

7. Local Historic Landscape Characterisation Zones

Aims

Another feature of this report was to produce a preliminary assessment of the landscape at a wider scale through the production of a series of local historic character zones (local HLZ). These zones have been defined using criteria developed in Buckinghamshire (Green and Kidd, 2006, 18) and can be used as a basis for informing strategic planning, development control and land management. HLZ can also be used to inform Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) which combines topography, landscape, cultural heritage and the natural environment into a balanced assessment. Each local zone can serve as a reference tool for the general landscape in a much more accessible format than through the individual character types. They can therefore help formulate general management strategies relevant to the historic dimension of the landscape as well as assisting in the ongoing monitoring of conservation areas. At a higher level local zones can be nested into county-level HLZ for which a preliminary map has been defined for Buckinghamshire.

Methodology

Local HLZ are defined by areas of historic landscape types that display a homogeneity of character. For example an area of primarily twentieth century characterisation that may include field systems as well as modern settlement and woodland would be characterised as one discrete zone while an area of distinctively ancient historic landscape types would be another.

Individual polygons drawn into an HLC map represent an area of homogeneity at a small scale of perhaps 10ha such as the area of meadowland bordering a river shown in Figure 1. Their boundaries are defined by their individual characterisation.

Figure 1: Example HLT. Modern area of housing, Denham village.

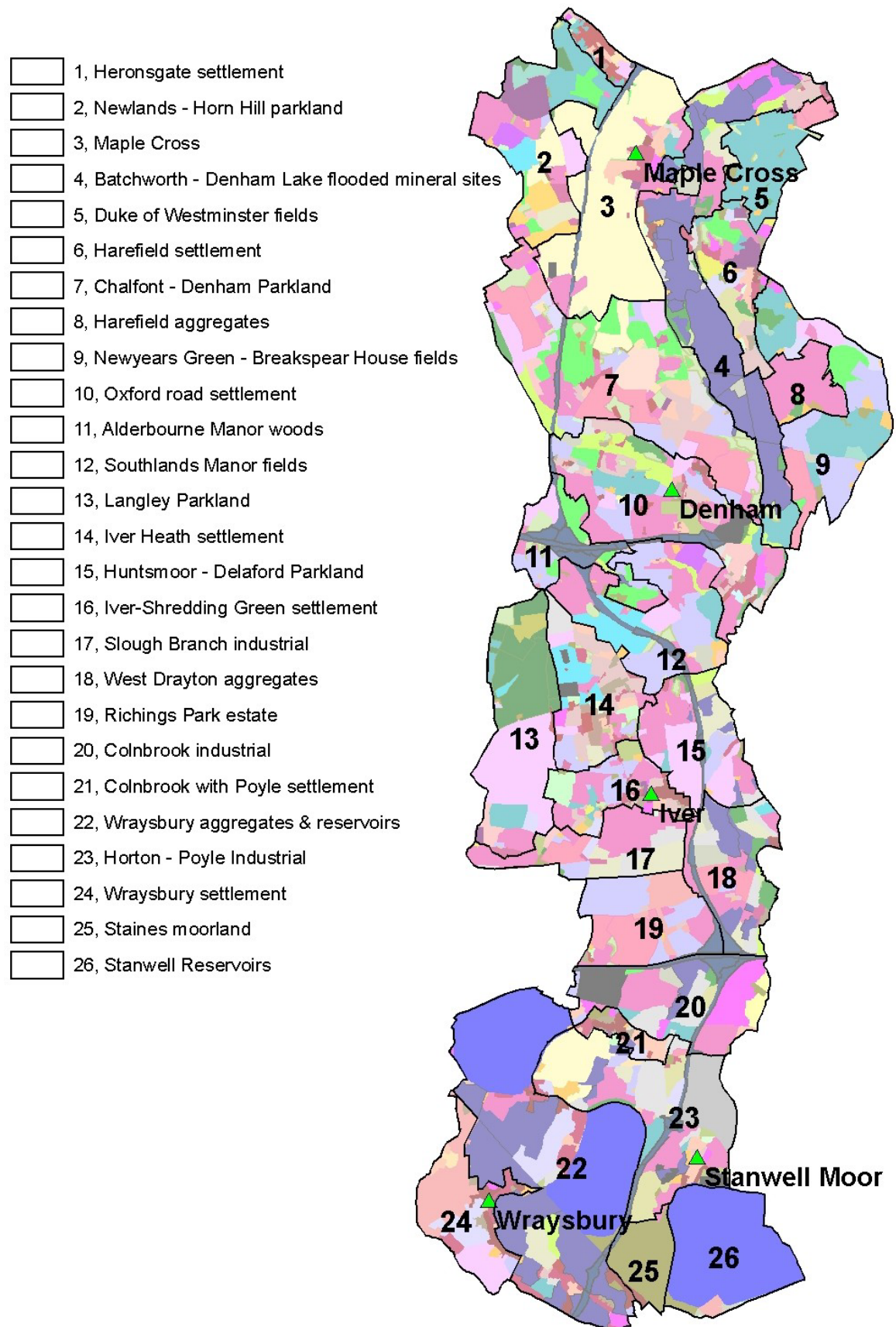


Polygons drawn into an HLZ map, however, can represent much larger areas and aim to characterise the relationships between HLT which together form a landscape with common characteristics. These polygons can include several distinct but similar HLT's and can be much larger dependant on the scale of the study area. In the case of the Colne Valley Park, these zones range between 66 and 1200ha. As zones are based primarily on HLC information they do not directly conform to the topography, geology or biodiversity of an area, however, they can be used to identify the boundaries and characterisation of the zone.

The boundary of a zone is defined by a combination of factors: they can follow the historic boundary of parkland areas; a river that serves to separate distinct areas of landscape; linear constructions such as motorways, railways and canals from the modern era or historic linear features such as medieval or pre-medieval county ditches or constructed river channels.

A total of 26 zones have been identified in the Colne Valley Park (Figure 2). The character of each zone is based on the HLC whilst individual boundaries were determined using a combination of naturally occurring lines such as rivers as well as constructed features where they served to delineate significant change in the landscape.

Figure 2: Local Historic landscape Zones in the Colne Valley Park



Analysis/Results

1. Heronsgate settlement

This zone, although small, illustrates a highly distinctive characterisation that separates it from the surrounding countryside. The community of Heronsgate was originally called O'Connorville after it's founder the Chartist leader Feargus O'Connor. The entire town of around 30 houses was built in the late 19th century on previously enclosed land after Chartist beliefs and it was supposed to represent the idyllic lifestyle separated from the industrialisation of the time. Although the ideals of Chartism failed in this community, as in many others, Heronsgate survived almost intact. The village is protected by double status as it both lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt and it is a conservation area, both of which have curtailed development leading to the addition of only ten or so houses. However, little is known about the archaeology of the area and, despite the unique character of the settlement, only five of the houses are Grade II listed. The potential for archaeological remains in this area is difficult to determine as although there is some evidence for past human occupation in the area, they tend to be isolated find spots rather than sites.



Area	66ha
Principal historic landscape	19 th century detached housing historic parkland 19 th century fields
Listed Buildings	5
SMR Records	0
Designations	Green Belt Conservation Area

Figure 3: Heronsgate Settlement zone



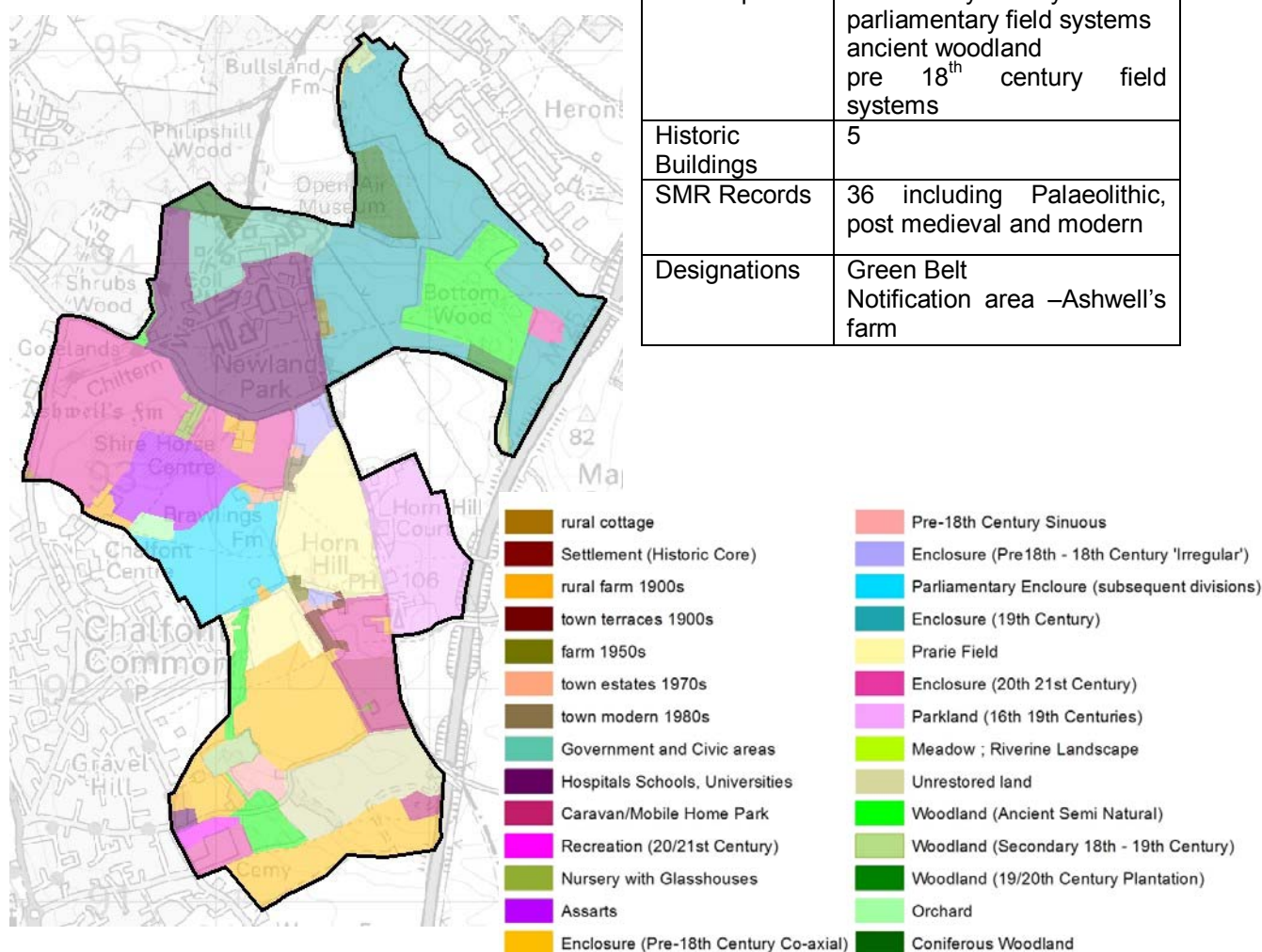
2. Newlands – Horn Hill parkland

This landscape consists primarily of field systems dating to a number of periods including large open 19th century fields around Heronsgate; twentieth century enclosed field systems, probably pony paddocks, around Newland Park; and small areas of prairie fields, Parliamentary enclosed fields, pre 18th century enclosed fields and assarts (ancient) fields around Chalfont common. There are two distinctive historic parks in this zone in the form of Newland Park, now in use as a college and the site of the Chiltern Open Air Museum, and the grade II listed Horn Hill. These two parks are built along the path of the old Roman road now called Shire lane. There are also several areas woodland, both ancient and modern plantations. Overall the area has moderate historic landscape value. SMR data for this zone is primarily medieval with some Neolithic find spots in Chalfont St Giles parish and some Palaeolithic finds in Three Rivers near Heronsgate. The proximity of significant Neolithic finds at Mopes farm indicate that this area may have been in use during that period and the potential for further remains is quite high, however, this must be balanced with the level of development and the affects of agriculture in the area.



Figure 4: Newland to Horn Hill parkland zone

Area	488ha
Principal historic landscape	19 th century field systems hospitals 20 th century field systems parliamentary field systems ancient woodland pre 18 th century field systems
Historic Buildings	5
SMR Records	36 including Palaeolithic, post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt Notification area –Ashwell's farm

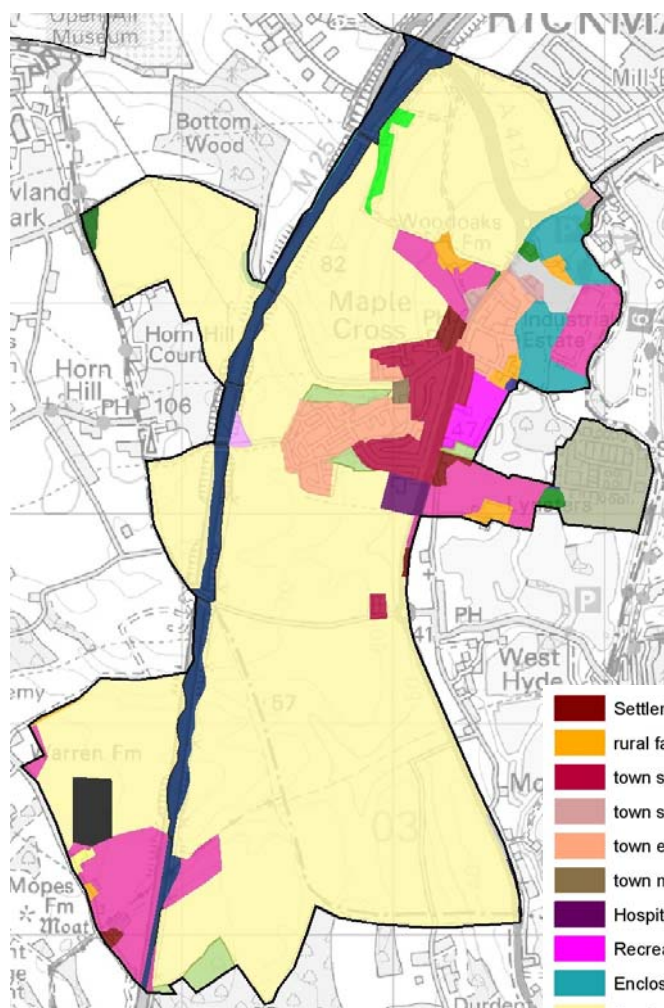


3. Maple Cross

This zone represents an essentially twentieth century landscape incorporating the extended prairie fields surrounding the village of Maple Cross that date to the first half of the twentieth century, and the village itself. The historic core of Maple Cross consisted of little more than a few houses that predate the OS 2" Surveyors maps encircled by four or five farms but development has steadily increased throughout the twentieth century with significant jumps in housing development during the 1920's and again during the 1950's after which point development all but stopped. Parallels between development in the area and aggregates extraction might be drawn as by the 1950's extraction had moved away from the Maple Cross area and into the London Borough of Hillingdon around Harefield. The four grade II listed buildings in this zone correspond to the historic farms while the historic houses are not listed. This zone has the potential for further archaeological finds, although probably truncated by the extensive mechanised arable cultivation.



