East Berkshire

Historic Landscape Characterisation

Fiona Macdonald and Adam Lödöen

June 2019

Present day

1869

1761

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
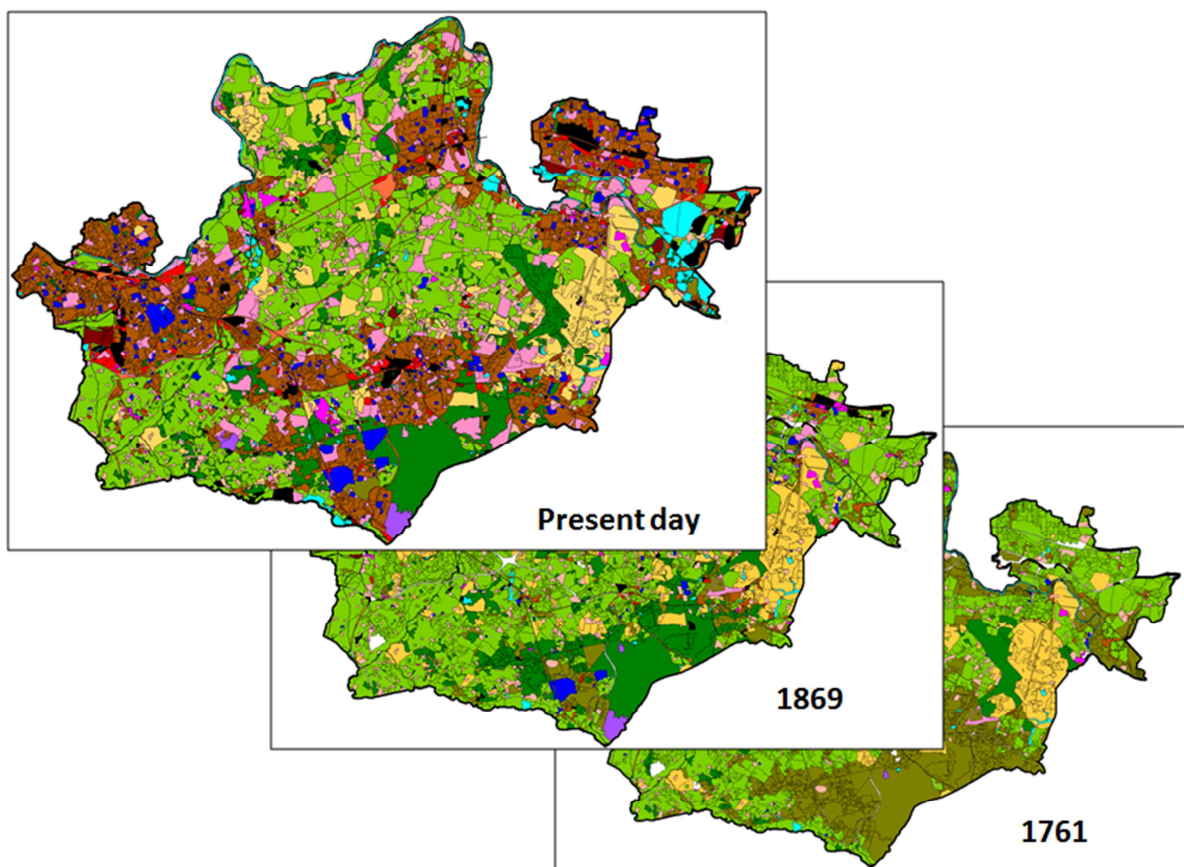
Historic England

Executive Summary

The Historic England funded East Berkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project was carried out by Berkshire Archaeology for the benefit of the five unitary authorities in East Berkshire (Reading, Wokingham, Slough, Bracknell Forest, and Windsor and Maidenhead). East Berkshire is one of the last substantial areas in England to be covered by an HLC. The East Berkshire HLC complements the existing HLC projects in the neighbouring areas of West Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Surrey, Oxfordshire and the Colne Valley Park. The HLC database and linked GIS mapping provides detailed information about the history and changing character of the landscape in the area since the mid-18th century. This report provides a detailed summary of the results of the project and of the contents of the HLC database and mapping. Potential uses of the HLC data including the possibility of further research are also explored.

Contents

Executive Summary

List of figures

List of tables

List of Figures

List of Tables

1. Introduction

1.1 The Project

This report accompanies and contextualises the dataset of the East Berkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), detailing the project and its method and approaches, and summarising the results.

Commencing in October 2014, the HLC project was set up for the benefit of the five unitary authorities in East Berkshire (Reading, Wokingham, Slough, Bracknell Forest, and Windsor and Maidenhead) and their stakeholders in respect of the historic environment. The project was funded and overseen by Historic England, and carried out by Berkshire Archaeology.

East Berkshire was one of the last substantial areas in England to be covered by an HLC initiative. The conclusion of this project therefore largely completes national HLC coverage.

1.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The landscape that we see around us today has been formed by a complex interaction of natural and human processes. It has been by shaped and altered by people over thousands of years, an interaction which is still ongoing.

Traditionally, the historic environment was largely seen to consist of discrete archaeological monuments, historic sites, historic buildings and specially designated areas such as conservation areas. This view is now considered limited, and perhaps limiting. It is based on the idea that only certain parts of the present landscape were significantly shaped by human interaction in the past, and arguably, that the historic environment comprises only certain parts of the landscape that are more important and worthy of interest and attention than others.

By the 1990s, a different understanding of the historic environment was emerging, one which saw the historic environment's influences on landscape as reflecting a dimension of the whole environment, not a sector. This approach attempted to characterise and understand the whole landscape, rather than merely selected parts. Cornwall was the first county in England to pioneer a Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) in 1994.

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a way of assessing and recording the historic character of the present landscape, going beyond looking at purely "archaeological" features, historic buildings or ornamental landscapes – instead it recognises that all parts of the present landscape have been affected by human interaction. The whole landscape is in effect a cultural artefact. It is impossible to fully understand or appreciate what we see in the landscape around us without taking this into account. Depth of history is an integral part of the current landscape, and is also an important part of local diversity and local character.

Through systematically mapping the character of the current landscape in terms of the effects of human activity, it is possible to gain a unique understanding of the history of the landscape which cannot be achieved in any other way. Local character and diversity can be explained, and how the landscape is perceived, experienced and appreciated is transformed. This has the potential to define and articulate – and sometimes change – what we think is important in the landscape, and how we protect and sustain the historic environment.

1.3 Project Aims

The overall aim of the project was to improve understanding of the historic and archaeological character of landscape within East Berkshire, and to make the information created as a part of the project available for heritage management and related purposes, specifically:

- To inform future strategic planning and development management in all five East Berkshire authorities

- To support the provision of advice to internal and external partners regarding conservation and management of change, in particular, but not limited to, heritage assets

- To contextualise records and existing datasets within the HER and elsewhere, and to support academic research

In order to achieve this, data from various pre-defined sources were collated and synthesised to create an HLC database with linked GIS mapping. This report has also been prepared as part of the project.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The main phases of the project, including the creation of HLC records and GIS data, and writing of the first draft of the report, were carried out by Adam Lödöen, Historic Landscape Characterisation Officer, to a project design produced by Fiona Macdonald, of Berkshire Archaeology, who edited and re-drafted the report, and managed the project. Further edits to the dataset were carried out by Melissa Conway of Land Use Consultants following review of the database as a whole. The rest of the Berkshire Archaeology team – Teresa Hocking, Roland Smith and Ellie Leary – provided advice, support and feedback to the project. Roger Thomas, Pete Herring, Martin Small and Dave Hooley of Historic England monitored the project, and other assistance and advice was provided by Historic England colleagues throughout the project. Exegesis Spatial Data Management Ltd provided invaluable IT support.

2. Background to the project

2.1 Archaeology and historic environment services in East Berkshire

Archaeological advice and Historic Environment Record services have been provided to the five East Berkshire authorities by Berkshire Archaeology since April 2004. Berkshire Archaeology is a small team based in central Reading, which forms part of Reading Borough Council's Directorate of Environment, Culture and Sport, under the Reading Museum and Town Hall umbrella. Berkshire Archaeology's work for its five unitary authority clients is defined by a contract and a detailed specification, and guided by client contacts in an ongoing contract review process. Forward planning is articulated through a five-year Forward Plan ("Taking Berkshire's Archaeology Forward") with relevant aims and objectives, as well as a detailed wish-list of initiatives and development activities, from which the clients agree priorities at any one time.

Since 2004, much work has been carried out to develop and broaden what were five fairly undeveloped and rudimentary Sites and Monuments Records (one for each authority, maintained and developed separately), through the systematic updating of records, inclusion of additional datasets, and increased public access and online provision, into a full Historic Environment Record (HER).The HER runs on Exegesis HBSMR software, using MapInfo GIS, as licensed to Reading Borough Council, with outsourced IT support provided by Northgate Public Services. Full use is made of the monuments, events and sources structure, with National Heritage List for England and Portable Antiquities Scheme data having recently been added. Monument data for East Berkshire has been available on the Heritage Gateway since 2011. An HER audit was carried out for the first time in 2012-13, with grant aid from English Heritage, and an audit action plan agreed in the summer of 2013. The absence of a Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for East Berkshire, and the paucity of landscape data on the HER, were noted during the audit.

Due to its location in the Thames Valley and M4 corridor, and its proximity to London, development remains very lively in East Berkshire, with housing allocations comprising challenging numbers, and increasing pressure on greenbelt land, as well as brown-field sites and infrastructure. Progress on Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans has been good, with strong historic environment policies either in development or in place in all authorities, and a stated commitment to conserving local heritage.

2.2 Previous landscape work undertaken in East Berkshire

A number of previous studies and reports have provided background information for the HLC project:

In **Roberts and Wrathmell's** work (Roberts, B. and Wrathmell, S., 2000), characterising rural settlement patterns on a national scale, the East Berkshire area falls into the South-East settlement province, and in the Lowlands broad terrain type. The study, now available in GIS format, further divides the settlement provinces into sub-provinces and local regions, and a digital re-working overlies various datasets to allow more detailed analysis (Lowerre, 2012).

As noted by the **Countryside Commission's Countryside Character Programme** the landscape of East Berkshire falls into three National Character Areas (Countryside Agency, 1999 and following). The profiles for each identify distinctive features that define the landscape and explain the development of the individual landscape character: NCA 110 Chilterns, NCA 115 Thames Valley, and NCA 129 Thames Basin Heaths.

NCA 110 Chilterns – extending across a small area in the north-west of East Berkshire from the northern edge of Maidenhead and Reading to just south of Twyford, this area is characterised by chalk hills and plateaus, with enclosed valley landscapes

NCA 115 Thames Valley – encompassing most of the central area of East Berkshire, the defining feature of this character area is the wide flat hydrological Thames floodplain, with a variety of formal landscapes such as designed parks (including Windsor Great Park) but also areas of dense urban settlement and open low-lying agricultural land

NCA 129 Thames Basin Heaths – this diverse character area, forming the southern part of the study area from south of Reading and Wokingham and including Sunningdale and the Ascots, supports large-scale plantation forestry (mainly conifers) as well as urban centres and fringe

The **Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment** was undertaken in 2003 for the Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit, by Land Use Consultants. The assessment aimed to provide a detailed understanding of the distinctive Berkshire landscape, to inform county-wide planning policy (the Berkshire Structure Plan, at that time) and ensure relevant protection from inappropriate development. The assessment identifies fourteen landscape types, of which eight are represented in East Berkshire:

- Lower River Valley

- Lower River with Open Water

- Forested Sands

- Royal Forest

- Settled Farmlands

- Open Clay Lowlands

- Open Chalk Lowlands

- Elevated Wooded Chalk with Slopes

These types are further subdivided into 55 character areas (23 in East Berkshire) each with a description, evaluation of the character and condition of the landscape, and a strategy to guide future change.

Various borough-wide landscape assessments and studies have been undertaken, with to varying degrees of detail; the most relevant and up to date are:

Reading – Landscape Background Paper: Information to support the Sites and Detailed Policies Document, 2011. The document considers sites put forward as Major Landscape Features to inform landscape policy in the Core Strategy

Bracknell Forest – Character Area Assessments Supplementary Planning Document, 2010. The document defines the distinctive features of six areas of the borough, and what creates their character, making recommendations to guide new development in these areas. During the HLC project, the borough council was working on the evidence base for its emerging Local Plans, and commissioned Land Use Consultants to undertake a number of pieces of landscape related work, including Landscape Character Assessment, consideration of local landscape designations and a review strategic and local 'gaps'

Windsor & Maidenhead – Landscape Character Assessment, LDA Design 2004. A detailed assessment forming the basis of the borough's Landscape Strategy and Guidelines Report

Wokingham – Landscape Character Assessment, 2004 and 2019. Full assessment considering physical influences, geology and landform, agricultural capability and historic environment; subsequently adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). Shortly before the HLC project was completed, Wokingham Borough Council consulted on new draft landscape character assessment as part of the evidence base for their Local Plan Update

Slough – Local Development Framework, 2008. Core Strategy document includes chapters covering greenbelt and open spaces, and urban areas of Exceptional or Special Character

Colne Valley Regional Park HLC – full HLC of this greenbelt regional park which extends across parts of Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead boroughs. The study includes additional information on historic farmsteads and estates, routeways, waterways and boundaries, and its methodology is based on the Buckinghamshire HLC model.

3. The Project Area

3.1 Administration, settlement and economy

The area colloquially known as East Berkshire, and covered by this project matches the combined areas of the five unitary authorities of **Reading, Wokingham, Slough, Bracknell Forest, and Windsor and Maidenhead.** It accounts for just under half of the former county of Berkshire (also known as Royal Berkshire, due to the location of Windsor Castle), following local government re-organisation in 1998, and covers an area of just over 560 square kilometres. The modern East Berkshire incorporates areas historically within other counties, namely Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey, and several former detached portions of Wiltshire, transferred to Berkshire under the Counties Act of 1844.

The area divides into a total of 42 parishes and four "non-parish" areas (Reading, Maidenhead, central Slough and Windsor), with a total population of just over 710,000 (2011 census). It lies within the south-east region, to the west of London, bordered to the north by Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, to the south-east by Surrey, to the south by Hampshire, and to the west by the unitary authority of West Berkshire.

The landscape of East Berkshire is very varied, having evolved over several millennia within an area favourable to settlement, agriculture and communications. The majority of East Berkshire (except at Caversham and Slough) lies to the south of the River Thames, which forms its northern boundary with Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The River Kennet joins the Thames at Reading, and with other tributaries the Blackwater (defining the border with Hampshire) and Loddon forming low-lying floodplains in the southwest and west of the area respectively. A large artificial secondary channel, the Jubilee River, was cut for flood relief purposes between Maidenhead and Windsor, and completed in 2002. The Thames supplies two large-scale water supply reservoirs in the extreme east of the area, the Wraysbury Reservoir and Queen Mother Reservoir.

