappeared in modernity and there is no established cider or wine industry in the county to promote creation of new orchards

### Historical Processes

The vast majority of the orchards that survive and have been mapped by the HLC project have late post medieval or early modern origins (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century). These traditional orchards would be much less densely packed with trees than their modern equivalents. Orchards would have been highly prevalent in the past, with many towns, villages and farms having small areas set aside for the growing of fruit. These can be seen through depictions of the landscape on the 1 ed. 6" OS map and later epochs of historic mapping. Many orchards have been cleared in recent times for residential or commercial development or are so small that they do not merit characterisation (as they are not the dominant local character).

### Identification/Components

- Small enclosures which are typically hedged or fenced
- Clusters of small fruit trees – regularly laid out if modern and more piecemeal if older
- Often associated with farms in modernity but previously with settlement areas
- Sometimes indicated by local place name evidence

### Rarity/Survival

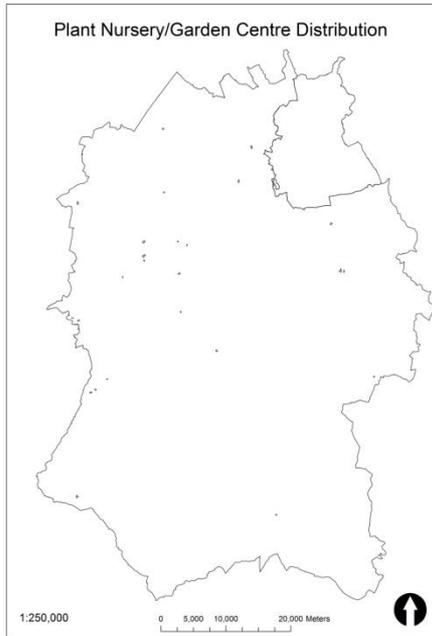
Orchards are very rare and are fragile reminders of a former agricultural/rural lifestyle. While they are very distinct in the landscape, they have often been cleared for more intensive use of the land they occupy. Previous landscape character is poorly legible within them due to the planting of the trees, which disturbs earlier field patterns and earlier character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Plant nursery/garden centre**

### **Definition**

An area such as a commercial garden where plants and trees are grown and nurtured for the purpose of transportation or sale or a place/buildings where gardening tools and plants are sold.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.116 ha

Nurseries and garden centres of a significant size (>2ha) are uncommon

They seem to be principally in the north and west of the county and are perhaps associated with the larger urban centres that exist in these areas

Some plant nurseries have associations with former manors and designed landscape parks, presumably with plants being grown for use in these grand locations

### **Historical Processes**

While a very small number of plant nurseries have historic origins the vast majority of them, and all of the garden centres, are modern creations. They have been created in rural locations or outside settlements to cater for the growing interest in gardening and horticulture. They tend to comprise outdoor areas (sometimes with covering) and plots where the plants are grown for sale, and buildings where association gardening and outdoor equipment is displayed and sold. Often there is a large accompanying car park and this, along with the other features of this landscape character type, tends to result in very poor legibility of previous character.

### **Identification/Components**

- Out of town locations by roads and easily accessible.
- Sheds/buildings for sale of horticultural goods that are surrounded by large car parks
- Covered outdoor areas or plots/paddocks for growing trees, shrubs and flowers
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps by name and purpose

### **Rarity/Survival**

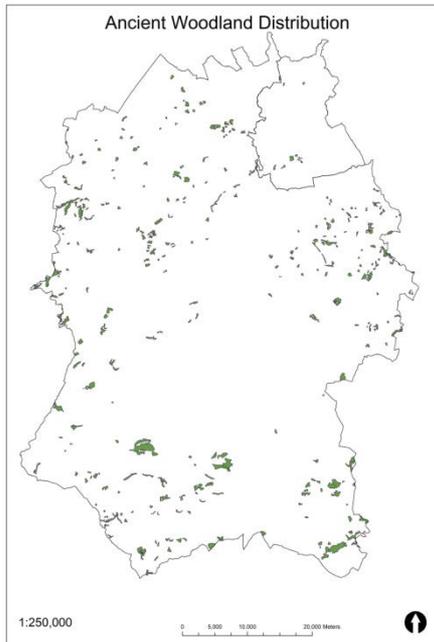
Sites of this type are uncommon across the county (due in part to smaller enterprises not being mapped separately) but the demand for plants and garden supplies does not require a huge number of outlets. In general, they are very modern and are robust to landscape change. However, as the sites that accommodate them have been heavily developed and modified, there is usually extremely poor preservation of previous landscape character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ancient semi-natural woodland**

### Definition

Woodland believed to have existed since at least 1600 in England and in England defined as such by Natural England. Usually managed for timber, coppice etc and often contains dividing banks, trackways, charcoal burning platforms etc.

### Distribution



They occupy c.5869 ha

This woodland is slightly uncommon but reasonably well distributed across the county

There is a particular cluster in the south, and eastern/western fringes of the county - areas where there were formerly medieval hunting forests

They form the original parts of extensive woodland that has since been felled or subject to re-planting – so there are clear associations with assarts and re-planted ancient woodland and coppices

### Historical Processes

The majority of woodland in this category has origins in at least the medieval period, but possibly even earlier in some cases. Such woodland would have been a valuable resource in the past and formed part of royal or noble estates and been used for hunting, industry, woodcraft and livestock rearing. Place name evidence gives a hint to the purposes of the woodland and in some instances to its antiquity. Over time, many of the extensive forests in Wiltshire such as Savernake, Braydon and Selwood were reduced in size to make way for agriculture or settlement due to increasing population pressure. Nevertheless, pockets of ancient woodland remain, are very distinctive and contribute significantly to local character.

### Identification/Components

- Mainly broadleaf trees that have grown in an organic/un-ordered fashion
- Woodland blocks are irregular in form and often show evidence of assarting
- Sometimes have associated boundary banks, or act themselves as boundaries
- Often incorporated into later designed landscapes or parks
- Distinctly named on both modern and historic maps with names implying function

### Rarity/Survival

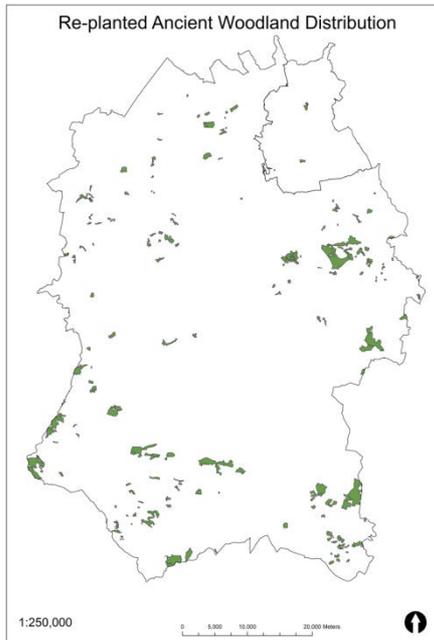
Woodland of this type is uncommon and has diminished significantly from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It tends to be concentrated in clumps and has been supplemented by areas of re-planting. Its influence on biodiversity and recreational benefits ensure it is valued locally.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ancient semi-natural woodland re-planted**

### Definition

Ancient woodland where original natural tree coverage has been clear-felled (often during the 20th century world wars) and the area replanted with other trees, often coniferous.

### Distribution



They occupy c.7742 ha

This woodland is slightly uncommon but reasonably well distributed across the county

The majority of this woodland is associated with semi-natural ancient woodland and as such it concentrates in areas with existing wood of this type

It focuses in areas of either ancient forest or as part of parkland where the original ancient woodland had diminished and there has been an aesthetic desire to restore it

Some association with assarts – with woodland infill

### Historical Processes

Despite its name, the re-planted ancient woodland is of much more recent origin – primarily in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The re-planting trees can be coniferous types or non-native species, as well as the more traditional native broadleaf/deciduous species. Some of the earlier re-planting was conducted to enhance the landscape and is associated with ornamental parks or gardens. Some of the later re-planting was to replace trees felled during the First and Second World Wars for use in the war effort. It is possible to discern these areas of re-planted wood within more ancient woodland bodies on aerial photographs.

### Identification/Components

- Typically coniferous trees that have been planted to infill old assarts or to supplement areas of semi-natural ancient woodland
- Often blocks of this woodland more regular in shape than the adjacent older woodland
- Infills areas of old woodland and sometimes this is alluded to by place name evidence

### Rarity/Survival

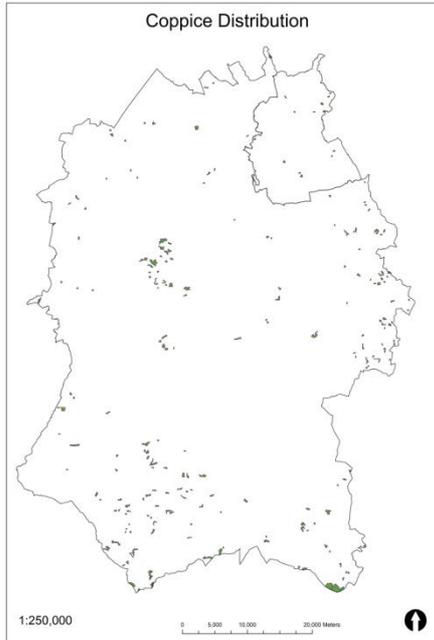
Woodland of this type is not common in Wiltshire, although there are more re-planting schemes now than there has been in the past. There seems to have been little threat to the more recent planting episodes, and its value in enhancing biodiversity and recreational benefits (where associated with parkland etc.) make it a reasonably robust character type.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Coppice

### Definition

Area of managed woodland, usually oak, ash, hornbeam, hazel, alder, willow or beech, periodically cut to encourage new growth providing a source of smaller timber; for rods, fuel, charcoal etc. Larger coppices often divided into cropping areas or coups.

### Distribution



They occupy c.1684 ha

This woodland is uncommon but reasonably well distributed across the county, with a concentration to the south

Most are associated with other wooded areas, but some more modern coppices have been created in remote or marginal areas

Many farms and agricultural concerns have woodland to utilise for commercial purposes

Some coppices have been created as part of designed landscapes

### Historical Processes

The coppices identified in the HLC project are mainly late post medieval or modern in origin. While coppicing was well established in the medieval period (and even earlier), few such wooded areas survive unaltered into the present day. As coppiced woodland is harvested in sections or *coups* the form and layout of the woodland can be quite distinct and identifiable within the landscape. The wood was used for ship building, house construction and industrial processes like charcoal burning. Some coppices also existed on grand estates and manors to provide an income or for ornamental purposes. While these still survive as part of some parkland, very few woodlands of this type are still operated for coppice today. Those that do are often managed by to provide materials for local crafts and woodworking activities.

### Identification/Components

- Often regular in shape and more typically coniferous varieties of trees.
- Usually clearly named on modern and historic maps.
- Occasionally associated with parkland areas or infilling of ancient woodland
- Some association with farmsteads or agricultural hamlets

### Rarity/Survival

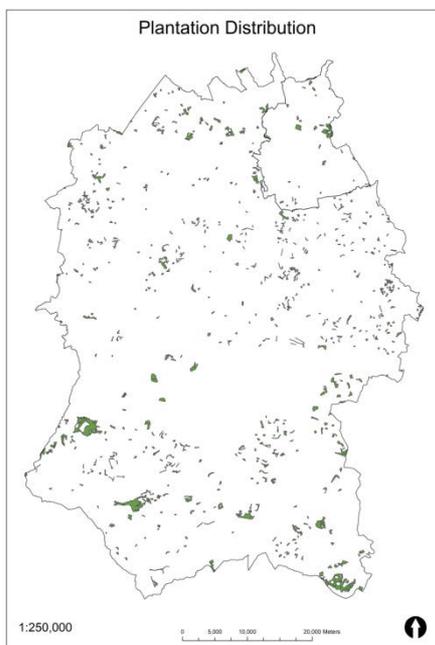
Historic coppices are rare, and there are a few examples of coppices created in modernity. While they are distinct and represent an interesting aspect of historic woodland management they are not directly under threat or characteristic of particular landscapes in Wiltshire.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Plantation

### Definition

Woodland planted deliberately, either for landscaping or to produce a crop of timber. Mid 20th century plantations usually single species conifers often planted in rows. Earlier plantations and those of the late 20th century onwards are often more mixed.

### Distribution



They occupy c.6689 ha

This type of woodland is prevalent across the county and is probably the most common modern type

Plantations tend to exist in all areas and landscape types but there is a natural lack of them in extensive downland areas

There is some correlation between plantations and areas of well established historic woodland, where new trees have been planted to supplement existing

Some plantations are associated with parkland and farmsteads

### Historical Processes

The majority of plantations have late post medieval (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century) or modern origins. They have been planted for a number of reasons including: to provide shelter belts, to delineate land parcels, for commercial purposes, to enhance existing woodland and for hunting or recreation activities. Many of these plantations comprise coniferous or non-native trees, and they can exist in areas with little historic pedigree for woodland. While they vary in size, there are some particularly large examples in Wiltshire – often associated with parkland or ancient woodland. New areas of woodland continue to be planted across the county.

### Identification/Components

- Variable sized blocks of woodland that are typically regular or geometric in form
- Often comprised of coniferous or non native trees and sometimes enclosed by fences or banks
- Clearly named on the modern and historic Ordnance Survey mapping
- Associated with parkland, farms and ancient re-planted wood but can exist anywhere

### Rarity/Survival

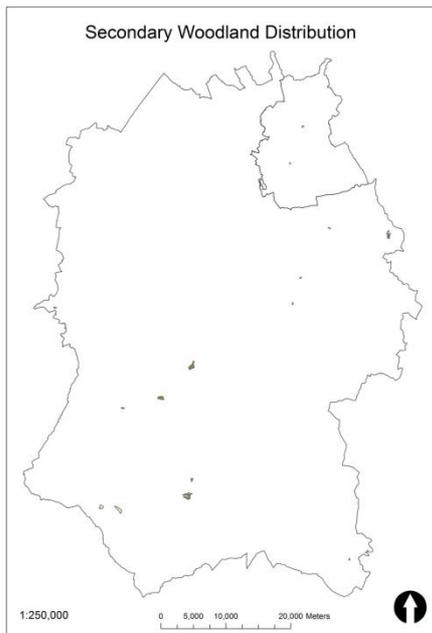
Plantations are typical and common to all parts of the county. As most are relatively modern in origin they are not under threat and those that are felled are replaced as part of sustainable woodland management. While distinctive, they are not characteristic of any particular landscape type.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Secondary woodland**

### Definition

Woodland that has developed, usually by natural colonization, on land formerly used for other purposes (agriculture, settlement, industry etc). If this process pre-dated 1600, secondary woodland can be classified as ancient woodland.

### Distribution



They occupy c.2406 ha

Very uncommon and scattered across the county with no particular distribution

Some association with other wooded areas

Hard to identify and something of a catch-all category for woodland that does not fit any of the other landscape types

Probably more prevalent in the past but wood without a distinct purpose has been altered or removed

### Historical Processes

Woodland classified as of secondary character tends to have grown up in areas of the landscape through natural means. It often takes the form of scraggly and disorganised trees which have grown on marginal land, waste land, old industrial sites or redundant farmland. Blocks of secondary wood tend to be small, irregular and with a mixed tree type. There are also sometimes associated areas of rough grass, heath or furze as this woodland exists in areas that are not heavily exploited. Due to the nature of this woodland, much of it is of fairly recent origin, although some elements may date back to the post medieval period.

### Identification/Components

- Small scale and irregular parcels of woodland
- Mixed tree types and place names that do not indicate any particular character
- Sometimes associated with unimproved land, wet areas, or derelict urban land
- Show little signs of management, exploitation or organisation (e.g. fencing, tree thinning)

### Rarity/Survival

While this woodland type appears to be fairly rare, this is because most areas of wood have a more clearly defined and distinct character. It seems likely that this type of woodland was more extensive in the past and has been cleared for development and agriculture.

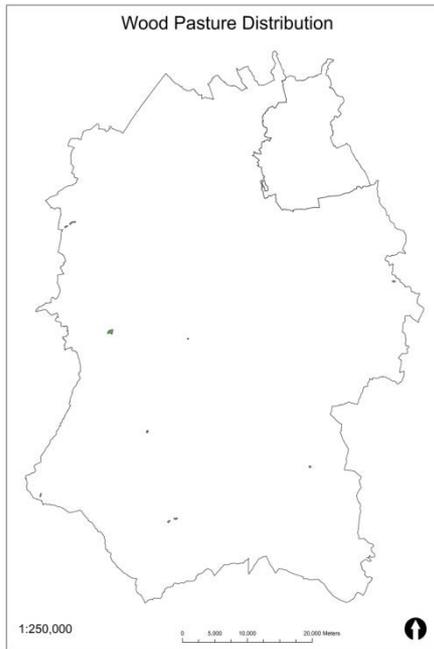
Nevertheless, it is not a type with strong character or particular local value.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Wood pasture

### Definition

Scattered trees within grassland, the trees providing shelter for forage as well as being harvested for timber and fuel. Now most often found within deer parks, but more widespread, especially on steep slopes, in the medieval period.

### Distribution



They occupy c.105 ha

Very limited distribution, but with a slight focus on the south of the county

Wood pasture is very hard to clearly identify as it shares similarities with other woodland, field types and ornamental landscapes

Where wood pasture does exist it tends to be associated with ancient woodland, deer parks and landscape parks

The best examples survive in the Clarendon area

### Historical Processes

Wood pasture is a historical process to manage land as part of estates and manorial holdings. The open woodland provided shelter and forage for grazing animals as well as woodland products used for construction, fuel and craft activities. Wood pasture has Saxon/medieval origins and continued into the early post medieval period, however there is no modern usage of this technique. Typically, this management system was associated with deer parks and forests (which survive as blocks of ancient woodland in modernity) and can still be seen in the present day in a few isolated examples in Wiltshire.

### Identification/Components

- Land parcels with scattered veteran trees and often associated ancient woodland or grassy areas in a matrix layout
- Trees tend to be of the high forest type and planted in an orderly manor
- Tend to be linked to estates and deer parks – sometimes associated boundaries
- Hard to identify due to their similarity to more common ornamental and field types

### Rarity/Survival

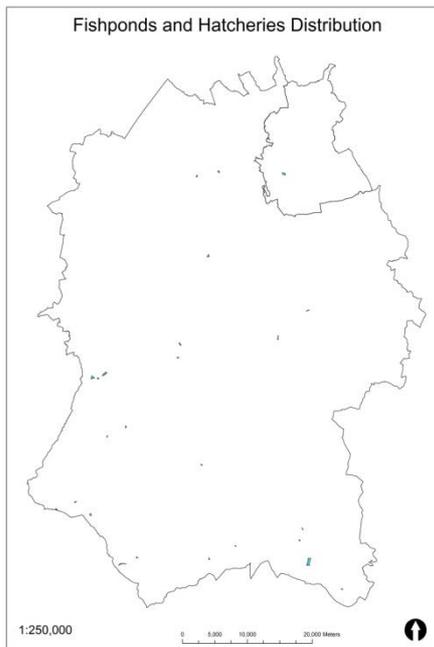
Wood pasture is rare and also difficult to identify in the landscape. It is easiest to classify when in a coherent combination with ancient woodland, deer parks and grand estates. It is under threat from clearance and landscaping, but is important as it represents a very early woodland management process which is no longer practiced.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Fishponds and hatcheries**

### **Definition**

Areas characterised by the creation of controlled ponds, artificial lakes or reservoirs for cultivation of fish for domestic, ornamental or commercial purposes. Sometimes sited inland and at other times they make use of rivers and natural watercourses.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.143 ha

They are fairly rare and their distribution is very closely related to natural watercourses or manorial/ecclesiastical holdings

Very small in size and fishponds (rather than hatcheries) may have been more prevalent in the past

Wiltshire does not have a big fish farming industry but there are some examples in the Salisbury area

### **Historical Processes**

The landscapes recorded in this category are split between historic fishponds and modern hatcheries. Fish ponds were created in the medieval and post medieval periods in association with manors, castles and monasteries so as to enable a degree of self sufficiency for their inhabitants. These were often quite sophisticated feats of engineering and also served an ornamental purpose – particularly for grand moated country houses. Hatcheries relate to the rearing of fish for commercial purposes, and these have mainly 20<sup>th</sup> century origins. They are often situated at riverine locations and make use of machinery and engineered beds to help maintain a suitable environment for the fish being produced.

### **Identification/Components**

- Fish ponds are small, less regular and associated with grand historic buildings (or their ruins) – particularly monasteries, estates and castles
- Modern hatcheries are often fairly large facilities with engineered beds, sluices, pens, gates, pumping machinery and associated outbuildings
- Both are easy to identify on modern/historic mapping and are usually clearly named

### **Rarity/Survival**

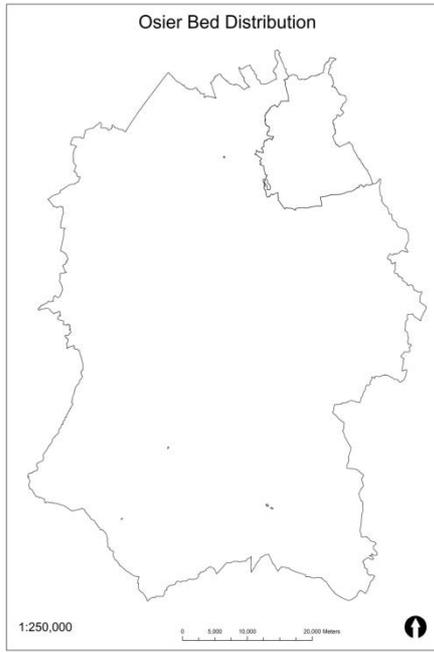
Fishponds are very rare, but may not be recorded in all instances due to their small size. They are fairly fragile and their earthworks and hollows are often removed by modern development. Hatcheries are large industrial facilities by rivers and, as they are modern, not under any particular threat. While rare in Wiltshire, they are not particularly characteristic.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Osier beds**

### **Definition**

An area where osiers (types of willows, producing long straight stems) are cultivated for use in basketry.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.22 ha

Osier beds are extremely rare in Wiltshire, but tend to be in the southern part of the county

They are associated with rivers and other areas of wetland (such as marsh and bog)

Most are not extensive enough to be recorded separately as the dominant character type

Not in use in modernity, and Wiltshire did not have a big basketry/reed weaving industry in the past

### **Historical Processes**

All of the osier beds (sometimes referred to as withy beds) are of late post medieval origin. Willow was planted in beds in rows so that it could be harvested as rods/wands every couple for weaving and basket making. As the beds require a constant water supply, they tend to be low lying and near existing watercourses – thus valley floor locations are typical. Such beds tend to be fairly small scale and localised and there were possibly more examples in the past. Most have been identified through their clear depiction on historic/modern OS maps.