Figure 5: Maple Cross zone



Area	135ha
Principal historic landscape	Modern prairie fields 1950's semi-detached housing 1920's housing
Historic Buildings	4
SMR Records	42 including Palaeolithic, Norman, modern
Designations	Green Belt except Maple Cross core

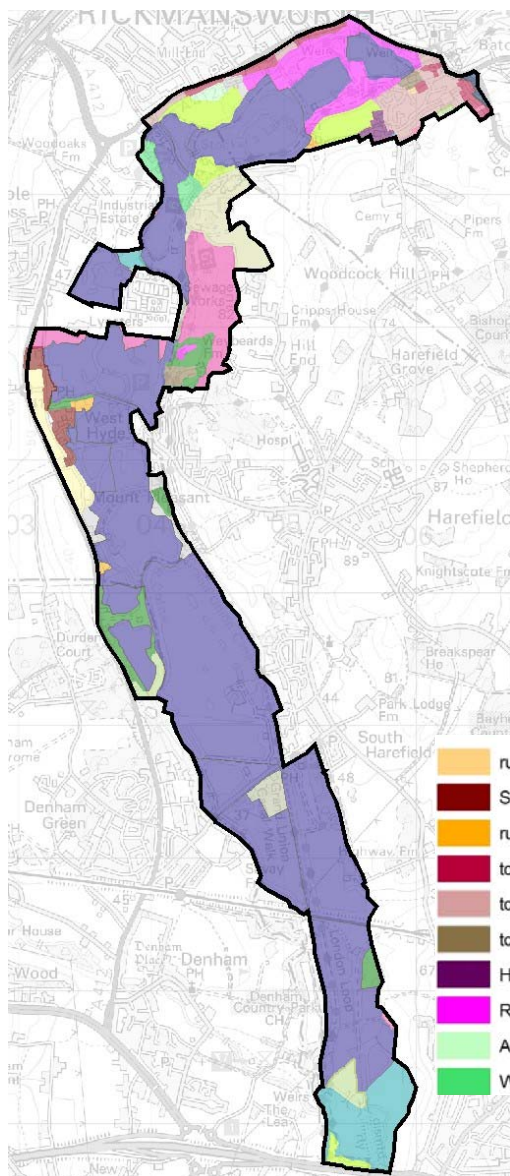


4. Batchworth-Denham Lake flooded mineral sites

This landscape zone is characterised by the long period of aggregates extraction that has taken place within it and irrevocably altered the landscape, large areas of recreational land now border the lakes around Batchworth while modern settlement lie just to the south of the lake. Starting in the very north of the zone at what is now Batchworth Lake it follows the low-lying alluvial floodplain of the river Colne down as far as Denham. Prior to extraction much of this zone was in use as watercress beds with an extensive series of leats running off from the river Colne and often also the canal. The first aggregates sites were extracted by the 1920's with Batchworth Lake already recorded on the OS 1920-1926 map while extraction continued south down the path of the river Colne until the 1980's at Denham Quarries site, the predominant mineral extracted was gravel although large chalk pits exist to the west of Hill End, Hillingdon. Due to the extensive extraction this zone is comparatively wealthy in terms of SMR information including early Palaeolithic to modern sites. However, much now has low archaeological potential due to the extent of extraction and development. This landscape also includes the hamlet of West Hyde, now protected as a conservation area; it comprises just a few houses following a linear morphology along the old road into Denham parish.



Figure 6: Batchworth-Denham lake zone



Area	770ha
Principal historic landscape	Flooded mineral sites 20 th century enclosure, regenerated from mineral sites minerals disused recreation
Historic Buildings	Approximately 25
SMR Records	Approximately 50 including - Palaeolithic flint scatters, Denham Country Park - Mesolithic flint scatters – Dewes farm, Harefield - Bronze Age feature, Denham
Designations	Conservation Area West Hyde Green Belt SSSI Broadwater lake Nature Reserve Denham Quarries Stockers Lake County/London Wildlife sites Batchworth lake, Bury lake, Springwell lake, Lynsters lake, Pynesfield lake, Nr Savay farm lake

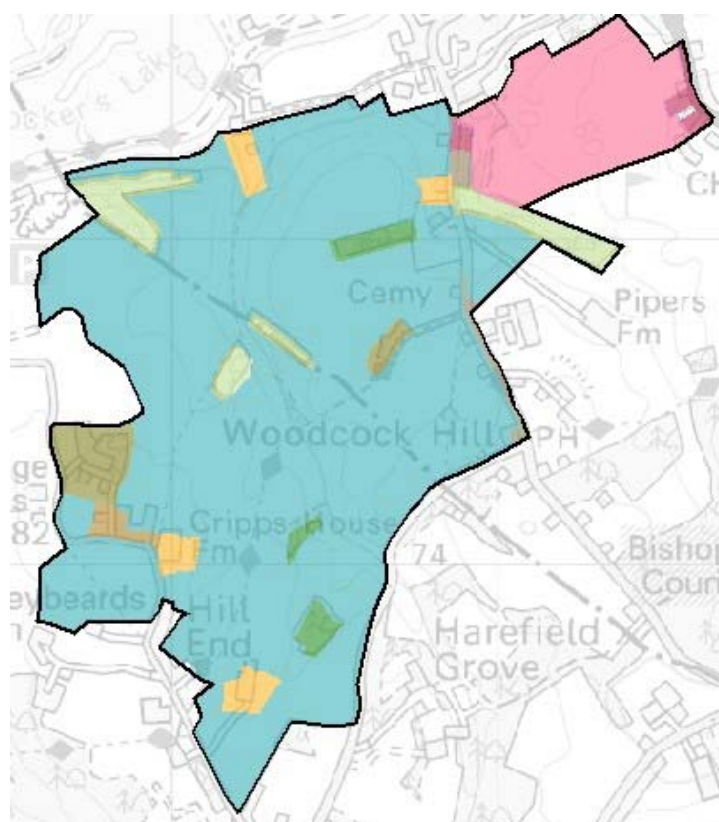
5. Duke of Westminster fields

This distinct landscape dates primarily to the 19th century and includes areas of Moor Park, now a golf course, and an extensive area of 19th century field systems originating from previous enclosed land around Stockers farm; it spans the Three Rivers segment of Hertfordshire into the borders of the London Borough of Hillingdon. It also includes several small areas of 18th and 19th century woodland. According to enclosure and tithe awards for the area, much of the land belonged to the Duke of Westminster of Moor Park. This area has historically been used as pasture land with only a small number of arable fields. There are five Grade II listed buildings in the area, most of which are associated with farmsteads. It thus represents one of the better preserved historic agricultural landscapes in the Colne Valley Park and is worthy of conservation. Archaeological sites for this area are mostly limited to find spots including several Palaeolithic flint scatters and a Roman pot. The archaeological potential for further discoveries would be moderate for this area based on past discoveries and potential for survival.



Area	236ha
Principal historic landscape	19 th century field systems golf course woodland
Historic Buildings	5
SMR Records	10 including Palaeolithic, Roman, Medieval and modern.
Designations	Green Belt except Batchworth settlement area Conservation area Stockers Lock

Figure 7: Duke of Westminster fields zone



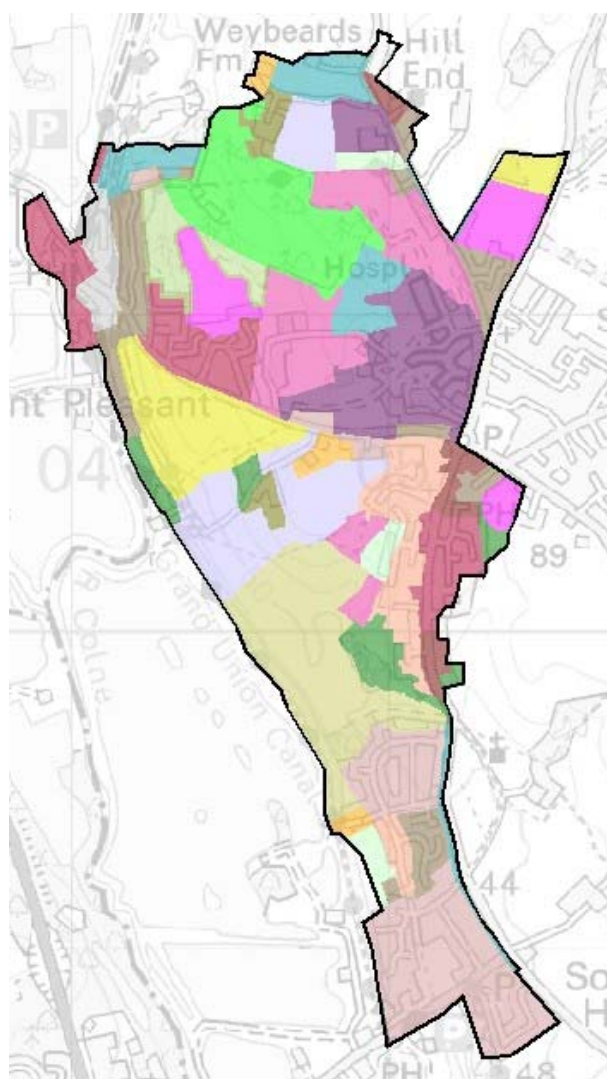
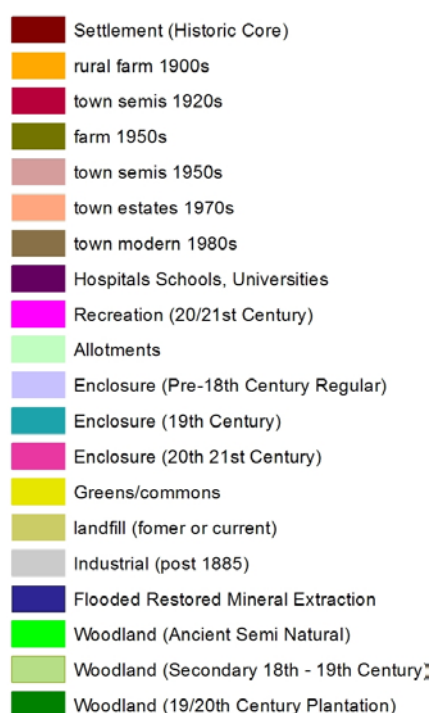
6. Harefield settlement

This landscape is one of the most varied in the London Borough of Hillingdon's section of the Colne Valley Park. There are areas of ancient moor land at Mount Pleasant; 19th century woodland at Old Park wood as well as a highly varied settled landscape. The historic core of Harefield consisted of small clumps of housing and isolated farmsteads fringing the old Harefield common – in the modern landscape approximately the area of Old Park wood down to Harefield hospital – before following the medieval path of Harefield road down to Newyears Green. In the 18th and 19th century this area was the location of the original Harefield Place on the site of the hospital. The twentieth century saw the development of the hospital along with some significant areas of housing in the 1950's and 1970's. Overall the area has significant historic landscape value which is worthy of conservation. This landscape has a comparatively wealthy dataset of HER/SMR information including several Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint scatters as well as early medieval mills and some areas of ridge and furrow south of Park wood. There is a moderate-high potential for below ground archaeological deposits based on the number of find spots and sites in the area.



Figure 8: Harefield settlement zone

Area	250ha
Principal historic landscape	1950's settlement secondary woodland hospitals commons
Historic Buildings	17
SMR Records	55 including Mesolithic, Neolithic, post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt except hospital



7. Chalfont – Denham parkland

This landscape belonged to a number of estates in the 18th and 19th century including the Way family of Denham Place and the Drummond's of Tile House. These historic estates have since become highly fragmented with areas of primarily modern landscape character including the 1950's settlement of Denham Green and Denham airfield, interspersed with small areas of pre 18th century field systems and historic parkland. This zone also contains significant areas of ancient and 18th century woodland in Denham parish. There are several historic parks still surviving including Chalfont Lodge and Denham Country Park, both of which are now golf courses as well as Denham Durdent Court and Denham Place. The combination of assets indicates significant historic landscape value. SMR data for this zone reveals a long period of human occupation in this area with finds and sites dating to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, Norman, medieval and modern periods plus the potential for good preservation within parkland and woodland indicating a high potential for further archaeological remains.

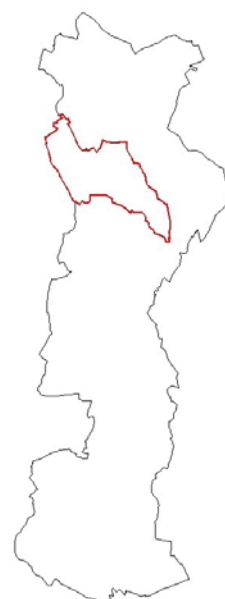
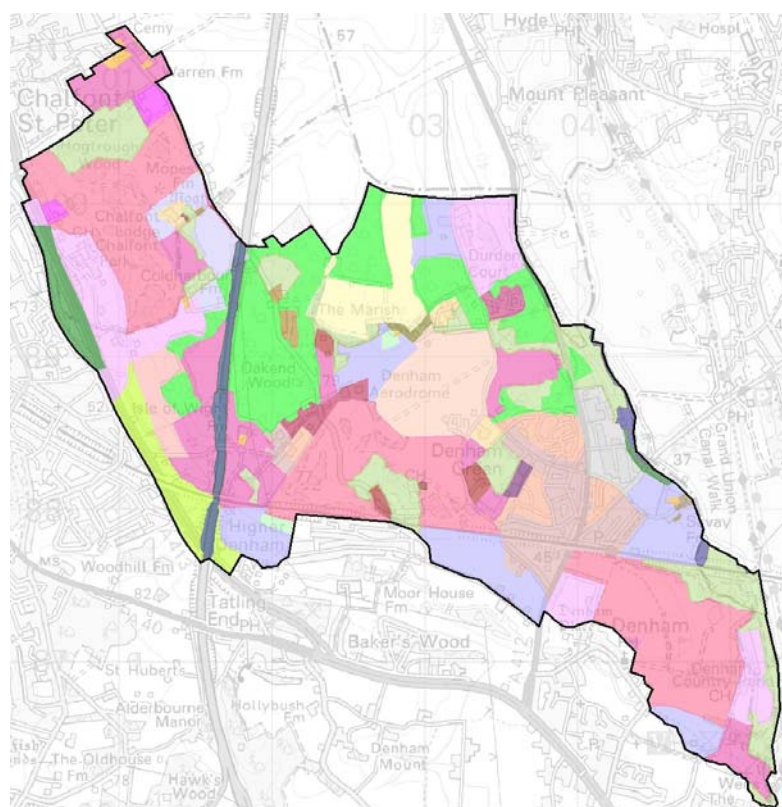


Figure 9: Chalfont to Denham parkland zone



Area	971ha
Principal historic landscape	Ancient woodland Secondary woodland Golf courses Historic parkland airfield
Historic Buildings	23
SMR Records	144 including Palaeolithic, Neolithic, bronze age and post medieval
Designations	SAM moat NW of Chalfont Lodge SAM Mound near Savay Farm Green Belt except Denham Green Village Notification Area – Denham village; north of Denham Green Village EH Parks Denham Place Conservation area – Denham, 1970.