Most of the eastern half of the area (just over 24,000 hectares) is designated as Metropolitan Greenbelt, with exclusions around the obvious urban centres such as Maidenhead, Slough and Windsor. Large areas of mainly plantation forestry characterise the borough of Bracknell Forest (Swinley Forest/ Crowthorne Woods, managed largely by the Crown Estate) and a more varied woodland/parkland landscape across part of the Royal Borough (the former hunting forest and Windsor Great Park). Across the central area fruit-farming, arable production and equestrian amenities are visible in the landscape.

The major urban centre is the former county town of Reading, which originates in the early medieval period, developing quickly in the post-Conquest centuries following the establishment of the Cluniac (subsequently Benedictine) abbey in 1121. Its main street pattern was probably in existence by the late 12th century, and it grew in importance to become the major town in Berkshire by the early 14th century. Despite the dissolution of the abbey in 1539, the town continued to flourish with a later industrial focus on "the 3 Bs" – beer, bulbs and biscuits (due to the establishment of headquarters for Simonds Brewery, Suttons Seeds, and Huntley & Palmers, respectively). It is now developing as a

home for the service and high-tech sectors, thanks largely to communication routes centred on the M4, A4 and A33, and proximity to London and other major towns.

Reading is nominally separated by a narrow green wedge from the historic town of Wokingham, which in turn links along the A329 to Bracknell, designated a New Town in 1949, and defined as an outlying part of the Greater London Urban Area. Other sizeable towns include Maidenhead, Slough, Windsor, and Ascot, with a number of notable smaller medieval centres such as Cookham, Wargrave, Eton and Sonning. There is a continuing development pressure for housing and infrastructure throughout the five authorities.

3.2 Geology and topography

Berkshire sits on the north-western side of the London Basin, a large geological "dish" tectonically formed during the Palaeocene period around 55 million years ago and sloping gently to the south. Bedrock formations in the East Berkshire area tend to run south-west to north-east, with chalk strata predominant in the north, surfacing in localised outcrops such as the folded dome at Windsor. The eastern area is dominated by sands and mudstones, in various depositions such as the Lambeth group of sands and clays in a narrow band ("Reading Formation") and the later London Clay ("Thames Group"). The Bagshot Formation (particularly Bagshot Beds, Camberley Sand and Windlesham Formation) overlies the London Clay in the south of the area around the heathlands south of Bracknell and Wokingham, and around Ascot/Sunninghill, running to the Surrey and Hampshire borders, and giving rise to open heathlands.

Quaternary deposits are most commonly river terraces, with a series of distinct depositions by the Thames evident between Reading and Maidenhead. The rich seams of gravel and sand have been much exploited for extraction, with some flooded quarries still in existence, and others restored to open land.
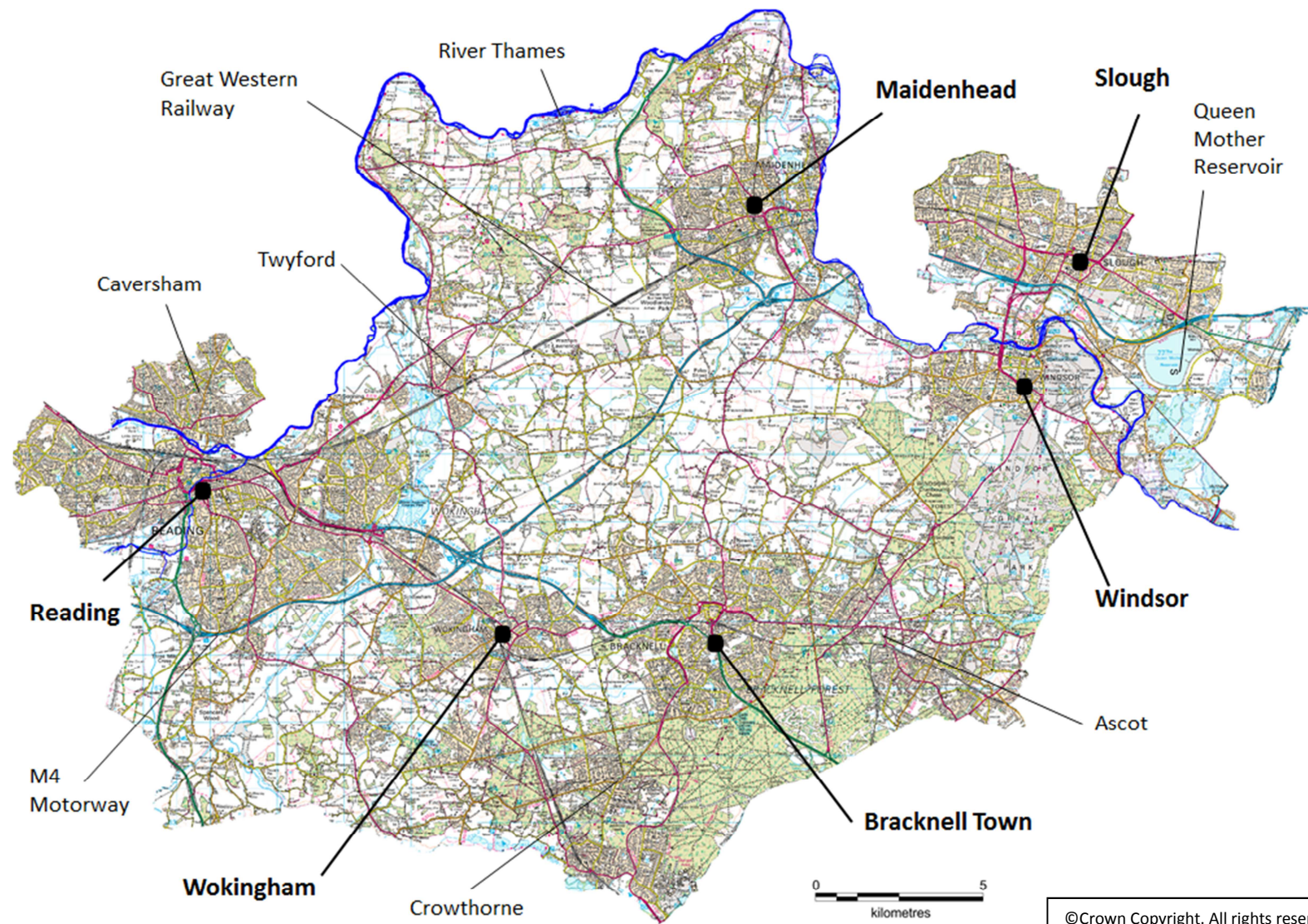
Figure 1. Modern East Berkshire with main settlements and features

Great Western Railway

River Thames

Maidenhead

Slough

Queen Mother Reservoir

Caversham

Twyford

Reading

Windsor

M4 Motorway

Ascot

Wokingham

Bracknell Town

Crowthorne

0 — 5 kilometres

4. Project structure, method and stages

4.1 Stages of work

The HLC project was carried out in three stages – the setup stage, the main stage, and the analysis, report writing and dissemination stage – as outlined in the Historic England-approved project design. Groupings of tasks were identified in each stage as follows:

Stage 1

- **Set up**
- **Preparation**
- **Recruitment**
- **Familiarisation**
- **Refinement of methodology**
- **Pilot study**

Stage 2

- **Main data collection**
- **Assignment of character types**
- **Creation of attributes and**
- **Mapping**

Stage 3

- **Analysis**
- **Report drafting**
- **Report and database review and editing**
- **Dissemination**
- **Archiving**

Each stage is reported on below, with reference to the project design, observations from the project team and comments from Historic England.

5. Stage 1

5.1 Project set-up

In the set-up stage, relevant stakeholders were identified, and notified of the start of project, aims, and programme. Principal stakeholders are officers within the five unitary authorities of Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Borough Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Each unitary authority is represented on Berkshire Archaeology's Contract Review group and so was aware of the project and success in gaining funding, but specific colleagues including landscape and conservation officers and team managers were also targeted.

The HLC Officer was recruited and inducted, in a process led by Berkshire Archaeology, and overseen by Reading Borough Council's Human Resources team, and Historic England. Issues regarding availability of sources, IT provision and support were noted and tackled where appropriate, with alternative routes or provision being found where necessary.

Berkshire Archaeology team members were identified as internal stakeholders in the project, but also as a source of local specialist knowledge and experience. The team were made familiar with project details and available data, and discussed the general nature of the pilot area, in terms of landscape and archaeology.

These set-up tasks led to a pilot study being conducted, and subsequent refinements to a final agreed methodology, discussed in more detail in sections 6.1 and following.

5.2 Pilot Study

The pilot study was designed to test and refine the planned methodology for the main stage of the HLC project (see below, 6.1 and following). Bespoke alterations to the HBSMR module, to best suit the needs of the project and the end-users, were explored. Detailed discussions were undertaken with Exegesis Spatial Data Management regarding this throughout the pilot study stage and later. Other issues that the pilot study had to tackle included the target rate for digitisation (hectares per person/day, as suggested by Historic England) and some narrow technical issues, for instance access to digital mapping data for the project.

The area suggested for the pilot study fulfilled a range of criteria - it included a variety of landscape types and influences, it encompassed both rural and urban areas, and it extended across several distinct geological formations, with the principal aim of exploring as many historic landscape character types as possible.

An area of approximately 3700 hectares, covering the parishes of Cox Green, Shottesbrook, White Waltham, Binfield, and the north-western part of Bracknell was initially selected. The precise extent of the area was refined during the pilot study, and eventually comprised around 3900 hectares (figs. 2 and 3).
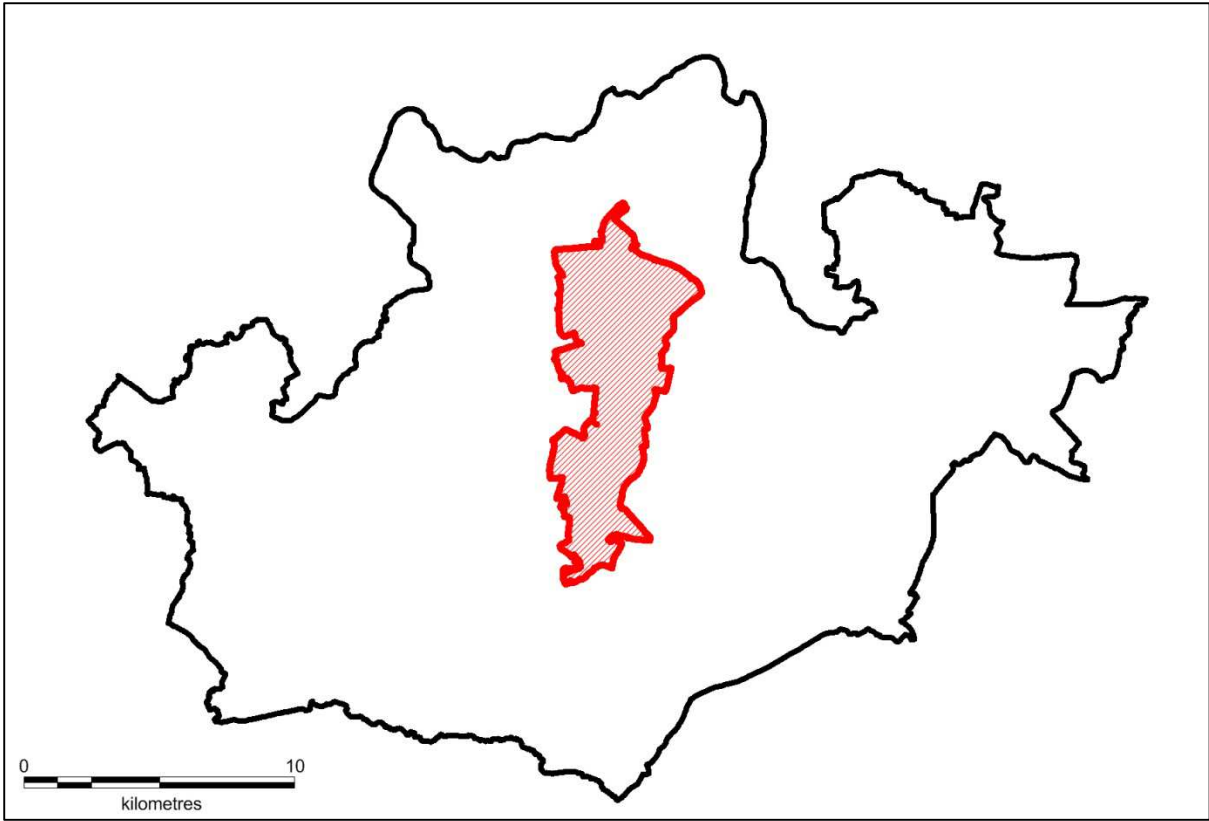
Figure 2. The location of the pilot study area within East Berkshire
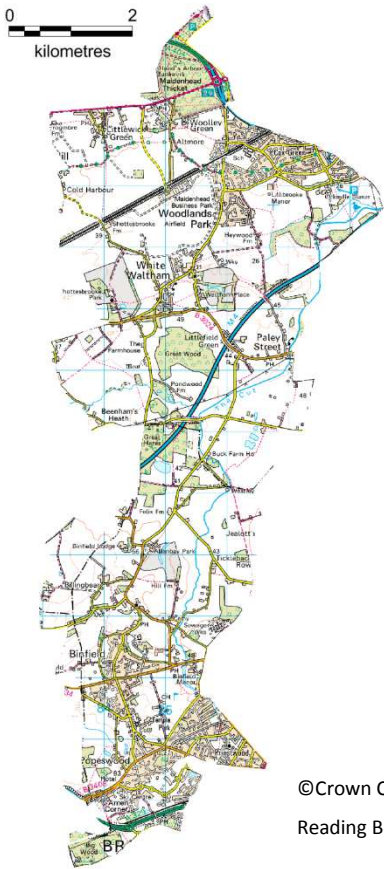
Figure 3. The pilot study area in detail

5.3 Results of the pilot study

The pilot study was successful in testing the methodology and technical requirements for the creation of records and digitisation of polygons, including identifying the key useful sources, and the best configuration of the HLC module within the HBSMR software set-up.

As a direct result of the pilot study, the methodology for the main stage of the project could be finalised (see below, section 6). This was different in key aspects to the pilot study methodology. A minimum size of each polygon was decided on and agreed with Historic England (1 hectare), whereas the pilot study had no such limit (NB this was later altered to account for a small number of areas of designated ancient woodland covering less than 1ha) .