### **Identification/Components**

- Small and irregular willow beds that are associated with manmade irrigation channels
- All have fallen from use and they are often associated with scrubby vegetation, marsh or light woodland cover
- Located in valley floor and riverine locations – sometimes there is some association with water meadow systems

### **Rarity/Survival**

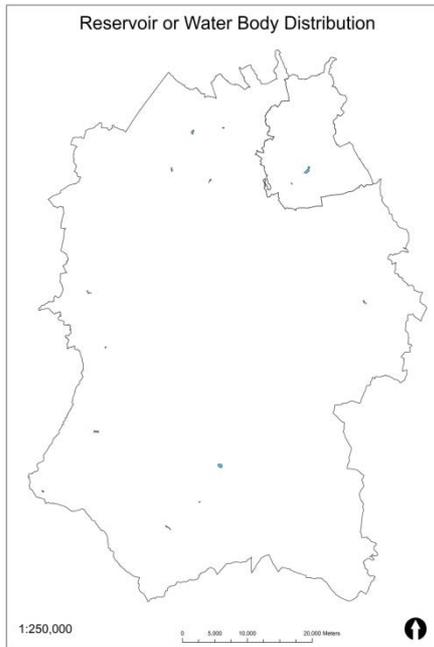
Osier beds are rare and represent a distinct and characterful historic management of willow. As their survival is primarily linked with production of willow for economic purposes, and they require regular cutting to maintain productivity, they have diminished over time. They survive poorly and are threatened by increased exploitation of riverside locations for agriculture. However, due to their nature, they do not readily preserve prior character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Reservoirs and water bodies**

### **Definition**

A body of water or other liquid, wholly or partly artificial and sometimes covered, used to collect and store water, or other liquid for a particular function. Most often for the collection and supply of water for public and industrial use.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.124 ha

Sizeable bodies of water are rare within Wiltshire but there have been some created in the north of the county in areas of former gravel extraction

They have no particular or clear association with other landscape types

Most are modern and preserve little of the previous landscape character of the areas within which they exist

### **Historical Processes**

The lakes and reservoirs identified in this HLC project tend to have late post medieval (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century) to modern origins. They were created for either aesthetic or practical purposes, or in more recent times have represented a restoration of the landscape after extractive processes. Some of these water bodies are valuable recreational assets used for activities like water sports and sailing, whilst others are used to supply water for nearby towns and villages.

### **Identification/Components**

- Often irregular shaped areas of water which make use of local topography and landform
- Associated manmade features like dams, sluices, run offs and jetties
- Sometimes associated with former extractive areas or landscape parks

### **Rarity/Survival**

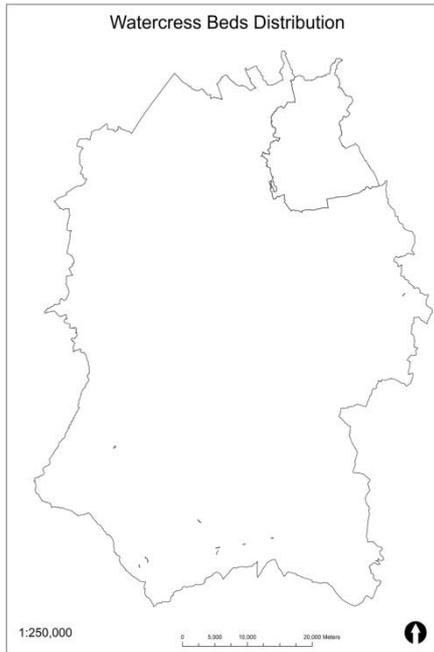
While this type of water body is relatively rare in the county, they are not under threat due to their mainly modern origins. They are occasional valuable local resources which contribute to character, but are principally functional features which tend not preserve much in the way of previous landscape character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Watercress beds**

### **Definition**

An area set aside for growing watercress. As the watercress requires large quantities of slightly alkaline water the beds are usually sited around the headwaters of chalk streams.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.27 ha

Watercress beds are very rare and those that do survive are focused almost solely in the south of the county

They are associated with rivers and other areas of wetland (such as marsh and bog)

Most are not extensive enough to be recorded separately as the dominant character type

Not in use in modernity and Wiltshire does not have a historic pedigree of watercress production

### **Historical Processes**

Watercress beds have a late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century origin, and the vast majority are no longer in use for their intended purpose. They were used to provide freshly produced watercress for market and use was made of the road, rail and canal networks for movements of goods. Due to the nature of the production process, the beds used to grow the cress exist in association with rivers and other established watercourses. Some watercress beds were suitable for conversion into fish farms/hatcheries and this process has diminished their number.

### **Identification/Components**

- Watercress grows in specially constructed beds at riverine locations
- The beds are small and rectangular and have associated ancillary buildings
- They exist in lowland valley floor locations and are often associated with water meadows

### **Rarity/Survival**

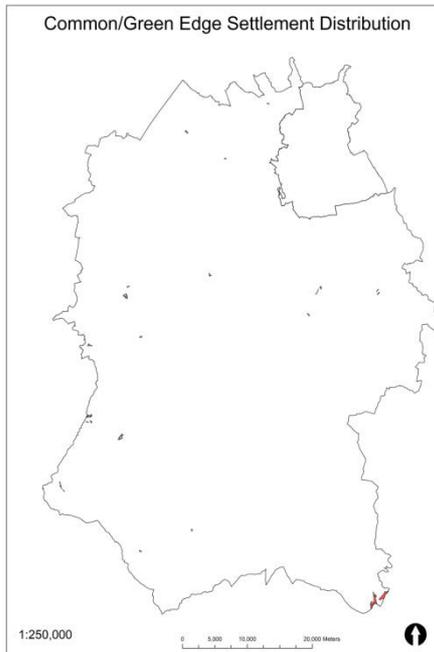
Watercress beds are rare and fairly fragile landscape features. While they have been eroded naturally with the passing of time and through vegetation growth, they have also been removed through more intensive land use or reclamation of wetland areas. While not a characteristic industry of the county, the growing of watercress is a distinct historic farming practice and is of interest at a local level.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Common edge settlement**

### Definition

Agricultural village with farmsteads and cottages wholly or mainly arranged along the edge of a common.

### Distribution



They occupy c.242 ha

Common edge settlements are rare, but examples do exist in various locations in the county, but most are at the periphery rather than in the core

They exist at the edge of large areas of former common land which are now mainly extensive fields in modernity

There seems to be some connection with the areas of ancient wood such as at Savernake, the New Forest and Chute forest

### Historical Processes

Common land, held by the community and available for their use, has origins in the medieval period. This land was used for grazing, craft/industrial activity and recreational purposes as part of the feudal system. As such, small settlements encircling or at the periphery of common land sprung up. As the rise of individual land ownership and the need for intensifying agricultural production occurred in the post medieval era, common land was enclosed. Sometimes this was by Parliamentary Acts in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, in other times it was a more informal local agreement. Nevertheless, enclosure of the land left many of the historic settlements which had circled the common land isolated in the new fieldscapes. In some instances, new settlements were also created to house workers of the newly enclosed land. Such settlements are unusual in Wiltshire but can be identified from their linear/dispersed form, place name links to common land and separation from amenities.

### Identification/Components

- Small scale settlements along the edge of former common lands and named as such
- Typically linear and dispersed, either along the edges of the common or encircling it
- Easier to spot on the historic rather than modern OS mapping

### Rarity/Survival

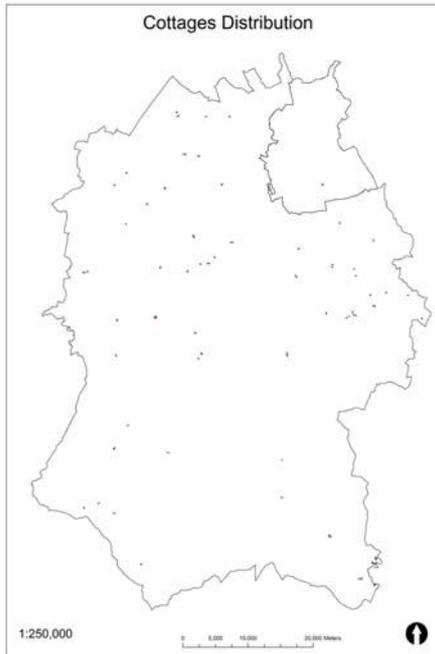
These settlements are rare and very distinctive in certain parts of Wiltshire. They link to a medieval past or the advent of a landscape-wide enclosure in the post medieval period. Their distinctive form is characteristic of these processes and can be easily lost or damaged by modern developments. They survive better where the common can still be perceived.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Cottages

### Definition

Scatters of rural dwellings separate to formalised hamlets or settlements. Sometimes set along the roadside, other times distributed within the landscape.

### Distribution



They occupy c.211 ha

Some examples were too small to record separately or formed part of other more dominant landscapes

Large groups of cottages are uncommon in Wiltshire but do exist, primarily in the northern half of the county

By their very nature, they lie in rural areas, sometimes outside villages or hamlets but in other cases set into the rural landscape of fields, downland and woodland

### Historical Processes

Cottages are a very well established form of rural settlement and are a common sight in a rural county like Wiltshire. However, large clusters of cottages outside settlements or set in the wider landscape are rather rarer. While there are some modern examples, desirable homes built in beauty spots/picturesque areas, most cottages are historic. Some have medieval origins, but the majority that survive well are 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. Some would have been accommodation for agricultural workers or craftsmen whereas others are the remnants of shrunken or deserted settlements. Some line the lanes and routeways of the county, particularly near the market towns of central/northern Wiltshire. They vary in architectural style but often use of local stone, wood, thatch or brick in their construction.

### Identification/Components

- Modern or historic houses set out along routeways or embedded in the landscape
- Sometimes associated with shrunken/deserted settlements, of which they were part
- Rural locations often near large fieldscapes and wooded areas
- Identified by form an place name evidence on modern/historic OS maps

### Rarity/Survival

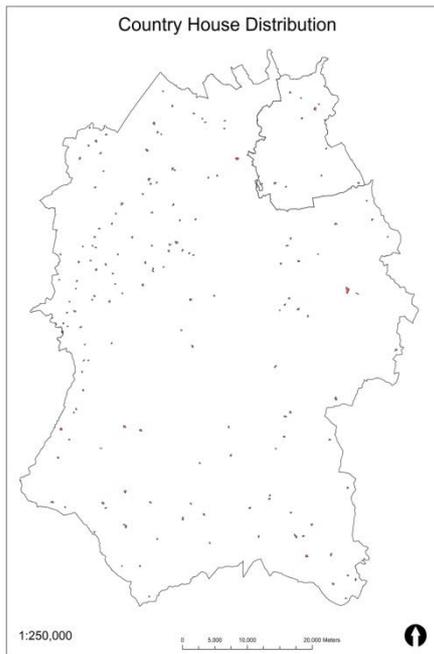
Cottages are rare and tend to be historic rather than modern. They can be distinct and offer insights into past rural settlement practice and vernacular building styles, but are small scale so don't dominate the character of many areas of landscape. Some are under threat of redevelopment or expansion into larger settlements such as hamlets or villages.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Country houses and palaces**

### Definition

Grand house in a rural setting, normally within a landscape park, and usually accompanied by a range of attached buildings. Often a residence for royal or aristocratic individuals.

### Distribution



They occupy c.595 ha

Country houses are relatively common in Wiltshire and Swindon and can be identified in, or near to, the majority of villages and towns

The west of Wiltshire has the densest concentration of these grand residences

They are associated with settlement areas (urban and rural) but are also strongly linked to ornamental and wooded landscapes

The only palace identified by the HLC project is at Clarendon in the south of the county

### Historical Processes

The creation of grand residences in rural and urban settings has very ancient origins. The royal palace at Clarendon in the south of Wiltshire has Saxon origins as a hunting lodge. Later, in the medieval period, a large number of estates were governed by manorial seats. These were positioned to dominate local settlements and to control woodland, watercourses and routeways. Later, in the post medieval period, many of these manors developed large landscaped grounds/estates – and some of these grew from the medieval deer parks owned by the nobility. Examples include Bowood House and Corsham Court. Despite the changes in modern society and settlement, most parishes in the county retain these country houses or manors. They typically comprise grand houses and ancillary buildings with landscaped grounds, estate walls, ornamental plantings, associated woodland or parkland. While many are no longer in use for their original purpose, this historic character remains highly legible.

### Identification/Components

- Grand houses with outbuildings, woodland, parkland, walls and ornamental features
- Located in settlements or rural areas and dominate fields, woods or old deer parks
- Clearly marked on modern/historic OS maps and identifiable from place names

### Rarity/Survival

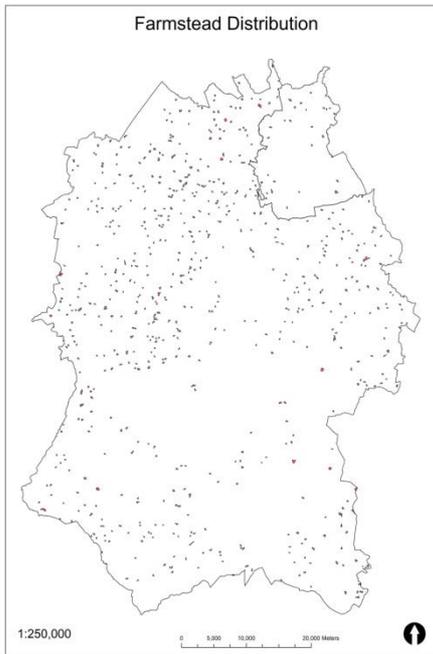
While country houses are not uncommon they are very distinct and characterful and dominate the landscapes they occupy. They provide a link to the medieval/post medieval past and contribute significantly to local character and identity. Some country houses are under threat of inappropriate use/redevelopment or encroachment onto their grounds.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Farmstead**

### Definition

A farmhouse/ancillary buildings forming the operational centre for the surrounding farmland.

### Distribution



They occupy c.2074 ha

Farmsteads are very common in Wiltshire and Swindon and can be found in virtually all areas

Gaps in the distribution relate to large areas of urban settlement, woodland or open/unimproved land

Mixed settings for farms – either within villages and hamlets or set in amongst the fields they serve

Most associated with routeways – be that rivers, roads or trackways

### Historical Processes

Farming has ancient origins, and still forms a major part of the Wiltshire economy. The county has a strong pedigree of dairy, corn and wool production, often referred to the 'Chalk and Cheese' economy. The farmsteads and farm buildings identified by the HLC project are mainly of post medieval or modern origin although some earlier examples do exist (e.g. the Bradford-on-Avon tithe barn). Large farms constituted small settlements in the medieval and post medieval periods, and they had various outbuildings, dwellings, yards, plots and orchards to sustain the workers and landowners. More modern farms are far more industrial/commercial in character and have planned layouts and specialised buildings to accommodate the mechanised equipment used by farmers. While many farmsteads have been converted for residential, commercial or recreational purposes a large number are still in use for their original purpose. Some of the historic examples contribute significantly to the character and identity of the landscapes and settlements which they occupy.

### Identification/Components

- Features include: farmhouses, sheds, yards, pens, granaries, barns, dairies and silos
- Can be modern buildings or historic ones demonstrating local styles and materials
- Either set within settlements or in amongst the rural fieldscapes they utilise
- Clearly marked on modern and historic OS maps and identified by place names

### Rarity/Survival

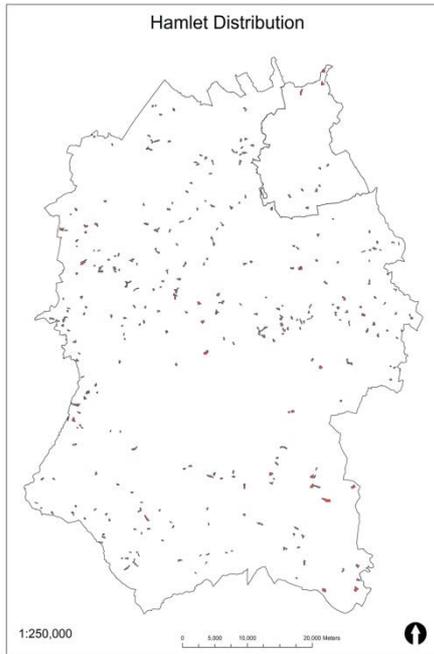
Farmsteads are common in Wiltshire, but some of the more historic examples are being repurposed, removed or redeveloped which threatens the survival of historic landscape character. Coherent historic farms are valuable links to agricultural communities of the past.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Hamlet**

### **Definition**

Small settlement with no ecclesiastical or lay administrative function and usually with no other amenities.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.1922 ha

Hamlets are a very common rural settlement type and they are widely distributed across the county

Gaps in the distribution tend to relate to concentrations of downland, woodland and urban areas

Many follow routeways, watercourses and occupy locations dictated by local topography

Typically associated with land given over to fields, recreation purposes or ornamental landscapes

### **Historical Processes**

Agricultural hamlets are common in counties like Wiltshire which have a predominantly rural character. They exist in almost every landscape type in the county and have a variety of forms including: nucleated, piecemeal, linear and planned. Extant hamlets can have Saxon, medieval, post medieval or modern origins and this can be determined by their vernacular styles, buildings and place name evidence. Distinct clusters of hamlets can be seen in the clay landscapes of the northeast and northwest parts of the county, around areas of ancient woodland and at the periphery of the county, along the borders with neighbouring counties.

### **Identification/Components**

- Very variable in form and layout – most have medieval/post medieval origins
- Typically components include houses, agricultural buildings and communal spaces
- Usually no church or civic amenities, and can be satellites to nearby villages
- Clearly marked on all sources and historic maps provide useful place name evidence

### **Rarity/Survival**

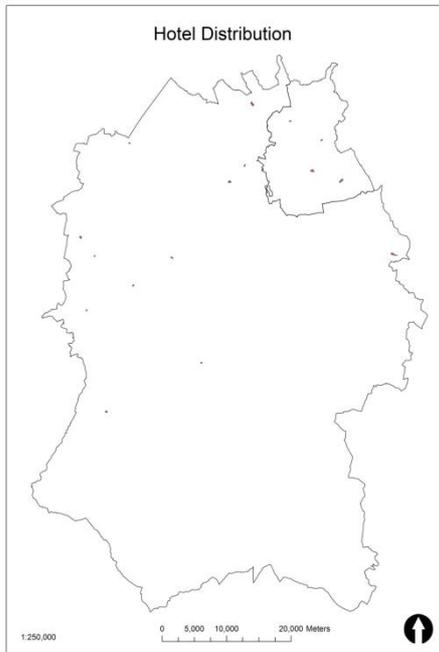
While hamlets are common, each is unique and has its own character – some with more historic character and components than others. Nevertheless, the core of each hamlet defines the character and identity of the settlement and is valued by the residents. Some are under threat from infill development and expansion which threatens their historic form/layout.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Hotel

### Definition

A building and its directly associated grounds, used for the accommodation of paying travellers and guests.

### Distribution



They occupy c.87 ha

Large hotels (>2ha) are rare in the county – most of the examples that do exist are in Swindon or the northern part of the county

They are either associated with major transport routes, towns as major employers or converted country estates

Some country hotels have extensive landscape grounds with legible historic character

Other hotels are associated with leisure/recreational facilities and tourist attractions

### Historical Processes

The hotels recorded by the HLC project tend to either be modern buildings catering for travellers visiting major towns and attractions in the county or former manors/estates which have branched out into the leisure industry. An example of the former would be the large 'motel' type establishments around Swindon and an example of the latter would be Bowood Hotel – set in the former estate and with associated parkland and golf course. They therefore tend to exist at the edge of towns or set in the countryside in picturesque locations, where the hotel is based on pre-existing historic buildings. Whatever the case, they tend to comprise large buildings, car parks areas, grounds/gardens and associated recreational and dining facilities. The number of hotels will likely increase over time, as the importance of the leisure and tourism continues to grow in Wiltshire.

### Identification/Components

- Large buildings with associated car parks, gardens, grounds and leisure facilities
- Some based in former country houses/estates and retain historic character/features
- Modern ones associated with major transport routes and out of town locations
- Usually clearly marked on modern maps and easy to identify on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

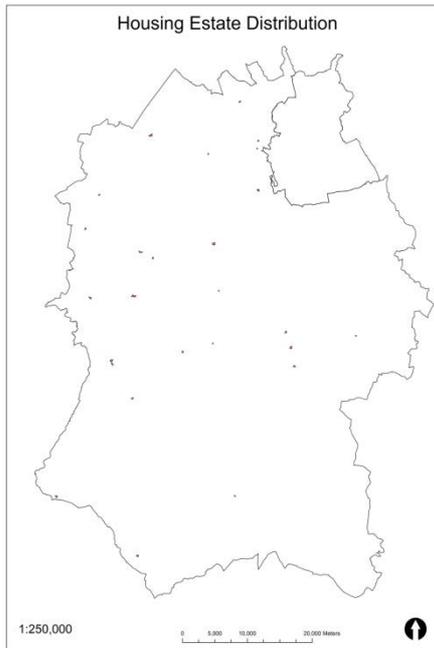
Large hotels are relatively rare in Wiltshire, but will likely increase in number. Modern examples can be intrusive and heavily landscaped which has removed prior character but those reusing historic country houses often retain historic character in the form of buildings, gardens and grounds. Most are not under threat and survive well at landscape level.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Housing estate**

### Definition

A planned residential area, usually with its own self-contained street system including cul-de-sacs, sometimes with its own amenities, such as shops, a public house etc.

### Distribution



They occupy c.138 ha

Housing estates in rural settlements are fairly uncommon but do exist in larger villages across the county

There is a cluster in the northwest of the county, in the satellite villages outside the market towns

Some are associated with recreational space or allotments

All are of 20<sup>th</sup> century date and few new examples are being built

### Historical Processes

Rural housing estates are very distinct in their appearance and character. They tend to comprise houses built to a standard form, with functional materials and set components – like small gardens, garages or yards. They reflect a very particular process of occupation, whereby local authorities or housing associations have provided accommodation for the use of the elderly, vulnerable or low wage earners. Most areas of social housing have mid 20<sup>th</sup> century origins, with many constructed in the post war period to cater for the growing population and to replace damaged or defunct housing stock. Many examples are additions to much more traditional villages and hamlets, but can form infill developments. Few examples have been built in recent years, as developers commonly include more affordable housing integrated within their wider projects.

### Identification/Components

- Simply constructed houses/flats set out in estates, usually with a planned form
- All properties have the same components – often garages, yard, gardens, porches
- Usually set away from the village core but with associated green space

### Rarity/Survival

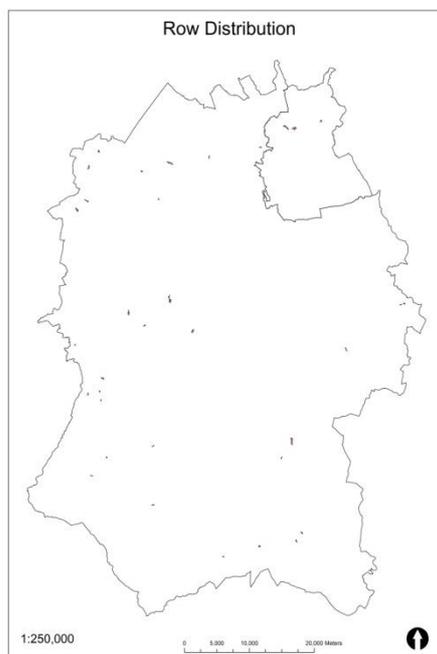
Housing estates are uncommon but exist within some larger villages. They provide an insight into social conventions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While distinct, they are not usually considered of value locally, and some have been demolished or converted through private ownership.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Row**

### Definition

Linear arrangement of farmsteads and dwellings, usually built along a road.