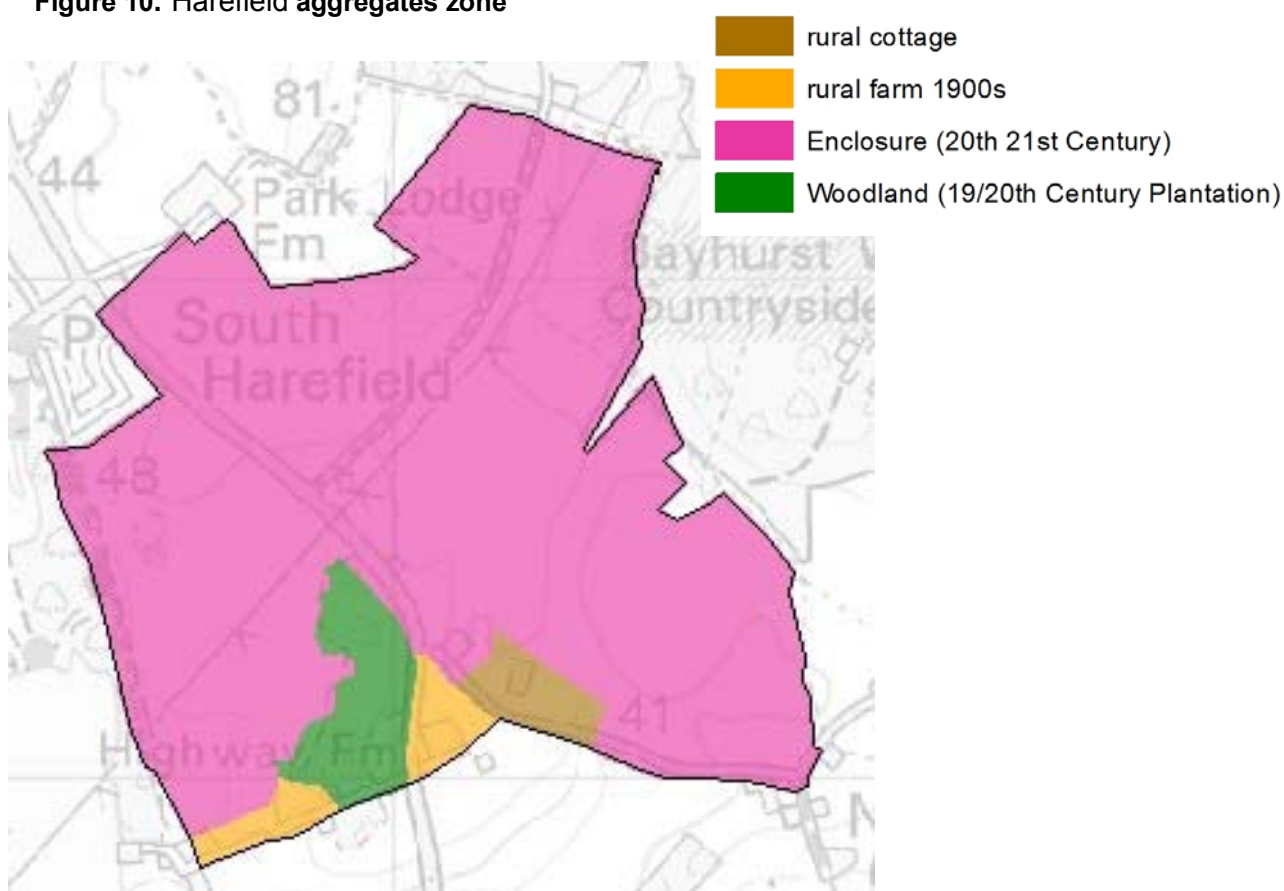
8. Harefield Aggregates

This discrete zone differs greatly from the surrounding countryside and consists of an extended area of extraction dating to the 1940's and 1950's. Unlike other areas of the Colne Valley Park, however, this landscape was probably unsuitable for the creation of lakes due in part to the underlying geology. During the 1970's it was used as landfill and is currently characterised as 20th century fields in use for the grazing of livestock which are not of significant historic landscape value. There are several SMR records for this landscape, primarily medieval and post-medieval in date and also some isolated prehistoric flint scatters but the archaeological potential for this area would be low due to the extraction and landfill process affecting below ground deposits.



Area	141ha
Principal historic landscape	20 th century field systems disused mineral sites
Historic Buildings	3
SMR Records	11 including Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and modern
Designations	Green Belt

Figure 10: Harefield aggregates zone

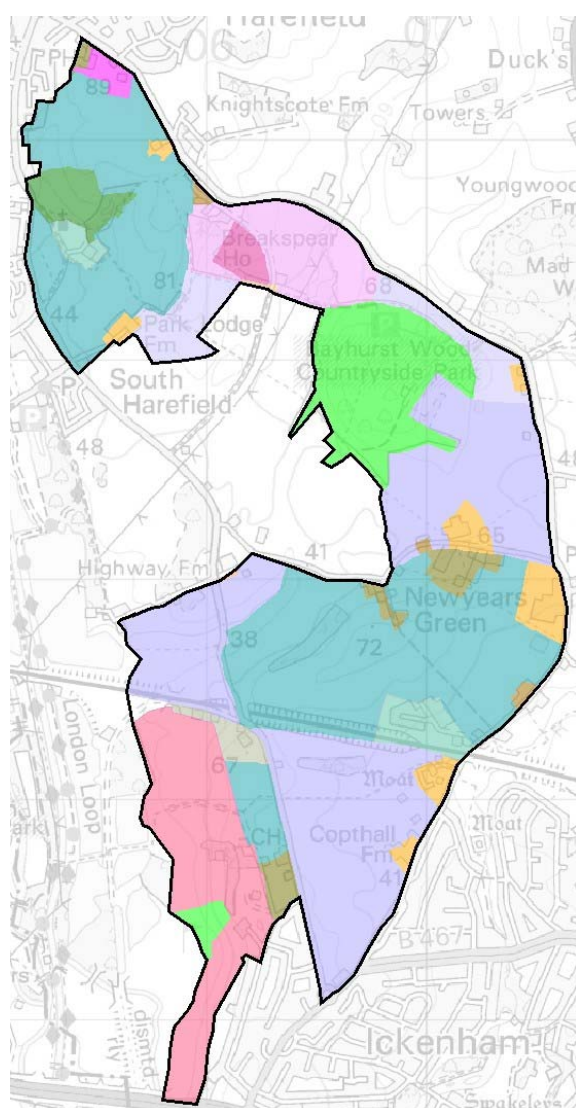


9. Newyears Green – Breakspear House fields

This landscape primarily consists of pre 18th and 19th century field systems and is one of the best preserved areas in the Colne Valley Park. This zone also contains some ancient woodland at the highly distinctive Bayhurst Country Park, which forms part of the Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve consisting of four woods separated by modern landscapes and is a SSSI in itself. Bayhurst once formed part of the Great Forest of Middlesex but by the 12th century it had been granted to the Hospitallers. In the 16th century it became part of the Newdegate estate of Moorhall and remained under their ownership until the 1950's when it became part of the Nature Reserve. There are also two surviving historic parks in this zone – the 14th century site of Breakspear House and the 19th century Harefield Place, now used as a golf course. SMR records for this zone are predominately medieval and modern with several examples of Mesolithic flint scatters. The archaeological potential for this area is moderate to high for below ground deposits. The significant numbers of find spots indicate the possibility of one or more sites in the area. There are also several medieval manors and historic houses in this zone and the surrounding areas indicating the potential for further remains from the historic period.



Figure 11: Newyears Green-Breakspear House fields zone



Area	489ha
Principal historic landscape	Pre 18 th century field systems 19 th century field systems ancient woodland historic parkland golf course
Historic Buildings	12
SMR Records	25 including Mesolithic, Norman, modern
Designations	SAM Brackenbury moat Green Belt SSSI Bayhurst Wood

- rural cottage
- rural country house
- Settlement (Historic Core)
- rural farm 1900s
- town semis 1920s
- farm 1950s
- Government and Civic areas
- Recreation (20/21st Century)
- Golf Courses
- Enclosure (Pre18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')
- Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)
- Enclosure (19th Century)
- Enclosure (20th 21st Century)
- Parkland (16th 19th Centuries)
- Utilities
- Woodland (Ancient Semi Natural)
- Woodland (19/20th Century Plantation)

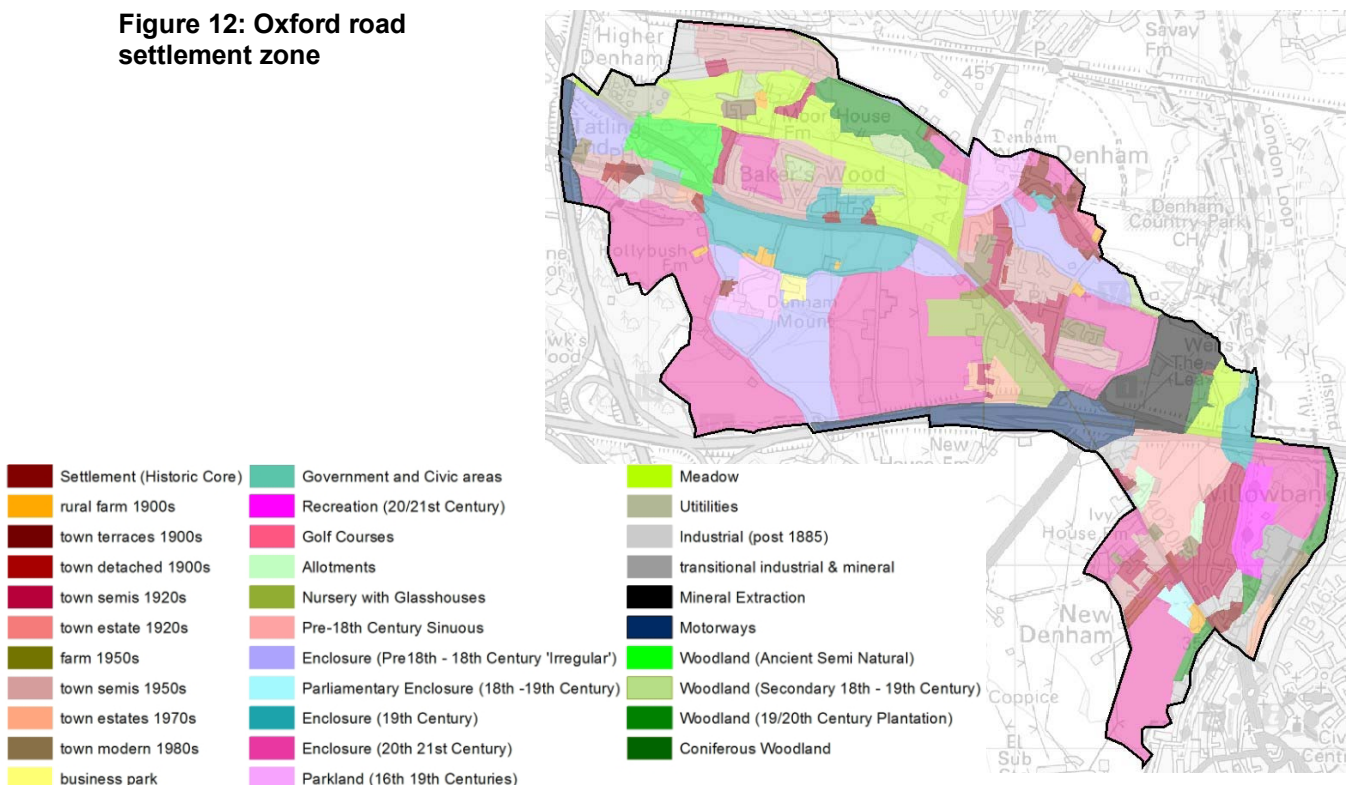
10. Oxford Road settlement

This zone incorporates a corridor of landscape along the Oxford Road, the major highway through the Park from medieval and perhaps Roman times. Included in this zone are the small settlements of Tatling End, Higher Denham, Denham Village and New Denham all of which border the road. It is primarily a twentieth century landscape bordered by relics of older field systems and the historic core of Denham village. The only historic parkland in this zone is Denham Mount. There are, however, some significant areas of surviving meadowland along the river Misbourne. Apart from these isolated areas the zone's historic landscape significance is limited. There are a high number of HER/SMR records for this area reflecting the amount of development for housing as well as evaluation prior to the construction of the motorway indicating a prolonged period of human habitation in the area. The vast majority of these records date to the medieval and post medieval period, especially around Denham village while other records include the path of the Roman road, several Palaeolithic flint scatters, a Mesolithic flint working site and a Bronze Age funerary site at the Lea quarry site. Although there is significant amount of modern development in this area the majority are modern field systems, it is unlikely that it would seriously affect below ground deposits and the excavations at the Lea quarry site indicate the high potential for prehistoric and Roman remains in the area.