Both broad and narrow character types for the main stage were also refined from the pilot study; in particular, it was necessary to add or alter a number of character types to accurately capture the complexity of the East Berkshire landscape, following advice from Historic England colleagues.

Key changes made at this point can be summarised as follows:

- Within the Rural Settlement broad type, several small scale types were deleted and their records amalgamated into other narrow types
- Narrow types Reorganised Fields (following extensive discussion on the nature of enclosure in East Berkshire) and Paddocks and Animal Enclosures were added to the Enclosed Land broad type.
- Scrubland was added into Unimproved Land, and the decision taken to show Greens as part of the polygons for Common Edge Settlement
- HLC types within Parkland and Designed Landscape refined to focus on designed elements rather than general recreation areas, and a number of types were thus added to the Recreation broad type.
- Secondary Woodland was added as a narrow type to Woodland, and its attributes refined to distinguish amongst broadleaved, coniferous and mixed

In conjunction with Historic England it was decided that enclosure awards and enclosure maps should not be used as direct sources for the main stage, as their systematic use would slow down the rate of digitisation and record creation. As a direct consequence, "Parliamentary Enclosure" which was a character type recorded in the pilot study, was changed to "Planned enclosure" – a term defined much more widely.

As the methodology developed and was refined further during the main stage of the study, HLC records within the pilot area were updated in accordance.

5.4 Outstanding issues at the end of the pilot study

At the end of the pilot study, the other sources to be used for the main stage of the HLC project were not fully finalised, in particular as regards aerial photography and historic mapping sources.

Aerial photography surveys were carried out across East Berkshire in 1999, 2002, 2006 and 2010 on behalf of the five Unitary Authorities in the area, but held separately by each relevant Unitary Authority. Some of these datasets were not possible to locate anymore, and others were not possible to use due to unresolved copyright and/or licensing issues. The only sources for modern aerial photographs that in the end proved possible to use were the online coverage by Google and Bing; given the late dates of the existing Unitary Authority coverage, and the comparatively good quality of the Google images, this is not felt to be detrimental to the project.

For the pilot study, John Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761 was procured, as well as Ordnance Survey Drawings (c.1807 – 11), and 1st and 2nd edition six inch OS maps (1870s and c.1897-1900 respectively). The later mapping used for the pilot was the 1:25,000 OS coverage of the area from 1937-61, the one inch OS coverage of the area from 1945 and modern mapping.

Georeferenced maps that could be directly incorporated into the Berkshire Archaeology GIS were deemed necessary for the main stage of the HLC project and Historic England helpfully supplied historic Ordnance Survey mapping at this point. This consisted of 1st edition six inch OS mapping, six inch mapping from the interwar period (1920s /1930s), and 1:10,000 OS coverage surveyed 1960-62 in GIS format, which along with the other sources quoted, were deemed satisfactory to provide the requisite range of chronological data

6. Stage 2

This stage involved systematically collating and interpreting all available relevant data sources, mapping the results, and recording information in the project database.

East Berkshire was mapped and recorded in the following pre-agreed order:

1   Slough (5.8% land area – mainly urban with distinct phases of development, situated on gravels with significant archaeological potential)

2   Windsor & Maidenhead (35.4% land area – a mix of discrete urban centres, mainly of Medieval origin, and greenbelt, with the influence of the Thames in the north and heathlands in the south of the borough)

3   Bracknell Forest (19.5% land area – major urban "new town" and associated infrastructure, with large areas of plantation and more ancient forestry, and significant designed landscapes)

4   Wokingham (32.1% land area – a mix of discrete small towns and villages, some with Medieval centres, open farmland showing a variety of influences, and areas of large modern development in the hinterland of Reading)

5   Reading (7.2% land area – large county town with Medieval centre still visible in street plan and distinct areas/phases of development surrounding)

6.1 Methodology for the main stage of the project

As in the pilot study stage, during the main stage of the project, the main tasks involved reviewing source material and recording current and previous landscape character, using pre-defined attributes to allocate a broad and narrow type to each area of land.

The whole of East Berkshire was divided into units, each one with characteristics that allowed it to be assigned to a character "type", which also occurs in other areas whose dominant present character is shaped by similar processes. Each discrete unit was then mapped as a polygon in the GIS, and a linked database record describing its character was created. These steps form the fundamental method for compiling a HLC for a given area, with the products being the database and GIS mapping layer.

Data was entered into the Berkshire Archaeology HER via the Exegesis HBSMR HLC module. This is a specially-designed package which integrates with other HBSMR modules commonly used to structure and manage Historic Environment Records. The Berkshire HER currently uses a combination of Monuments, Events, Designations and Sources modules, with GIS layers for each containing a mix of point, polygon and line data, and with the underlying database structure and fields compliant with the relevant current UK national data standards for historic environment information.
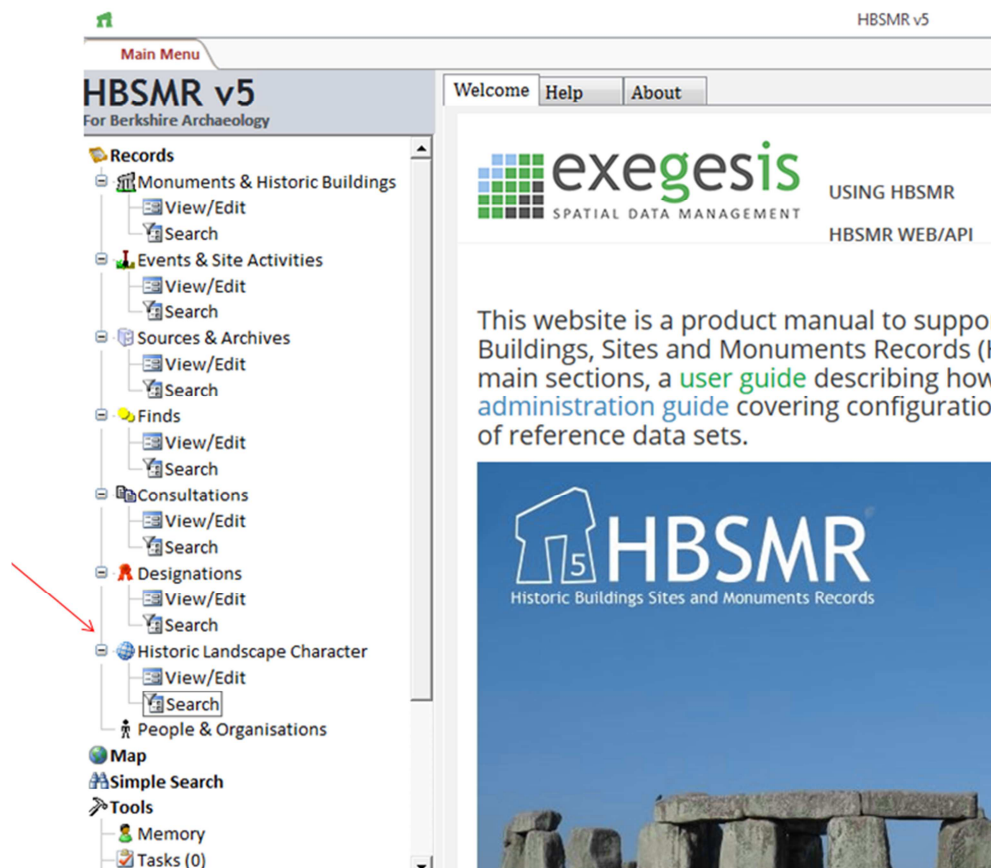
Figure 4. East Berkshire HLC within the Berkshire Archaeology HER

The Berkshire HER is remotely hosted by Exegesis HDM themselves, and therefore their specialists were able to make bespoke alterations required to facilitate the polygonisation process. The mapping was carried out using MapInfo GIS software, as supplied by Reading Borough Council, and using Mastermap as the map base.

6.2 Polygonisation

The polygonisation of East Berkshire was carried out by first assessing the current landscape, using a range of sources, to identify discrete landscape units and define their character. Modern and historic mapping, as well as aerial photography and other sources were used for this (see below 6.6)

Examples of such discrete units could typically include housing estates, the grounds of schools or hospitals, groups of fields with similar field boundaries or other characteristics, watercourses, industrial estates or the spatial extent of villages noted at a particular point.

Each such discrete area was mapped with a digitised polygon within the GIS, now defined as an HLC record. The available historic mapping and HER, as well as other sources as listed, were then consulted to determine previous character of the unit, and to ascertain when the character of the area originated.

Care was taken to ensure that no polygons overlapped, and that no gaps were left between the polygons; any gaps identified were addressed during the review stage of the project. Where possible and appropriate, modern MasterMap mapping was used to create the polygons, meaning modern land boundaries and field boundaries could be used to precisely define the HLC polygons. Apart from the major roads in East Berkshire such as motorways, roads were not recorded as character areas in their own right, making it necessary to bring the boundaries of the polygons to meet in the middle of the roads manually. Additional manual manipulation was needed where modern boundaries recorded on MasterMap did not always correspond to the edges of character areas, as observed on modern mapping and aerial photographs.

6.3 Character types recorded in the project database

For each discrete land parcel mapped as a polygon in the GIS, a separate data entry was created in the project database. A number of standardised broad and narrow character types were used to record the current dominant character of each mapped and defined land parcel, in line with Historic England's Historic Character Thesaurus. Any previous landscape character demonstrated by the sources but no longer in evidence was also recorded. The precise character types used varies between different HLCs, and for the East Berkshire HLC the types were initially agreed, and then refined following consultation with Historic England.

There are two levels of character types, allowing analysis at a general level as well as in a more detailed way. The more general types are referred to as "Broad types". Fifteen broad types were defined for East Berkshire; they are tabulated below in order of area covered, along with the narrow types included in each broad type.

East Berkshire HLC – Broad and Narrow Types	
Broad Type	**Narrow Types**
Enclosed Land	Assart
	Coaxial Field System
	Field System of early origin
	Improved Pasture
	Open Field System
	Paddocks & Animal Enclosures
	Planned Enclosure
	Pre-19th Century Fields
	Reorganised Fields
	Restored Fields
Urban Settlement	Backyards
	Bungalows
	Detached Houses
	Flats
	Historic Settlement Core
	Mixed Housing
	Park Homes and Caravan Parks
	Semi-detached Houses
	Terraced Housing
	Town Houses
	Villas
Woodland	Ancient Replanted Woodland
	Ancient Woodland
	Coppiced Woodland
	Planted Woodland
	Secondary Woodland
Parkland and Designed Landscapes	Avenue
	Ornamental Plantations and Wooded Parkland
	Parkland
	Park Pale
Recreation	Athletics
	Equestrian Centre
	Golf
	Greyhound Racing
	Horse Racing
	Leisure Centre
	Managed Archaeological Site
	Open Green Space

	Other Leisure
	Playing Fields and Sports Fields
	Public Park
	Water Sports
Rural Settlement	Common Edge Settlement
	Country House
	Estate Village
	Farm or Farmstead
	Grange
	Lodges and Other Large Houses
	Manor Farm
	Palace
	Rows
	Smallholding
	Villages
Valley Floor and Water Management	Artificial Lake
	Artificial River
	Balancing Pond
	Fish Pond
	Lake
	Mill Stream
	Natural Spring
	Pond
	Pumping Station
	Reservoir
	River
	River Valley Floor
	Watercress Beds
	Water Intake
	Water Separator
Civic Provision	Almshouses
	Community Centre and Services
	Education
	Firestation
	Funerary
	Government Offices
	Health
	Law Courts
	Library
	Orphanage
	Police Station
	Prison
	Religion
	Research Facility
	Workhouse

	Brewery
	Brickworks
	Corn Mill
	Depot
	Electricity Distribution Site
	Factory
	Gasworks
	Industrial Estate
Industrial and Extractive	Iron Works
	Laundry
	Limekilns
	Paper Mill
	Pottery Works
	Quarry
	Saw Mill
	Smithy
	Tannery
	Telephone Exchange
	Windmill
	Watermill
	Workshops
	Bus Station
	Canal
	Car Park
	Civilian Airfield
	Layby
	Lock
Communications	Rail Yard
	Railway
	Railway Goods Shed
	Railway Station
	Road
	Roundabout or Crossroads
	Slip Road
	Business Park
	Commercial Core
	Conference Centre
	Distribution Centre
	Garden Centre
	Hostel
	Hotel
Commercial	Large Shops and Retail Outlets
	Offices
	Other Commercial
	Petrol Station
	Retail Park
	Shopping Centre

Broad Type	Narrow Type
	Shops
Unimproved Land	Heathland
	Marsh
	Pasture/Grassland
	Scrubland
Orchards and Horticulture	Allotment
	Garden
	Nursery
	Orchards
	Polytunnel Horticulture
	Vinery
Civic Amenities	Sewage Pumping Station
	Sewage Works
	Water Disposal Site
	Waterworks
Military	Barracks
	Drill Hall
	Hillfort
	Military Airfield
	Military Base
	Military College
	Military Depot
	Rifle Range

Table 1. Broad and Narrow Types

The broad and narrow types were structured in the database prior to the start of the pilot study, but refined at several points during analysis of sources and landscape features. The broad types are each configured with their HLC types, each of which has a unique identifier "code" and scope note to guide the HLC Officer in determining the appropriate type.