### Distribution



They occupy c.143 ha

Rows of housing separate from villages/hamlets are rare – but those that do exist are located in the north of the county

However, many examples were too small (>2ha) to record separately or to constitute the dominant landscape character

Many line important routeways and lie close to, but clearly outside, other rural settlements

They tend to be set away from other amenities, and in landscapes dominated by fields

### Historical Processes

Rural settlements take many forms, and rows of houses have a long history in counties like Wiltshire. Houses lining important routeways or along watercourses in orderly or interrupted rows can be observed in most parts of the county. Most are historic in origin and may have been the homes of workers/craftsmen/traders in the past, or individuals who preferred to live outside the principal rural and urban settlements in the county. Some modern examples also exist – often forming exclusive and tranquil homes for those who appreciate some of the picturesque rural landscapes. Most rows of housing have associated gardens, garages/outbuildings and some are linked to wooded areas, heath land or wetland areas.

### Identification/Components

- Modern or historic houses set out in a linear fashion along routeways/watercourses
- Can be continuous/interrupted in form, and detached, semi detached or attached
- Located outside villages/hamlets in rural landscapes often with landscape views
- Easy to identify on modern/historic maps and aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

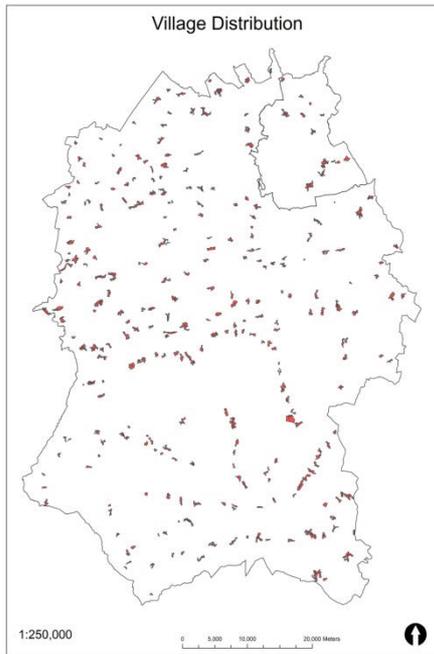
Rows of housing are rare and tend to be historic rather than modern, as the majority of new houses are built inside existing larger settlements. They can be distinct and offer insights into past rural settlement practice, but are generally small scale so don't contribute significantly to the wider landscape character. They are not generally under threat.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Village**

### **Definition**

Collection of farmsteads, dwellings, yards, gardens etc. Larger than hamlet, smaller than town. Often includes church, inn, shops, workshops, manor house. Main rural settlement form in central province; rarer elsewhere. Also industrial villages.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.5860 ha

Villages are the most common rural settlement type and they are widely distributed across the county

Gaps in the distribution tend to relate to concentrations of downland, woodland and urban areas

Many follow routeways, watercourses and occupy locations dictated by local topography

Typically associated with land given over to fields, recreation purposes or ornamental landscapes

### **Historical Processes**

The village at the core of a parish is the most ancient unit of settlement that can be readily identified in Wiltshire. They exist in almost every landscape type in the county and have a variety of forms including: nucleated, piecemeal, linear and planned. Extant villages can have Saxon, medieval, post medieval or modern origins and this can be determined by their vernacular styles and buildings, place name evidence and associated civic facilities. Some examples of deserted villages or settlements of prehistoric or Roman date can still be identified and are captured as the previous character type. Distinct groups of villages can be seen in the southern river valleys, surrounding the ancient forests, on the Cotswold clays and in the bustling commercial landscape of west Wiltshire with its numerous market towns.

### **Identification/Components**

- Very variable in form, size and layout – most have medieval origins in Domesday
- Typically components include houses, church, village green, marketplace, hall
- Vernacular style, burgage plots, enclosed/defended limits can indicate early origins
- Clearly marked on all sources and historic maps provide useful place name evidence

### **Rarity/Survival**

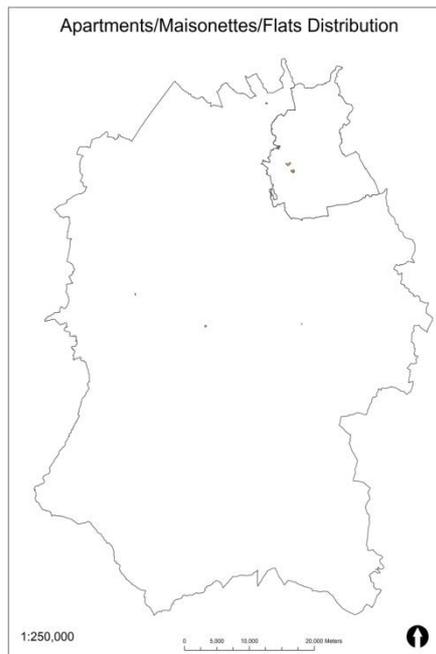
While villages are very common, each is unique and has its own character – some with more historic character and components than others. Nevertheless, the core of each village defines the character and identity of the settlement and is valued by the residents. Some are under threat from infill development and expansion which threatens their historic form/layout.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Apartments/maisonnettes/flats**

### **Definition**

Residential area dominated by purpose-built tenement buildings, each containing several flats or apartments.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.51ha

They are rare housing types and tend to only exist in the larger urban centres

The most obvious cluster is in Swindon, but other smaller areas of apartments/flats may have been too small (>2ha) to record individually or to be recognised as the dominant character types

In Wiltshire, these housing types tend not to be recorded in the centre of urban settlements

They have no particular association with other historic landscape character types

### **Historical Processes**

In the context of this HLC project, this type generally refers to modern blocks/towers/complexes of flats or apartments rather than historic buildings which have been subdivided to allow multiple occupancy. This is because it is very difficult to identify the latter from the available sources. The pressures of modern living have led to an increase in the number of individuals living in flats/apartments – many of which were purpose built to serve this need. As Wiltshire has a very rural character, with Swindon (and to a lesser extent Salisbury) being the only large urban centre, the proportion of modern flats is much lower than elsewhere in the country. Where they do exist they have a planned form and associated parking, gardens, storage and communal areas. This type will likely increase over time.

### **Identification/Components**

- Generally large complexes/blocks set in their own grounds or compounds
- Have associated parking, gardens, communal areas or green space
- As most are modern they tend to be infill development or occupy old industrial land
- Not always easy to identify from aerial photographs and modern maps

### **Rarity/Survival**

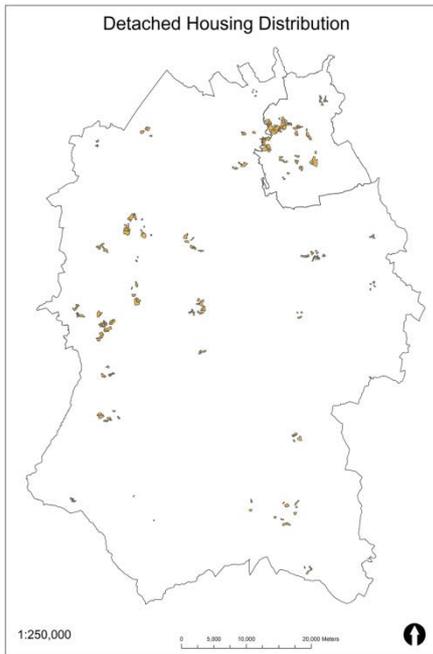
While uncommon, this type forms a very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As most are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Detached Housing**

### **Definition**

Residential area dominated by free-standing houses that are not joined to others on any side.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.2475 ha

Detached houses are very commonplace and exist in every urban settlement in the county

They can exist in the centre and at the periphery of settlements

The greatest concentrations exist in the west of Swindon and in the towns of west Wiltshire

No particular association with any one other historic landscape character type

### **Historical Processes**

Detached houses are very common in all of the urban settlement in the county. They can be of both historic (late medieval or post medieval) or modern origin and exist in a variety of contexts – whether as town houses, part of modern estates or as suburban residences. They can have associated gardens, yards, garages – either set out in a uniform manner or in a way that is bespoke to each property. The majority of houses in this category either tend to be set out in 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century estates with cul-de-sacs and associated green space, or of later post medieval date (18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century) and set out in rows or clusters in the land radiating out from the historic core. It could be seen that the popularity of individually defined properties has increased in popularity in recent years.

### **Identification/Components**

- Very variable housing style, can be very modern or historic in origin
- Typically have attached gardens, yards and garages depending on their age
- Often set out in cul-de-sacs but older examples can be linear/isolated cluster form
- Easily identifiable on modern maps and aerial photographs and usually large clusters

### **Rarity/Survival**

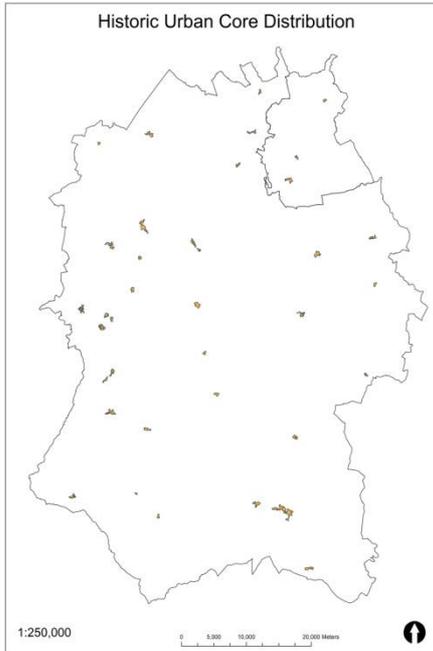
Detached housing is a typical urban housing type. While they are easy to identify, many are not iconic forms. However, some of the historic examples can influence local character/identity. Most are not under particular threat of loss/redevelopment and many very modern ones do not keep with older vernacular styles seen elsewhere in the town.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Historic urban core**

### **Definition**

The long-established historic centre of a town or city, typically delineated in historic characterisation as extent shown on an early epoch of OS mapping.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.1073 ha

Every town in the county has a historic core, but the size varies widely

Some of the larger and more ancient settlements, like Salisbury, Devizes and Bradford-on-Avon have very obvious and coherent historic cores

The earliest historic cores have Saxon/medieval character

Typically these historic cores are associated with civic buildings, communal facilities and on occasion recreational or ornamental spaces

### **Historical Processes**

Every town in Wiltshire has a historic pedigree and has grown considerably since their early foundation. Many have Saxon or medieval origins, but some towns like Salisbury can be traced right back to Roman times (as Sorviodunum). These early towns often had a central church/cathedral, market place, town hall, inns and workshops. Some also had defences like walls, castles or earthwork enclosures to defined the settlement and protect the occupants. While all of the towns in the county have grown considerably over time, the historic town cores are often legible and easy to identify from the architectural styles of their buildings. These cores are crucial to the towns and are very characterful, locally distinct and inspire a sense of place. Areas like Salisbury cathedral cloisters, Swindon old town, Marlborough market place or the area around the castle at Devizes are some of the best examples in the county. Many of the civic buildings related to the early occupation of the towns survive today.

### **Identification/Components**

- Town centre locations with grand civic buildings, churches, markets and defences
- Often small and winding street plans with distinct vernacular styles and place names
- Strong elements of Saxon, medieval and post medieval character at road confluence

### **Rarity/Survival**

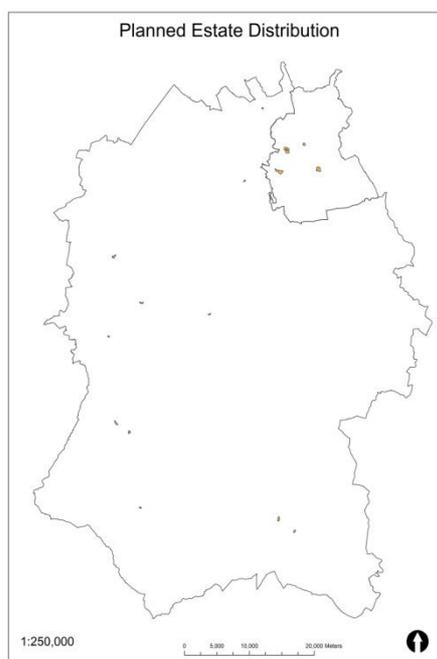
The historic cores of Wiltshire towns are crucial to their character and define the townscapes which they dominate. Many are iconic and attract visitors as well as providing a tangible link to the historic past. Locally valuable and occasionally threatened by unsuitable development.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Planned estate (social housing)**

### Definition

A planned residential area, where properties are often owned by the local authority or council. Usually self contained urban areas, but with associated amenities and recreational space.

### Distribution



They occupy c.211 ha

Housing estates of this type only tend to exist in the larger urban areas

The principal concentrations exist within the town of Swindon

Some of the historic towns (like Marlborough) seem to lack any areas of planned social housing – or it is so small scale so as not to be recorded as the dominant character type

### Historical Processes

Estates of social housing are very distinct in their appearance and character. They tend to comprise either blocks of flats/apartments or rows of dwellings built to a standard form, with functional materials and set components – like small gardens, garages or yards. They reflect a very particular process of occupation, whereby local authorities or housing associations have provided accommodation for the use of the elderly, vulnerable or low wage earners. Most areas of social housing have mid 20<sup>th</sup> century origins, with many constructed in the post war period to cater for the growing population and to replace damaged or defunct housing stock. In some areas, like Swindon, the social housing areas are set out in a geometric pattern, and elsewhere they can be identified from the carefully planned form. Few examples have been built in recent years, as developers commonly include more affordable housing integrated within their wider projects.

### Identification/Components

- Simply constructed houses/flats set out in estates, usually with a geometric pattern
- All properties have the same components – often garages, yard, gardens, porches
- Usually set away from the town centre and sometimes associated with allotments

### Rarity/Survival

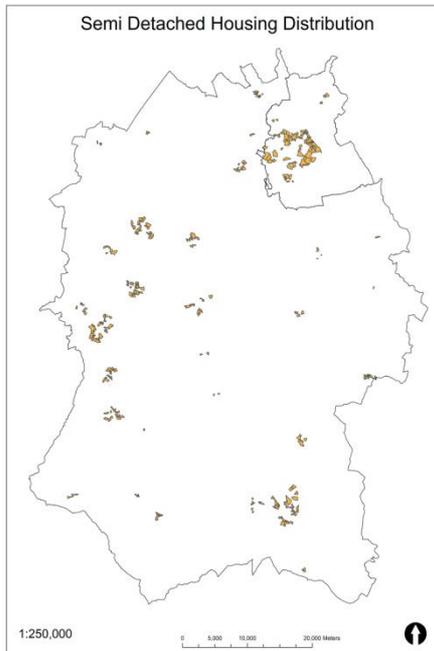
Planned housing estates are uncommon and provide an insight into social conventions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While distinct, they are not usually considered of value locally, and some have been demolished or modernised in recent times.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Semi detached housing**

### **Definition**

Residential area dominated by houses joined to just one other to form one building.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.3861 ha

Every town in the county has areas of semi detached housing and it is the most prevalent urban housing type

This housing can be grouped in separate blocks, estates or rows, and be close to the town centre or on the periphery

Due to the widespread nature of this character type, it has no particular relationship with any one other landscape character type

### **Historical Processes**

Semi detached housing, where properties adjoin a neighbouring property, is commonplace in every urban settlement in the county. They can be historic (typically 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century) or very modern, with many housing developers still favouring this form when constructing new housing estates. While they exist in a variety of urban contexts, they are most readily identifiable where they have been set out in designed estates which comprise a series of cul-de-sacs. Sometimes these designed housing areas have associated local amenities like schools, recreation grounds and small areas of shops. Some of the historic examples take the form of grand town houses, and these properties tend to have far more elaborate designs – often in the popular architectural styles of the later post medieval period.

### **Identification/Components**

- Very variable housing style, can be very modern or historic in origin
- Typically have attached gardens, yards and garages depending on their age
- Often set out in cul-de-sacs but older examples can be town houses/suburban villas
- Easily identifiable on modern maps and aerial photographs and usually large clusters

### **Rarity/Survival**

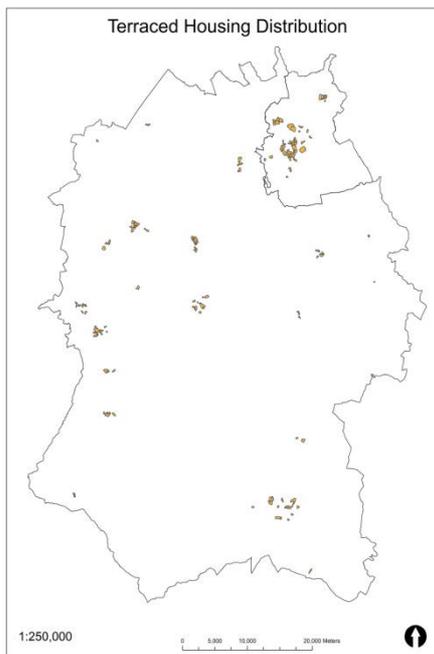
Semi detached housing is the most commonplace of all of the urban housing types. While they are easy to identify, many are not iconic forms. However, some of the larger historic examples can influence local character/identity. Most are not under particular threat of loss/redevelopment and many very modern ones do not keep with older vernacular styles.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Terraced housing**

### **Definition**

Residential area dominated by lines of attached houses, usually planned and built as one unit. Often associated with industrial towns. Sometimes follow earlier patterns, such as those of the fields they overlay.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.1694 ha

Areas of terraced housing exist in many of Wiltshire's towns but there is a concentration in Swindon, and other towns like Westbury and Warminster

They may have some association with industrial/former industrial areas as they may have been accommodation for the workers

Tend to be larger and more coherent blocks of housing rather than smaller, isolated examples

Uncommon in the south outside Salisbury

### **Historical Processes**

Terraced houses are very iconic and distinctive in the urban townscapes in which they exist. They tend to have been built in coherent blocks and can be locally dominant in certain areas of Wiltshire's towns. The houses in this category are overwhelmingly historic in origin, as few modern terraced houses are built nowadays. Those terraces that can be identified tend to date to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century and have links to the industrialisation of Wiltshire and the movement of population into towns to work in the large industries that were flourishing. As such, many terraces became accommodation for workers as they could be built in dense blocks to house large numbers of people. The best example in the county is perhaps the Swindon Railway Village which served the workers of the Great Western Railway Works.

### **Identification/Components**

- Blocks of narrow houses with enclosed back/front yards and/or elongated gardens
- Set out in discrete areas, usually in geometric, grid-iron or linear layouts
- Functional and often brick built houses, often associated with industrial areas
- Easily identifiable on modern and historic OS mapping

### **Rarity/Survival**

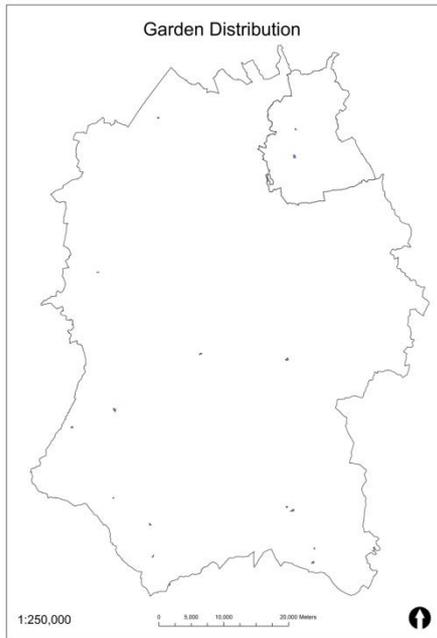
Of the urban housing types, terraced houses are perhaps the most distinctive, and they tend to reflect housing and working practices of the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. While they are robust and define local character, some are at risk of demolition/redevelopment

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Garden

### Definition

An enclosed piece of ground devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit or vegetables for domestic use.

### Distribution



They occupy c.89 ha

Formal/designed gardens are rare in Wiltshire but this is in some part due to the scale of study (so only those over 2ha were recorded)

They are relatively evenly distributed with examples in most areas of the county

They are almost always associated with country houses or large landscape parks

Some exist in rural settings and some exist in urban settings – they tend to relate to former manors

### Historical Processes

Most of the gardens identified by the HLC project are of late post medieval date (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century) or more recent origin. They tend to have been created as part of manorial holdings and as such are typically associated with grand country houses and/or landscape parks. Such sites comprise elements such as walled gardens, geometric planting beds, ornamental vegetation and trees, paths and water features. As the tradition for grand gardens continues, there are some modern examples – some of which have been set out in urban areas as pleasurable green spaces. They are certainly distinct and characterful additions to the local areas in which they exist.

### Identification/Components

- Small and formal gardens often associated with grand houses, estates and parkland
- Comprise features such as paths, beds, ornamental plantings and water features
- Usually enclosed or have enclosed sections, and may have ancillary buildings
- Under represented due to their small size and inclusion in other landscape types

### Rarity/Survival

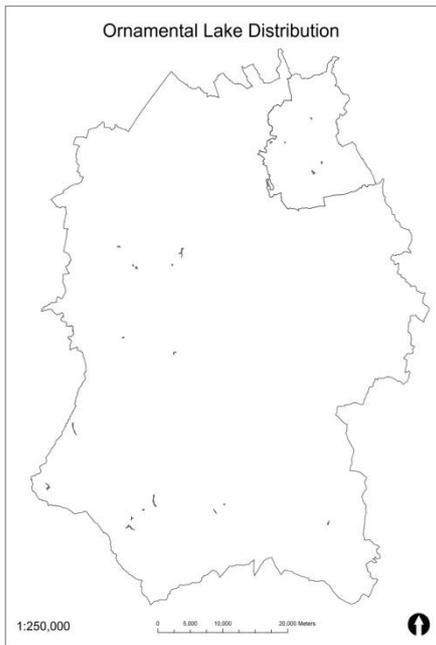
Formal gardens are rare and survive within emparked and estate landscapes. They are vulnerable to landscape change and their form and character can be lost unless the garden is maintained; which is why some become visitor attractions. It is worth noting that the footprint of these formal gardens often survives better than their features/components.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ornamental lake**

### **Definition**

An artificial lake or pond, often made by damming a stream, whose main function is to catch the eye and to contribute to ornamentally designed landscapes. As such a common feature of landscape parks.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.145 ha

Overall, ornamental lakes are rare and are limited to some of the larger landscape parks within Wiltshire and Swindon

There seem to be few examples in northern and eastern Wiltshire

They are exclusively located within large post medieval or modern designed landscapes.

As only lakes of over 2ha were recorded there may be a slight under representation of this type

### **Historical Processes**

The ornamental lakes identified by this project date to the later post medieval period (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century). They are carefully engineered and extensive creations which were implemented for aesthetic reasons within the large landscape parks popular in the post medieval era. Some are later features that were created within former medieval deer parks, to enhance the landscape and offer vistas and promenades to the visitors/owners of the parkland. Some of the best examples exist at Bowood, Stourhead, Clarendon and Fonthill.