Area	670ha
Principal historic landscape	Meadows 20 th century field systems pre 18 th century field systems mineral sites settlement
Historic Buildings	72
SMR Records	114 including Mesolithic, post medieval, modern
Designations	Green Belt except Higher Denham Conservation area Denham village Notification areas Denham Mount; Willowbank area EH Denham Place

Figure 12: Oxford road settlement zone



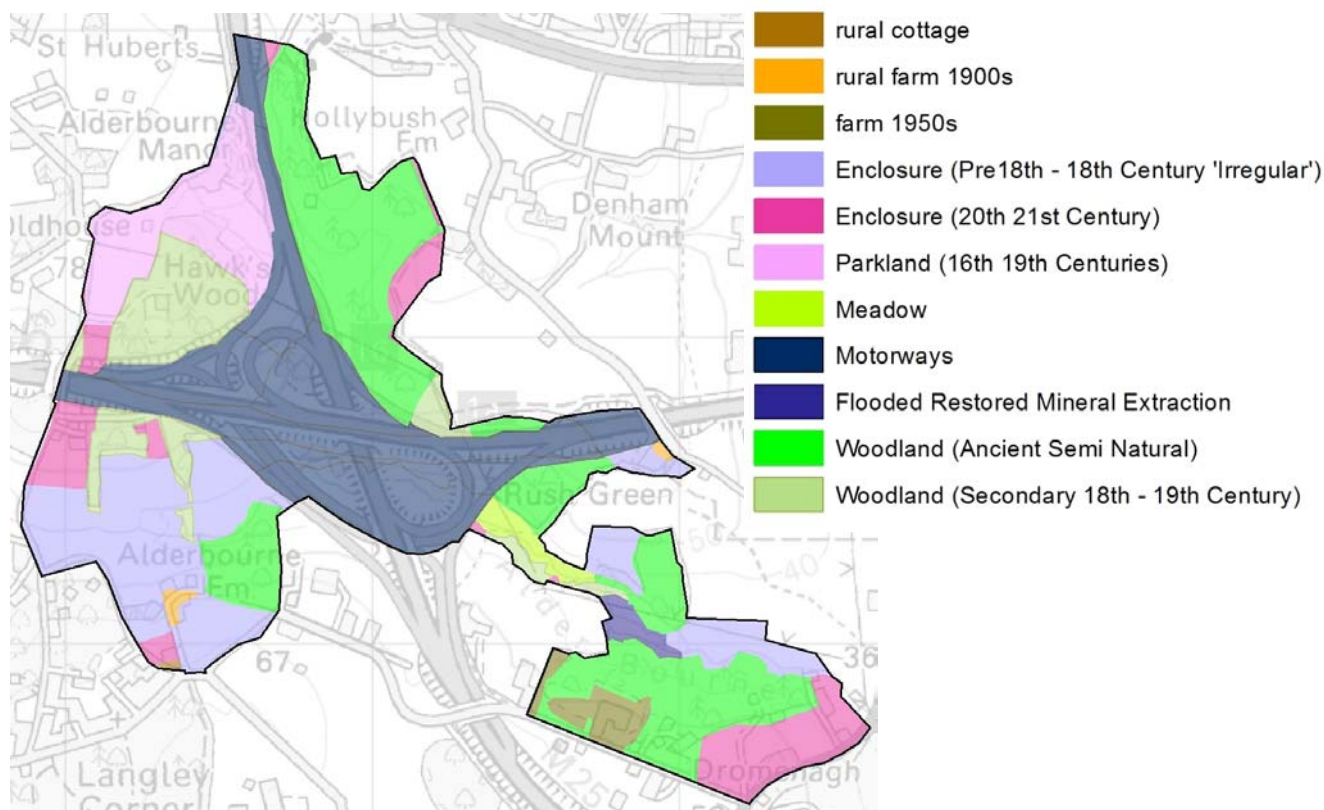
11. Alderbourne Manor woods

Although sub-divided by the M40/M25 junction this zone is characterised by the significant areas of ancient woodland surrounding Alderbourne Manor that reach down into Iwer parish. Alderbourne Manor was granted to the Benedictines along with Ankerwycke in the 12th century and remained in their hands until the dissolution of the Monasteries when it changed hands several times over the next two centuries before becoming part of the Way estate in the late 18th century. This zone can be characterised primarily by the areas of pre 18th century field systems bordering ancient woodland. Small areas of twentieth century fields and the large motorway junction intrude on this landscape detracting from an otherwise significant historic landscape. The majority of HER/SMR records for this zone are located under the path of the motorway and include several Palaeolithic and Neolithic sites as well as several medieval pottery kiln sites. Overall, this landscape should be considered of moderately high potential for further archaeological finds.



Area	248ha
Principal historic landscape	Ancient woodland Historic parkland Motorway
Historic Buildings	2
SMR Records	11 including Palaeolithic, Neolithic, post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt Notification area Alderbourne manor

Figure 13: Alderbourne Manor woods zone



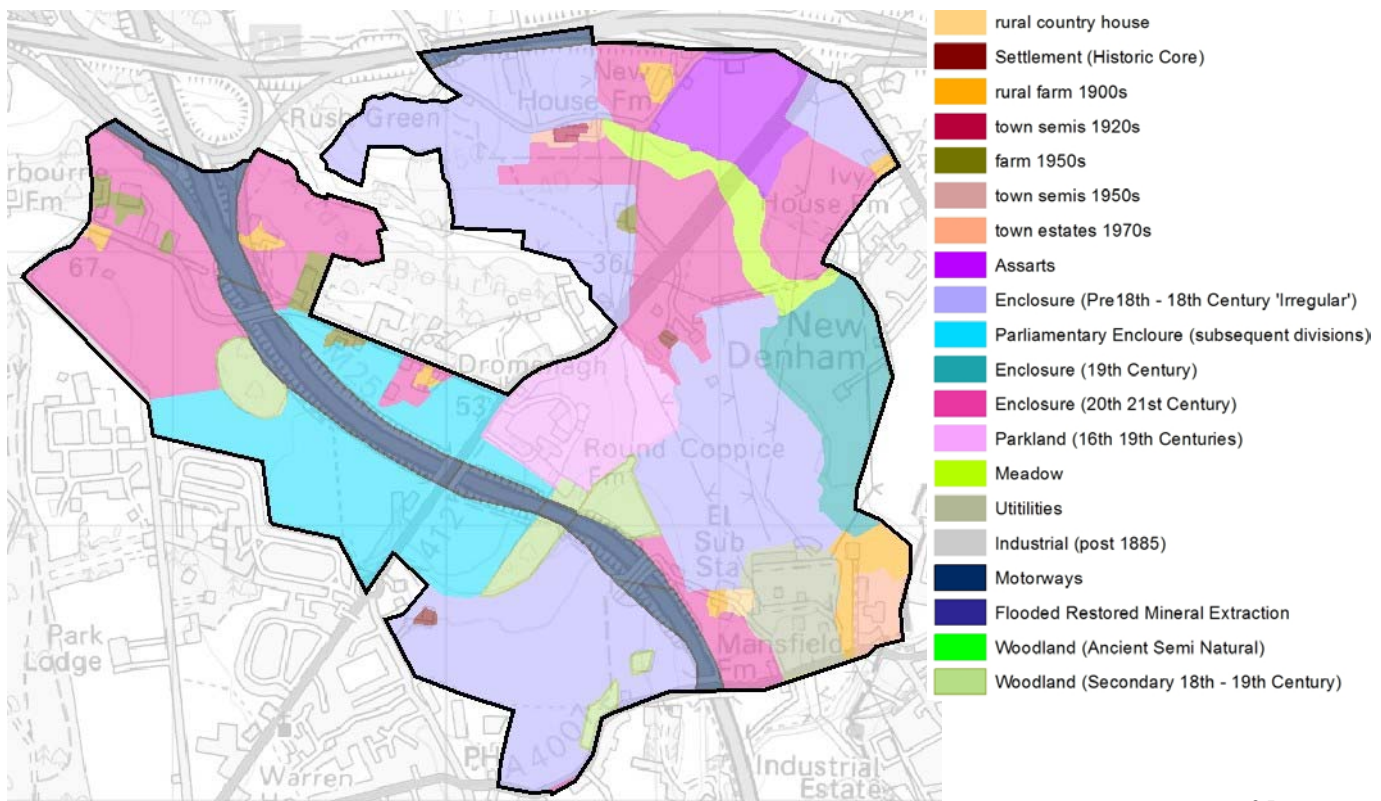
12. Southlands Manor fields

This landscape is defined in part by the boundaries of the Colne Valley Park as well as areas of settlement and primarily comprises of older field systems. There are several large areas of pre 18th century field systems defined by irregular boundary lines as well as a significantly large area of Parliamentary enclosure bordering the path of the M25. These field systems date to the early 19th century enclosure awards for Iwer parish and are characterised by ruler straight field boundaries dividing previously open areas across Iwer Heath. There are also a number of medieval drove roads running through this landscape that were straightened as a result of Parliamentary enclosure. Overall the area has low/moderate historic landscape significance. The majority of HER/SMR records for this landscape are located in the pre 18th century field systems and include several Mesolithic and Neolithic find spots and a possible Mesolithic flint working site at Sandstone, Iwer. There is a moderate potential for medieval archaeological finds based on the proximity to several important medieval manors. The presence of Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic artefacts and in-situ sites on the eastern edge of this zone and the proximity to the nationally important Three Ways Wharf indicate the potential for further important archaeological finds from this period in the area.



Area	501ha
Principal historic landscape	Pre 18 th century field systems Parliamentary field systems Historic parkland 20 th century field systems
Historic Buildings	7
SMR Records	32 including Mesolithic, Neolithic, Norman and modern
Designations	Green Belt Notification area Mansfield farm area; Round Coppice farm area

Figure 14: Southlands Manor fields zone

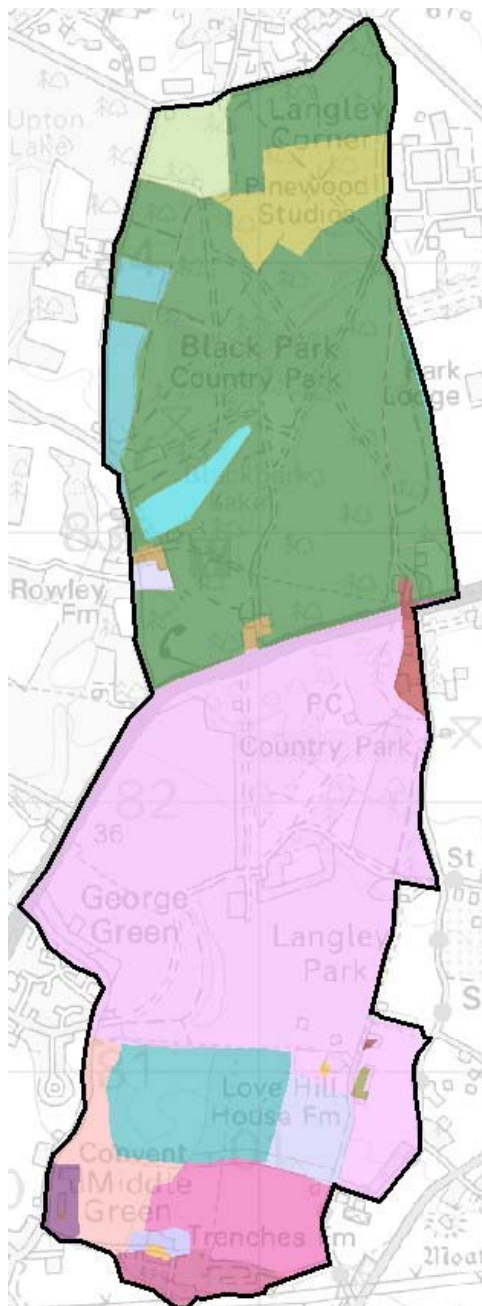


13. Langley parkland

This landscape is defined by the extent of the historic Langley Park boundaries including Black Park. Langley park originated as a medieval and Tudor deerpark. The Harvey family owned Langley in the 18th and 19th centuries, the gardens are laid out in the 18th century landscape style similar to Stowe and Stourhead with sweeping vistas interspersed with classical structures. The area is now managed as two country parks; Black Park is a primarily forested area with a number of avenues running through it while Langley comprises the historic house and gardens. The majority of records for this area relate to the current house and gardens with its associated classical structures. The zone is of high historic landscape sensitivity. The potential for further medieval and modern remains would be high for this area principally regarding the possibility of earlier park and gardens beneath the current landscape.



Figure 15: Langley parkland zone



Area	507ha
Principal historic landscape	Historic parkland Coniferous woodland Ancient woodland
Historic Buildings	11
SMR Records	44 including post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt Archaeological Notification area Registered Historic Park and Garden

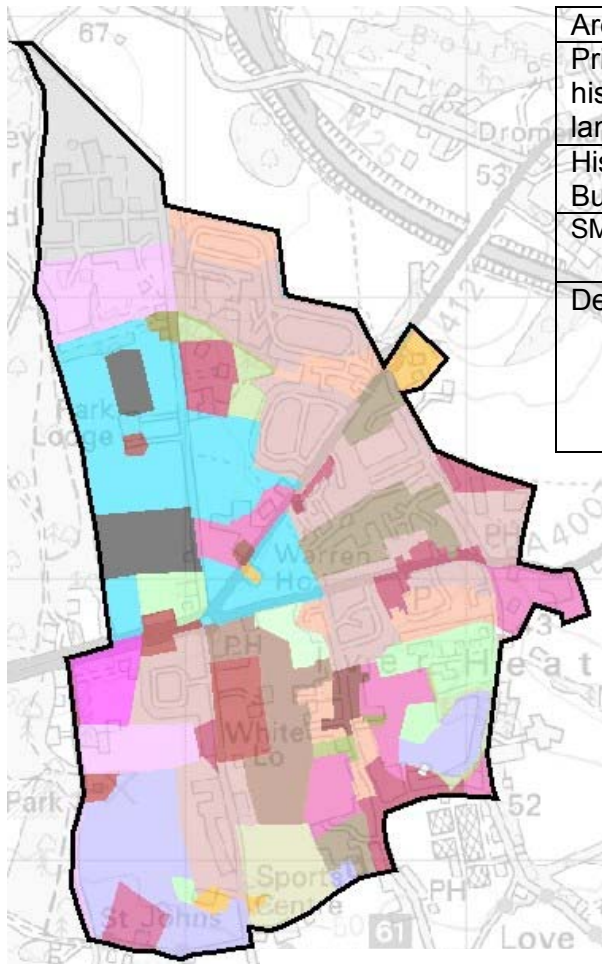
- rural cottage
- Settlement (Historic Core)
- rural farm 1900s
- town detached 1900s
- farm 1950s
- Hospitals Schools, Universities
- Caravan/Mobile Home Park
- Recreation (20/21st Century)
- Pre-18th Century Sinuous
- Enclosure (Pre18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')
- Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)
- Parliamentary Enclosure (subsequent divisions)
- Enclosure (19th Century)
- Enclosure (20th 21st Century)
- Parkland (16th 19th Centuries)
- Heaths
- Rowing Lake
- Water Reservoir
- Woodland (Secondary 18th - 19th Century)
- Orchard
- Coniferous Woodland

14. Iver Heath settlement

This landscape comprises of primarily twentieth century settlement built on the site of Iver Heath. There are significant areas of 1950's development radiating out from the Five Points roundabout with later infilling of smaller open areas during the 1970's and modern periods resulting in a series of housing stretching down from Pinewood Studios to Love Green. There is a small area of Parliamentary enclosure in the centre of the zone currently divided by aggregates sites. The historic landscape significance is low. HER/SMR records for this landscape are almost exclusively medieval and modern in date and correspond to a number of historic farms and houses in the area as well as Pinewood Studios itself. The ancient borders of Iver Heath and the limits of Langley Park in the west define this landscape. Medieval and modern remains primarily represent this zone but the potential for further archaeological finds is low to moderate due to the level of development in the area.