This configuration is visible "behind the scenes" in the HLC module:
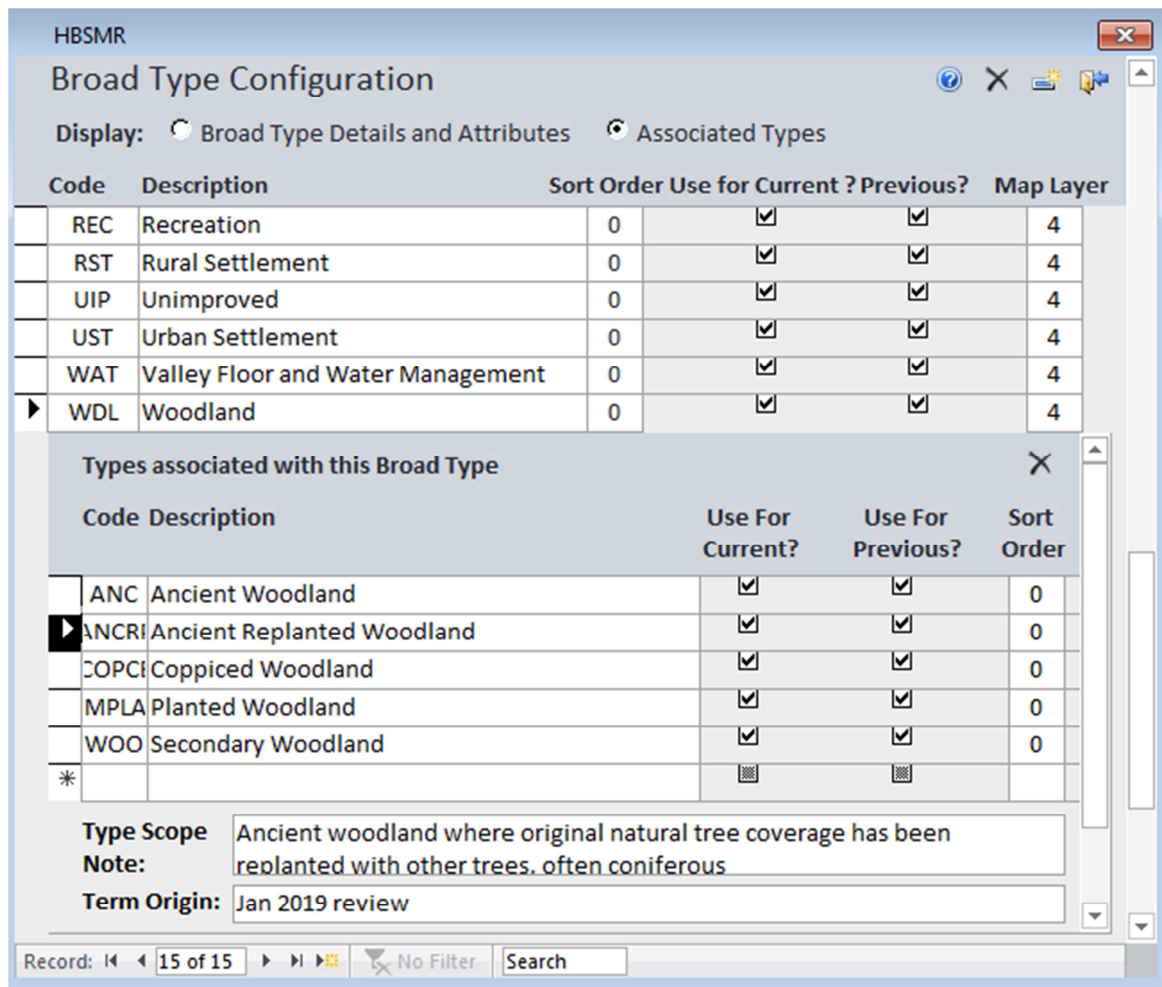
Figure 5. Broad and narrow type configuration – an example

Data was entered into the HLC module via an individual record screen with a number of tabs, mirroring the standard HBSMR set-up for monuments and other monuments in HERs.
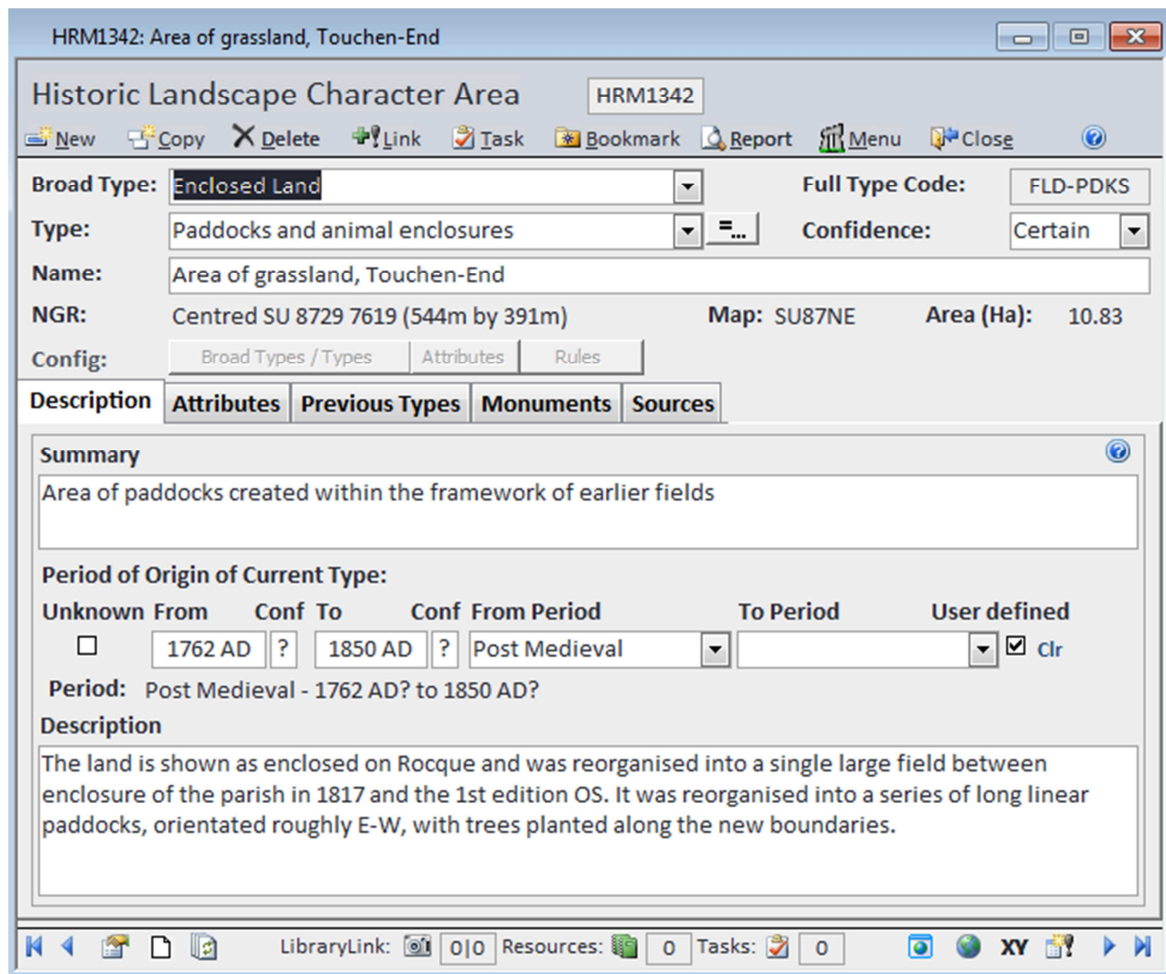
Figure 6. An example HLC record showing layout and tabs

A full explanation of the database structure and list of data entered in each tab is provided at appendix 2; however some key points are discussed and illustrated below:

As well as general information to describe, characterise and locate the polygon, a number of pre-defined "attributes" were recorded, appropriate to each broad type. It is important to note the broad-brush nature of this exercise. The "Broad" as well as the "Narrow" character types are usually generalisations, while the character of each defined polygon is often more complex than can easily be described by these types. Because of this, attributes further describe factors and features contributing to the character of each polygon (e.g. average field size, nature of internal boundaries, settlement morphology). Consideration of these attributes is a key factor in determining broad and narrow types, as well as often period of origin.
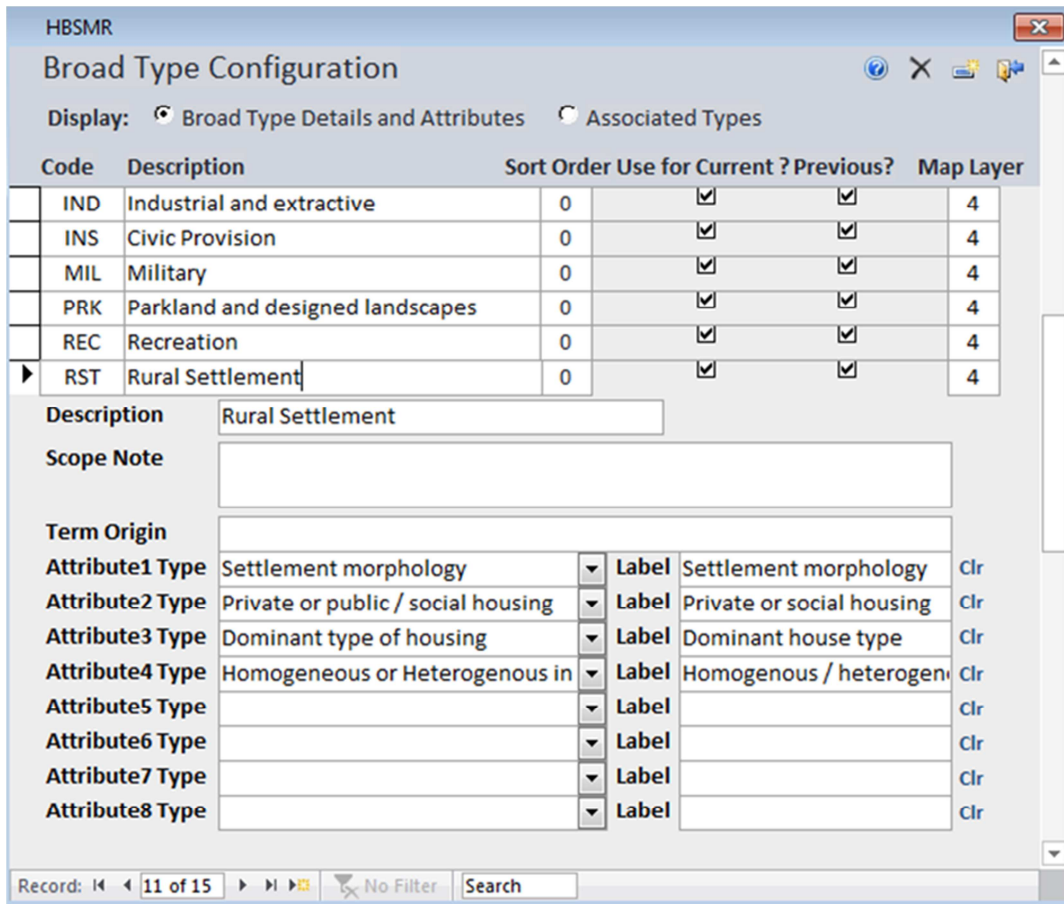
Figure 7. Attribute configurations for Rural Settlement broad type

6.4 Dates recorded in the project database

A date or date range was assigned to each recorded Broad and Narrow type in an individual record, whether current or previous. In the project database, this is recorded by filling in the 'Date from' and 'Date to' fields.

For example, if a farmhouse is not shown on the first edition 6 inch OS map (surveyed 1871-72) but can be seen on the second edition 6 inch OS map (surveyed 1898); the date range would be 1873 – 1898. 1873 would be entered into the 'Date from' field as the earliest possible date when the farmhouse could have been built, and 1898 into the "Date to" field as the latest possible date. More specific dates were sometimes known. For instance, Ascot Railway Station was built in 1856. 1856 was therefore entered both in the "Date from" and "Date to" fields. Dates of former character types were recorded in the same way as the current ones.

The earliest mapping consistently used during the HLC project was John Rocque's map of Berkshire, published 1761, and initial characterisation and selection of types assumed that much of what is present on that map may have been present for a long time, probably for centuries. Often features present on Rocque's map were assumed to have originated in the medieval period (defined as the period between 1066 and 1539), except when the history before 1761 of a defined area was known from other sources. However given this approach risks incorrectly attributing a medieval date to

early post-medieval features, records where this method was taken were later revisited to either be more circumspect, or to note additional sources where these confirm likely medieval origins.

6.5 Other information recorded in the database

Known facts about the history or the character of the land parcel in question that could not accurately be described by the character types and the associated attributes were recorded as free text. Associated HER monument records are included as an auto-generated list linking to those records in the HBSMR monuments module of the HER.

The Broad and Narrow character types recorded by the project, as well as the associated attributes, were informed by those already devised for adjacent HLC initiatives, as well as by examination of the landscape itself, with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire HLCs being particularly relevant. Some alterations were however required, the most significant being the creation of additional HLC types, in order to capture accurately certain characteristics particular to East Berkshire.

Each record notes previous HLC types for its polygon, determined principally by examination of historic maps and consideration of HER records; the fields for "Previous Type" mirror those for "Description" in terms of broad and narrow types, date, and description, and are searchable via the HLC Index Form in the same way, via individual or multiple search fields presented as picklists:

Figure 8. Search Index Form for HLC

6.6 Sources

The core sources for the main stage of the project comprised modern and historic mapping, and modern aerial photographs. The historic mapping consisted of Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761, Ordnance Survey Drawings from c.1807-1811, 1st edition six inch OS mapping, six inch mapping from the interwar period (1920s /1930s), and 1:10,000 OS coverage surveyed 1960-62. The modern mapping consisted of the OS Mastermap (1:1250) and 1:10,000 OS digital mapping. Google maps and Bing maps were used as sources for modern aerial photography. Other core sources were Historic England's Historic Characterisation (HC) Thesaurus, and project reports from other HLCs,

both helpful when drafting and defining the HLC types. To aid with the interpretation, a number of auxiliary datasets and sources were also used when needed, including all modules of the Berkshire HER, supplementary reference material from Berkshire Archaeology's reference collection and the Berkshire Record office, and online provision such as the Heritage Gateway. A full list of sources used can be found in the appendices.

7. Stage 3

In this stage of the HLC project, a draft report was produced and disseminated internally to the Berkshire Archaeology team, and to Historic England colleagues, for comment. Following detailed feedback from Historic England, a number of edits required to both the dataset and the report were identified and commissioned, with the database works being mostly outsourced to Land Use Consultants, and the report edits carried out in-house by Berkshire Archaeology staff. During this process, and in order to minimise the delay in making HLC data available to stakeholders, it was agreed that the dataset could be incorporated into the Berkshire Archaeology HER in its draft format, and thus made a standard part of HER provision for consultations and enquiries such as consultant requests for desk-based assessment.

Once the required edits were completed, the project as a whole was archived with Reading Museum, and the completed report deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

During the course of the project programme, the data was also made available to the National HLC, which has created a single unified HLC dataset for the whole of England. The project was undertaken by Natural England, funded by DEFRA.

As part of the report writing process, the recorded Broad and Narrow character types along with associated attributes were reviewed, analysed and reported on. Comparisons with HER and other data were made, and trends and patterns across the study area and over time identified. Various uses for the HLC data were identified, including to inform strategic, local and neighbourhood local planning, raising awareness and for research purposes. These are listed and discussed below.