### **Identification/Components**

- Large water bodies, often set within landscape parks or associated with manors
- Often have boat houses, piers, jetties and fishing points for leisure purposes
- Associated with ornamental planted trees, paths and designed vistas
- Place name evidence indicates the character of these water bodies

### **Rarity/Survival**

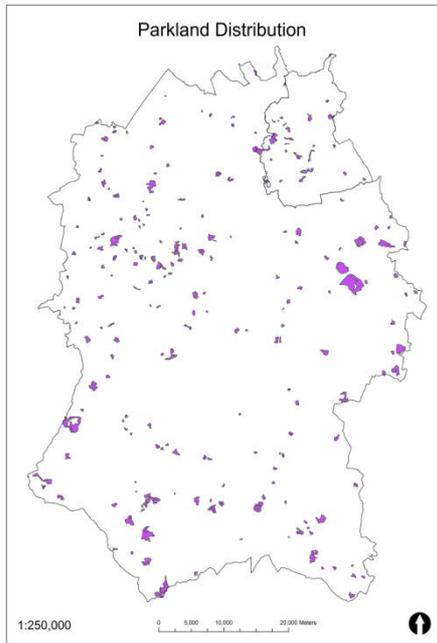
While ornamental lakes are fairly rare across the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon, they are fairly common within the large landscape parks that do exist within the county. Due to their size and the substantial engineering they are not particularly under threat. Most large historic parkland areas have been protected and retained, but these large lakes do remove much of the previous landscape character due to the manner of their construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Parkland**

### **Definition**

An enclosed piece of land, generally large in area, usually either surrounding or adjacent to a country house or castle. Used for hunting, the tree cultivation, pasture and enjoyment.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.6780 ha

Designed and ornamental parks are relatively common and are thus quite characteristic of the landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon

Parks are evenly distributed across the county and are only really lacking in downland areas

They are often associated with ancient woodland, country houses/manors and recreational facilities (like golf courses and playing fields)

### **Historical Processes**

The vast majority of parks are of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date, focused on a grand residence or manor. Some have been extensively modelled and designed to fit with a particular style while others have grown more organically from earlier origins as medieval deer parks (which would have been used for hunting). They are comprised of numerous planned elements and carefully set out features, intended to create a beautiful and thought provoking landscape. Natural elements (such as woodland and watercourses) are often incorporated into the parks, but extensive landscaping and alterations are common too. While some parks fell from use in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to maintenance costs, a significant proportion remain privately owned or have become attractions. In addition, new parks are being created all the time, particularly in urban settings where there is a desire for leisure/recreational spaces.

### **Identification/Components**

- Usually associated with a grand house or estate and often linked to formal gardens
- Components include: paths, grottos, follies, summer houses, green houses, walled gardens, arboretums, ornamental water features, avenues and designed vistas
- Associated with woodland; often ancient for the older parks or planted for newer ones
- Many have evolved from medieval deer parks and retain their earthwork pales

### **Rarity/Survival**

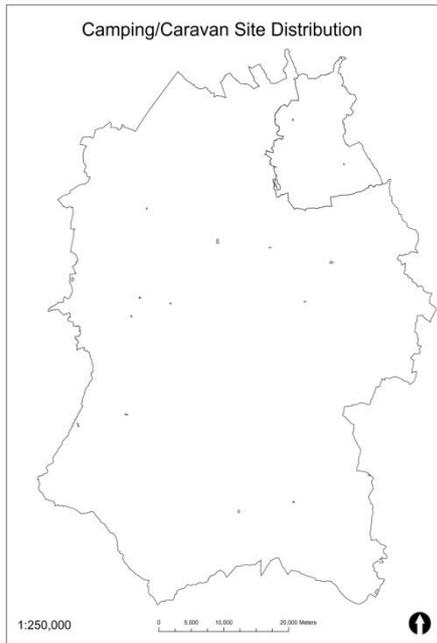
While parkland landscapes are fairly typical, they are important landscapes which contribute significantly to local character. Many do survive well, but some are at risks from development, agriculture or the desire for modern leisure activities (such as golf courses).

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Camping/caravan/mobile home site

### Definition

An area providing space for those with caravans, mobile homes or tents to setup accommodation and stay. Sometimes with associated facilities such as power points, toilets and shower blocks. Some are permanent sites, others temporary.

### Distribution



They occupy c.130 ha

Camping or caravan sites are relatively rare, but those that do exist are widely distributed across the county

Due to their small size, many are not recorded individually, or do not represent the dominant landscape character of an area and exist as part of a mixed character

They tend to be located in rural areas or on the edge of settlements

### Historical Processes

All of these sites are modern in date and have been created from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards. They have been created in the main for recreational purposes and to allow people to visit areas and stay in more rural surroundings rather than traditional hotels, hostels and guest houses in towns and villages. While many of them have had little impact on the landscape they have been created within, some have extensive landscaping and facilities (particularly some of the more modern mobile home parks which offer permanent residences) which have impacted on the legibility of previous landscape usage.

### Identification/Components

- Usually clearly named and defined on the modern OS maps.
- Enclosed areas with concrete roads and spaces to pitch tents/caravans
- Ancillary buildings and leisure facilities such as shops, wash blocks, cafes and swimming pools or sports areas

### Rarity/Survival

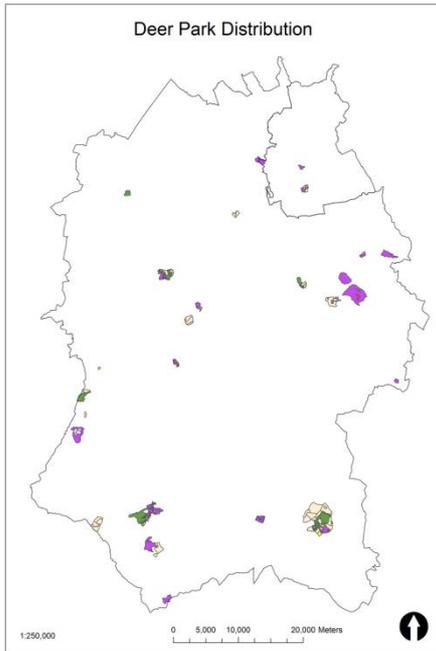
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often fairly recent and small in scale they do not contribute greatly to local character, but nor do they usually damage prior character.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Deer park

### Definition

A large, enclosed park, often containing some woodland and divided to provide a variety of habitats for shelter, grazing etc for deer, usually fallow, for hunting and for aesthetic appreciation.

### Distribution



They occupy c.5524 ha

As deer parks are historic creations, none remain in use in modernity for their original purpose

They are rare, but those that do exist are reasonably well distributed across the county

They tend to have been incorporated into later post medieval designed landscape parks associated with grand country houses and manors

Some parts of former deer parks have been converted into agricultural use or have had trees planted on them – for visual or commercial purposes

### Historical Processes

Deer parks were principally created during the medieval period. They functioned as game reserves and hunting grounds but also fed into the local economy. Typically they were associated with estates held by royalty or the nobility, which explains the relatively limited number in existence in Wiltshire and Swindon. Many were modified and altered to for the grand landscape parks of the post medieval era – such as at Longleat, Bowood, Littlecote and Lydiard Tregoze. Others have fallen into disrepair and been converted into wooded areas or arable fields but the place name evidence of presence of earthworks allude to their original purpose.

### Identification/Components

- Place name evidence and proximity to ancient forests helps to identify deer parks
- They were enclosed by park pales, fences, earthworks and sometimes had hunting lodges or kennels associated with them
- Many exist within the large post medieval parks and gardens belonging to manors
- Some are clearly marked on modern or historic OS maps

### Rarity/Survival

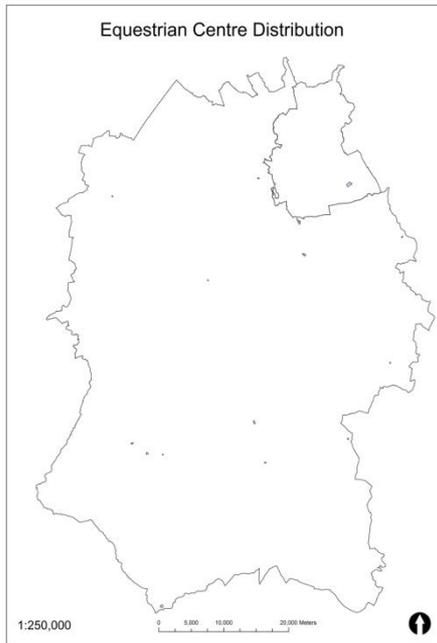
Deer parks are fragile landscape types and do not survive well, even when they have been incorporated into later parks. Many of their pales and earthworks have been eroded, but where they do survive as relict landscapes they are significant reminders of the medieval past and of local value. Some examples, such as Clarendon, are exceptional indeed.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Equestrian centre**

### **Definition**

A complex, including buildings, providing accommodation and activity areas for those involved in equestrian sports/activities and their horses.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.111 ha

As Wiltshire does not have a strong equestrian industry, these formal sites are relatively rare

They are fairly well distributed but tend to exist in rural location where there is space for the horses to be kept and exercised

They are associated with both farms and paddocks – as many such facilities have grown out of agricultural diversification

Possibly slightly under represented as examples under 2ha have not been recorded by the project

### **Historical Processes**

While the keeping of horses for sport and recreational purposes has a long pedigree, the construction of bespoke facilities for doing so is principally modern in origin. The vast majority of the equestrian centres identified by this study are of late 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. They tend to exist in rural location due to the need for space to graze, exercise and ride the horses being kept. Some are associated with race horse breeding/training, but the majority are to allow horse riding to be undertaken for enjoyment and recreational purposes.

### **Identification/Components**

- Buildings and stable blocks for the care and storage of horses
- Exercise areas with obstacles and equipment, often associated with paddocks
- Located in rural areas – sometimes linked to farms or race courses
- Clearly named and marked on the modern and historic OS maps

### **Rarity/Survival**

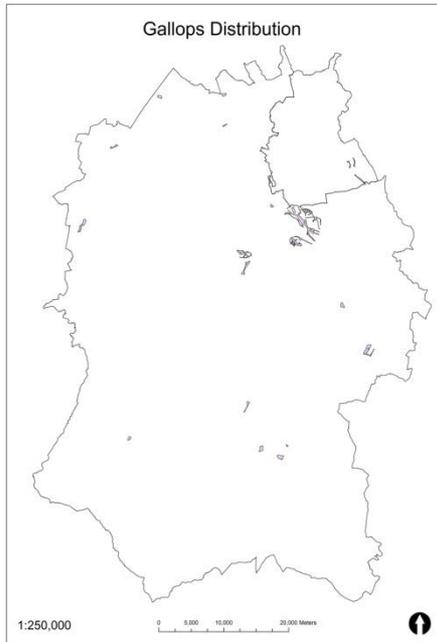
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often fairly recent and small in scale they do not contribute greatly to local character. In some instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the landscaping and partitioning of the land into paddocks, exercise areas and construction of visitor facilities.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Gallops**

### **Definition**

A track or area where horses are exercised at a gallop.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.879 ha

Gallops are relatively rare in Wiltshire and Swindon but this is unsurprising as there is no large equestrian industry in the county

There seems to be a focus in the central and northern parts of the county

Gallops are often set in amongst downland landscapes

They are associated with equestrian centres, farmsteads and race courses

### **Historical Processes**

While the keeping of horses for sport and recreational purposes has a long pedigree, the construction of bespoke facilities for doing so is principally modern in origin. The vast majority of the gallops identified by this study are of late 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. They tend to exist in rural location due to their extensive nature and are sometimes set out in fairly marginal areas. Most are associated with race horse breeding/training either for domestic or military purposes.

### **Identification/Components**

- Sinuous tracks with fencing/rails that often follow the local topography
- Located in rural areas – sometimes linked to equestrian centres or race courses
- Clearly named and marked on the modern and historic OS maps
- Historical example associated with the military barracks in the south of the county

### **Rarity/Survival**

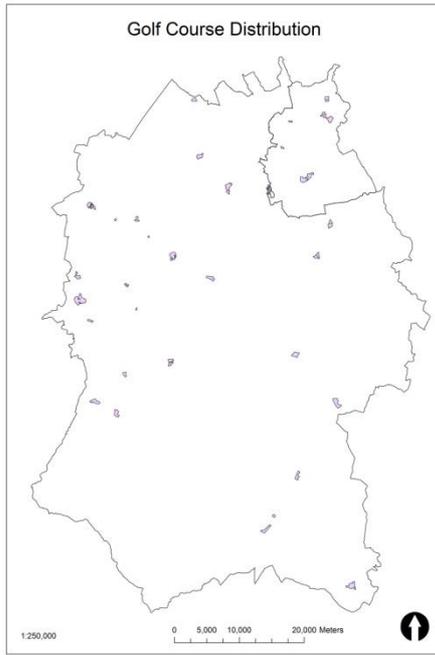
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and fairly robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As they are large in size and very distinct they can contribute significantly to the character of their local area. Additionally, as some of them are quite light touch constructions they do not tend to mask or overtly damage previous landscape character.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Golf course

### Definition

A landscaped area of ground, encompassing different types of terrain and features, such as ponds, sand-filled bunkers etc, on which the game of golf is played.

### Distribution



They occupy c.1600 ha

Golf courses are uncommon but not rare, and there are enough sites in the county to allow individuals to pursue the sport

They are fairly evenly distributed and tend to be fairly extensive so as to cater for the player's needs

They exist in rural locations and usually involve extensive re-working and alterations of the landscape

Some have correlations with parks/estates – such as at Bowood and Monkton in the north of the county

### Historical Processes

Golf courses are a modern phenomenon, and all of the examples recorded by the project are of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. They are large and heavily landscaped areas which have been specially designed to allow a challenging game of golf to be played. Most consist of grassed areas, water features, bunkers and woodland; all set out in a very easily identifiable way. Most golf courses also have associated car parks and club houses for use by members.

### Identification/Components

- Courses comprise grass tees/fairways, bunkers, water features and wooded areas
- Associated features like club houses, parking spaces and driving ranges
- Sometimes set in historic parkland and retain elements of the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century landscape as part of the course layout (such as field boundaries or woodland)
- Highly legible and clearly named on modern maps and aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

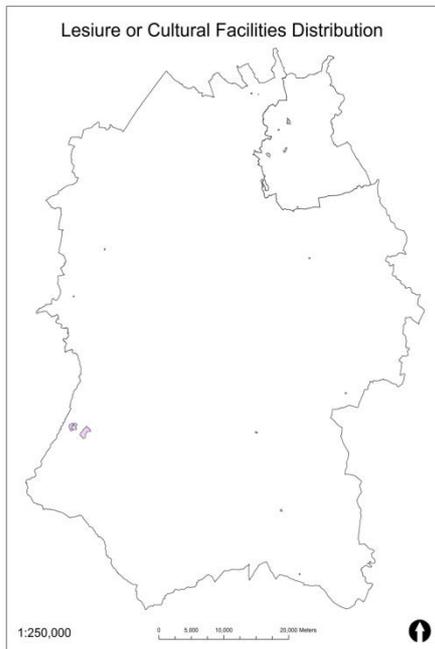
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often fairly recent and heavily landscaped they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the necessary landscaping and construction of visitor facilities.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Leisure or cultural facilities**

### **Definition**

This category includes a wide variety of leisure attractions and facilities, usually modern in date, and often in purpose built facilities or buildings. Visited for recreational purposes.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.329 ha

Purpose built leisure facilities of a large size (>2ha) are rare across Wiltshire and Swindon

They are fairly thinly distributed but tend to lie close to larger urban areas (such as Swindon) so as to be accessible to large numbers of visitors

They have little direct correlation with particular landscape types. However, the largest facilities exist in the Longleat area and make use of the grounds and estates of the former manor

### **Historical Processes**

The facilities recorded in this landscape type comprise: sports centres, cinemas, museums, safari parks, holiday villages and other attractions. With a few exceptions, the vast majority of these attractions are very modern and have been built in a bespoke fashion to cater for large numbers of visitors or tourists. Some retain elements of the prior character (such as the Steam Museum in Swindon being situated in an engine shed and Cente Parcs Longleat being set in the grand estate) but most are heavily engineered/landscape sites which have obscured or removed traces of earlier character.

### **Identification/Components**

- Components vary, but usually modern buildings with associated car parking, toilet and dining facilities.
- Some large outdoor attractions have pathways and designed ornamental planting
- Usually set close to urban centres to allow ease of access
- Clearly marked on the modern, and in some instances, historic OS maps

### **Rarity/Survival**

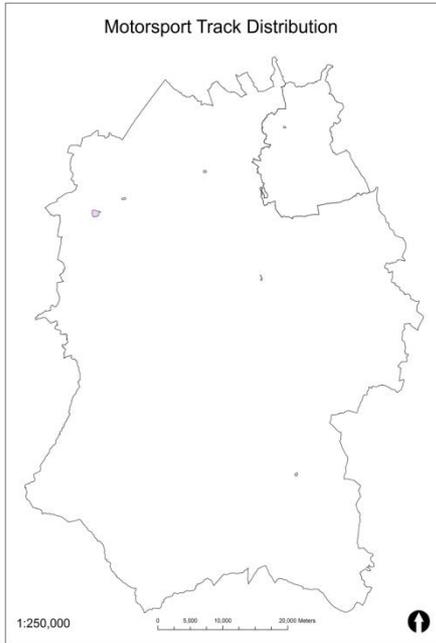
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often very recent and heavily landscaped they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the necessary landscaping and construction of facilities. Many have also grown recently to accommodate the increasing visitor numbers.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Motorsport track

### Definition

A purpose-built facility for racing motor cars and/or motor cycles which may also include grandstands or concourses.

### Distribution



They occupy c.146 ha

They are rare across the county and have not particular distribution pattern

They tend to be situated in rural areas, so as to minimise disruption and noise to inhabitants of towns and villages

There is no clear association with any other landscape types

### Historical Processes

These motorsport tracks are modern creations in the landscape, and of later 20<sup>th</sup> century date. They comprise mainly dirt/tarmac tracks surrounded by crash barriers or tyre walls. Sometimes there are associated ancillary buildings or grandstands, but most are purely for the racing. The most prominent one is at Castle Combe, where the racecourse makes use of the former WWII airfield.

### Identification/Components

- Oval or irregular courses set out in dirt or tarmac
- Enclosed areas and the track has safety barriers or tyre walls
- Sometimes ancillary buildings like garages, grandstands or refreshment shops
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and very easy to identify

### Rarity/Survival

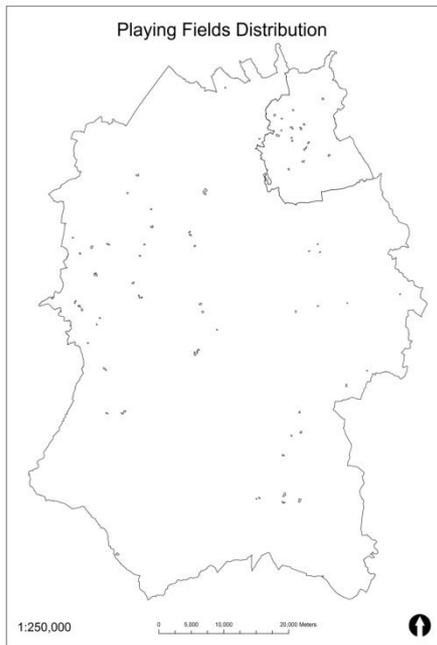
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the necessary landscaping and track construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Playing fields**

### **Definition**

Playing fields created for recreational purposes and used by a wide section of the local community, including schools.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.406 ha

Playing fields of a substantial size (>2ha) are fairly rare but there are local concentrations

They are predominantly associated with larger urban areas and clusters can be seen in Swindon and the market towns in the county

Many have been created on former fields or parkland, although some modern ones have been placed to regenerate formerly developed areas

Sometimes associated with woodland – whether modern or historic

### **Historical Processes**

Playing fields are mainly of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin and have been created to provide recreational space for inhabitants of towns and villages across the county. Many are associated with schools, but other have a more communal use. They tend to be mainly grassy areas, but sometimes have play equipment, exercise areas or clubhouses.

### **Identification/Components**

- Small and often regular in shape, typically with some sort of fenced, hedged or walled boundary
- Sited close to residential areas in urban centres and villages and primarily grassed
- Occasionally have associated car parking, club houses/pavilions or play equipment
- Fairly distinctive and usually marked as playing fields on the modern OS maps.

### **Rarity/Survival**

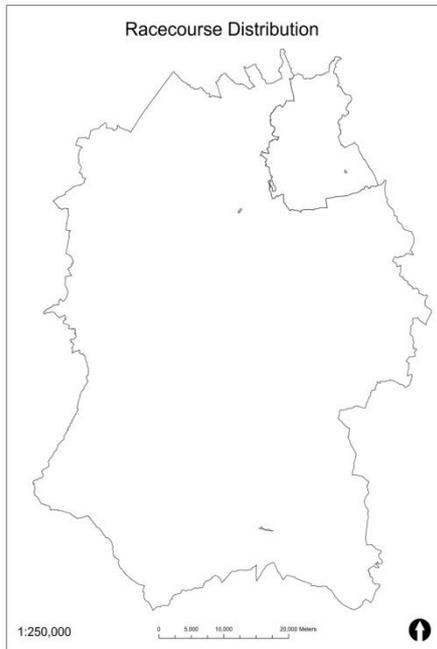
They are fairly rare but represent one of the most recent phases of activity in the landscape. Most are operational and well maintained but some are under threat of residential development – particularly those owned by schools. While they are enjoyed locally, they are small in scale and tend not to contribute significantly to local character.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Race course

### Definition

A purpose-built facility for the racing of horses or bicycles; may also include grandstands or concourses.

### Distribution



They occupy c.52 ha

They are very rare and only 4 such courses exist within the Wiltshire and Swindon area

They tend to be in rural locations and can be fairly extensive in size

They have clear associations with gallops and equestrian centres

Those used for BMX bicycle racing tend to be associated with farms or rural industries

### Historical Processes

Horse racing in Britain has post medieval origins and continues to be popular into the present day. The racecourses in Wiltshire and Swindon have late 19<sup>th</sup> century or 20<sup>th</sup> century origins, whereas the BMX courses are extremely modern. They are used for commercial and recreational purposes and are popular local amenities where they exist. The layouts of these courses and their associated facilities have become more elaborate over time.