Figure 16: Iver Heath settlement zone



Area	344ha
Principal historic landscape	1950's housing modern housing parliamentary enclosure
Historic Buildings	3 Grade II
SMR Records	19 including roman, post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt except Iver Heath town, Notification area Pinewood studios; warren house, white lodge

Settlement (Historic Core)	town modern 1980s	Enclosure (20th 21st Century)
rural farm 1900s	Caravan/Mobile Home Park	Parkland (16th 19th Centuries)
town terraces 1900s	Recreation (20/21st Century)	Industrial (post 1885)
town detached 1900s	Allotments	Mineral Extraction
town semis 1920s	Nursery with Glasshouses	Mineral Extraction (Disused)
farm 1950s	Enclosure (Pre18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')	Woodland (Secondary 18th - 19th Century)
town semis 1950s	Parliamentary Enclosure (subsequent divisions)	Orchard
town estates 1970s	Pony Paddocks	

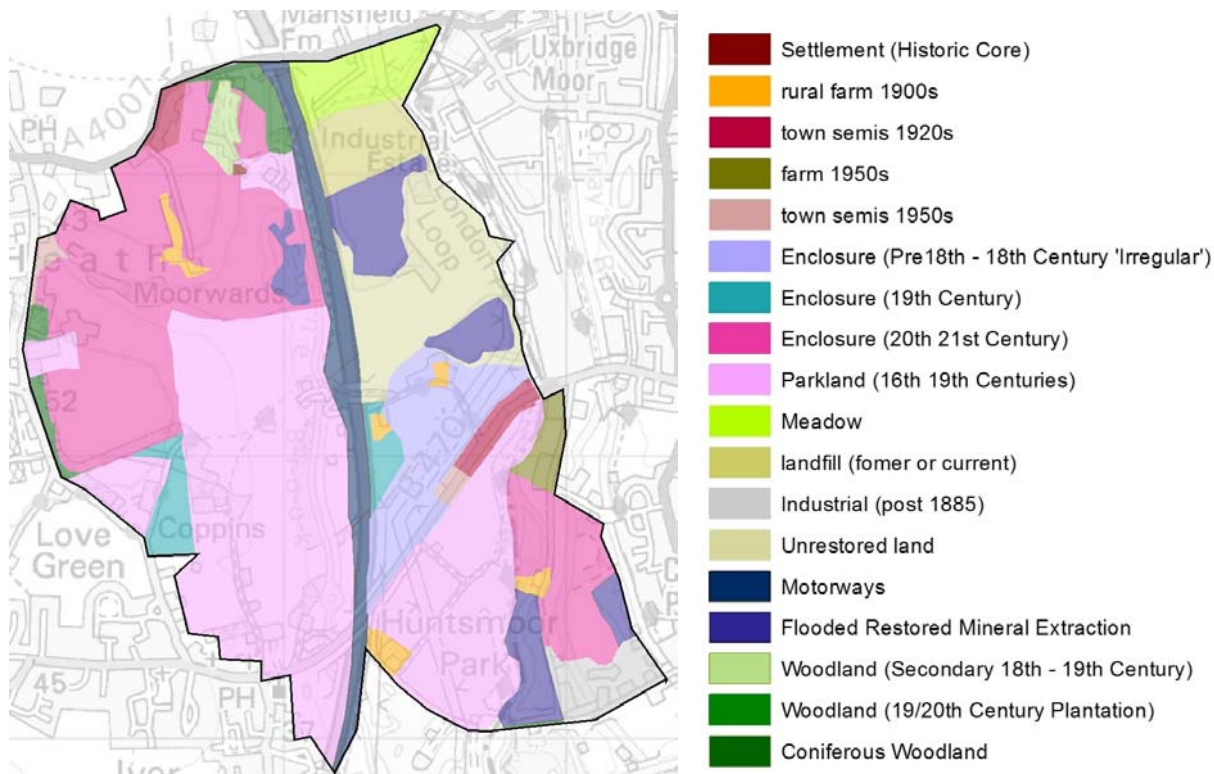
15. Huntsmoor – Delaford parkland

This landscape zone is defined primarily by the two historic parks that survive today and their historic origins, the landscape is largely based on 18th and 19th century characterisation types. Delaford Park, lying just north of Iver is the site of an 11th century manor, while the present house and garden date to the 19th century. The present park is somewhat fragmented. Huntsmoor Park, on the other hand, survives relatively intact from the 19th century at least. Like Delaford it stands on the site of an older manor, the present house was probably built around the 18th century. Victoria County History lists it as the property of Christopher Tower, a major landowner in the area. These two parks lie in relative isolation in a largely modern setting consisting of current and flooded mineral sites and 20th century enclosure in the north derived from the division of older field systems. The zone is divided by the M25, the only characterisation type that does not follow older boundary lines. Isolated areas of woodland also survive in this zone dating back to the 18th century. The historic landscape is significant and their potential for further archaeological sites is moderate to high, in particular for Mesolithic finds in relation to the sites at Iver and Mansfield Farm.



Area	347ha
Principal historic landscape	Parkland 20 th century enclosure mineral sites
Historic Buildings	10
SMR Records	Approximately 50 Mesolithic occupation site, Mansfield farm Mesolithic occupation site, Iver Delaford Park Huntsmoor Park
Designations	County/London Wildlife Site Huntsmoor Park

Figure 17: Huntsmoor to Delaford parkland zone



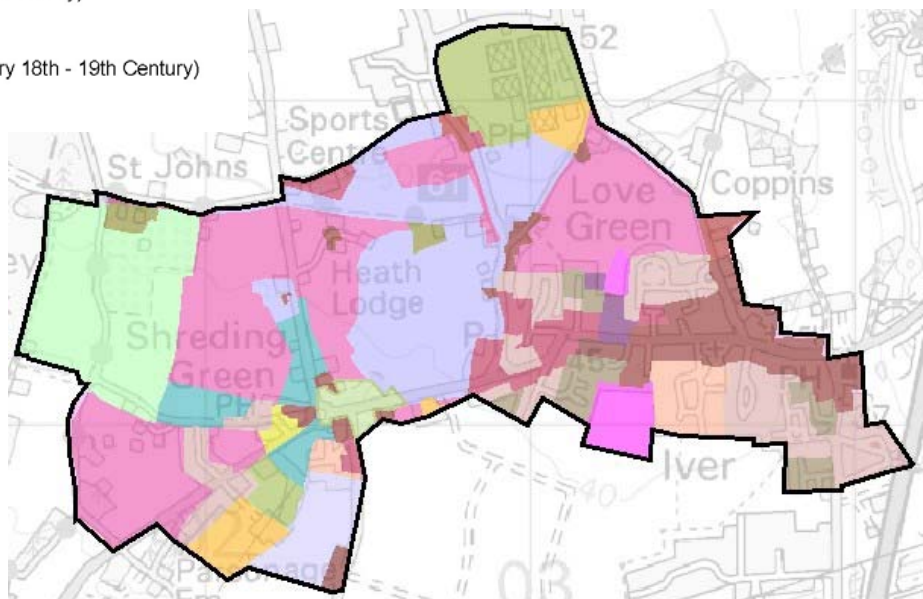
16. Iver – Shredding Green settlement

This landscape is characterised by the linear settlement of Iver and includes Shredding Green to the west and Love Green to the north. The boundaries for this zone are defined primarily by the extent of the settlement areas. There was already an established core to the three villages by the 1820's OS 2" Surveyors maps while Iver itself was mentioned in Domesday. The name 'Iver' originates from the Saxon 'Evreham' further indicating its origin was earlier than the 11th century, and the parish church contains Saxon fabric. The twentieth century saw rapid expansion in Iver along the path of the road towards Shredding Green during the 1920's while in the 1950's development began to move away from the main road. Modern development has largely been confined to infilling of areas between earlier housing estates or through small additions to the outskirts of the town. There is also a significant area of orchard to the west of the zone not linked with Langley Park. Overall the historic landscape is rather fragmented but with some significant survivals. The majority of HER/SMR records are medieval and modern and are largely confined to Iver itself although there are a small number of Saxon find spots in Iver churchyard. There is a moderate-high potential for further medieval and Saxon remains in this area, which may help to inform about the Saxon period in the Colne Valley Park.



Area	238ha
Principal historic landscape	Historic settlement 1950's housing pre 18 th century field systems 20 th century field systems orchard
Historic Buildings	15
SMR Records	30 including post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt except Iver core Conservation area – Iver, 1982.

Figure 18:
Iver-
Shredding
Green
settlement
zone



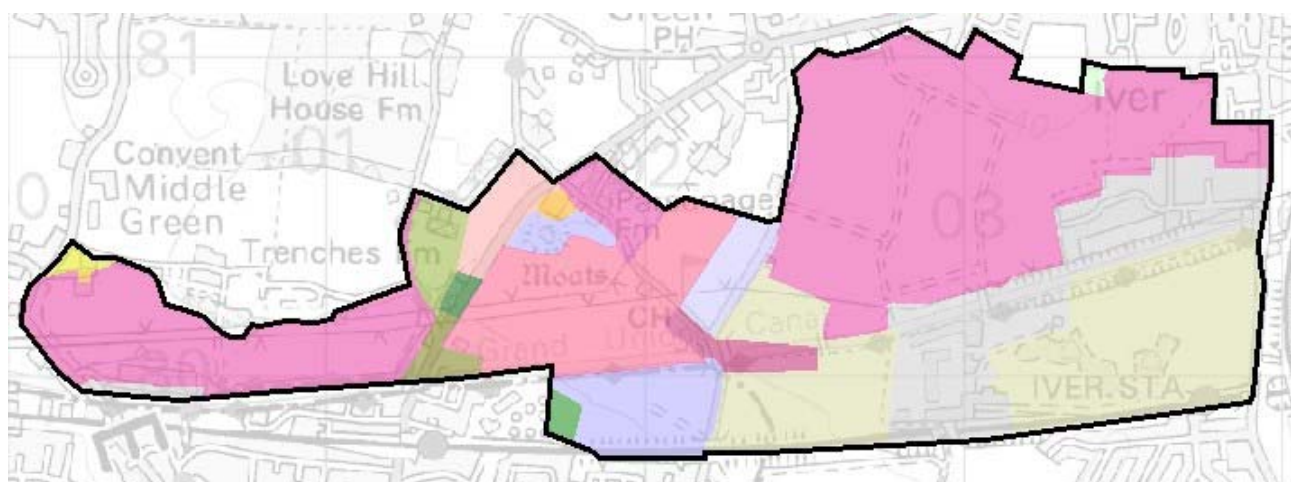
17. Slough Branch industrial

This landscape is defined by the industrialisation that has developed along the path of the Great Western railway (1880's) and the Slough Branch of the Grand Union Canal (1900's). A number of former extraction sites are recorded for the extraction of clay for Langley Brick works. This is an essentially twentieth century constructed landscape with modern field systems and a golf course in the north of the zone acting as a buffer between the industrial area and the historic zones of Iver and Langley Park. It has little historic landscape significance other than the canal and railway running through it. There are several Palaeolithic and Neolithic sites recorded along the paths of the railway and canal but the potential for further archaeological discoveries for this zone may be quite low due to the level of extraction that would have affected much of the below ground archaeology.

Area	289ha
Principal historic landscape	20 th century field systems industrial golf course disused mineral sites
Historic Buildings	3
SMR Records	80 including Palaeolithic Neolithic, post medieval and modern
Designations	Green Belt except Ridgeway estate



Figure 19:
Slough branch
industrial zone



rural farm 1900s	Pre-18th Century Sinuous	Industrial (post 1885)
farm 1950s	Enclosure (Pre-18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')	Unrestored land
Caravan/Mobile Home Park	Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)	Woodland (19/20th Century Plantation)
Golf Courses	Enclosure (20th 21st Century)	Coniferous Woodland
Allotments	Parkland (16th 19th Centuries)	
Nursery with Glasshouses	Greens/Commons	