The final report will be distributed in hard copy to the Project Area's five unitary authorities and Historic England, as well as any other stakeholders identified during the life of the project or subsequently. It will also be made available digitally via the ADS website, and on request via Berkshire Archaeology, with a brief summary being posted on the website **www.berkshirearchaeology.org.uk**

The HLC data itself is publicly available through the Berkshire HER, in line with its access policy. Local residents, members of the public and researchers can access all data free of charge (for non-commercial use) and it is available to archaeological consultants and contractors free if visited in person, and as part of charged enquiries where data is provided by the HER Officer. It will be provided to Historic Environment Farm Environment Records for higher-level stewardship purposes for a fee as part of the nationally negotiated service level agreement and charging structure, dependent on any subsequent arrangements as may be agreed.

8. Anticipated uses of the HLC

HLC data is expected to be used for a range of purposes, including:

- **Planning policy and development management**
- **Conservation area appraisals and management plans**
- **Agri-environment schemes**
- **Woodland grant schemes and other forestry proposals**
- **Local characterisation and designation initiatives**
- **Research**
- **Raising public awareness and increasing understanding of the historic environment**

8.1 Planning policy and development management

There are clear benefits to having HLC data as one of a number of datasets available to policy planners, developers and their consultants, and to various specialist technical advisors who advise local authorities. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes a clear case for the strong planning relevance of local distinctiveness and historic character. In addition to this, there is a need to consider historic environment impacts early on in the planning process. This is leading to increased reliance on alerts mapping in both urban and rural areas. There is an obvious role for HLC in the development and application of this.

A key concept in the NPPF is sustainable development. The HLC is able to inform appropriate sustainable development according to location. The scale of the current characterisation makes it more useful for large-scale development and site allocation rather than individual minor applications for small developments, although any further study at finer-grain may be of benefit for smaller areas, and the National HLC will be a consideration in more strategic-level work.

Historic landscape character originates from combinations of elements and features that make a landscape distinctive, and this influences how we experience different places. In line with this, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) encourages planning authorities to make use of heritage assets to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. How this is interpreted in a local planning context is open to interpretation and will differ from case to case. It is however clear that the HLC can play an important role in this. HLC can provide context, for example, on how a place's present patterning of housing reflects locally distinctive forms and development phases, in contrast with those of other areas.
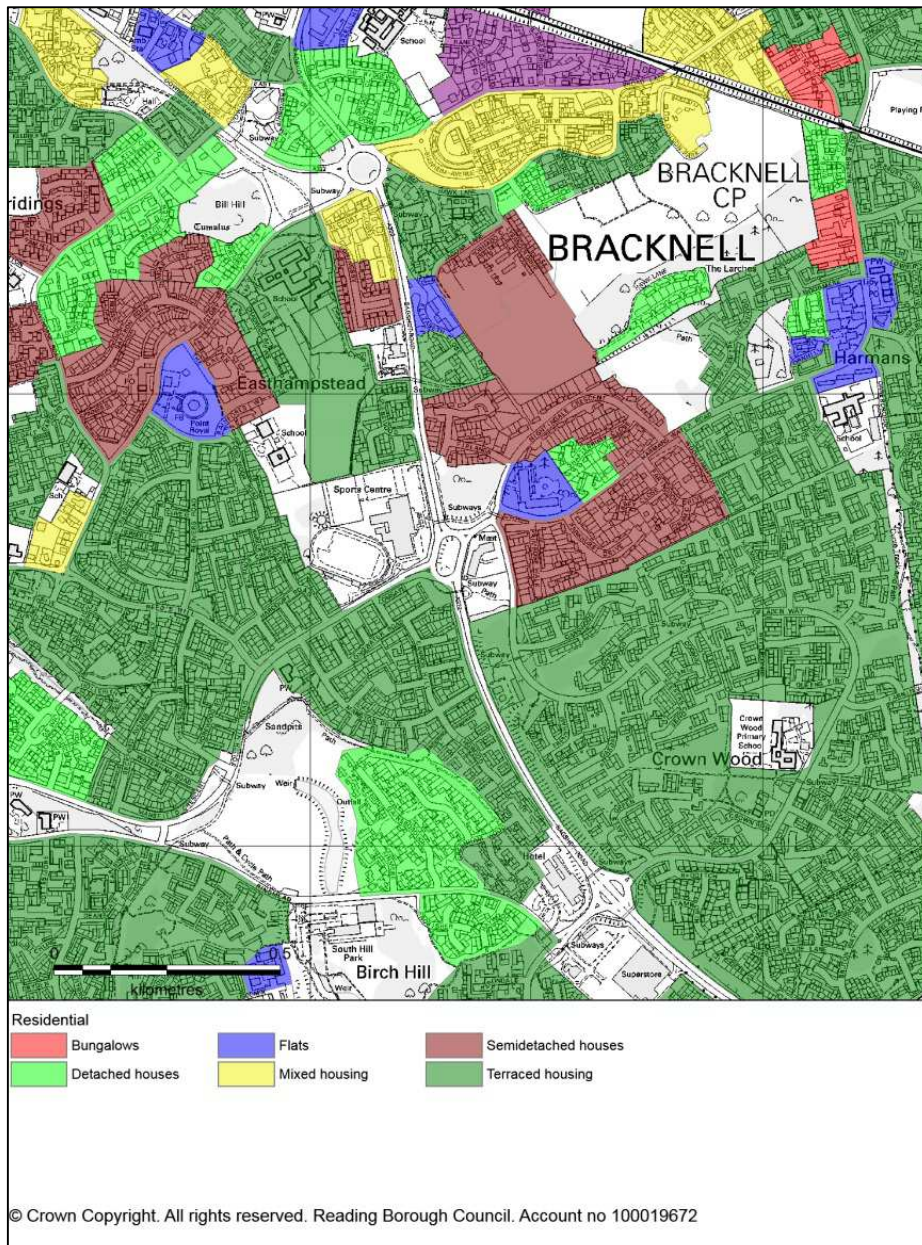
Figure 9. Character of the housing around Easthampstead, Bracknell

It is also possible to extract more detailed or specific information from the HLC. This makes it possible to effectively devise strategies to protect or enhance the historic environment in a targeted way. For example, there are many late Victorian housing estates in Reading, consisting of rows of terraced houses often organised in grid-iron street patterns. These areas arguably have a very distinct (though not completely unique) character and a strong sense of place.
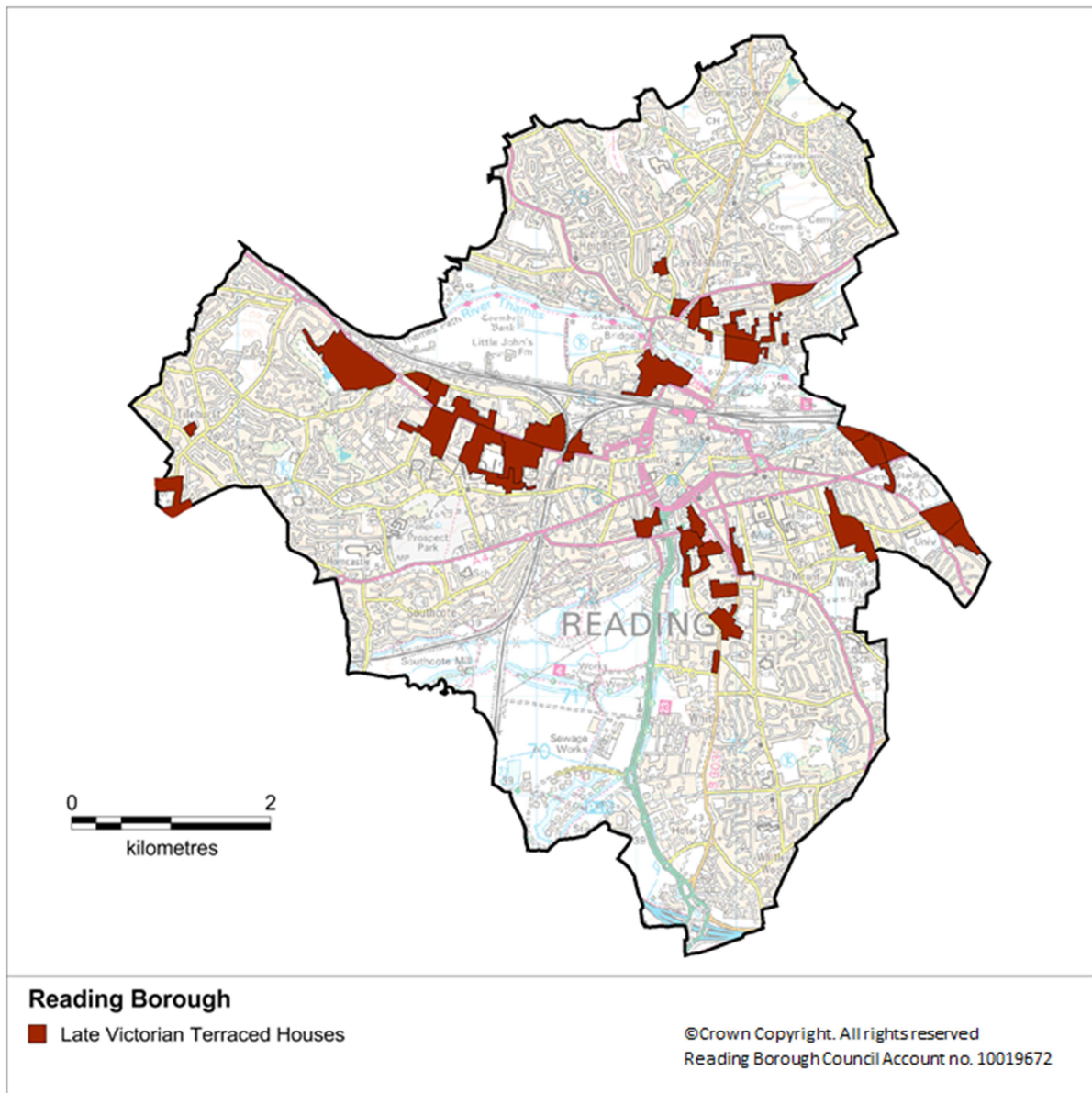
Figure 10. Areas of late Victorian terraced houses in Reading

8.2 Conservation area appraisals and management plans

National legislation and policy allows each unitary authority to designate conservation areas. This can help to protect the character and appearance of places of special architectural or historic interest. The unique overview provided by HLC datasets can assist conservation officers with the appraisal of both new and existing conservation areas.

8.3 Local characterisation and designation initiatives

Given the drive towards neighbourhood planning, the need to help local communities engage with and understand the historic environment is paramount. There are many current examples of how more localised characterisation projects give rise to effective local management and protection of heritage assets. Clearly the HLC has an important role to play in this.

8.4 Agri-environment schemes

HLC offers the potential to manage rural areas in a proactive way. This entails conserving and enhancing relevant historic landscape features of significance, rather than merely acting as a constraint to farming practices. HLC data is, at the time of writing, one of the standard components required for Farm Environment Records (FERs) for Higher-Level Stewardship proposals. It is usually provided by HERs to FER consultants alongside other data and appropriate management recommendations. The availability of HLC data can also aid in drawing up new data records for the Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE) dataset. This is part of the ongoing work of most HERs. East Berkshire has a small SHINE dataset already in use, and following a recent HER audit, updating and adding further SHINE records and polygons is now in the resultant action plan. With the advent of the National HLC, the East Berkshire HLC will also serve as a resource of finer-grained HLC data and a broader range of data fields for those using the National HLC for agri-environment scheme prioritisation and targeting.

8.5 Woodland grant schemes and other forestry proposals

Appropriate recommendations for new planting locations and conservation of landscape features can benefit greatly from reliable historic landscape data. Use of HLC data avoids exclusive reliance on point data and makes it possible to consider the broader landscape in the design of new forestry.

8.6 Research

There are opportunities for HLC to feed into local research projects as well as such with a national scope. HLC data is often requested during initial HER consultations and will form part of the standard data provision for such requests.

The HLC is a large and complex resource which can be interrogated in many ways, to inform a wide range of research topics and agendas.

Specifically, it could be used to:

- Reconstruct the character of the landscape at specific times
- Reconstruct the history of the landscape
- Contextualise already existing archaeological records and information
- Provide a basis for further research

The character of the East Berkshire landscape can be reliably reconstructed at certain points in time, depending on the availability of comprehensive sources of mapping. These points in time are currently: 2014-16, 1960-62, 1920s-1930s, c.1900, 1870s, 1807-1811, and 1761. This makes it possible to also reconstruct the history of the landscape. An understanding of what the landscape might have looked like at a specific point in time aids the contextualising of existing archaeological information and the interpretation of existing data.

The lack of earlier secure dates for landscape character makes reconstruction before the mid-18th century more difficult; however, the HLC is a live dataset which is expected to be updated over time

with relevant historic and archaeological information. In time, it may therefore be possible to reconstruct the character of the landscape at other points in time, in the future. Queries can however be run based on attributes, including those typically associated with earlier dates.

The HLC data provides much information that can provide answers to research questions, and can prove a starting point for further research, such as by demonstrating correlations between the landscape character types and recorded archaeological assets. Thematic maps can quickly be produced based on broad or narrow types, and with a selection of overlays or dataset combinations. The HLC data is fully integrated into the Berkshire Archaeology HER and is expected to be a standard element of any commercial search such as those carried out by consultants advising potential developers. It has been provided to two unitary authorities for use in assessment of potential site allocations for local plans, and two large-scale research projects each focussing across several parishes.