### Identification/Components

- Horseracing courses comprise a circuit, grandstands, fences/rails and exercise areas
- They are large and distinct within the landscape and clearly marked on the OS maps
- BMX courses are dirt tracks with sinuous layouts and areas with jumps/water
- Both types of race course tend to be rural, often located on former fields/downland

### Rarity/Survival

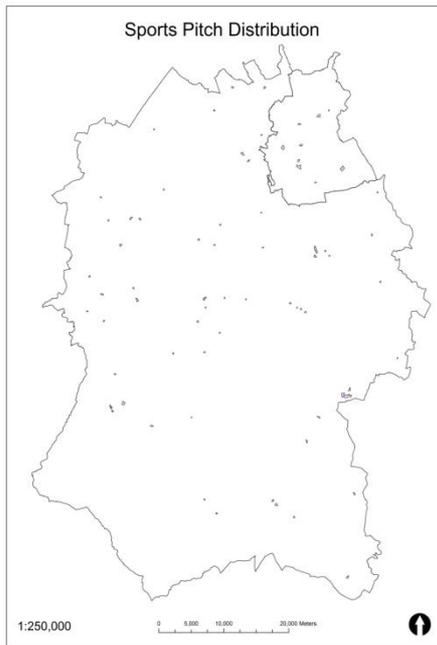
Race courses are rare and distinct features in the landscape. As they are fairly modern features, they are under little threat but also tend not to contribute greatly to the local character/feel of the places they exist. Unlike in neighbouring counties, there is not a well established horse racing industry in Wiltshire and Swindon.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Sports pitch**

### **Definition**

An area of ground, often publically owned, where outdoor sports are played, usually with the necessary marking out and structures (goal posts etc). Distinguished from sports grounds or stadiums where spectators pay to watch.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.453 ha

Sports pitches of a substantial size (>2ha) are fairly rare but there are local concentrations

They are predominantly associated with larger urban areas and clusters can be seen in Swindon and the market towns in the county

Many have been created on former fields or parkland, although some modern ones have been placed to regenerate formerly developed areas

Sometimes associated with other recreational types such as playing fields or leisure centres

### **Historical Processes**

Playing fields are mainly of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin and have been created to provide space to play games such as rugby, football and cricket for the inhabitants of towns and villages across the county. Some are associated with schools, but other have a more communal use. They tend to be mainly grassy areas, but sometimes have equipment, exercise areas, stands or clubhouses.

### **Identification/Components**

- Small and often regular in shape, typically with some sort of fenced, hedged or walled boundary
- Sited close to residential areas in urban centres and villages and primarily grassed
- Occasionally have associated car parking, club houses/pavilions or stands
- Fairly distinctive and usually marked as playing fields on the modern OS maps.

### **Rarity/Survival**

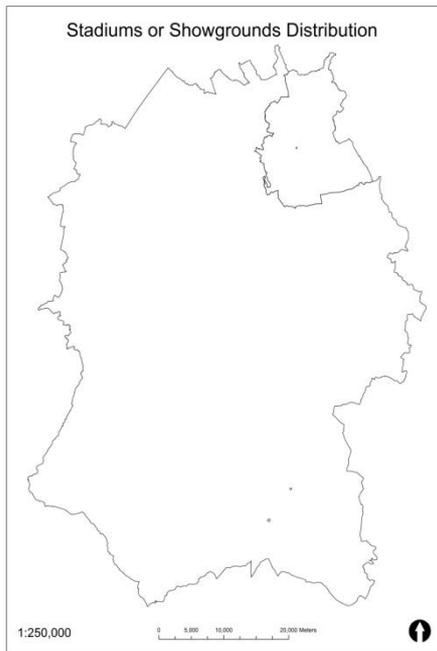
They are fairly rare but represent one of the most recent phases of activity in the landscape. Most are operational and well maintained but some are under threat of development. While they are enjoyed locally, they are small in scale and tend not to contribute significantly to local character. However, it should be noted that some are located at the heart of villages and help to preserve the character of the former village green (cf. cricket pitches).

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Stadiums and show grounds**

### **Definition**

A large area, usually open-air, used for permanent, seasonal or regular shows/events/exhibitions or a large sports ground surrounded by spectator seating arranged in tiers or terraces.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.25 ha

Large stadiums or sports grounds are very rare in Wiltshire and Swindon

They show no particular distribution pattern – the ones recorded primarily relate to Swindon Town FC and the Larmer Tree Festival (held to the south of Salisbury)

The Swindon Town FC stadium lies within the town whereas the Larmer Tree show ground is in a rural location

### **Historical Processes**

The types of features in the landscape type tend to be of C20 date, although some county show grounds were established much earlier. Show grounds and stadiums have been created to allow large numbers of people to attend sports events, festivals, shows and markets in a bespoke arena. Such recreational areas are large and obvious and often have associated infrastructure like car parks, kiosks, toilet blocks etc. On occasion, elements of the previous landscape character (like the designed parkland in the Tollard Royal area, where Larmer Tree Festival is held) can still be discerned.

### **Identification/Components**

- Stadiums are large open air arenas, with banked seats/terraces around a central pitch or stage
- Show grounds tend to be large grassy spaces with areas for car parking, tent/marquee pitching and staging for exhibitions or music
- They often have associated infrastructure like kiosks, toilet blocks and shops
- Such features are clearly marked and very obvious in the modern landscape

### **Rarity/Survival**

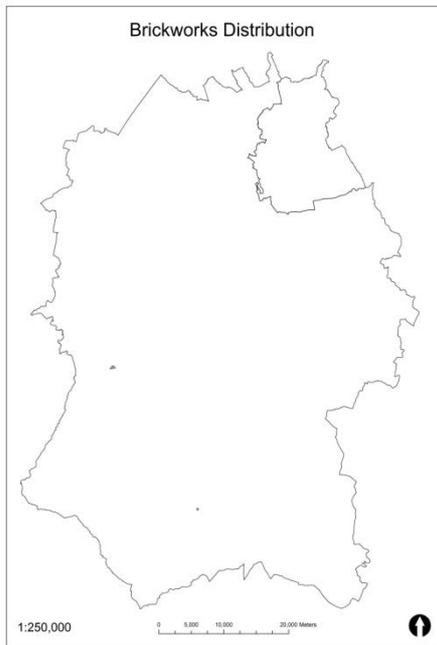
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the landscaping/engineering required in construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Brickworks**

### **Definition**

An industrial manufacturing complex producing bricks.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.25 ha

Very few brickworks survive into modernity as most have fallen from use and been redeveloped (therefore some are now recorded as the previous character type)

The only characteristic one is the former brickworks at Westbury which was large and fairly extensive.

They would have been associated with large towns and good transport networks to allow goods to be sent to market

### **Historical Processes**

Manufacture of bricks for construction purposes has only occurred on an industrial basis since the late post medieval period. Large scale brickworks are located on clay bedrock (the most common material from which bricks are made), and often had associated quarries on site. The brick-making industry was not widespread in Wiltshire and Swindon but where it did exist, it would have provided a good source of employment for the local area. This would have been the case with the brickworks in Westbury. Few brickworks are active now, and material for construction are mass produced either abroad or at specialist modern facilities outside the county.

### **Identification/Components**

- Identified by large industrial units, buildings and hard standings
- Often associated with quarry pits or transport networks to allow transit of goods
- Easy to identify and often marked on modern/historic OS maps
- Typically obscure or remove the previous landscape character due to construction

### **Rarity/Survival**

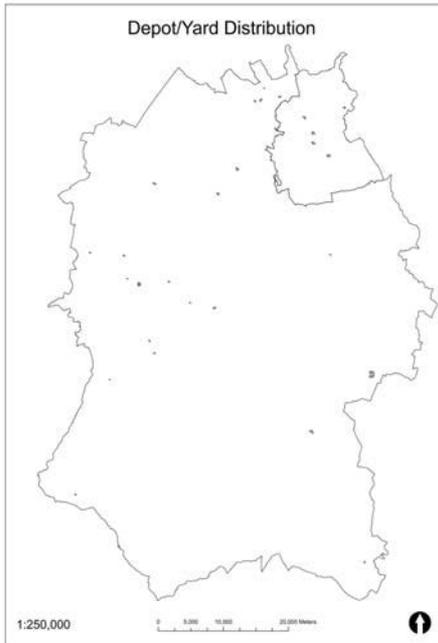
Surviving brickworks are very rare and survive poorly, due to the popularity of converting them or demolishing them to make way for modern developments or residential areas. They are distinct and are of local significance as they hint at industrial landscapes of the post medieval period which are increasingly becoming less legible in the present day.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Depot/yard**

### Definition

A space or complex where goods/vehicles are stored, repaired and distributed. In this instance, the site has an industrial purpose – such as a builder’s yard.

### Distribution



They occupy c.213 ha

Depots/yards are fairly uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the north of the county, in the Swindon area

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns such as industrial estates

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### Historical Processes

The vast majority of depots and yards are modern and of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. They have been built to serve small scale industries that are common in most towns and villages in the county. Such areas allow the storage of goods/vehicles/machinery and as such the majority of their area is space to do so. There are also ancillary offices, portacabins, hard standings and car parks on such sites. Due to their nature, depots and yards very rarely preserve any traces of former landscape character.

### Identification/Components

- Sometimes marked on modern and historic OS maps and visible on aerial photos
- Tend to be walled/fenced compounds with stacked goods/vehicles/machinery
- Small temporary office buildings and cabins are common, as are car parks
- Tend to be out of town locations, or near to other industrial concerns

### Rarity/Survival

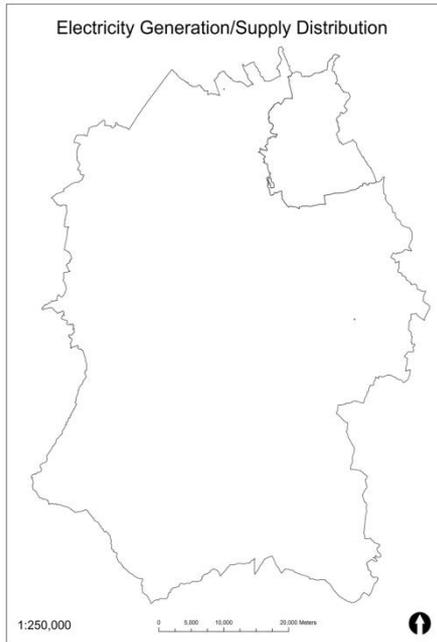
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Electricity generation/supply**

### Definition

A building or set of buildings and structures associated with the generation or distribution of electrical power.

### Distribution



They occupy c.2 ha

There are no power stations within Wiltshire and Swindon and the vast majority of electricity substations or compounds are too small (<2ha) to be recorded in this HLC project

Therefore landscapes dominated by features relating to electrical power are extremely limited

Those features which are present are large substations in rural areas which undoubtedly supply local settlements with power

Rural examples dominated by Fields and Enclosed Land category

### Historical Processes

The mass generation and distribution of electricity is a modern phenomenon. While pylons and cables carry electricity to rural and urban areas, there are occasional substation/processing plants/transformers along the route. Typically they are small, fenced compounds with machinery to help with the conveyance of power. They are secure to ensure safety and some have associated hard standings for the storage of other equipment and vehicles owned by power companies.

### Identification/Components

- Compounds and hard standings with substantial secure fencing to keep people out
- Modern machinery to process and distribute electricity – lots of cables and pylons
- Either in rural locations or situated in dense industrial areas
- Marked clearly on modern OS maps

### Rarity/Survival

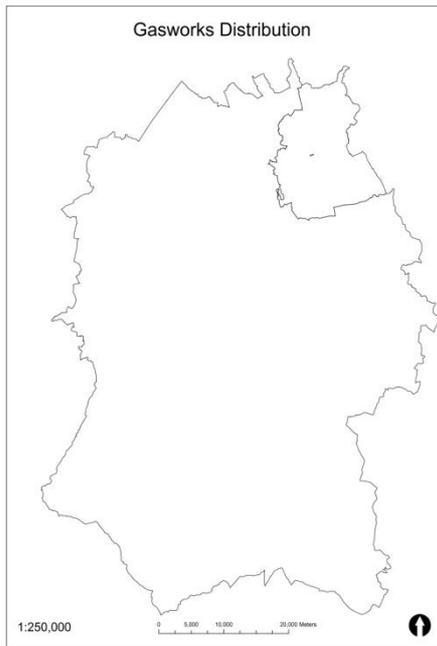
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. Most are too small to be considered the dominant landscape character type and are incorporated into other types.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Gasworks

### Definition

A gasworks is an industrial plant for the production of flammable gas. Many of these have are now redundant in the developed world by the use of natural gas.

### Distribution



They occupy c.6 ha

Only one large gasworks survives into modernity (all other gasworks were identified as previous landscape character types)

Other gasworks (or similar character types) were too small to be recorded as the dominant landscape character or were part of a mixed industrial character and recorded under different narrow types

Most gasworks became obsolete with the changes to gas extraction and utility in modernity

### Historical Processes

The use of gas for heating, lighting and power in urban areas began in the later post medieval period. In order to produce and distribute gas, various large works buildings were erected in towns across the county, sometimes near rivers so coal could be brought in to fire the machinery. The works comprised buildings dedicated to condensing, scrubbing, purifying and storing gas. Gas towers and tanks on site were then used to distribute the product and these tanks provide the most iconic aspect of gasworks. By the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, most gasworks had fallen from use and national pipelines were used to supply gas to households.

### Identification/Components

- Usually too small to be recorded individually and all are redundant now
- Former buildings characterised by compounds with machinery, pipework and tanks
- Existed within industrial areas and still incorporated into more modern sites
- Clearly marked on modern and historic maps – but many demolished now

### Rarity/Survival

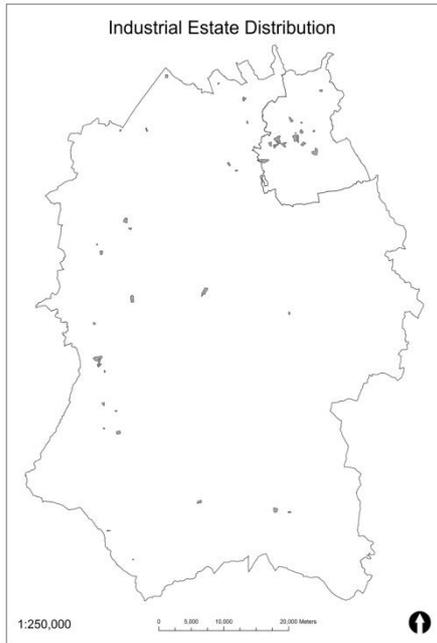
Gasworks are usually too small to impact on the landscape in a significant way. The example that exists is a historic survival providing evidence of a former industrial process to supply gas to householders. Most gasworks are under threat of demolition or redevelopment but they are not necessarily iconic or valuable contributors to local identity or character unless well preserved or particularly extensive.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Industrial estate**

### **Definition**

An area of land owned by a developer, whether a private entrepreneur or a public authority, and divided into plots for leasing or sale to manufacturing or commercial concerns which may share some common services.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.802 ha

Industrial estates are fairly uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the north of the county, in the Swindon area

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### **Historical Processes**

The vast majority of industrial estates are of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. They have been built to serve small scale industries that are common in most towns and villages in the county. In addition, many of them sell goods/services to trade and on occasion the general public. The components of these sites vary quite widely but typically include sales buildings, offices, hard standings and car parks. Due to their nature, industrial estates and yards very rarely preserve any traces of former landscape character.

### **Identification/Components**

- Sometimes marked on modern and historic OS maps and visible on aerial photos
- Tend to be out of town locations, or near to other industrial concerns
- Sales buildings, offices, hard standings and car parks are commonplace
- Usually modern and functional buildings made of concrete and glass

### **Rarity/Survival**

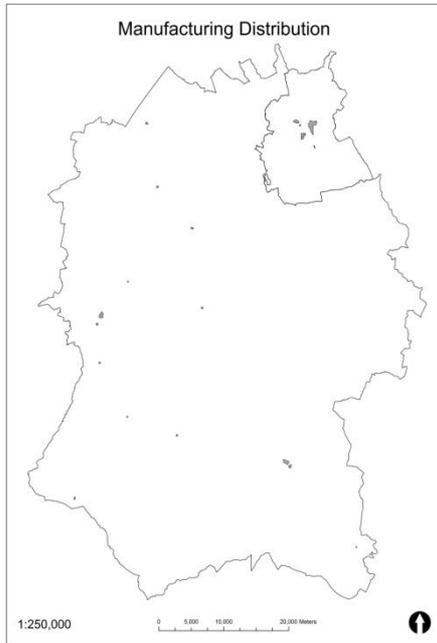
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Manufacturing**

### **Definition**

Industrial sites where the production of secondary materials occurs through various processes. In this instance, primarily at factory sites.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.337 ha

Manufacturing sites are uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the north of the county, in the Swindon area – focused on the railway industry

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns and exist in urban areas usually

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### **Historical Processes**

Production of goods in factories has occurred since the industrial revolution (late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century) and continues into the present day. Large factory complexes exist to manufacture goods for sale or for use in other production processes. Sites engaged in this activity typically consist of substantial buildings or sheds and ancillary machinery, hard standing, parking areas and office blocks. Manufacturing at a local level to contribute to the local economy was much more prevalent in the past, and many goods are now imported from abroad. As such, there has been a decline in the number of factories, and many of those with historic origins have been demolished or converted for another use.

### **Identification/Components**

- Sometimes marked on modern and historic OS maps and visible on aerial photos
- Tend to be out of town locations, or near to other industrial concerns
- Large buildings with associated machinery, offices and concrete hard standing

### **Rarity/Survival**

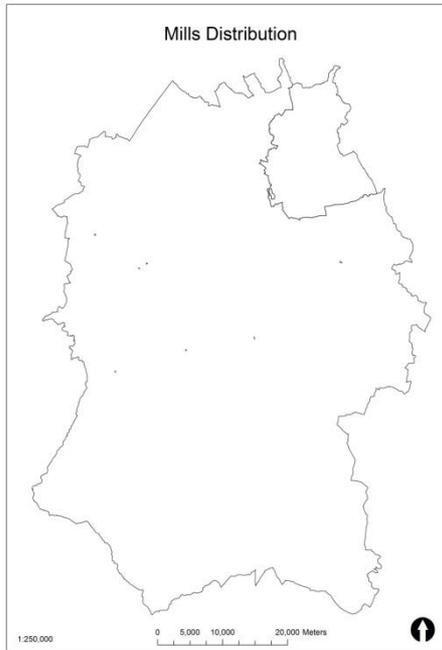
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction. However, should historic examples survive; they can contribute significantly to local character and link to trades that may have been iconic to the local populace.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Mills

### Definition

A factory used for processing raw materials. Usually wind, water or steam powered and typically focused on production of goods like flour, silk, cotton, wool, paper and iron/steel.

### Distribution



They occupy c.13 ha

Few large mills or complexes exist within the county so the distribution is skewed by the absence of smaller mills (<2ha) that were not recorded by the project (such as isolated windmills)

Those that exist lie within market towns and generally make use of the local rivers or watercourses

They tend to be associated with industrial landscapes and would have been commonplace in the later post medieval period

### Historical Processes

The process of milling has ancient origins, but the mills identified in this HLC project tend to relate to the industrial revolution and have later post medieval origins. Mills were an important part of the economy of several Wiltshire towns, and the county had a well established cloth/wool making industry. Mills in areas like Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon made use of the rivers to produce goods for sale and trade. Later in the post medieval period, mills were also involved in the production of paper, metals and silks. The tall mill buildings with their characteristic windows, doors and layouts still survive, as do areas of mill ponds, leats and races. While many have been redeveloped into offices, retail spaces or residential accommodation they are iconic and link to the recent industrial past of towns.

### Identification/Components

- Tall historic buildings with numerous windows, high doors and external pulleys
- Watermills have associated ponds, leats, sluices and waterwheels
- Industrial mills have tall chimneys for the steam/coal powered machinery
- Clearly marked on modern/historic maps and place name evidence confirms

### Rarity/Survival

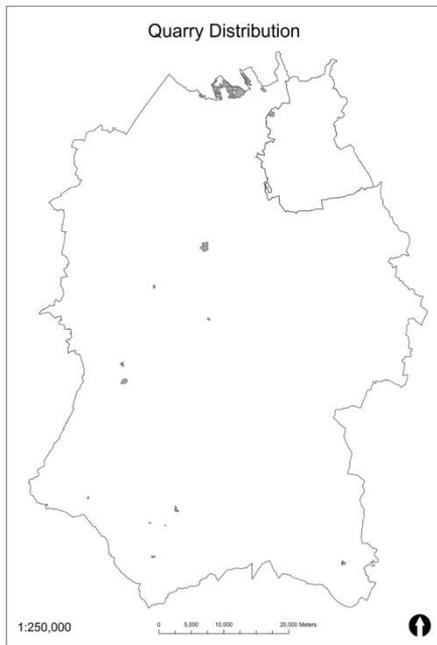
Large mills are rare in Wiltshire and many have been demolished or redeveloped. Where they do survive they are striking features which link to the industrial landscapes of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. They allude to localised trades (such as cloth and wool making) and contribute significantly to the identity of the settlements and landscapes in which they exist.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Quarries and gravel pits**

### Definition

An excavation on land from which stone or aggregates are extracted for use primarily building and civil engineering.

### Distribution



They occupy c.1087 ha

Quarries are now fairly rare in Wiltshire and Swindon but are prevalent in the far north of the county where the Thames gravels have been excavated

Other localised stone extractive works still survive in parts of the central/southern areas

The extractive industry would have been more prevalent in the past but many related landscapes have been redeveloped

Mix of urban area locations for processing and rural areas for extraction of materials

### Historical Processes

Quarrying for stone or aggregates has an ancient origin, but those features identified in this study tend to be of later post medieval or modern date. Wiltshire has rich gravel deposits in the north and various sources of fine stone (such as Chilmark stone, Cotswold stone etc.) exist in other parts of the county. Extraction on an industrial scale was required as population pressures increased in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but localised industries were in operation prior to this – as can be seen by the vernacular building styles distinct to each part of the county. Some small scale quarry pits remain, but most of the surviving examples are larger in scale and may relate to more modern and mechanised extraction of materials. A large quarry/works was sited at Okus in Swindon, and chalk extraction was characteristic of the area surrounding Salisbury in the south. The present day quarries tend to focus on sand and gravel extraction for the construction industry and are focused on the area around Ashton Keynes, Marston Meysey and Eisey – all to the northwest of Swindon.

### Identification/Components

- Variable size, but often irregular areas of disturbed ground and exposed stone faces
- Active quarries have spoil heaps, heavy machinery, access tracks and portacabins
- Disused quarries/pits often have scrubby tree/vegetation cover or are water filled

### Rarity/Survival

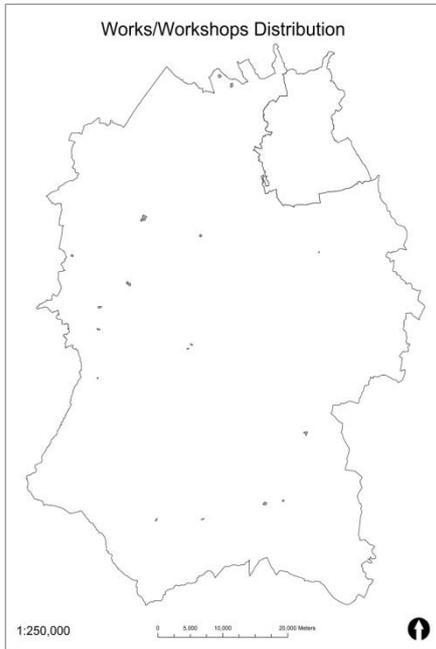
Extant quarry/gravel pits are relatively rare now, but are very distinct features with a substantial impact on local landscape. They remain legible even after restoration schemes, and provide some link to the county's industrial past. Some adapted for leisure purposes.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Works/workshops**

### **Definition**

Workshops and ancillary buildings typically used by local or small scale industries or businesses for the production or repair of goods or vehicles. Not on the same scale as large factories or production centres.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.190 ha

Workshops sites are uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the west of the county

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns and exist in urban areas usually

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### **Historical Processes**

The localised production of goods for trade or repair of everyday items and equipment has ancient origins. However, in the context of this study the works/workshops identified tend to have mainly very modern origins, although some late post medieval examples do exist. Workshops producing/repairing equipment for farming, the motor industry, domestic household goods and building materials were commonplace in many towns and villages in the past, but over time there has been an increased centralisation of such services. Where they do survive, they tend to comprise workshop buildings/sheds, hard standing areas, storage facilities and office buildings or cabins.