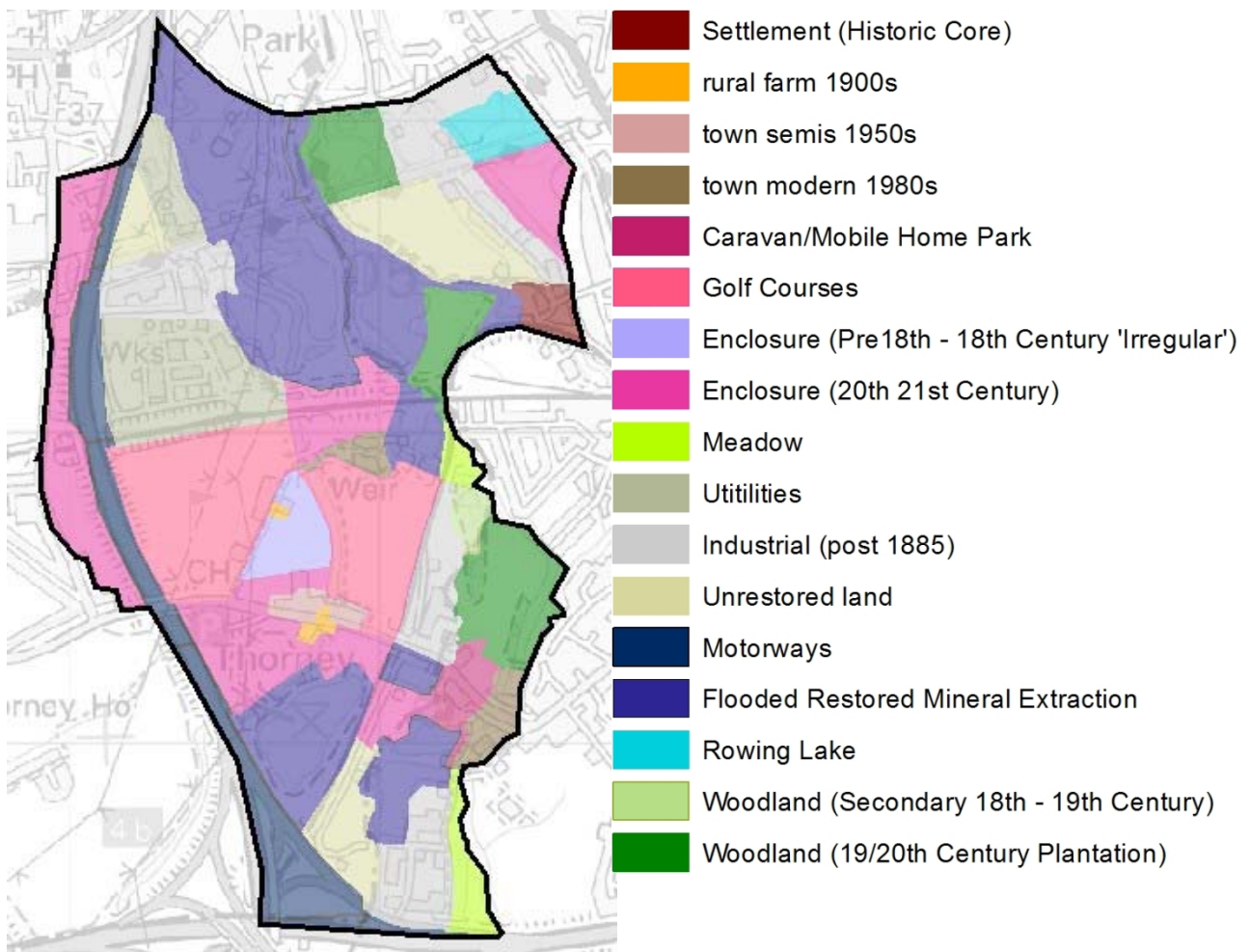
18. West Drayton aggregates

The Colne Valley Park boundary and the existing road network comprising of the modern M25 and the medieval Packet Boat lane, define the boundaries for this landscape. This zone is primarily twentieth century in character consisting of large area of flooded mineral sites, industrial zones, motorways and modern field systems of little historic significance. There are several significant archaeological sites in this zone including several prehistoric ditches and Mesolithic and Iron Age sites at Thorney Farm and a possible Saxon battlefield at Thorney Island. The potential for further archaeological evidence will be limited by the high level of extraction and industrialisation in this area.

Area	337ha
Principal historic landscape	Flooded mineral sites Industrial sites Modern woodland Golf course 20 th century field systems
Historic Buildings	3
SMR Records	70 including Mesolithic, Neolithic, post medieval and modern
Designations	SAM Two ditches at Thorney Green Belt



Figure 20: West Drayton aggregates zone



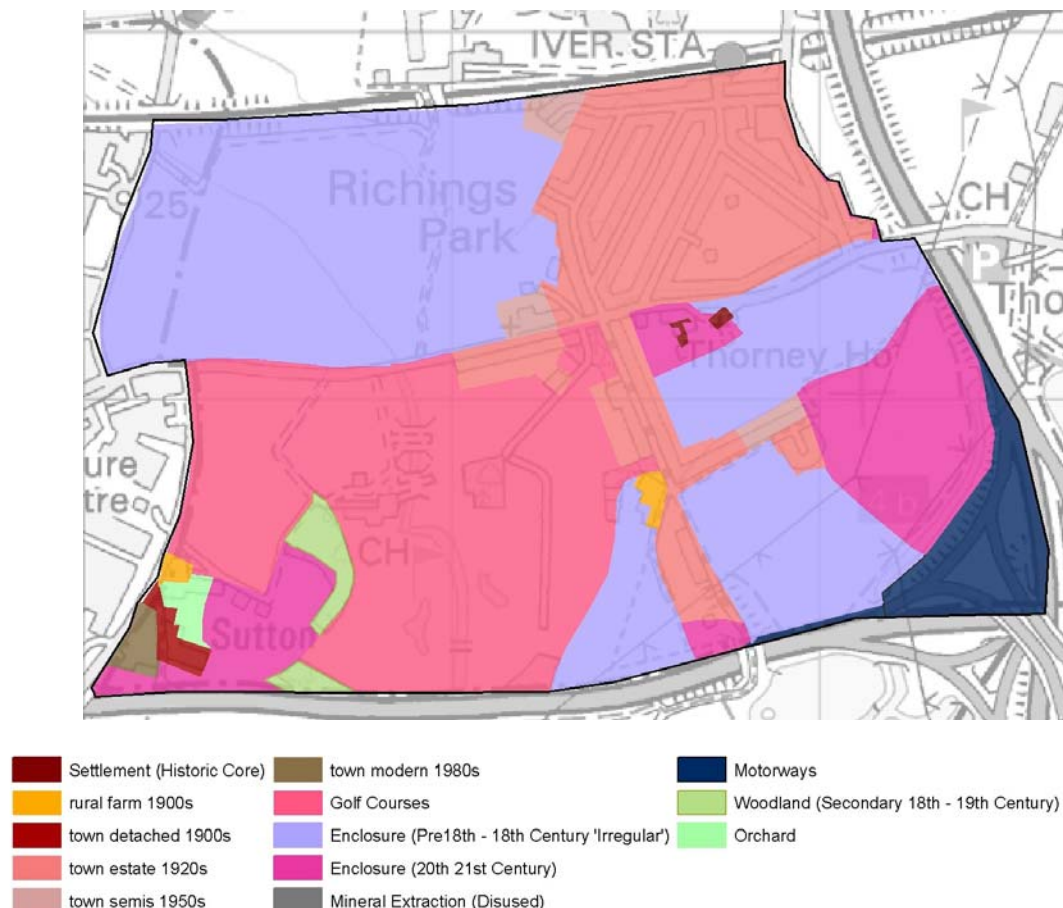
19. Richings Park estate

This landscape is defined by the historic boundaries of Richings Park estate. Since the 1920's the estate has been gradually broken down into the large 1920's housing estate, the 1950's golf course at Richings Park itself and several small areas of surviving pre 18th century field systems reducing the area's historic landscape interest. The potential for surviving archaeological finds is moderate. Previous finds include Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters and to the east of this zone lies one of the few known Saxon sites at Thorney, suggesting the potential for further archaeological finds. Only a small number of buildings are listed in this landscape including sites at Sutton and Thorney.



Area	341ha
Principal historic landscape	Pre 18 th century field systems Golf course 1920's large housing estate
Historic Buildings	4 Grade II
SMR Records	55 including Mesolithic and post medieval
Designations	Green Belt Notification area Richings golf course

Figure 21: Richings Park estate zone



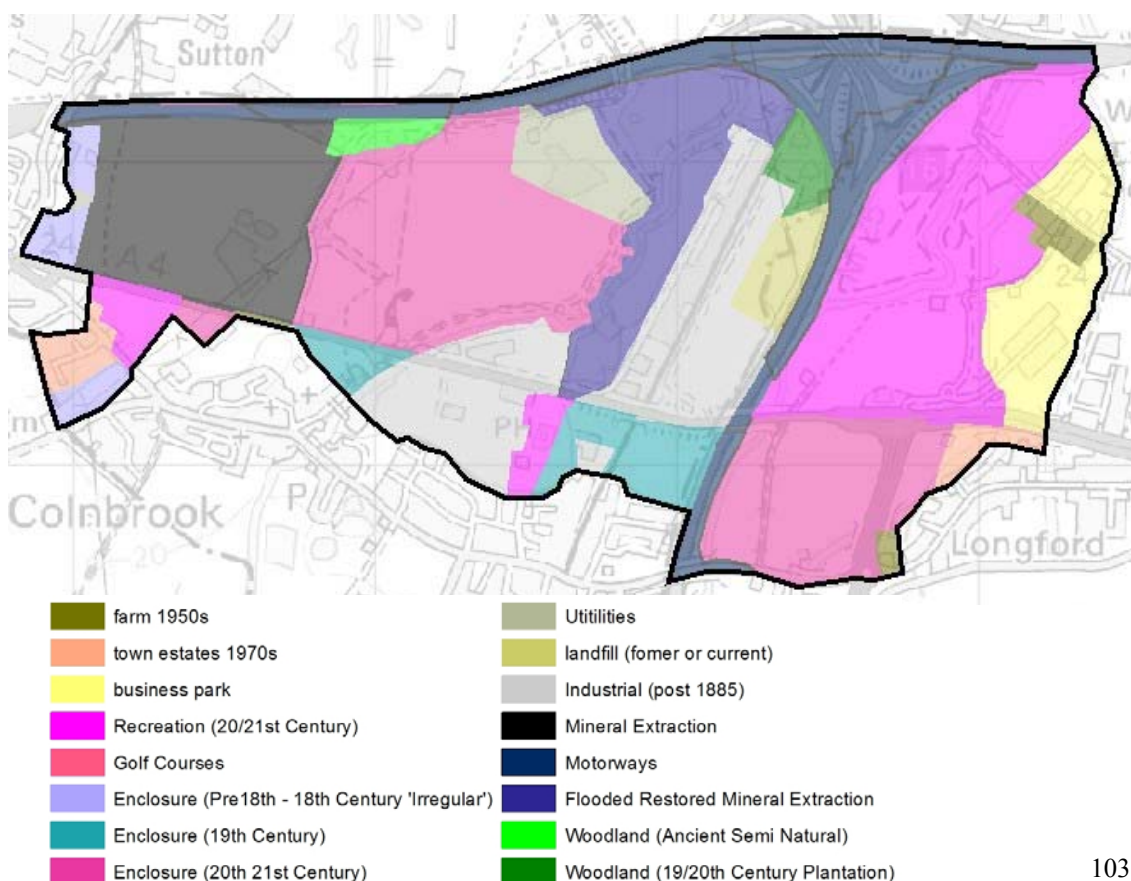
20. Colnbrook Industrial

This landscape has been significantly altered through aggregates extraction and the construction of the motorway network in the 1970's and 1980's. It has nothing of historic landscape significance. To the east of the M25, the landscape primarily consists of modern field systems and a large area of recreational ground over what was the last areas of Harmondsworth Moor. To the west of the M25 the landscape comprises large areas of current and former aggregates sites as well as industrial areas. The landscape was easily accessible via the motorway, the Colnbrook bypass and the now disused railway. This landscape contains comparatively few recorded archaeological sites but the Neolithic Stanwell Cursus and associated finds are present within this zone. The importance of this Cursus to the surrounding landscape indicates a high potential for further archaeological finds in this area east of the M25.



Area	437ha
Principal historic landscape	Recreation Motorways Mineral sites Disused mineral sites industrial
Historic Buildings	-
SMR Records	32 including Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic - Stanwell Cursus
Designations	Green Belt

Figure 22: Colnbrook industrial zone



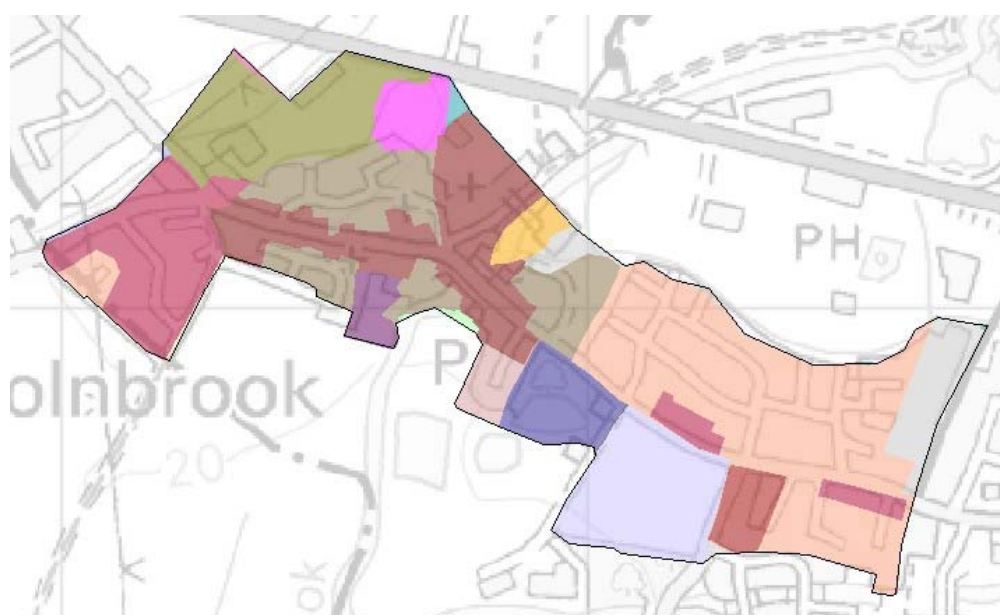
21. Colnbrook with Poyle settlement

The settlement area of Colnbrook and the northern end of Poyle defines this landscape from the surrounding open and industrial character zones. The settlement of Colnbrook dates to the late 18th century with the granting of the Colnbrook Turnpike Trust. The increased traffic along this road then led to the growth of this settlement. Modern settlement areas around Poyle are also included, although the large industrial trading estates are not. There are numerous medieval and post medieval records for this period including over 30 grade II listings, however, records dating to earlier periods are scarce despite recent development in the area. The lack of prior archaeological knowledge and the size of the zone would indicate a low to moderate potential for prehistoric finds in the area.