9. East Berkshire HLC Conclusions

The results of the East Berkshire HLC project are detailed below. 15 different Broad Character Types were defined for the main phase of the project: Civic Amenities, Civic Provision, Commercial, Communications, Enclosed Land, Industrial, Military, Orchards and Horticulture, Parkland and Designed Landscapes, Recreation, Urban Settlement, Rural Settlement, Unimproved Land, Valley Floor and Water Management, and Woodland. Each Broad Type also contains a number of Narrow Types.
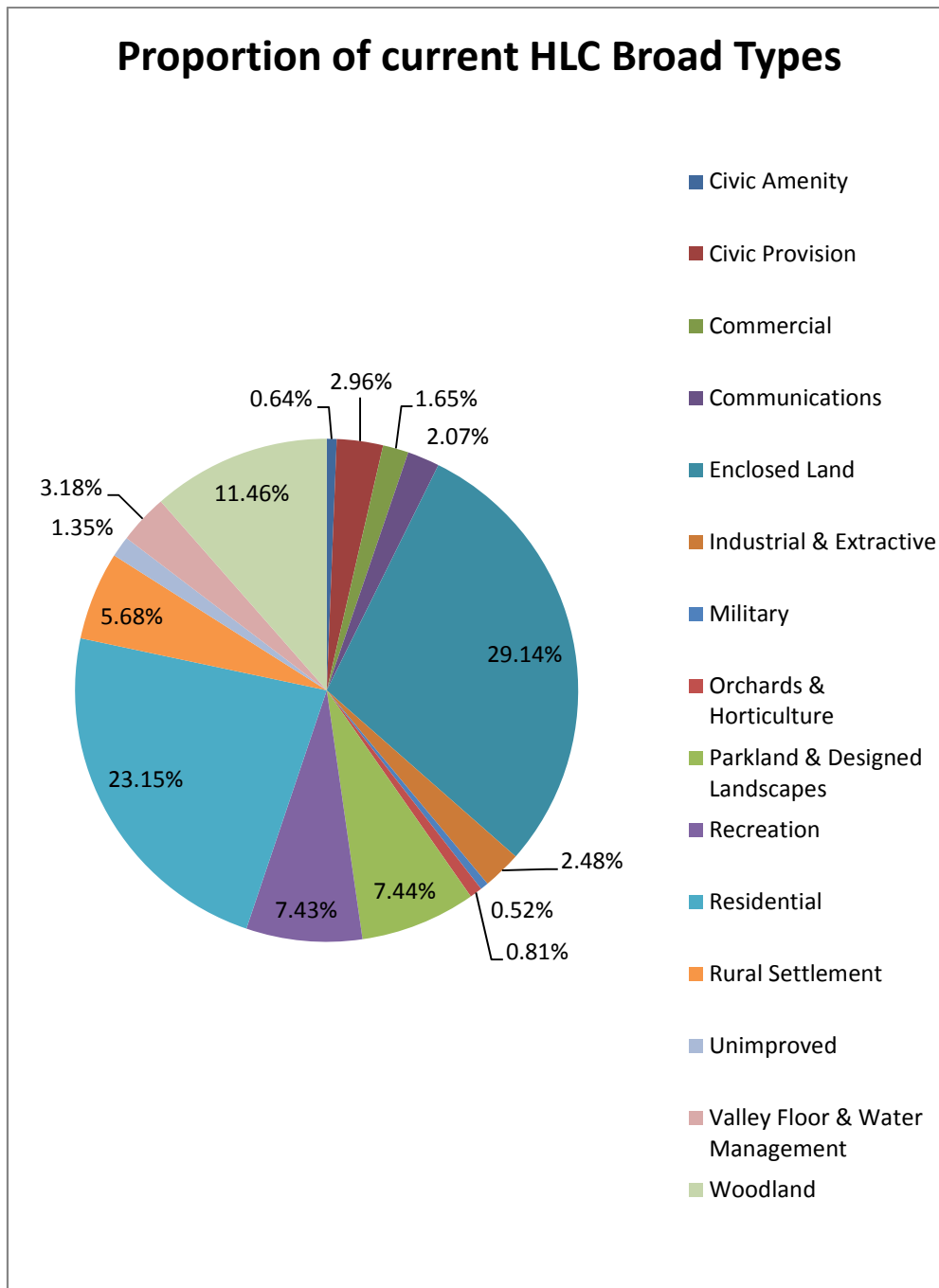
Figure 11. Proportions of current Broad Types in East Berkshire

Each Broad type (along with the Narrow Types it contains) is described in a separate chapter below. There are some slight differences in how the chapters are structured. However, most chapters comprise the following:

- A brief description of the Broad Type and the Narrow Types contained within it, including spatial distribution and area covered by each Type;
- Maps showing current distribution of each Type across East Berkshire
- Maps indicating change over time across East Berkshire
- A closer description of the distribution of the Broad and Narrow Types in each Unitary Authority in East Berkshire
- Maps showing current distribution of each Type in each Unitary Authority
- Maps indicating change over time in each Unitary Authority

Two types of maps are used in the report to indicate change over time:

- Time slice maps. These are reconstructions of the historic environment at specific points in time (e.g. 1761 or 1900).
- Time depth maps. These indicate when different parts of the current landscape originated.

Broad Types

- Civic Amenity
- Civic Provision
- Commercial
- Communications
- Enclosed Land
- Industrial and Extractive
- Military
- Orchards and Horticulture
- Parkland and Designed Landscapes
- Recreation
- Urban Settlement
- Rural Settlement
- Unimproved
- Valley Floor and Water Management
- Woodland

0   10

kilometres
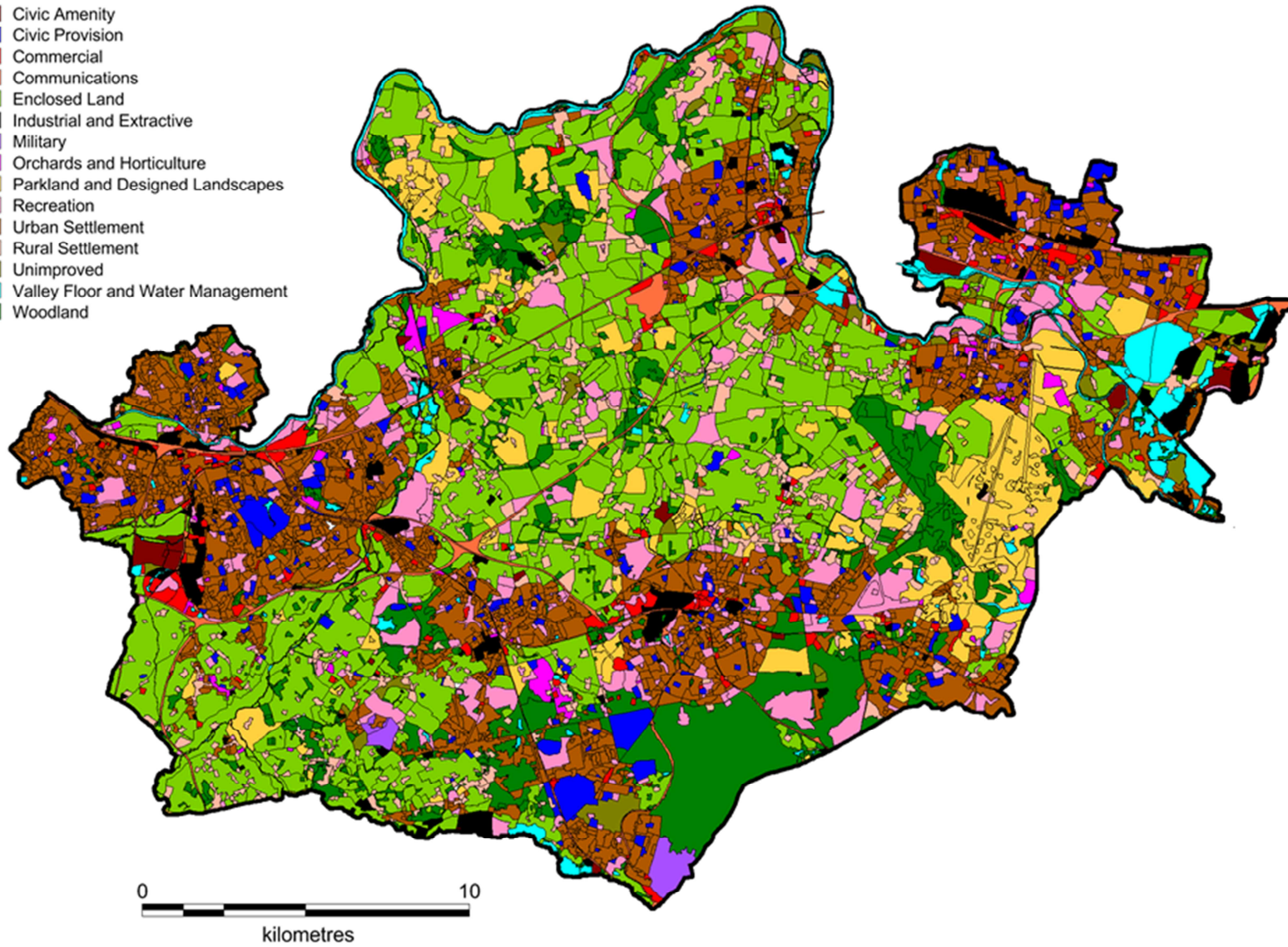
Figure 12. Current Broad Types in East Berkshire

10. Civic Amenity

The Civic Amenity broad type includes features and facilities relating to water, waste water treatment, and waste disposal ie. elements of the broad infrastructure of services provided to residents.

Narrow Types: Sewage Pumping Station, Sewage Works, Waste Disposal Site and Waterworks.

Polygons: 26 polygons have Civic Amenity recorded as their current broad type, comprising a total of 365 hectares. A further 17 polygons have Civic Amenity recorded as a previous broad type.

	Area (hectares)
Total	**365**
Sewage Pumping Station	**2**
Sewage Works	**203**
Waste Disposal Site	**128**
Water Works	**32**

Table 2. Civic Amenity polygons in East Berkshire

Sewage Pumping Station

The sewage system generally uses gravity to move sewage from one location to another, often necessitating the pumping of sewage to a higher location by a pumping station. There is only one recorded current sewage pumping station in East Berkshire (in Winkfield) and one former (in Datchet).

Sewage Works

There are 15 current sewage works in East Berkshire, and a further 13 polygons with sewage works as a previous type. Sewage works are generally located either on the outskirts of the larger towns or in more isolated rural locations, and in close proximity to rivers or other watercourses (for the disposal of treated water that is a product of the sewage works). They often occupy marginal land or land that that is unsuitable for other types of use, and along with their associated pumping stations, are characterised by sets of tanks and other structures within a secure compound.

Waste Disposal Sites

Waste disposal sites (usually incorporating recycling centres) tend to be situated in peripheral locations, or in larger industrial estates, with good access for visitors. They are characterised by large-scale rubbish pits, sorting areas, hardstandings with industrial skips and multiple compounds.

For household waste, there are four recycling centres open to residents – the Island Road recycling site in Reading, a site off Longshot Lane in Bracknell, a site off Stafferton Way in Maidenhead, and a site off Chalvey High Street in Slough.

There are three former waste disposal sites (ie shown as "previous type") recorded in the East Berkshire HLC - Longhill Park in Bracknell, a restored field close to Waltham St Lawrence, and the former Biffa waste disposal site in Slough.

Waterworks

Waterworks treat water from rivers and reservoirs before it is used for domestic or industrial purposes. There are currently five waterworks in East Berkshire: One in Bracknell, one in Bray, one in Reading, one associated with Windsor Castle, and one associated with Broadmoor Hospital. There are no known former waterworks recorded, although small-scale works serving smaller communities may not be represented due to the project's polygon size threshold.
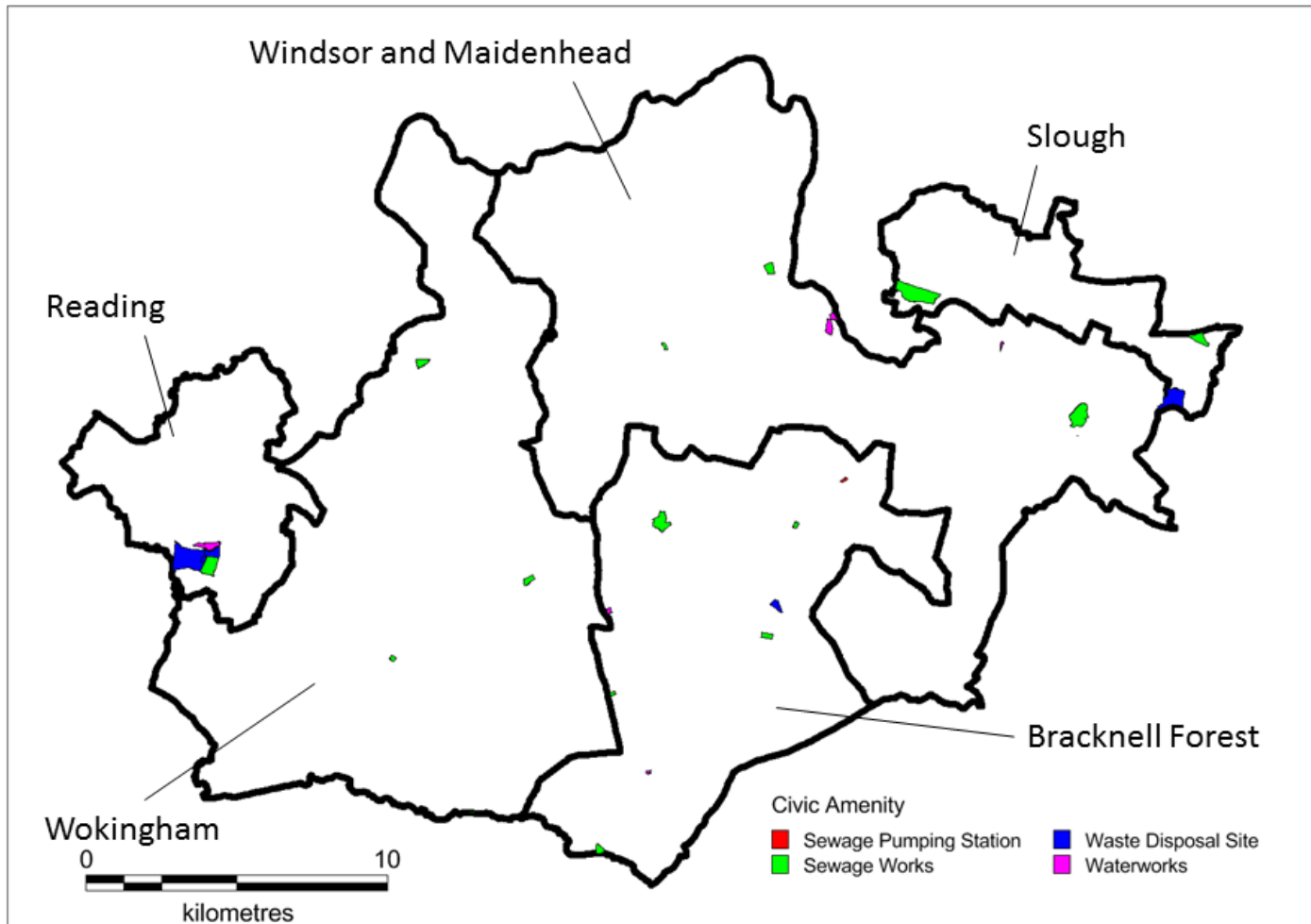
Figure 13. Civic Amenity in East Berkshire

10.1 Reading Borough

Civic amenity areas in Reading are concentrated in an area to the south west of the A33, where a landfill site, sewage works, and water works are located.