### **Identification/Components**

- Generally small scale sites enclosed by fences, railings or walls
- Mix of small workshops/sheds, cabins, hard standings and storage/sales spaces
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and associated with other industrial activities

### **Rarity/Survival**

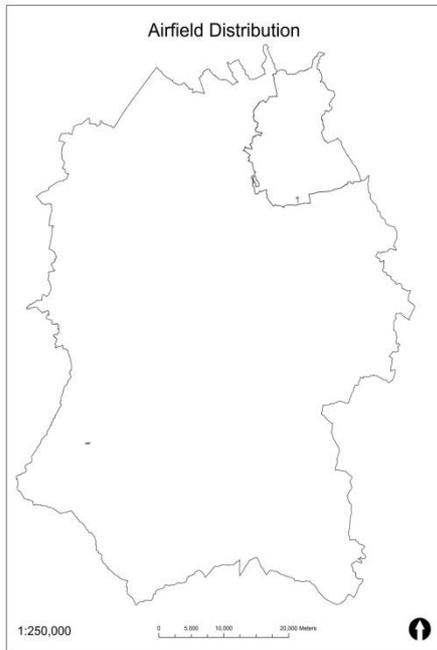
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Airfield

### Definition

Small-scale commercial or private field used for air travel, mainly fixed-wing.

### Distribution



They occupy c.14 ha

Domestic airfields are very rare in Wiltshire with only a few examples

They are in rural and spacious locations which allow for the construction of air strips and runways

They have no clear correlation with any other landscape character types

Possibly under represented slightly as they are light touch constructions and can be difficult to identify or are temporary in nature

### Historical Processes

Airfields have a 20<sup>th</sup> century origin and were created to allow small flights for leisure or business purposes. Many are in use for flying/glider clubs and generally used by small propeller driven aeroplanes that are privately owned. Airfield sites tend to comprise grass or concrete runways, landing zones and taxiing areas along with hangars, control towers and ancillary buildings. As they are not heavy duty constructions, they can on occasion be difficult to identify in the landscape and do not heavily influence the existing/previous character of the landscapes in which they are built.

### Identification/Components

- Typically with grass or concrete runways, landing zones and taxi areas
- Usually with small hangers, control towers and ancillary buildings
- Rural locations as space is needed for the necessary infrastructure
- Generally used for leisure purposes, and may increase in number over time

### Rarity/Survival

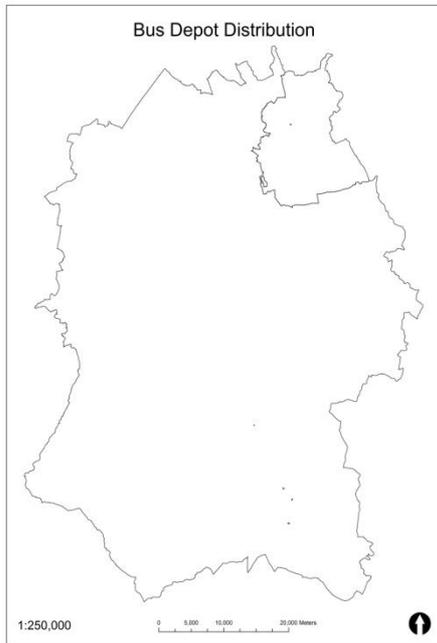
Airfields are rare features in the landscape. As they are fairly modern features, they are under little threat but also tend not to contribute greatly to the local character/feel of the places they exist. However, they do not tend to damage either the current or previous landscape character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Bus depot**

### **Definition**

A yard and facilities used for the storage, maintenance and repair of buses and coaches.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.12 ha

Bus depots are rare but as many are not very large (>2ha) they may be under represented as they do not form the dominant character of the landscapes in which they exist

Those extensive enough to be recorded unsurprisingly exist in the largest two urban areas in the county: Swindon and Salisbury

They exist within urban settings and tend to be associated with areas of industrial, civic or commercial character

### **Historical Processes**

Bus depots are a modern creation, which allow bus operators to store, maintain and repair the vehicles they use. An increase in the use and sophistication of public transport means that a large number of Wiltshire's inhabitants make use of buses and coaches to access the workplace, schools/colleges, shopping areas, attractions and leisure spaces. As each bus company/network only requires a few substantial depots, they are not a common feature in the landscape and tend not to contribute significantly to the urban landscapes in which they exist.

### **Identification/Components**

- Concrete hard standings for parking/storage of buses and coaches
- Workshops and sheds used for maintaining and repairing vehicles
- Usually enclosed or secure sites to prevent theft or damage of vehicles
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and distinctive sites on aerial photographs

### **Rarity/Survival**

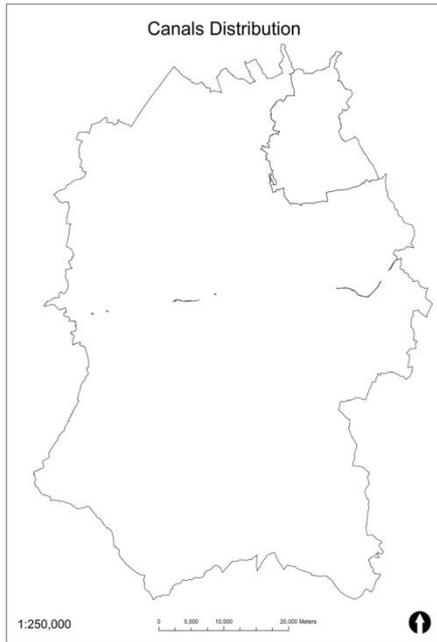
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Canals

### Definition

Artificial watercourse, usually connecting existing watercourses or bodies, constructed for the purpose of inland navigation and transportation. Nowadays also used for recreation.

### Distribution



They occupy c.107 ha

This type is problematic to record as HLC deals with polygonal areas not linear features

While the canal network was quite extensive in the past, this project only recorded areas where the canal (and associated infrastructure) was overwhelming the dominant legible and current character and of sufficient size

As a consequence areas of canal are very limited in the county and primarily exist in the central

Many elements of the post medieval canal network are now redundant and overgrown with vegetation

### Historical Processes

Canals came into being because the Industrial Revolution (which began in Britain during the mid-18th century) demanded an economic and reliable way to transport large quantities of goods. They continued in use into the 19<sup>th</sup> and eventually 20<sup>th</sup> century, but with the improvements in road networks, shipping and air freight their use for industrial purposes ceased. As such, most canals are now used for leisure or domestic purposes but they are very characteristic of certain parts of Wiltshire (in the vicinity of Trowbridge, Melksham, Devizes and Bradford-on-Avon). The principal canals in Wiltshire were the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal and these were created through extensive engineering in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Canals make use of natural watercourses but also have features like dams, sluices, locks and weirs which are distinct within the landscape.

### Identification/Components

- Canals make use of rivers so are linear, sinuous and follow the topography
- Engineered features like dams, weirs and locks occur at regular intervals
- They are clearly named and marked on both modern and historic lines
- Relict courses have often become overgrown with vegetation

### Rarity/Survival

Canal systems are uncommon in Wiltshire but very distinctive and important where they do survive. Although there are few areas where they dominate the landscape, they are very locally distinctive and link to an important industrial past which is increasingly forgotten. Programmes of restoration are increasing and re-instatement of canals is a local priority.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Car parks

### Definition

Area for parking motor vehicles; usually with permanent surfacing, sometimes in purpose-built multi-storey buildings.

### Distribution



They occupy c.60 ha

Car parks of a substantial size (>2ha) are very rare within Wiltshire and Swindon

The majority exist within urban areas and concentrations of large car parks can be seen in Swindon, Westbury and Salisbury

Car parks are associated with other landscapes with civic, commercial, industrial and recreational character

Sometimes exist but are not the dominant character type

### Historical Processes

Car parks are clearly a very modern phenomenon. As Wiltshire is a very rural character, there are very few very large car parks in existence. Those that do exist are related to large attractions, large employers or large industries. As such, it is highly likely that as population pressure increases in both rural and urban areas more large car parks will be necessary. Some examples are multi storey and heavily built up, whereas others are merely extensive tarmac areas enclosed by fences, walls or hedges.

### Identification/Components

- Large flat areas of tarmac enclosed by walls/fences/hedges with ticket kiosks
- Alternatively large multi-story concrete constructions near to retail centres
- Very obvious on aerial photographs and often marked on modern OS maps

### Rarity/Survival

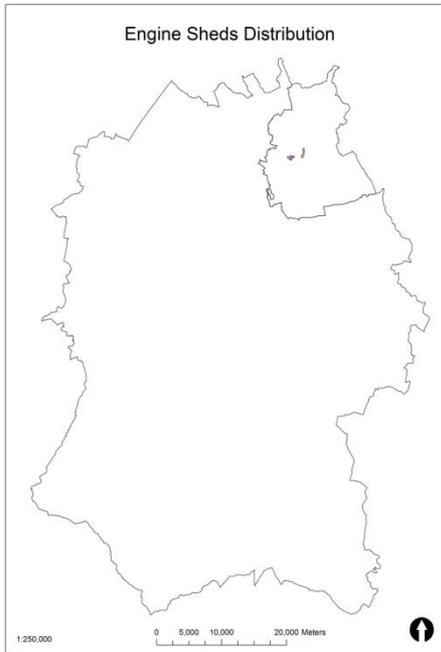
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Engine sheds**

### **Definition**

Long sheds, into which railway lines run, used to house railway engines.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.75 ha

No substantial engine sheds survive unchanged into modernity, most have been incorporated into other railway infrastructure or have been repurposed

The historic legible examples that do exist are linked to major urban centres with a railway heritage such as Swindon

They are also obviously linked to other areas with a communications character type

### **Historical Processes**

The advent of railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Wiltshire led to the rise in the desire to travel using this new method of transport. As such, a large number of locomotive engines were needed to fulfil the freight and passenger services offered by the railway companies. When these were out of service, they needed to be stored and maintained and this led to the creation of large, elongated engine sheds situated just outside major train stations. No extensive (>2ha) areas of engine sheds survive in use in modernity, and those that do exist are part of other more dominant railway character types. The Steam Museum in Swindon is housed in one such former engine shed owned by the Great Western Railway Company.

### **Identification/Components**

- Long, high ceilinged sheds straddling railway lines and existing outside stations
- Association with other railway landscape types and dense urban areas served by rail
- Some redevelopment into industrial/commercial areas, but still legible aspects remain
- Clearly marked on the historic OS maps – particularly around Swindon

### **Rarity/Survival**

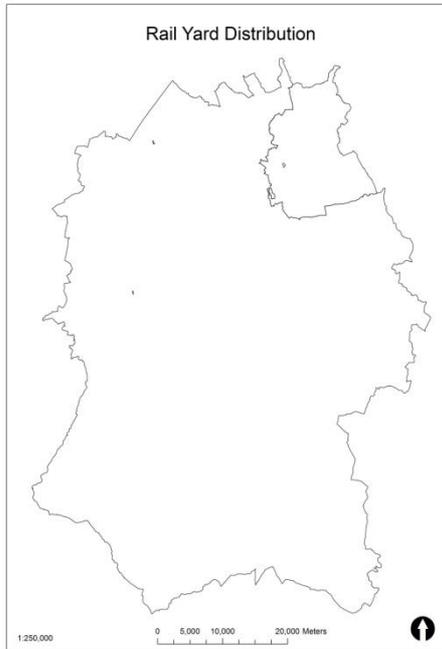
No substantial engine sheds can be recorded in the modern landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon. The historic examples were focused on Swindon, and elements of this former character remain legible despite conversion into recreational and retail spaces. Where traces of this prior character survive they provide a link to the strong railway heritage that the county (and in particular Swindon) had in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Rail yard**

### **Definition**

Complex, often attached to a railway station where engines, coaches and wagons are laid up and maintained.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.21 ha

No substantial railyards survive unchanged into modernity, most have been incorporated into other railway infrastructure or have been repurposed

The historic legible examples that do exist are linked to major urban centres with a railway heritage such as Westbury and Swindon

They are also obviously linked to other areas with a communications character type

### **Historical Processes**

The advent of railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Wiltshire led to the rise in the desire to travel using this new method of transport. As such, various carriages and wagons were pressed into service to convey both travellers and goods. All of these needed to be stored and maintained and as such, rail yards sprung up around the major railway hubs in the county. These yards mainly comprised sidings, turntables and maintenance areas to allow servicing of the rolling stock near to the stations and engine sheds. No extensive (>2ha) rail yards survive in use in modernity, and those rail yards that do exist are part of other more dominant railway character types.

### **Identification/Components**

- Areas of sidings for the storage and maintenance of rolling railway stock
- Association with other railway landscape types and dense urban areas served by rail
- Some redevelopment into industrial areas, but still legible aspects remain
- Clearly marked on the historic OS maps – particularly around Swindon

### **Rarity/Survival**

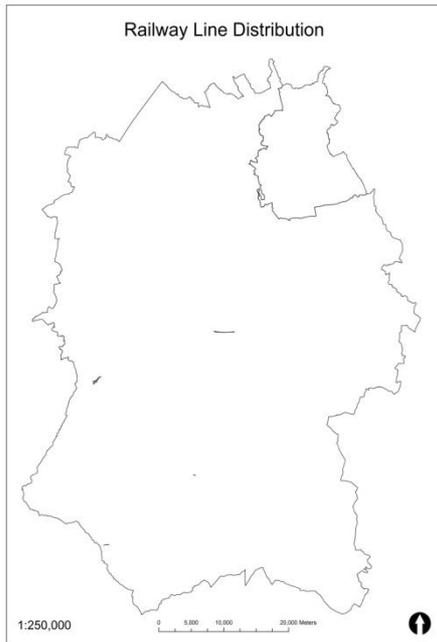
No substantial rail yards can be recorded in the modern landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon. The historic examples were focused on Swindon and Westbury and elements of this former character remain legible. Where traces of this prior character survive they provide a link to the strong railway heritage that the county had in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Railway line

### Definition

System of rail tracks along which passenger carriages or goods wagons are moved, usually by locomotive engines. Usually includes beds, cuttings, embankments, tunnels etc.

### Distribution



They occupy c.50 ha

This type is problematic to record as HLC deals with polygonal areas not linear features

While the rail network is extensive, this project only recorded areas where the railway line (and associated infrastructure) was overwhelmingly the dominant legible and current character and of sufficient size and impact in the landscape

As a consequence areas dominated by the railway line are rare.

Elements of historic railway are now redundant and overgrown with vegetation or have been redeveloped

### Historical Processes

The creation of railway lines in the 19<sup>th</sup> century had a substantial impact on communities in Wiltshire. Inhabitants were able to access all parts of the county swiftly for the purposes of work, recreation, leisure, commerce and trade. The majority of these historic lines survive and have been updated to allow improvements in rail technology. Wiltshire was also the location for a crucial part of the Great Western Railway Company, started by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, with a locomotive works created in Swindon. Some military and industrial sites also had associated light railways to help transport goods or munitions but most of these are now redundant. As railway lines exist all over the county, continue in use and are linear features which rarely define the landscape they have been largely ignored by the HLC.

### Identification/Components

- Routes comprise lines, sidings, yards and cuttings.
- Sometimes associated infrastructure like signal boxes and junctions
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and best not addressed through HLC

### Rarity/Survival

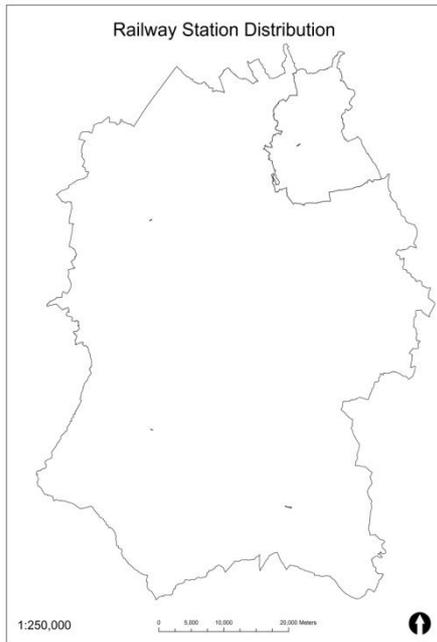
Substantial areas of railway line with infrastructure that could be characterised by the HLC project were very rare. While railways are extremely common in the modern landscape (as are roads) they are not particularly characteristic of the wider landscapes which they inhabit. While the creation of individual lines proves interesting, the physical lines themselves contribute little at a landscape level nor are they at threat of loss/redevelopment.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Railway station

### Definition

Where railway trains stop to load and unload passengers or freight. Includes buildings and directly related grounds.

### Distribution



They occupy c.21 ha

While every stop along a railway line has a station of sorts, very few in Wiltshire are substantial and extensive (>2ha)

As such, this category is under represented and railway stations appear rare and scattered in distribution

Those that have been recorded exist in major urban centres like Chippenham, Westbury, Salisbury and Swindon

### Historical Processes

The advent of the railways during the 19<sup>th</sup> century opened up the opportunity to travel swiftly across the county for leisure or work purposes. Passengers on the railways require facilities to buy tickets, organise luggage and obtain refreshments. These functions were served by the purpose built railway stations that accompanied most major stops on the rail network. While many stations have been modernised and rebuilt completely, there are still a number with historic origins and surviving character.

### Identification/Components

- Buildings, car parking, grounds and kiosks/shops associated with the railway line
- Coherent grouped sites set in both rural and urban locations
- Clearly marked on the modern and historic OS maps
- Naturally associated with other railway infrastructure and ancillary buildings

### Rarity/Survival

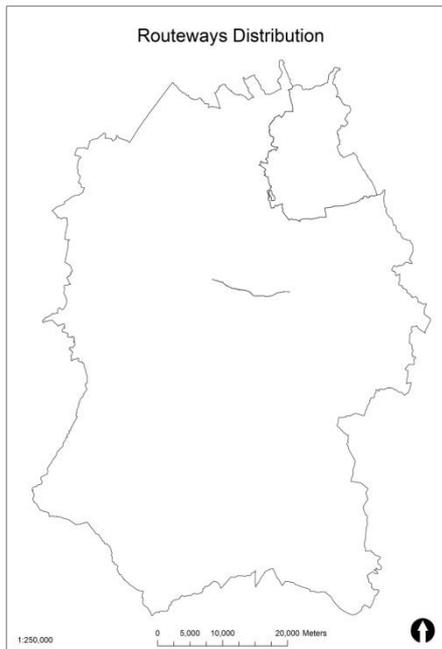
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. A mix of very modern and more historic examples, but few contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their extensive nature and method of construction.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Routeways

### Definition

A well established and substantial path, trackway or route that has been used to traverse the wider landscape. Often with substantial engineering, in the form of banks, ditches or made surfaces, and usually of medieval or earlier origins.

### Distribution



They occupy c.44 ha

This type is problematic to record as HLC deals with polygonal areas not linear features

While the network of routeways is extensive, this project only recorded areas where examples were overwhelmingly the dominant legible and current character, and of sufficient size to impact the landscape

Most routeways have either become converted into modern roads (not recorded by this project) or have become disused and overgrown

### Historical Processes

Since the most ancient of times, there has been a desire to travel across the landscape for exploration, trade, communication and wider social interaction. Many of the routeways were small scale and accessed and linked local areas; in the form of tracks, green lanes and trails. Many of the larger routeways (such as the Roman roads) became converted into more formal roads in the form of turnpikes in the post medieval period and A-roads, B-roads and motorways in the modern era. The only substantial routeway that seems not to have followed this evolution is the Ridgeway in the central/northern part of Wiltshire. This ancient routeway is sinuous, substantial and very legible as it cuts across several parishes. It is still walked today and has been preserved and managed to maintain this purpose

### Identification/Components

- Long and substantial routeway with clear surface and banked sides
- Cuts across several parishes and defined later land-use patterns adjacent to it
- Still a modern walking route and maintained and managed in the landscape
- Named and depicted on historic and modern OS maps and legible on aerial photos

### Rarity/Survival

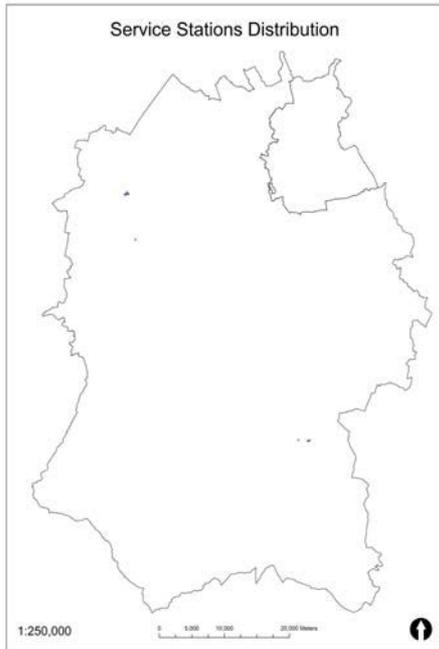
This routeway is very rare and a unique landscape feature. It links to the ancient past, has influenced later land use and is a valuable contributors to local character and identity. It is now a tourist attraction and not under immediate threat due to its careful management.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Service station**

### Definition

A commercial complex, usually sited along motorways or trunk roads, providing facilities such as car parking, restaurants, shop and fuel stations.

### Distribution



They occupy c.35 ha

While service stations are common, those substantial enough in size to be recorded by the HLC project (>2ha) are rare

Those that do exist are located adjacent to major roads like the M4

They are exclusively in out of town locations, along the roadside

Unlike other counties, Wiltshire has comparatively few major roads that require extensive services

### Historical Processes

Service stations are clearly a very modern phenomenon. As Wiltshire is a very rural character with few major roads (other than the M4), there are very few very large service stations in existence. Those that do exist cater for travellers by providing shops, restaurants, petrol stations and occasionally outdoor recreation spaces. They tend to comprise service buildings, petrol stations and extensive car/lorry parking areas. As the road network in the county continues to be improved it is possible the need for large service stations will increase further.

### Identification/Components

- Roadside and often remote locations – large and artificial landscape features
- Comprise service buildings, petrol stations, restaurants, shops and car parks
- Clearly marked on modern maps and very distinctive on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

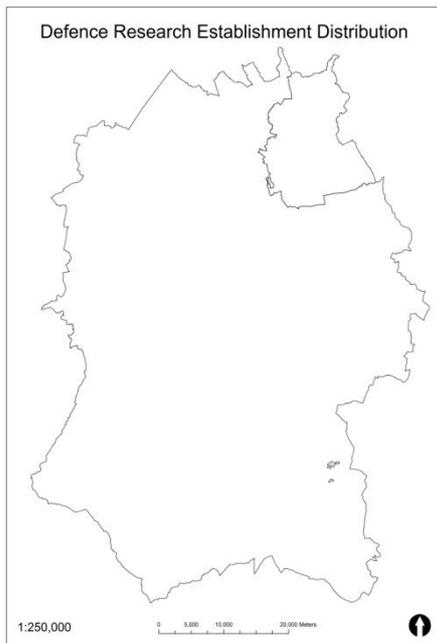
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Defence research establishment**

### Definition

A complex of buildings and areas in which a range of weaponry and techniques are developed and trialled.