Area	73ha
Principal historic landscape	Historic settlement 1970's housing modern housing
Historic Buildings	31
SMR Records	23 post medieval
Designations	Green Belt

Figure 23: Colnbrook with Poyle settlement zone



Settlement (Historic Core)	town semis 1950s	Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)
rural farm 1900s	town estates 1970s	Enclosure (19th Century)
town detached 1900s	town modern 1980s	Industrial (post 1885)
town semis 1920s	Hospitals Schools, Universities	Flooded Restored Mineral Extraction
farm 1950s	Recreation (20/21st Century)	Orchard

22. Wraysbury aggregates and reservoirs

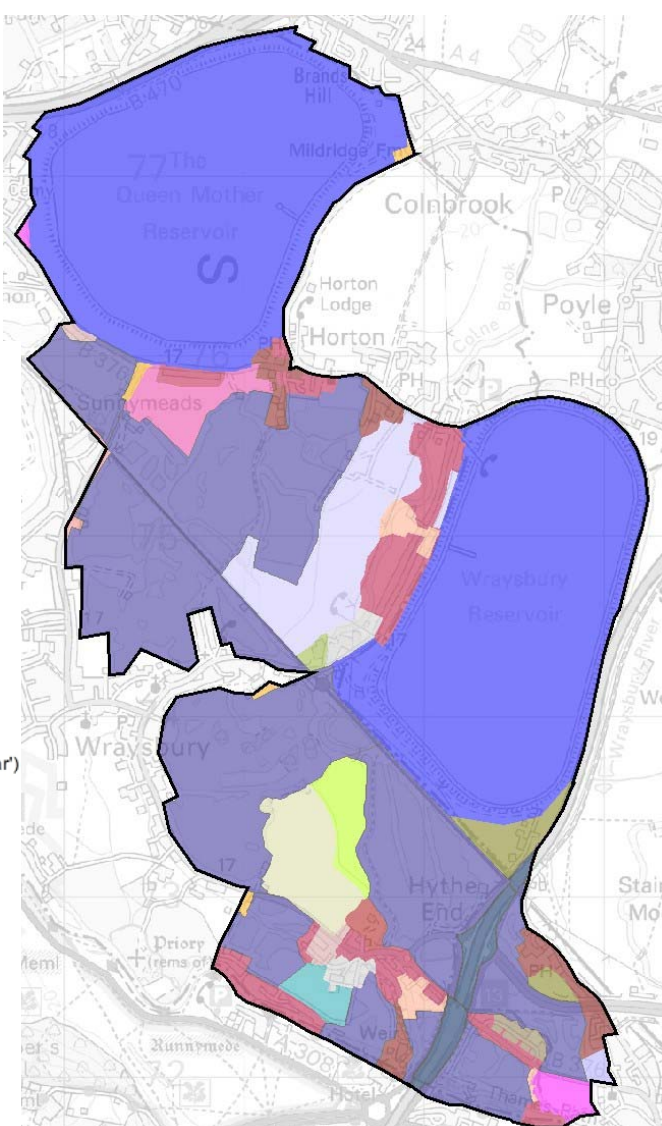
This landscape is defined by the extensive series of reservoirs and flooded mineral sites that cover most of Wraysbury and Horton parishes. Although modern, arguably these are of significant historic landscape value in relation to the development of London's metropolitan infrastructure. Prior to extraction much of this landscape was characterised as pre 18th century field systems with small areas of historic settlement around Horton, Hyde End and Staines. Mesolithic finds in this area are rare, however there are a number of later finds dating to the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. The site of the Neolithic causewayed camp at Yeoveney is included in this zone where the present Wraysbury reservoir is situated. However, the potential for further archaeological discoveries is quite low for this area due to the extent of aggregates extraction combined

with the two large reservoirs that cover the majority of the zone.



Area	1201ha
Principal historic landscape	Reservoirs Flooded mineral sites
Historic Buildings	13
SMR Records	75 including roman, post medieval and modern
Designations	SAM Ankerwycke Priory (SAM No. 9) Green Belt

Figure 24: Wraysbury aggregates and reservoirs zone



23. Horton – Poyle Industrial

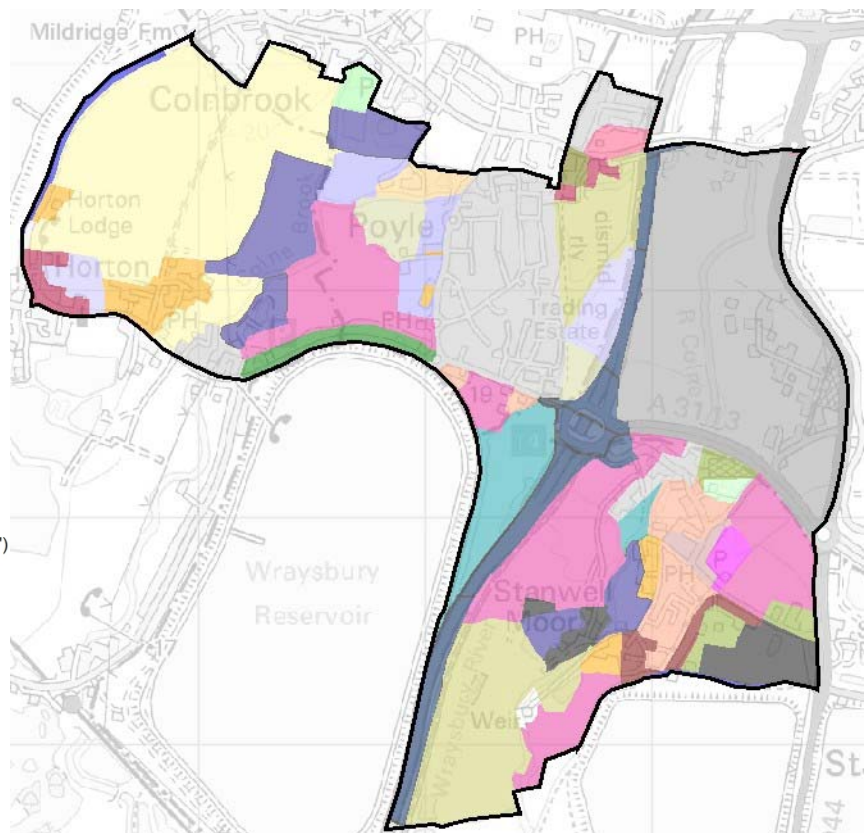
This zone is defined by the high industrialisation and development that has been undertaken in this area, it is bordered in the south and west by the line of reservoirs and lakes and in the north by the settlement zone of Colnbrook. To the west of the zone there is a large area of prairie fields used as arable land while the east is comprised of industrial sites along with current and former aggregates sites. The location of Heathrow just to the east of this zone has no doubt had an effect on the increased development. It has little historic landscape significance. Previous archaeological records indicate that this area has been in use since the Palaeolithic times, and the potential for further discoveries is moderate, particularly in the west of the zone where development may not have affected below ground deposits.



Area	633ha
Principal historic landscape	mineral sites Industrial Motorway 20 th century field systems
Historic Buildings	12
SMR Records	55 including Palaeolithic Mesolithic Neolithic and modern
Designations	Green Belt SSSI County/London Wildlife sites

Figure 25: Horton - Poyle industrial zone

- rural country house
- Settlement (Historic Core)
- rural farm 1900s
- town semis 1920s
- farm 1950s
- town semis 1950s
- town estates 1970s
- Recreation (20/21st Century)
- Golf Courses
- Allotments
- Nursery with Glasshouses
- Enclosure (Pre 18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')
- Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)
- Enclosure (19th Century)
- Prairie Field
- Enclosure (20th 21st Century)
- landfill (former or current)
- Industrial (post 1885)
- transitional industrial & mineral
- Mineral Extraction
- Unrestored land
- Motorways
- Flooded Restored Mineral Extraction
- Water Reservoir
- Woodland (19/20th Century Plantation)
- Orchard

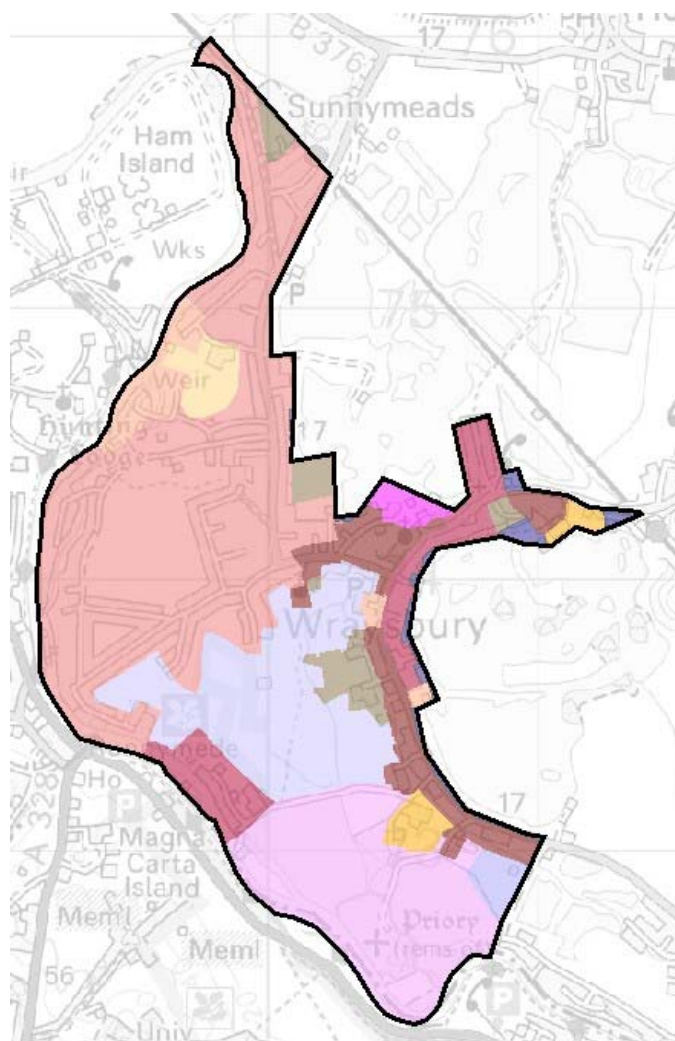


24. Wraysbury settlement

This landscape is defined by the extent of settlement around the historic core of Wraysbury with its associated fields and parkland which together are of significant historic landscape value. The location of this landscape between the fertile river Thames and its tributaries have made this area a prime location for settlement for thousands of years with settlement evidence for the Wraysbury area dating to the Neolithic, Roman, Saxon and medieval times. This zone also includes the historic park of Ankerwycke, once part of Ankerwycke Priory, the remains of which still survive. The highly distinctive medieval linear settlement following the curving Staines road has been extended west with areas of housing estates added in the 1920's along the path of the river Thames around Remenham house. The potential for further archaeological remains in this area should be high as the extended period of settlement from the Neolithic through to the modern day makes this landscape one of the oldest continuously settled areas in the Colne Valley Park.



Figure 26: Wraysbury settlement zone



Area	291ha
Principal historic landscape	1920's estates pre 18 th century field systems historic parkland
Historic Buildings	12
SMR Records	6 including Neolithic and Bronze Age
Designations	Green Belt

- rural country house
- Settlement (Historic Core)
- rural farm 1900s
- town semis 1920s
- town estate 1920s
- town estates 1970s
- town modern 1980s
- Recreation (20/21st Century)
- Enclosure (Pre-18th - 18th Century 'Irregular')
- Enclosure (Pre-18th Century Regular)
- Parkland (16th 19th Centuries)
- Flooded Restored Mineral Extraction

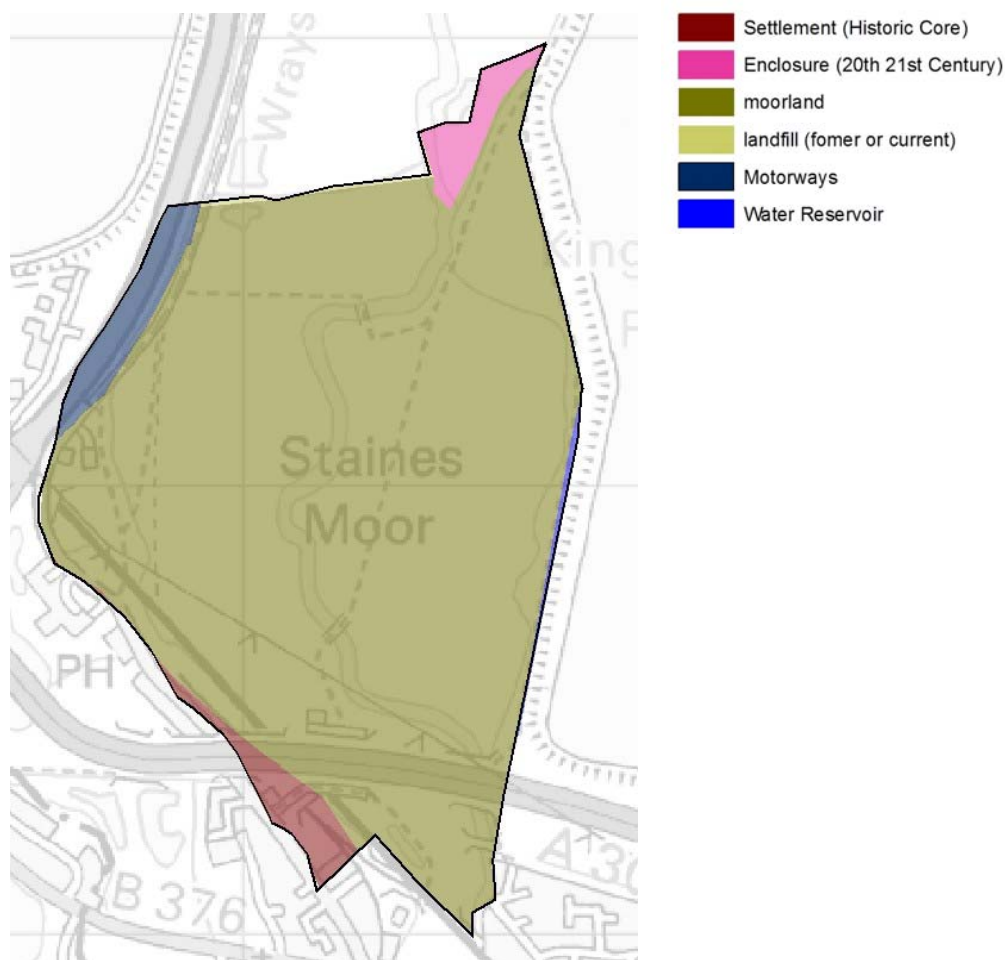
25. Staines moorland

The boundaries for this small landscape zone are defined by the surviving extent of Staines Moor. The 19th century extent of this moor continued north as far as Stanwell Moor settlement and extended both east and west to a small degree. As the main surviving fragment of the ancient and once extensive Lower Colne moors this area is accorded high historic landscape significance. Just outside the Colne Valley Park boundary to the south lies the site of Caesar's Camp (SAM 146), an important Roman site. To the south of this zone runs the path of the Staines turnpike and the modern A30. This road was highly significant in the development of Staines and the local area in the early 19th century. The moor itself is crossed by numerous tracks and aerial photographs show evidence of crop marks and enclosures indicating the high potential for archaeological remains in the area.