The water works originate in the Victorian period, but have been greatly expanded since then, and the other civic amenities also reflect the growing population requiring services. The landfill site is modern, created at some time after 1962, and includes a recycling facility for household waste on site. The sewage works is also modern, built after the early 1960s. The main sewage works in Reading were previously located in Whitley, on the other side of the A33; a former sewage works is also recorded in Caversham.
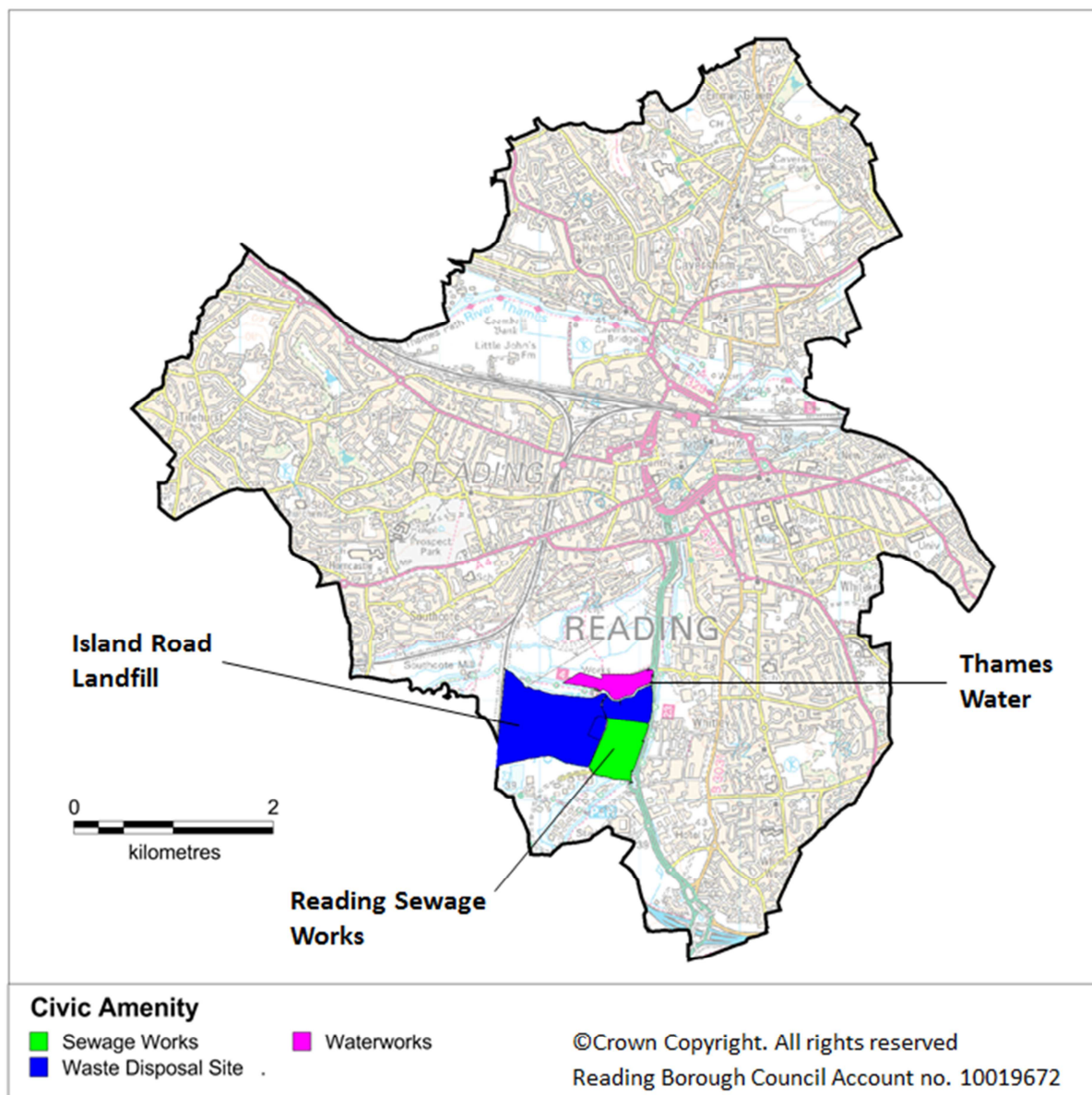
Figure 14. Civic Amenity in Reading Borough
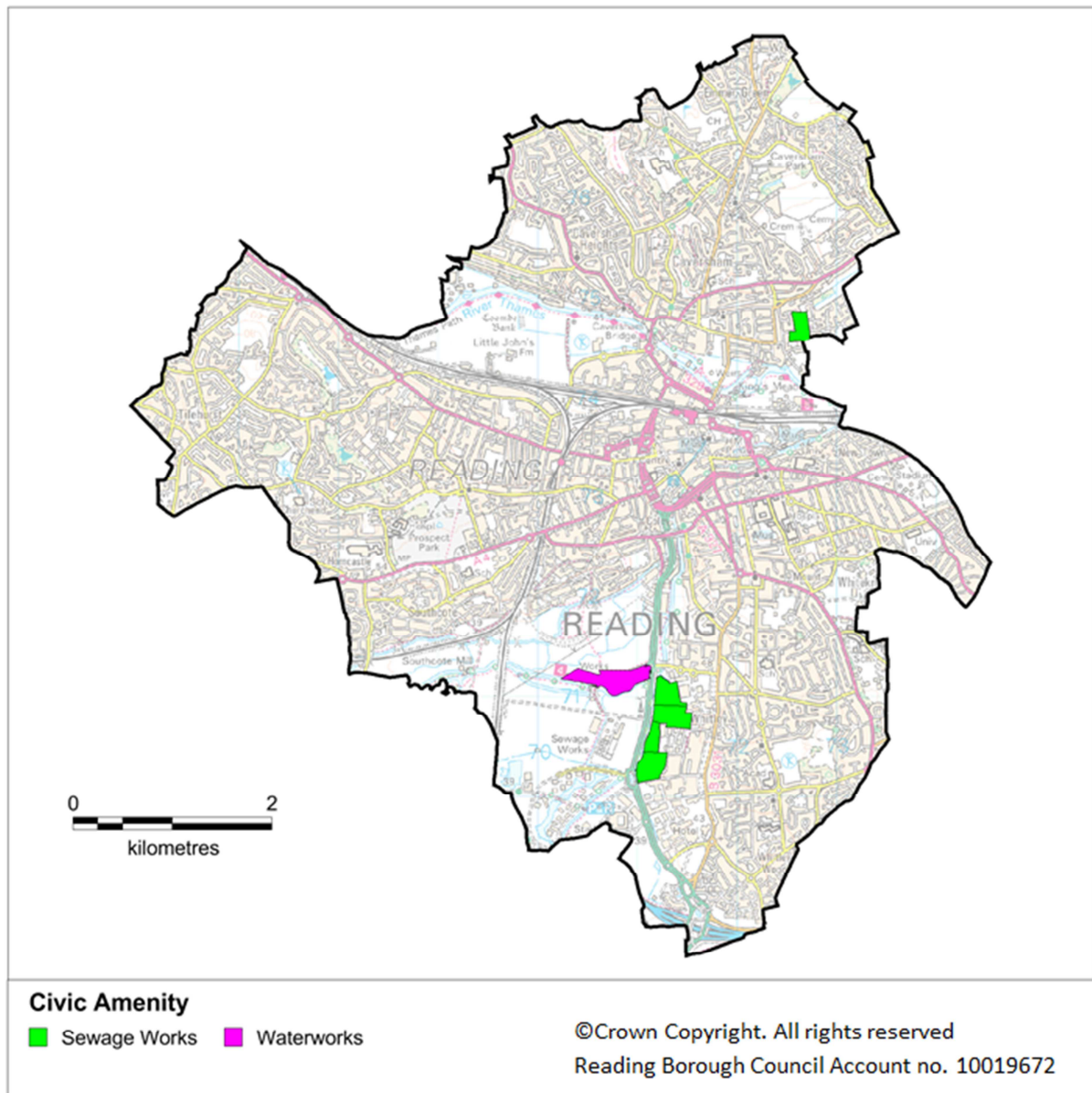
Figure 15. Previous Civic Amenity in Reading Borough

10.2 The Borough of Wokingham

There are four current sewage works in Wokingham Borough - Twyford Sewage Treatment Works, Wokingham Sewage Works, a sewage works at Cole Lane near Arborfield, and one located at Finchampstead Bridge in the far south of the Borough. A previous sewage works in Lower Earley has now been replaced by modern housing, and there was a sewage works in Wokingham, in a much more central location than the current facility. It has been replaced by a modern industrial estate (Ashville Way Industrial Estate). There are no waste disposal areas recorded in the Borough.

Twyford Sewage Treatment Works

Wokingham Sewage Works

Cole Lane Sewage Works

Finchampstead Sewage Works

Civic Amenity

■ Sewage Works
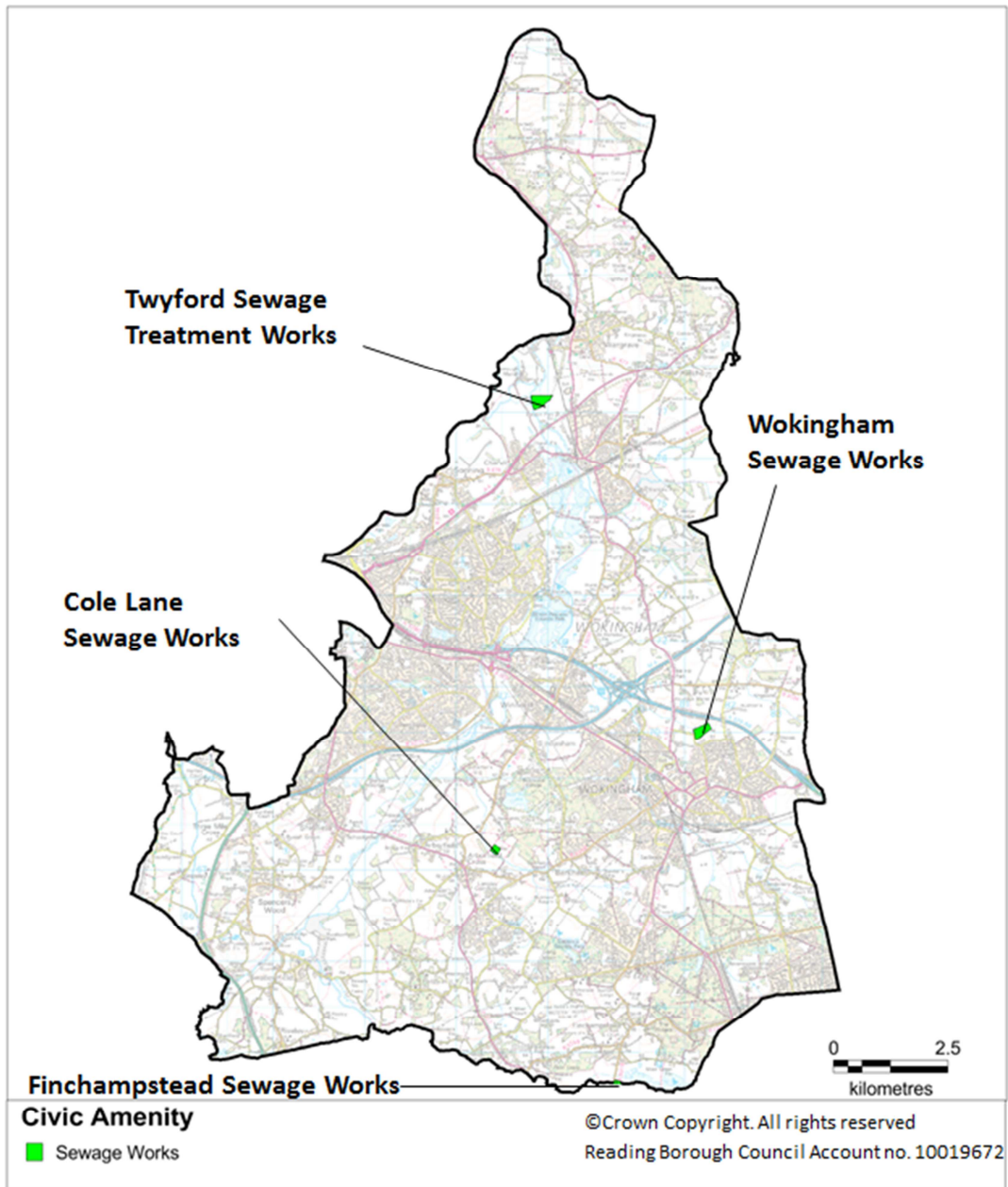
Figure 16. Civic Amenity in Wokingham Borough
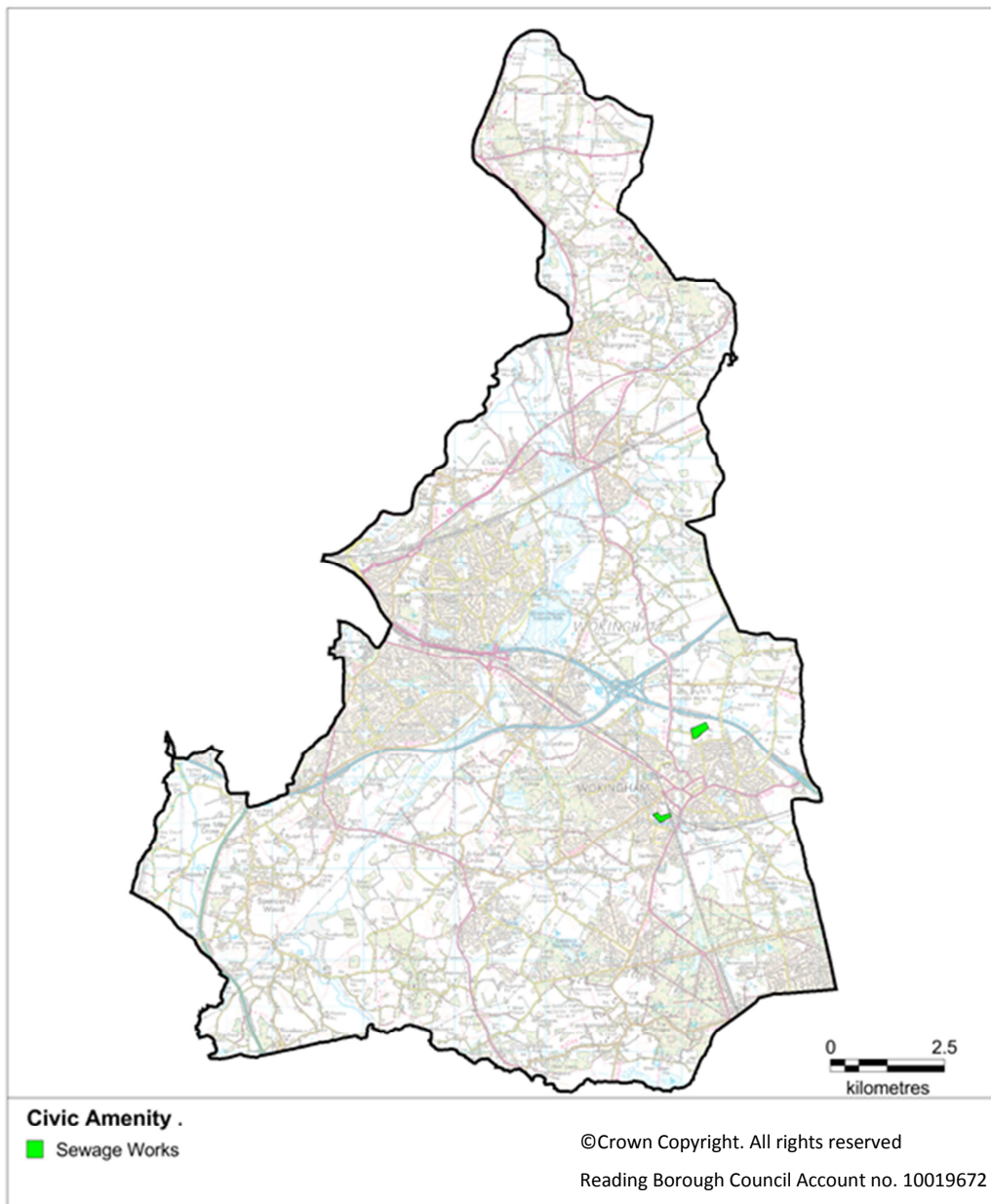
Figure 17. Previous Civic Amenity in Wokingham Borough

10.3 Bracknell Forest

Civic amenity areas in Bracknell Forest are located in a number of places across the Borough, with several close to Bracknell itself, but none actually located in the town.