### Distribution



They occupy c.109 ha

Areas with this landscape character are very rare nationally, let alone at a county level

The Porton Down facility near to Salisbury is the only example in the county, and a very famous site where military research and hardware is developed

The defence research establishment in Porton is associated with the wider military presence on the Salisbury Plain Training Area

Some elements of prior character remain legible despite the extensive nature of Porton Down

### Historical Processes

The military have had a presence in the southern part of Wiltshire since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and this intensified through the First and Second World War periods. Along with training and housing troops, the military have also been involved in the development of new technology and armaments since the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The research required as part of this process has taken place on bespoke facilities or establishments, and Porton Down near Salisbury is an excellent example of this type. It comprises laboratory buildings, test areas, bunkers, tracks, compounds and defence structures to ensure the security of the site.

### Identification/Components

- Large and extensive facilities with enclosed and secure perimeters
- Mixed buildings in the form of labs, bunkers and test areas for experimental work
- Compounds and outdoor firing ranges and test areas for military hardware
- Clearly of military character when seen on aerial photos and clearly marked on maps

### Rarity/Survival

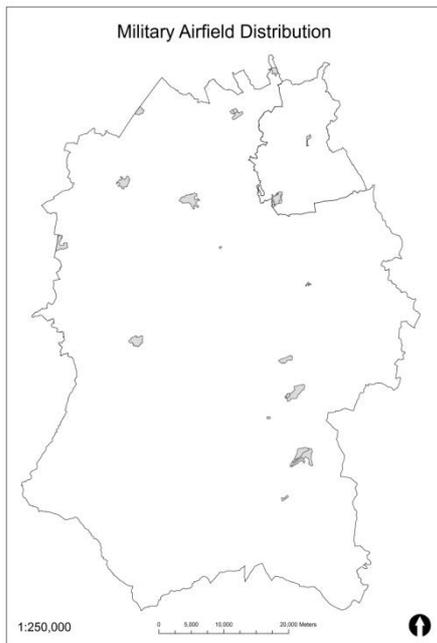
Such modern military facilities are rare and very important assets to the MOD/DSTL where they do exist. While they are extensive and have altered the landscape, there are some areas at Porton Down which preserve character as test areas are often fairly undeveloped. They are still active and dominate the landscapes they sit within, and most are under no immediate threat of closure or redevelopment.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Military airfield**

### **Definition**

A landing and taking-off area for military aircraft. Often includes ancillary structures and buildings for the maintenance and storage of aircraft, defence of the site, accommodation of staff, controlling airspace etc.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.2687 ha

In terms of military facilities, airfields are not uncommon in Wiltshire with examples to be found in all areas other than the southwest of the county

There is a strong RAF presence in the north of the county

They exist in a variety of rural locations, sometimes in association with other military installations

Even though some First and Second World War sites have fallen from use, their character remains legible despite redevelopment

### **Historical Processes**

The earliest military airfields date to the First World War (like the Stonehenge Aerodrome), and were supplemented by many others that were built during the Second World War and thereafter. These sites are owned by the Army and Royal Air Force and while they have been modernised, many have early C20 origins. They are very extensive and dominate the local landscape where they exist, as well as providing character and identity for the nearby towns and villages. They tend to comprise tarmac runways, hangars, control towers, maintenance and storage areas, offices, car parking areas all surrounded by securely fenced perimeters.

### **Identification/Components**

- Active airfields are fenced and have runways, hangars, control towers, storage areas
- They are extensive and set in rural locations, sometimes close to large villages
- Disused airfields are still legible through their iconic form, layout and relict buildings
- Clearly marked on modern/historic OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

### **Rarity/Survival**

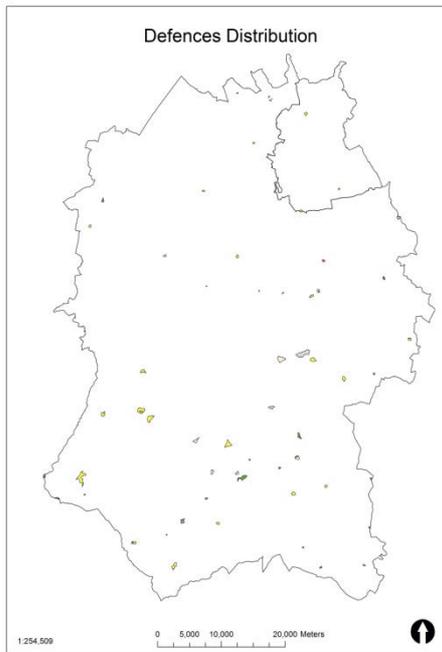
Military airfields are uncommon but there are clusters in certain localities. Many remain in use, and even where they are redeveloped, their character is often still fairly legible. They provide an important link to the military past and Wiltshire has a strong military pedigree, and they have a substantial impact on the character of the landscape which they inhabit.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Defences

### Definition

Areas, sites and linked systems of such involved in the passive or active defence of the country against hostile forces on land, sea and in the air.

### Distribution



They occupy c.1156 ha

Relate to both modern and ancient defences – be they hillforts, castles or WWI/WWII features

Defences that exist at a landscape scale are rare, and none are currently in use for their original purpose

The examples that remain legible in the modern landscape are well distributed across the county

Often relate more to topography than other landscape character types – they occupy strategic locations

### Historical Processes

Since prehistory, there has been a need for societies and communities to build structures to defend people, property and territory from hostilities. Many of the defences produced for this purpose, such as hillforts and castles, represent communal efforts and were large and grandiose constructions. As such, many impacted heavily on the landscapes they were set in, and while none are in use for their original purposes they remain legible. Wiltshire has a rich pedigree for landscapes dominated by defences. Medieval castles can be discerned at places like Ludgershall and Devizes and exceptional Iron Age hillforts survive at Old Sarum and Roundway amongst others. Some have become tourist attractions, walking locations, elements in designed or recreational landscapes. Many also defined the layout of towns; particularly those of a Saxon or medieval origin such as Cricklade or Trowbridge.

### Identification/Components

- Vary by type of defence but often earthwork banks/ditches or stone structures
- Circuits of defences/moats and set in prominent in settlement or upland locations
- Impact later land use as farmland, grassland, urban areas, park or recreational space
- Well marked on modern and historic maps and striking on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

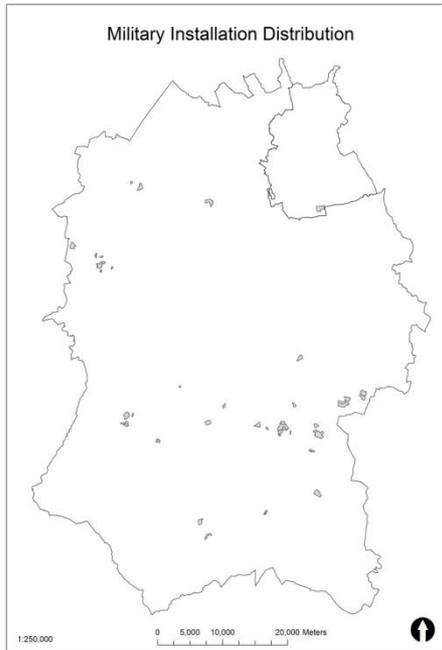
These are rare and fragile landscapes and some are under threat from development or agriculture. They are iconic reminders of the ancient past and very valuable contributors to local identity, character and tourism when they exist on a landscape scale.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Military installation**

### Definition

A site and associated buildings used by the military for various purposes, usually defensive.

### Distribution



They occupy c.1434 ha

Military installations are uncommon but abundant in certain locations – particularly in the SPTA

The greatest concentrations exist in the Salisbury and Warminster areas

Many exist in rural locations although some installations influence the character of the towns which they adjoin

They tend to be associated with other military character types like residences and airfields

### Historical Processes

The creation of military bases and installations in Wiltshire from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards has played an important role in defining the character and development of the areas in which they exist. Barracks, bases and training camps are a common site in the Salisbury Plain area, with substantial examples existing at Larkhill, Bulford, Boscombe and Warminster. Those examples recorded by this project tend to comprise a selection of buildings/structures that date from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards (although some WWI structures survive). These facilities usually lie within securely fenced perimeters and have been set out in planned form and linked by tarmac roads, tracks and paths. While some installations (such as at Corsham) have fallen out of military use and shut others are growing. With the re-basing of military personnel formerly stationed abroad on SPTA from 2016 onwards, more sites will be built.

### Identification/Components

- Functional buildings comprising barracks, mess halls, offices, exercise halls etc.
- Fenced and secure perimeters and planned layout with roads and activity zones
- Associated with other military character types and landscapes
- Clearly marked on OS maps, identifiable on aerial photographs and distinct in form

### Rarity/Survival

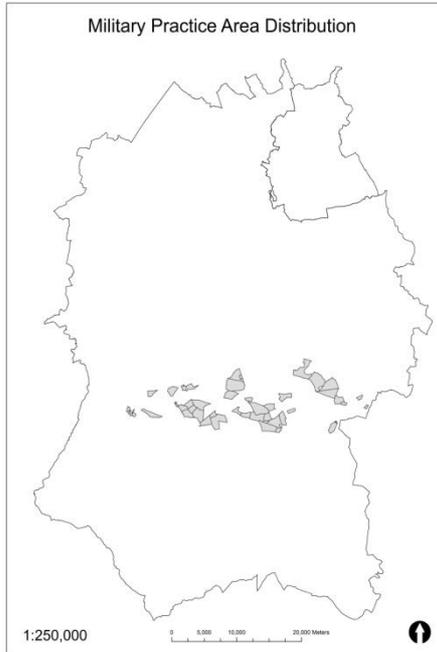
Military installations are uncommon but there are clusters in certain localities. Many remain in use, and even where they are redeveloped, their character is often still fairly legible. They provide an important link to the military heritage of Wiltshire, and they do have a distinct impact on the character of the landscape and settlements with which they are associated.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Practice area**

### **Definition**

Areas used by armed forces on land or at sea for training and military exercises.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.6507 ha

Practice areas are very uncommon across the county but very common in the Salisbury Plain area due to the extensive land holdings of the military

They exist in association with the military bases and facilities that together comprise the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

Most are situated in downland and still preserve elements of prior character as they are not intensively developed or built up

### **Historical Processes**

The military bought up land on Salisbury Plain in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and turned it into one of Britain's largest military bases and training centres. Over time, the holdings have been consolidated and the range of facilities available has increased in scope and sophistication. The downland landscape is ideal for training, and rifle ranges, artillery ranges, parachute drop zones, tank/vehicle driving areas and mock combat environments have all been implemented for use by the army personnel. While these activities have undoubtedly impacted on the landscape, there are still large areas of the SPTA which are little changed from their origins as chalk downland. This ensures fantastic preservation of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later field systems, occupation areas, defences and land boundaries.

### **Identification/Components**

- Usually open areas which contain rifle butts, simulated combat environments (as at Imber), craters from live firing ranges and tracks for vehicle driving and training
- Few built structures exist within the practice areas themselves, as these are on separate parts of the bases and installations where the troops are billeted
- Marked on modern OS maps but not always obvious as military activity zones

### **Rarity/Survival**

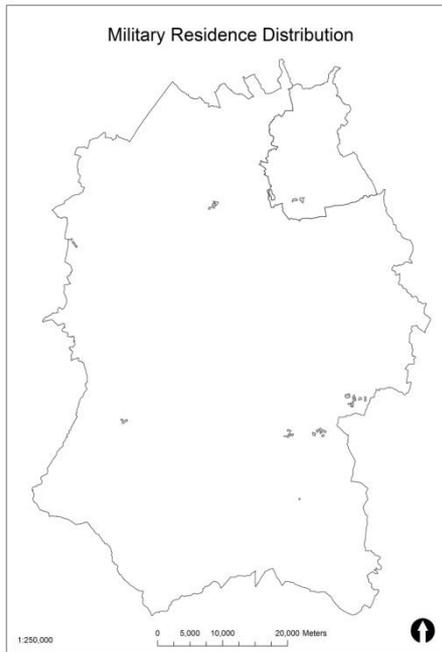
Extensive military practice areas are very uncommon but are characteristic of the Salisbury Plain area in the southern part of the county. The military ownership and maintenance of the land is not under threat and despite the training activities there is often excellent legibility of ancient character such as field systems and settlements of Bronze Age to medieval date.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Military residence**

### **Definition**

Houses or accommodation blocks (billets) used as places of residence by military personnel. Typically associated with nearby military bases or installations.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.421 ha

While rare across the county, military housing is common in areas that have military installations and bases

There is a concentration around the Salisbury Plain/Boscombe Down area, but also near to the airfields that exist in the northern parts of the county

They are only associated with other military infrastructure and tend to be slightly separate from civilian settlement areas

### **Historical Processes**

The creation of military bases and installations in Wiltshire from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards gave rise to the need for accommodation for associated personnel. Purpose built housing for use by military staff and their families exists close to many of the bases in the county. These houses/residence blocks tend to be fairly basic and functional buildings and set out to a planned form. As such, they are easy to identify from other housing and residential areas – although they do share some traits with social housing estates. Some groups of these houses are accompanied by recreational facilities or green spaces. Some houses have fallen out of military use as the bases they serve have shut, but others are expanding in size.

### **Identification/Components**

- Functional houses laid out to plan with regular forms and road layouts
- Close to military bases, facilities and airfields – often enclosed/fenced off
- Share similarities to social housing estates in villages/towns and not always easy to identify from aerial photographs and maps

### **Rarity/Survival**

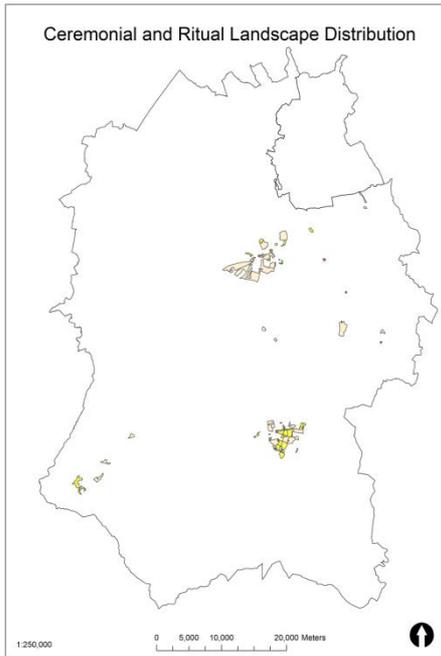
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these houses are recent and very functional constructions they are not valued locally but they do give a distinct military character/identity to the landscapes and settlements where they do exist.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ceremonial/ritual landscape**

### Definition

Areas within the landscape used for ritual or ceremonial purposes in the past, often during the prehistoric period. Such landscapes may have surviving structures, buildings, routeways, earthworks or cropmarks.

### Distribution



They occupy c.3169 ha

Areas with legible ceremonial/ritual character (typically of prehistoric or Roman date) are rare

They tend to exist in areas without intensive land use or development – but can also exist within agricultural areas

Only extensive areas of landscape with this early character have been recorded by this project

Associated with downland landscape or areas subject to particular management regimes (i.e. the World Heritage Site or Salisbury Plain Training Area)

### Historical Processes

Since the Neolithic period, societies have demonstrated ceremonial or ritual behaviour within the landscapes which they occupy. This category records areas where extensive and coherent examples of this behaviour remain legible at a landscape level – usually in the form of burial monuments (e.g. round and long barrows), henges, avenues, temples, substantial manmade mounds (e.g. Silbury Hill) or enclosures. Many of the features that comprise these landscapes survive as earthworks, standing structures or are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Wiltshire has some exceptional and world famous examples like the henges at Avebury and Stonehenge, but also some more local examples such as coherent barrow groups that survive in and amongst rural settlements. Many such landscapes survive through legislative protection or as attractions or assets of value to their communities.

### Identification/Components

- Often earthwork banks, mounds or enclosures or standing stone structures
- Usually survive in undeveloped areas (e.g. downland) and sometimes attractions
- Extensive and inter-related in the landscape – multi-period and coherent monuments

### Rarity/Survival

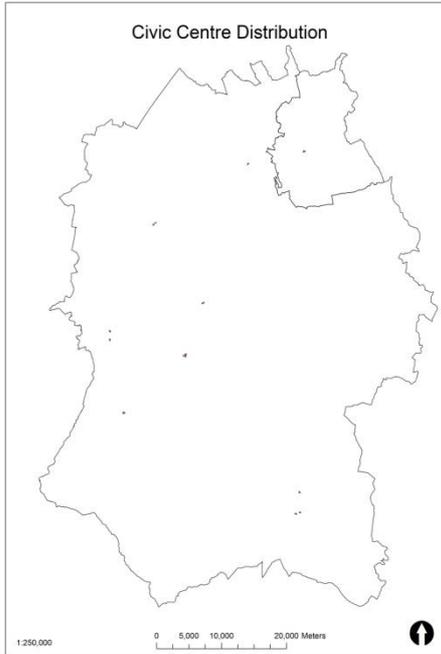
These are very rare and fragile landscapes and often under threat from development or agriculture. They are iconic reminders of the ancient past and very valuable contributors to local identity, character and tourism when they exist on a landscape scale.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Civic centre

### Definition

A building or complex often with several buildings where municipal offices and other public buildings are situated.

### Distribution



They occupy c.53 ha

Large civic buildings/complexes are rare across the county – but many examples of this type would have been too small (>2ha) in size to record

Those that do exist are focused on the larger towns, in the northern and western parts of the county

They tend to exist within the core of towns and are often linked to employment

### Historical Processes

Civic structures like town halls, council offices and municipal authority buildings can have historic origins or be modern constructions. Many of the features recorded in this category relate to Wiltshire Council or Swindon Borough Council, as both authorities have the staff resource and civic responsibilities to require large sites. Some civic buildings, like town halls and legal courts, lie within the heart of settlements, but others are self contained complexes or campuses on the periphery of the towns which they serve. Many of the smaller scale examples not recorded by this project exist within areas with a different dominant character (often residential, industrial or commercial).

### Identification/Components

- Such sites comprise large office buildings, chambers, assembly halls or compounds
- Usually have associated car parks and can be enclosed by fences/hedges/railings
- Sometimes historic buildings which add to the streetscape or campus-like facilities
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and identifiable on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

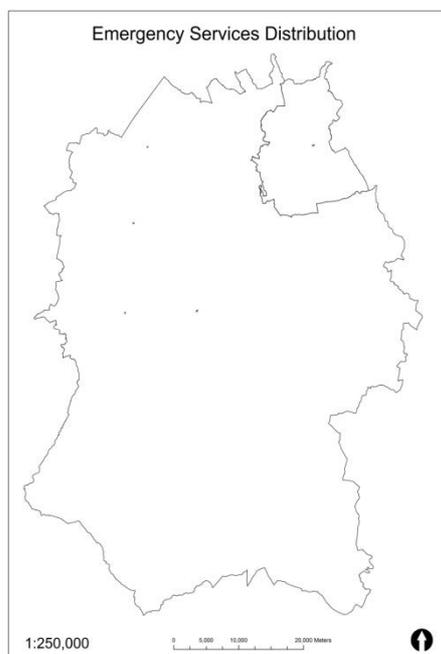
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. The recent examples are functional constructions that do not contribute greatly to local character, but some historic examples can be very iconic institutions that form part of the local character and identity. In some instances, they have impacted prior character due to their construction and landscaping.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Emergency services**

### **Definition**

Building, or complex of buildings, associated with the provision of the emergency services to the local area; be this the fire service, ambulance service or police.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.16 ha

Facilities associated with the emergency services are rare but exist in sufficient number to serve the county

Some features, like police stations and fire stations, were too small to record as part of the HLC Project

They exist in association with large settlements like Chippenham, Trowbridge, Westbury and Swindon

Exclusively located within settlement areas and not in rural areas

### **Historical Processes**

The features in this landscape character type are modern and primarily of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century date. Many are purpose built facilities to enable the operation of the principal emergency services: police, fire and ambulance. They are located in urban areas to allow rapid response to the immediate local areas and their services are more readily required by densely populated areas. The sites comprise vehicle garages, office buildings, control centres, training compounds, car parking areas and maintenance facilities. The lack of historic predecessors and heavily planned/designed elements of these sites limits the legibility of former landscape character.

### **Identification/Components**

- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and easy to identify on aerial photographs
- sites comprise garages, offices, control centres, training compounds and car parks
- Situated in or around major towns in the county with good transport routes

### **Rarity/Survival**

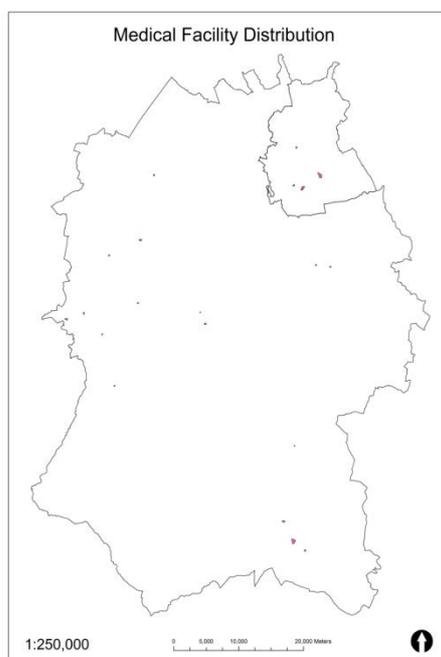
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As emergency service centres are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Medical facility**

### **Definition**

Buildings or complexes which provide assistance to help individuals maintain a satisfactory condition of mind and body, and freedom from sickness, injury and pain.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.124 ha

Large medical facilities are rare but their distribution is sufficient to serve the population of the county

They are naturally focused on large urban areas where the need for healthcare is more pressing

They are associated with settlement areas and situated in accessible locations with good transport routes

Population density is higher in the northern and central parts of the county and distribution reflects this trend

### **Historical Processes**

Formalised medical facilities have existed since the medieval period, and they were often tied into the care for the poor. The examples dealt with in this project are primarily of post medieval or modern origin, and some have grown from asylums, sanatoriums and workhouses. Those with historic origins may have surviving historic buildings, compounds and facilities which retain their earlier character. However, most of the medical facilities have been substantially modernised (or are entirely new foundations) and have car parking, ancillary buildings, ornamental or recreational space. This is particular the case with the large hospitals in Swindon and Salisbury. Some former hospitals have been redeveloped for commercial, residential or industrial purposes, or have been demolished altogether.