Area	142ha
Principal historic landscape	Moor-land
Historic Buildings	-
SMR Records	1
Designations	Green Belt SSSI



Figure 27: Staines moor land zone



26. Stanwell reservoirs

This landscape is defined by the three large reservoirs near Stanwell Moor. All three reservoirs were built in the 1920's over parliamentary enclosed field systems, at the same time the roads were straightened. Although modern, arguably these are of significant historic landscape value in relation to the development of London's metropolitan infrastructure. The 19th century Staines Turnpike, now the modern A30, borders it in the south, which would have been highly significant in the development of this area during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The reservoirs are listed as a Special Protection Area and are a popular destination for bird watching. The potential for further archaeological discoveries in this area is low due to the impact of the reservoirs on the below ground archaeology during construction. Management of the zone should, however, be a high priority due to its status as a Special Protection Area and its potential as a wildlife habitat.



Area	414ha
Principal historic landscape	reservoirs
Historic Buildings	-
SMR Records	-
Designations	Green Belt Special Protection Area

Figure 28: Stanwell reservoirs zone

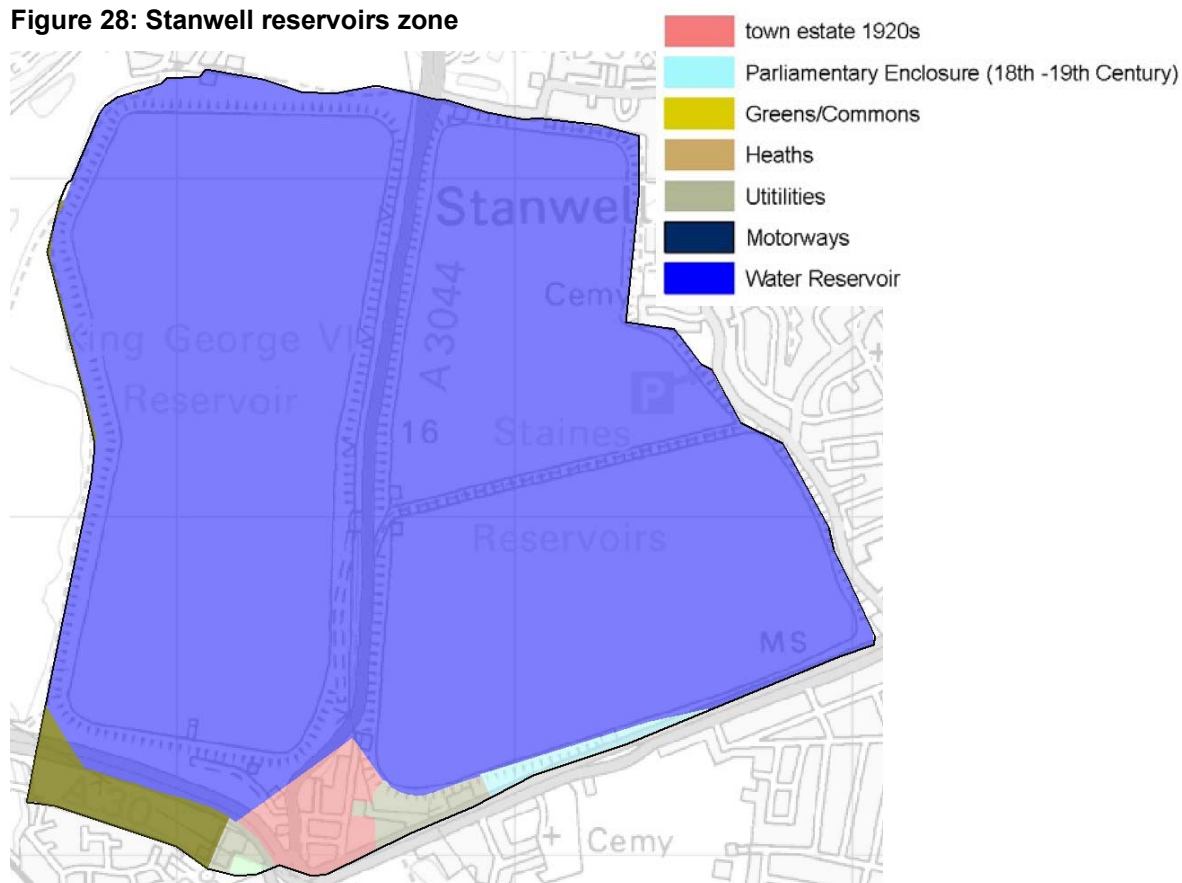
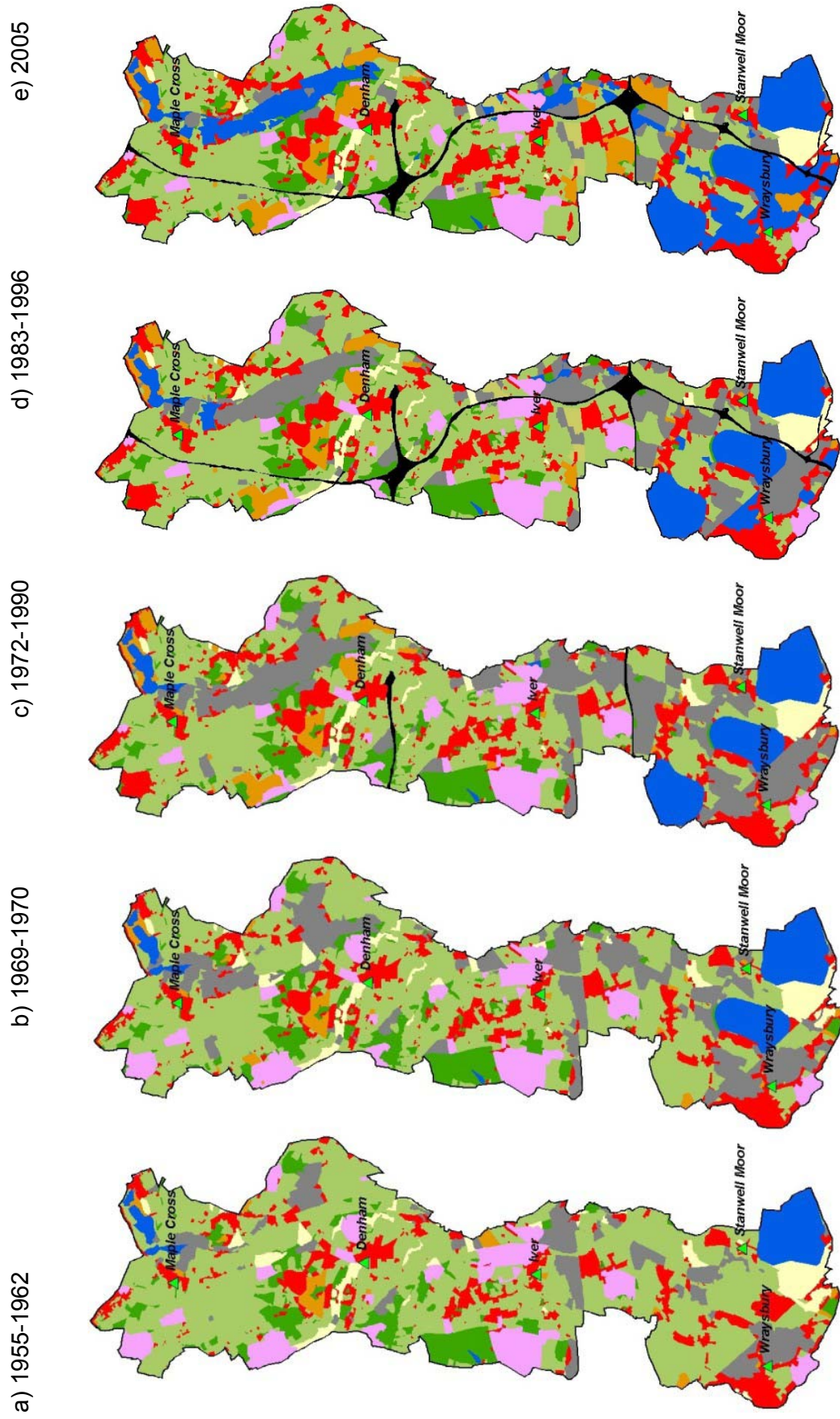


Figure 29: Landscape changes 1955-2005



8. Conclusion

8.1. Future management prescriptions

Impact of the Colne Valley Regional Park

Figure 29 illustrates changes to historic landscape character from the 1950's before the Colne Valley Regional Park was created until the present day. This charts the expansion and decline of aggregates extraction landscapes following the creation of the Metropolitan Green Belt and the Park. A significant number of extraction sites were already in progress by 1955 while by the 1980's aggregates sites were increasingly being regenerated as lakes for recreational use and, in the south, reservoirs. It is also clear from this illustration that very little change has occurred to woodland and parkland areas while settlement growth has been minimal in the later twentieth century. Several conservation areas, two registered historic parks and many listed buildings as well as numerous special designation areas for nature reserves and the waterscapes have also been added since the 1970's adding a further layer of protection to the Park. The most significant increase has been to waterscapes in the Colne Valley Park through the regeneration of the vast majority of aggregates sites to lakes and reservoirs, now heavily used for a variety of recreational purposes. Another major landscape-scale impact has been from the construction of motorways, particularly motorway junctions. From an historic landscape perspective alone it is difficult to identify the direct impact the CVRP has had – this would require consideration of the outcomes specific Park initiated projects beyond the scope of this study.

Future Management

In the previous section, each HLZ summarises the historic landscape and built heritage significance and archaeological potential that can be used to provide an overall set of management principles. The following table summarises the significance of each of these elements that make up the historic environment of each HLZ and provides a **preliminary** management prescription for each area based on its historic environment interests. In practice further detailed local studies and consideration of wider factors (e.g. the natural environment, recreation and access, economic viability) would have to be factored in.

The prescription terms used are as follows:

- **Conserve** – encourage the conservation of distinctive historic features (hedgerows; buildings; parkland; townscape etc)
- **Enhance** – undertaken measures to enhance the character and appreciation of an area (e.g. conservation area improvement; improved access and interpretation)
- **Restore** – undertake measures to reinstate lost historic features (e.g. hedgerows; watercourses)
- **Repair** - undertake measures to repair damaged historic features (e.g. hedgerows; buildings)
- **Create** – an area with potential for creation of new landscapes without significant loss of historic interest.

- **Survey** – undertake further study to better understand and manage the resource.

This assessment can be used to inform the Colne Valley Regional Park Management Plan and other relevant plans and strategies; notably Local Development Frameworks, Minerals & Waste Development Frameworks, the Colne Local Environment Agency Plan (LEAP).

Colne Valley Park HLC local HLZ: Summary of Historic Environment significance and management prescriptions

	Local Character Area	Historic landscape	Historic Buildings	Archaeological sites/potential	Preliminary Zone Management Prescriptions
1	Heronsgate	Medium	High	Medium	Conserve
2	Newlands – Horn Hill	Medium	Medium	Medium	Restore & Enhance
3	Maple Cross	Low	Low	Medium	Create
4	Batchworth-Denham flooded mineral sites	Low	Medium	Low	Create
5	Duke of Westminster estates	Medium	Medium	Medium	Conserve & Survey
6	Harefield urban	Medium	Medium	High	Conserve, Enhance & Survey
7	Chalfont-Denham Parkland	Medium	Medium	High	Conserve, Enhance, Restore & Survey
8	Harefield aggregates	Low	Low	Low	Create
9	Newyears Green – Breakspear House landscape	High	Medium	Medium	Conserve & Enhance
10	Oxford Road settlement	Low	High	High	Conserve, Create & Survey
11	Alderbourne woods	Medium	Low	Medium	Conserve
12	Southlands Manor	Medium	Medium	High	Create & Survey
13	Langley Park	High	High	High	Conserve, Repair, Survey & Enhance
14	Iver Heath	Low	Low	Medium	Restore
15	Huntsmoor – Delaford Parkland	Medium	Medium	High	Survey, Restore & Enhance

	Local Character Area	Historic landscape	Historic Buildings	Archaeological sites/potential	Preliminary Zone Management Prescriptions
16	Iver	Medium	Medium	Medium	Conserve & Enhance
17	Slough Branch Industrial	Low	Low	Low	Create
18	West Drayton modern aggregates	Low	Low	Medium	Create
19	Richings Park	Medium	Low	Medium	Conserve & Repair
20	Colnbrook Industrial	Low	Low	Medium	Create & Survey
21	Colnbrook with Poyle	Medium	High	Medium	Conserve
22	Wraysbury extracted	Medium	Medium	Low	Conserve
23	Horton – Poyle Industrial	Low	Medium	Medium	Create
24	Wraysbury	Medium	Medium	Medium	Conserve, Survey & Enhance
25	Staines moorland	High	Low	High	Conserve
26	Stanwell Reservoirs	Medium	Low	Low	Conserve

8.2. Future projects

This table lists some possible future historic environment-related projects which could be taken forward by the Colne Valley Partnership, along with a guide to relevant databases and whether each could involve local schools or the local community.

Table 1: Short summary of possible future projects

Project title	Description	Relevant database	Community involvement	Education possibilities
Prehistoric landscapes and archaeology	A geo-morphological study of the early prehistoric settlement in the Colne Valley in relation to geology, landscape and environment to inform future mineral extraction. Link to the National Ice Age Network? Possible community links to development-led archaeological projects.	HER/SMR Geological and quarry records	Y	Y
Farmsteads and the landscape	A short course aimed at 9-16 yr olds, assessing the impact of farms and farmland in their community. Can include changes to the landscape since the World Wars.	Whole HLC	N	Y
Historic Farms Survey	Survey of historic farm buildings to record historic buildings.	Farmsteads	Y	N
Village Design Statements	As promoted by Natural England. A way of involving the community in the planning process and of gaining an understanding of the landscape through local importance.	Whole HLC	Y	Y
Boundary Mapping	In depth study of local, parish and county boundaries, identifying areas under threat and possible areas of boundary reinstatement	Boundaries	Y	Y
Local Industries	Pamphlets, short books on the local industries of the Colne Valley, e.g., watercress beds, mills on the Colne. Possibility of extending to restoration.	HLC	Y	Y
Local produce promotion	Promotion of local produce from farms/orchards of historic interest.	Farmsteads HLC	Y	N
Habitat surveys	Assessment of the ecology of hedgerows and boundaries. Could also be extended to river habitat surveys to provide comparable data-sets for the natural environment	Boundaries Routeways	Y	N
Conservation practices	Short courses available to the public on hedgerow conservation	Boundaries	Y	N
Historic tracks and	Parish level. Assessment of current footpaths to inform Rights	Routeways	Y	Y

paths	of way Improvement Plan linking to promotion of historic routes and possibility of reinstatement of lost routes			
Water ways	Assessment of the current nature and condition of historic river structures to inform future management, maintenance and restoration. Link to Environment Agency Colne LEAP.	Routeways	Y	N