### **Identification/Components**

- Large buildings with associated compounds and structures – historic or modern
- Usually with car parking, landscaped grounds and emergency vehicle areas
- In the urban core or in peripheral areas. Sometimes former asylums/workhouses
- Clearly marked on modern/historic OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

### **Rarity/Survival**

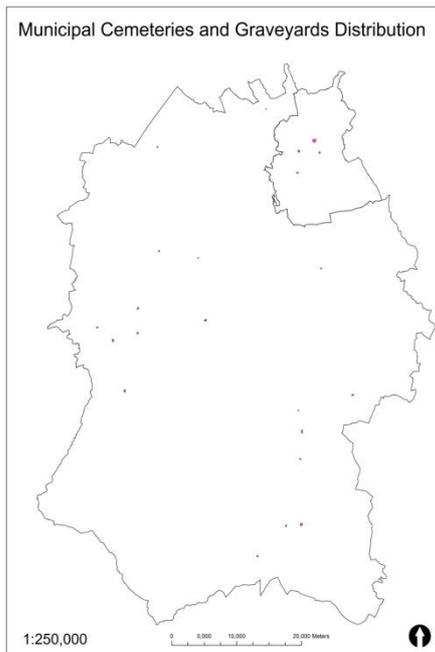
Large medical facilities are rare, and a mixture of historic foundations or very modern institutions. While most are not under threat and are robust landscape character types, some of the historic examples are under threat of redevelopment and this can result in the loss of iconic local character. This is particularly the case with former asylums, sanatoria and workhouses which are often challenging to modernise/re-use.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Municipal cemeteries and graveyards**

### **Definition**

Place, usually defined, where the dead are carefully and respectfully placed, usually via interment.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.97 ha

Cemeteries and graveyards are rare but probably under represented as many examples will be under 2ha in size, or not the dominant character type

Mix of rural and urban locations, but usually associated with dense settlement areas

Some are non-denominational and some are associated with religious foundations

Associated with other civic and settlement character types

### **Historical Processes**

Burial and cremation of the dead and the interment or storage of remains in cemeteries and graveyards has an ancient origin. This type deals with graveyards of mainly post medieval or modern origin (the ceremonial and ritual landscape type deals with the burials etc. of earlier periods). While every parish has a churchyard for the burial of the dead, the increase in population and the rise in the number of secular ceremonies has led to the creation of extensive municipal graveyards/cemeteries. These offer an alternative to the burials in sanctified ground. Most cemeteries are laid out to plan with regular plots, paths to traverse them and dotted chapels, memorials, contemplation areas and car parking for visitors.

### **Identification/Components**

- Clearly named on modern and historic OS maps and easy to identify on aerial photos
- Fenced/walled parcels of land with plots set out in regular fashion with access routes
- Interspersed with chapels and memorials and landscaped gardens/tranquil areas
- Associated with settlements and often designated burial sites for parishes/boroughs

### **Rarity/Survival**

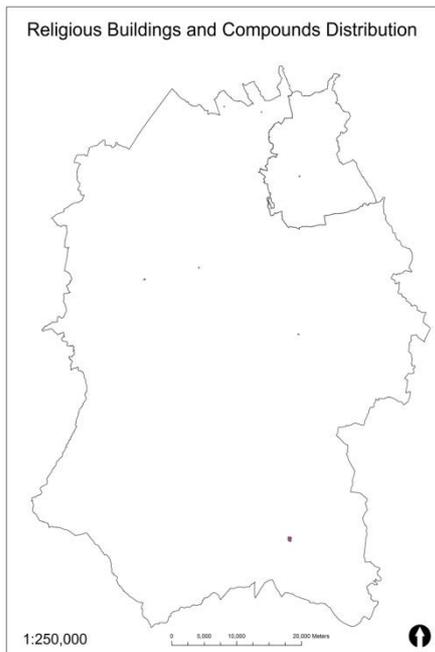
While large cemeteries and graveyards are rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As they are not too intrusive, it is possible to discern earlier surviving landscape character in areas where they survive, although many in themselves have historic character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Religious buildings and compounds**

### **Definition**

A place (buildings and directly associated grounds) where appropriate acts, rites and ceremonies are performed to honour or revere a supernatural being, power or holy entity.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.40 ha

This type is under represented in the HLC as the vast majority of churches and other religious buildings are not 2ha or larger in size

Large religious buildings and compounds are rare in Wiltshire. The best example is Salisbury Cathedral but some other large churches do exist

All of the examples recorded lie within settlement areas and have historic origins

Many such sites have been included in other narrow types as they are not the dominant character

### **Historical Processes**

This type refers to formalised structures/buildings relating to a defined religion, and therefore largely deals with the monuments of Christianity. As such, the earliest buildings and compounds that survive have Saxon origins, but most have medieval or even post medieval foundation dates. While every parish of the county has at least a church/chapel, many occupy a relatively small area and primarily serve the spiritual needs of the local inhabitants. The larger examples, like Salisbury Cathedral, tend to exist in important towns and cities with an established ecclesiastical history. These established sites are often visitor attractions or places of pilgrimage. These iconic buildings conform to a variety of renowned architectural styles and, as such, contribute heavily to the local character and identity of an area.

### **Identification/Components**

- Large substantial buildings, usually of stone, set in a delineated compound
- Often have associated monuments, memorials and graveyards and outbuildings
- Well marked on modern and historic OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

### **Rarity/Survival**

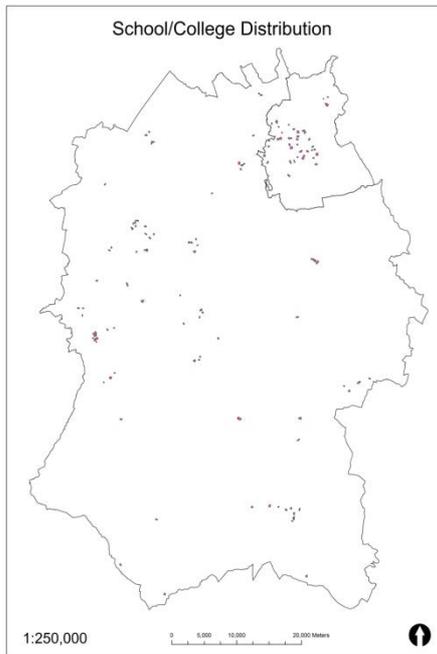
Large religious buildings are rare, iconic and have a well established historic origin. They form part of a coherent narrative relating to the everyday religious lives of the communities they serve. Most are not threatened and are protected as treasured local assets. However, their setting and components can be adversely influenced by inappropriate development.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: School/college**

### **Definition**

Primary, secondary or tertiary educational establishments, buildings and directly associated and usually defined grounds, including car parking etc.

### **Distribution**



They occupy c.581 ha

While across the county, schools and colleges are uncommon there are local clusters – usually in dense urban areas like Swindon, Salisbury and Trowbridge

Some smaller establishments may not have been recorded as they are under 2ha in size

The gaps in the distribution relate to very rural and isolated areas where population density is low and young people commute to places of education

Most schools/colleges are associated with towns and villages

### **Historical Processes**

The creation of schools and colleges for the education of young people has historic origins, with educational establishments linked to the clergy existing from the medieval period. Many of the schools in the county have origins from the post medieval period and include prestigious examples like the Salisbury Cathedral School, Marlborough College and Dauntsey School. Indeed, some schools are still linked to former manorial estates, churches/cathedrals or trades/guilds. Other schools are far more modern in origin and have been carefully planned to offer students the best educational experience. Most share a common suite of facilities (depending on their size) including sports fields, playgrounds, labs, classrooms, car parks, gymnasiums and music rooms.

### **Identification/Components**

- Mixed school buildings including classrooms, sports halls, music rooms and labs
- Enclosed/fenced sites with playgrounds, sports fields, swimming pools, car parks
- Associated with towns and villages – often situated within them not outside them
- Clearly marked on modern and historic maps and identifiable on aerial photos

### **Rarity/Survival**

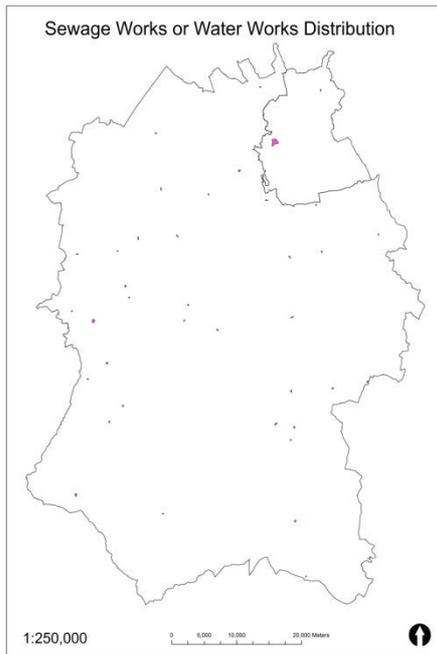
While uncommon across the county, most towns and villages have some sort of school/college. Where they do exist, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. Some have historic origins and contribute very heavily to the character/identity of their local areas.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Sewage or water works**

### Definition

An area in which local sewage is filtered and purified in large rectangular or circular tanks. Alternatively, buildings, engineering constructions and machinery, used for the purpose of supplying a town, or region with water distributed through pipes.

### Distribution



They occupy c.190 ha

Sewage works and waterworks are uncommon, but some smaller enterprises may not have been recorded

They are relatively evenly distributed across the county, with facilities to serve every local community

They tend to be outside settlement areas and set within rural landscapes, and screened from view

Some are situated close to watercourses

### Historical Processes

The processing of water for municipal purposes has occurred since the later post medieval period – with sewage farms, waterworks and processing centres. However, the vast majority of sites in this category identified by this project are of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century origin. Many such facilities are situated close to watercourses as the fresh water plays an important part in the cleaning/refining process. Their locations are also dictated by the communities they need to serve, with the larger urban centres (particularly in the central/northern parts of the county) having a substantial demand for water/sewerage. The facilities used for these purposes are very heavily engineered and comprise tanks, settling areas, processing plants, pumping stations and control centres.

### Identification/Components

- Engineering in the form of tanks, settling areas, processing plants, pumping stations
- Enclosed/screened compounds, often riverine locations, away from settlements
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and recognisable on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

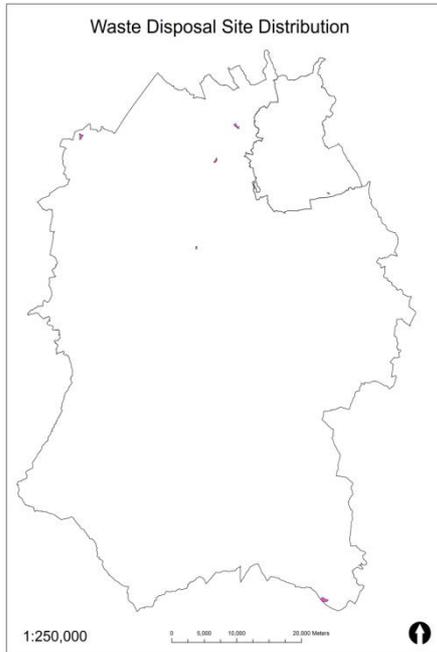
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As most waterworks and sewage works are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Waste disposal site**

### Definition

Buildings, sites and structures associated with the disposal or recycling of domestic and industrial waste.

### Distribution



They occupy c.112 ha

These sites are rare but many may not have been recorded as they are under 2ha in size

They tend to exist outside the large urban centres which they serve

Due to their nature they are generally set away from all other settlement areas, sometimes in rural or industrial areas

Most identified by this project exist in the north of the county and serve Swindon and the other major towns

### Historical Processes

The waste disposal sites identified by this project comprise tips, landfill sites and recycling centres. They are modern in origin and have been created to serve the needs of the growing urban population of Wiltshire and Swindon. The rise of recycling in modern society is reflected in the construction of bespoke processing centres, and accordingly it is hoped that the need for landfill sites will decrease over time. While some landfill sites and tips have closed and been re-landscaped (cf. restored fields), those that do remain in use are very intrusive landscape features that detract from the character of the areas they exist within.

### Identification/Components

- Landfill sites are large pits filled with refuse and serviced by heavy duty vehicles
- Tips usually comprise enclosed hard standing areas with various refuse containers
- Recycling centres comprise processing buildings and sorting yards/hard standings
- Most sites are clearly marked on OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

### Rarity/Survival

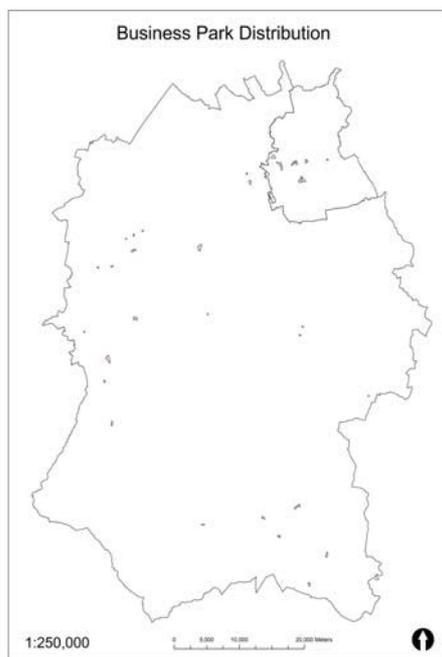
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable character that is not greatly at risk of survival. Restoration schemes for former tips and landfill sites do exist and typically create recreation areas (such as parks and golf courses). Where they do exist, features in this category do heavily impact the landscape, and are perceived negatively locally. In many instances, they have removed much of the prior landscape character.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Business park**

### Definition

Area designed to accommodate several businesses, usually non-industrial, but normally not exclusively retail.

### Distribution



They occupy c.442 ha

Business parks are uncommon but some were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger in size

They focus on the larger towns, and there are clusters around Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Westbury/Warminster

They tend to be associated with urban settlement areas or civic or industrial activity zones

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### Historical Processes

Business parks are modern creations inhabited by companies who want to focus their employment and service streams within bespoke and easily accessible sites. They are typically carefully planned complexes with multiple companies having their premises adjacent to one another and networks of roads linking them together. Such sites also typically have compounds, car parks and loading zones. They tend to exist at the periphery of larger urban areas and provide employment for many local residents. Some have associated recreational facilities for employees, or landscaping to improve their aesthetic aspect. They form part of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century landscape and reflect changes in society and employment practices.

### Identification/Components

- Bespoke offices, buildings and complexes situated on planned estates
- Networks of associated roads, cul-de-sacs, compounds and parking areas
- Typically on the urban fringe and close to active transport routes
- Clearly marked on modern maps and easily identifiable on aerial photographs

### Rarity/Survival

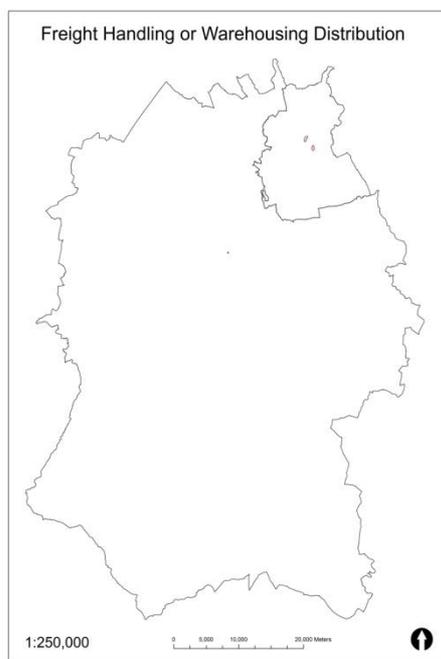
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As business parks are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## **Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Freight handling or warehousing**

### Definition

Facilities (buildings and directly associated grounds) for the storage of goods.

### Distribution



They occupy c.58 ha

Freight handling or warehousing sites are rare but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger in size, or the dominant character type in the areas where they existed

They concentrate around Swindon and seem linked to the railway industry

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### Historical Processes

The freight handling and warehousing sites identified in this HLC project are exclusively modern in origin. They tend to be associated with large businesses and so are often associated with the larger towns or urban centres in the county. Many are also situated in locations with excellent transport routes – be that by road, rail or air. As they are often associated with other industrial or commercial enterprises they tend not to comprise the dominant landscape character of an area. As the 21<sup>st</sup> century progresses, the number of these large warehouse sites will likely increase.

### Identification/Components

- Large enclosed compounds for storage of goods, crates, cargo and containers
- Large sheds/warehouses or covered yards – sometimes reuse of historic buildings
- Associated car parking, ancillary buildings and cabins for office use
- Clearly marked on OS maps and situated near good transport routes

### Rarity/Survival

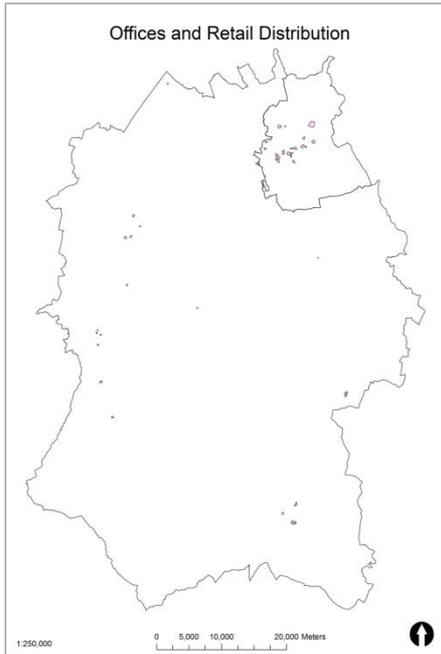
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As most warehouses/freight handling sites are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

## Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Offices and retail

### Definition

Buildings or complexes of buildings, sometimes with associated car parking and ancillary facilities that are used for professional work or the sale of goods.

### Distribution



They occupy c.394 ha

Office/retail sites are uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there are clusters around Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Westbury/Warminster

They tend to be associated with urban settlement areas or civic or industrial activity zones

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

### Historical Processes

The retail and commercial sites identified in this HLC project are exclusively modern in origin – although some do make use of historic buildings. Due to their nature, they exist primarily within urban settings as they form hubs that are easy to access. These commercial enterprises are the result of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century planning system, and as such they have often been carefully sited to encourage their use. This is a contrast to the historical patterns of commerce and employment where smaller scale endeavours were usually situated locally within villages or farm complexes.

### Identification/Components

- Can be modern or historic buildings but generally situated within urban centres
- Large out of town retail complexes exist; some associated with industrial estates
- Usually shops, outlets, covered markets, office blocks/buildings sometimes with associated car parking, clearly delineated boundaries and ancillary facilities
- Often integrated with residential areas, industrial areas or those with civic functions

### Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As many offices/shops are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

### **Appendix 3 - Data Parameters and Caveats**

- For the EUS areas and both parts of the WHS the polygons' minimum size threshold was 1Ha.
- For the rest of the project area the polygons' minimum size threshold was 2Ha.
- For areas with mixed character which could not be easily divided, only the dominant character (whether current or previous) was recorded.
- Only one character type (broad and associated narrow) was recorded per period per polygon. In some instances there were multiple character types (particularly for the modern era) and so only the dominant one was recorded. This was necessary due to the search mechanic of the HBSMR database and to allow the production of time-slices.
- Period dates for Post-medieval and Modern periods given to HLC records relate to the sources and so are not necessarily factually correct. For other periods (those that are earlier than post medieval) the MIDAS thesauri date ranges have been adopted.

The dates used comprise:

#### Non EUS/WHS Areas

- Modern = 2012 (Project start date)
- Late post medieval period = 1872 to 1894 (1 Ed 6" OS map date)
- Early post medieval period = 1540 to 1871 (1 Ed 1" OS map date)
- Medieval period = 1066 to 1539 (MIDAS date)
- Saxon period = 410 to 1065 (MIDAS date)
- Roman period = 43 to 409 (MIDAS date)
  - Iron Age = -800 to 42 (MIDAS date)
  - Bronze Age = -2350 to -701 (MIDAS date)
- Neolithic = -4000 to -2351 (MIDAS date)

#### EUS/WHS Areas

- Modern = 2012 (Project start date)
  - 1950s-1960s = 1961 (5 Ed 6" OS map date)
  - 1920s-1940s = 1910 to 1933 (3 Ed 6" OS map date)
  - 1890s-1910s = 1897 to 1914 (2 Ed 6" OS map date)
  - 1870s-1890s = 1872 to 1894 (1 Ed 1" OS map date)
  - Pre-1870s/Early post medieval period = 1540 to 1871 (1 Ed 1" OS map date)
  - Medieval period = 1066 to 1539 (MIDAS date)
  - Saxon period = 410 to 1065 (MIDAS date)
  - Roman period = 43 to 409 (MIDAS date)
  - Iron Age = -800 to 42 (MIDAS date)
  - Bronze Age = -2350 to -701 (MIDAS date)
  - Neolithic = -4000 to -2351 (MIDAS date)
- Non-modern linears (such as roads and railways lines) were purposely not identified or recorded as part of the project. (N.B. Some historic linears like canals are recorded).
  - A mixture of legible and non-legible (but identifiable from sources) character types have been recorded. The separation between those that can still be discerned in the landscape and those that have been inferred from the sources has been achieved through the confidence level attribute, using the following values:

- Certain = the character type is clearly legible in the modern landscape and can be identified by type on present day maps/photographs.
- Probable = the character type is partially legible in the modern landscape and can be identified by type on present day maps/photographs.
- Possible = the character type is not legible in the modern landscape and has been inferred from the historic maps and sources.
- Where the number of instances of Narrow Types was very low (under 5 for both present and previous character) then the types were combined into a mixed type (e.g. plant nurseries and garden centres).
- The ridge and furrow attribute was only applied to areas that once had either strip fields or open fields as a previous character type.
- In some instances the 'field count' attribute has been used as a proxy for a parcel/delineated area count – so the number of parcels of allotment gardens for example.
- The urban settlement broad type was principally applied to the EUS areas and associated expansions of these towns.
- The Wiltshire and Swindon HER was used as a source – but the HLC project (its polygons and records) only records archaeological/historical features that exist at a broad scale.
- Pre-post medieval dates were only applied to settlements where there was clear and legible early character – place names (for example the presence of the settlement in Domesday) were not used to determine age of origin.
- All HLC polygons are intended to be contiguous, with no gaps between them to ensure consistent coverage and analysis. However, in some rare instances there may be tiny gaps or overlaps between the polygons – but such instances are likely very limited in number and difficult to easily identify and rectify.
- Each broad type has a maximum of 8 associated attributes when using the Exegesis HBSMR HLC module. Fewer can be used, but no more can be added.
- A smallish number of sources were deliberately used to create the polygons to help ensure rapidity of characterisation. This means that the data is fairly broad brush and is intended to be viewed in the main on a large area/county scale.
- The numeric type codes assigned to each of the narrow types do not have associated meaning – they are purely numeric values.
- Each HLC record only has one polygon attached to it, so there are no dispersed or multiple area polygons. This helps with consistent analysis of type distribution and area.
- The area and limits of each HLC polygon have been defined by existing, present day features and boundaries (i.e. field boundaries, roads, woodland etc.). This is because the HLC is intended to be a regression from the present day back.
- All of the character areas identified and mapped as polygons have been kept as large as possible (within the parameters of characterisation as set out in the methodology section).
- Where an ornamental polygon has no garden, a null value has been left in the garden type attribute.