Sewage works are located around Bracknell town, except for the Sandhurst Sewage Treatment Works in the south of the Borough. There are two waterworks in the Borough, one just to the west of Bracknell town, and a small facility purely serving Broadmoor Hospital. A recycling site off Longshot Lane in Bracknell is the only waste disposal site in the borough.

A few facilities have been taken out of use and the areas are now used for other purposes. The current Longhill Park in the east part of Bracknell is a former waste disposal site, with another

disused waste disposal facility adjacent. A former sewage plant is now part of the Western Industrial Area in Bracknell.
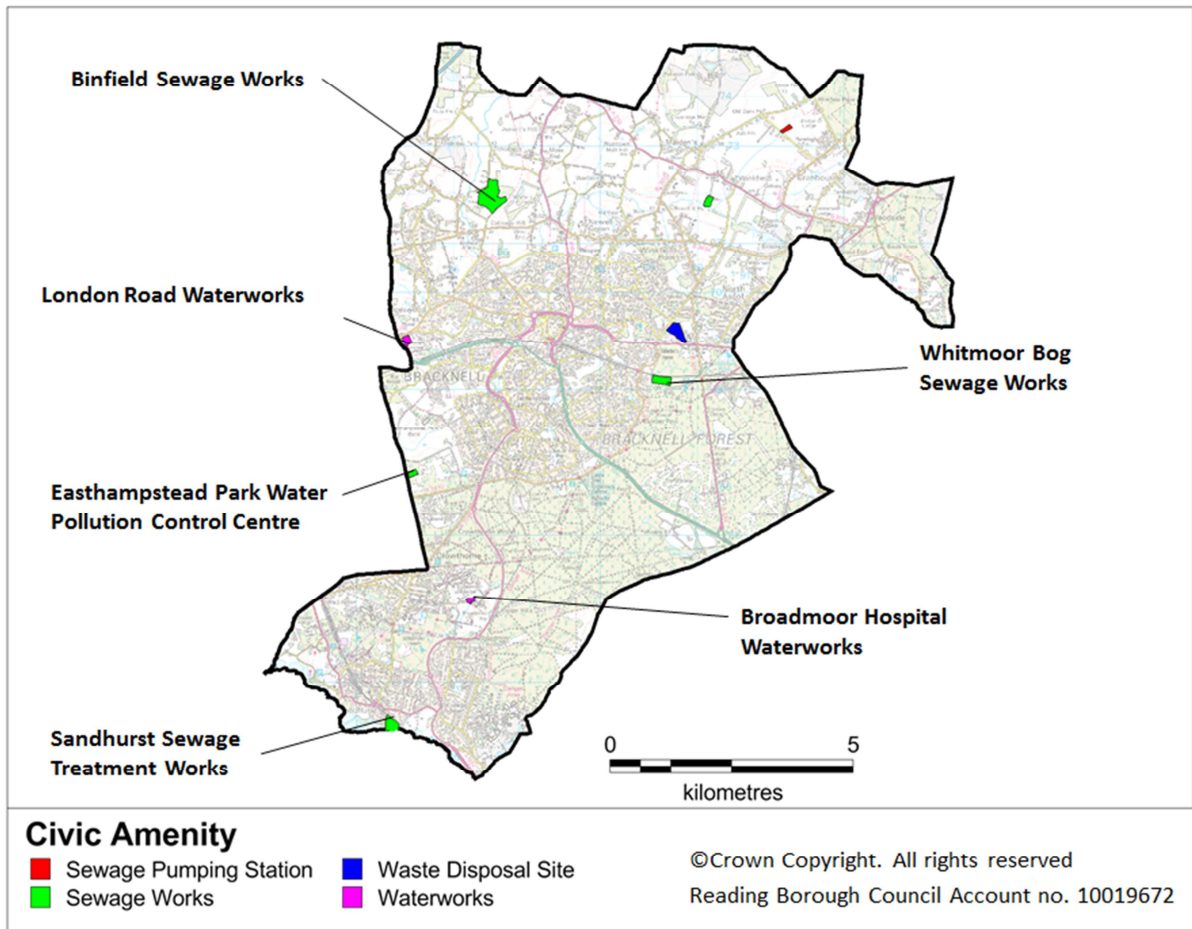
Figure 18. Civic Amenity in Bracknell Forest
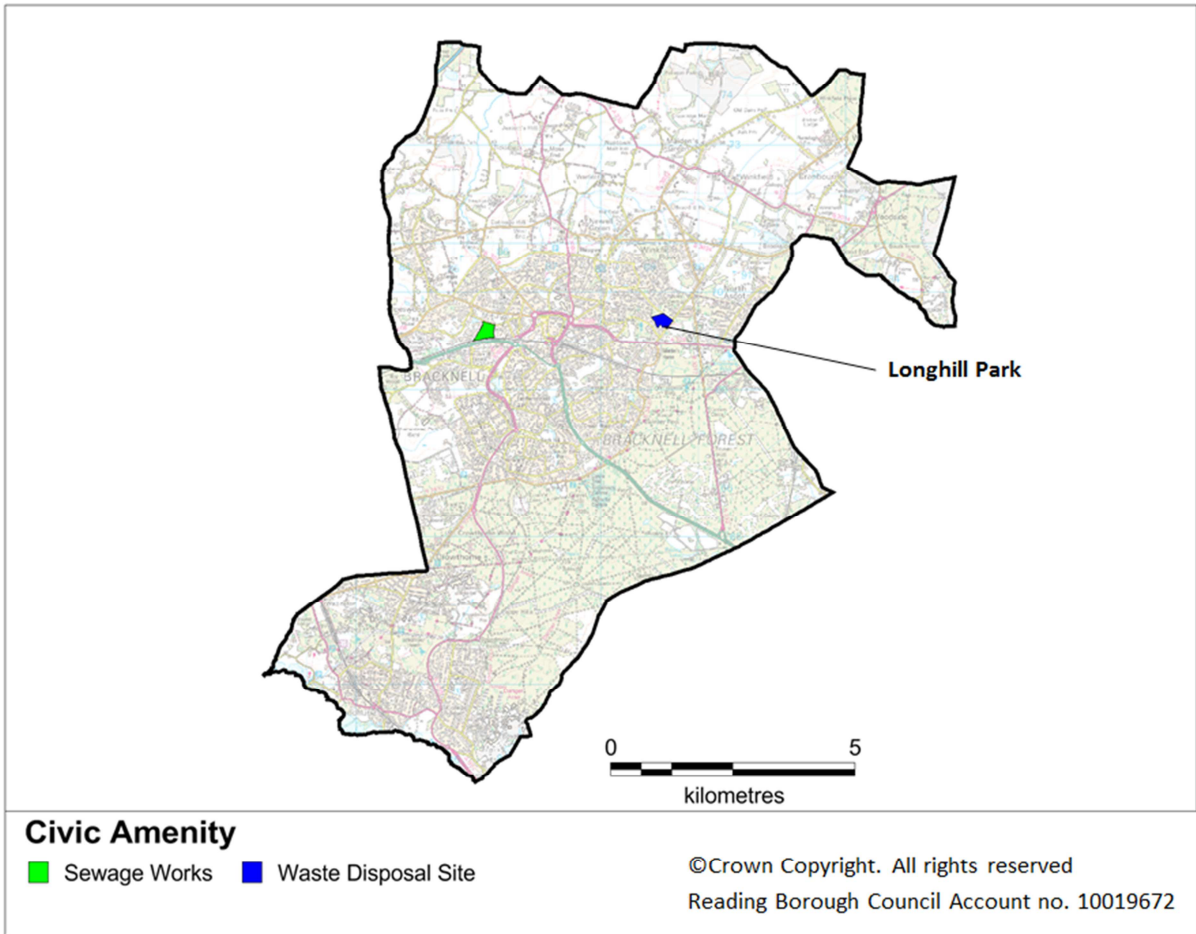
Figure 19. Previous Civic Amenity in Bracknell Forest

10.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

In Windsor and Maidenhead, there are three sewage works currently in use - the sewage works at Green Lane in Maidenhead, the very large sewage works at Ham Island by Old Windsor, and a third close to White Waltham. There are two waterworks operational in the Borough; one is located in Bray and the other close to Windsor Castle. There appears to have been a waterworks here or very close to this location since the 17th century, serving Windsor Castle with water from the Thames.

A large waste disposal site, Wiggins recycling centre, is partly located in the east of the Borough, and partly in Slough; there is also a recycling site off Stafferton Way in Maidenhead.

Bray Lake was previously a sewage farm. There were also sewage works in Ascot to the south of Heatherwood Hospital, and at a site in Eton Wick currently used for allotments. A site in Downfield Lane, Waltham St Lawrence, was apparently used for waste disposal in the 1970s and 1980s, but has now been restored to agricultural use.
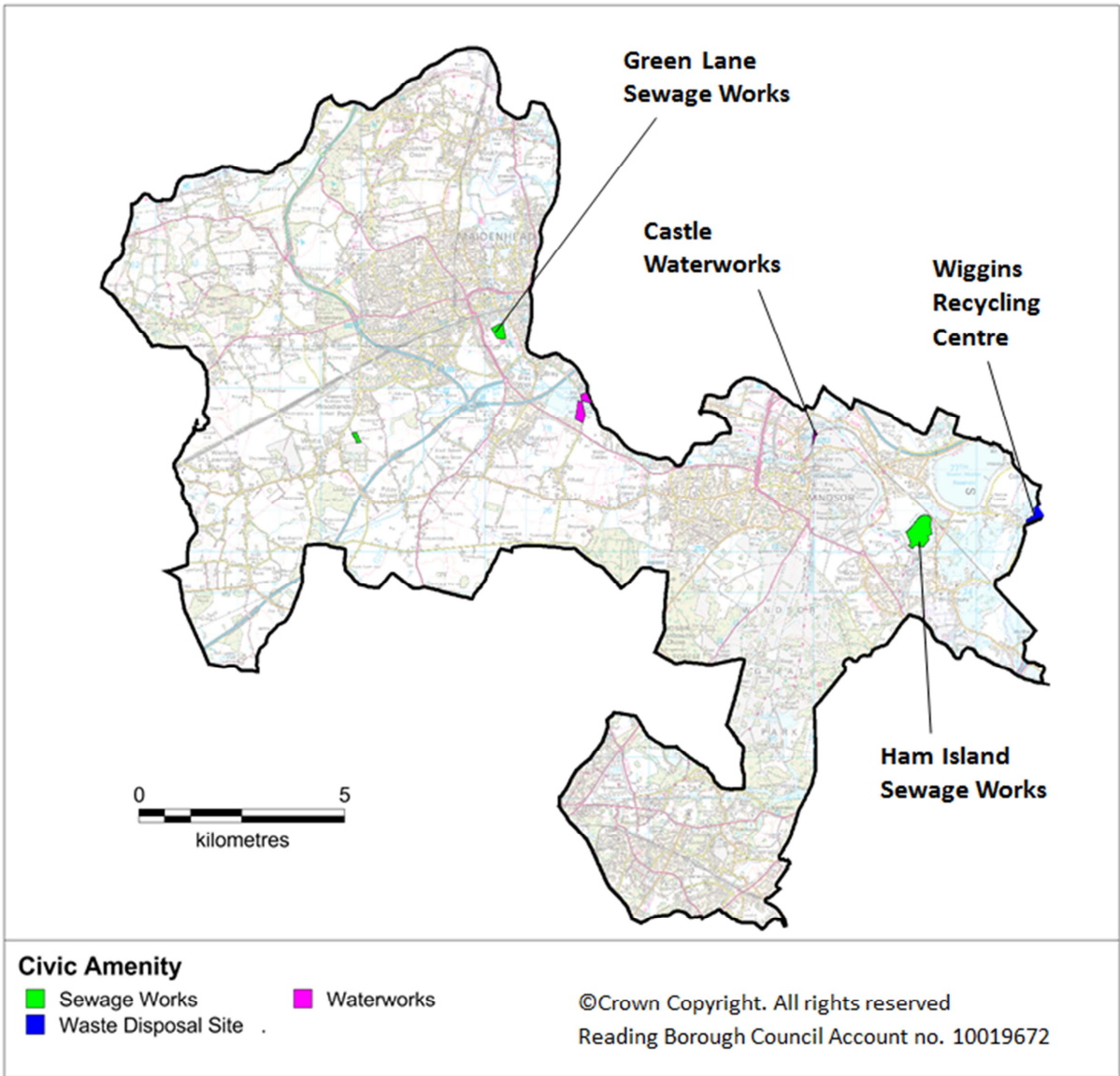
Figure 20. Civic Amenity in Windsor and Maidenhead
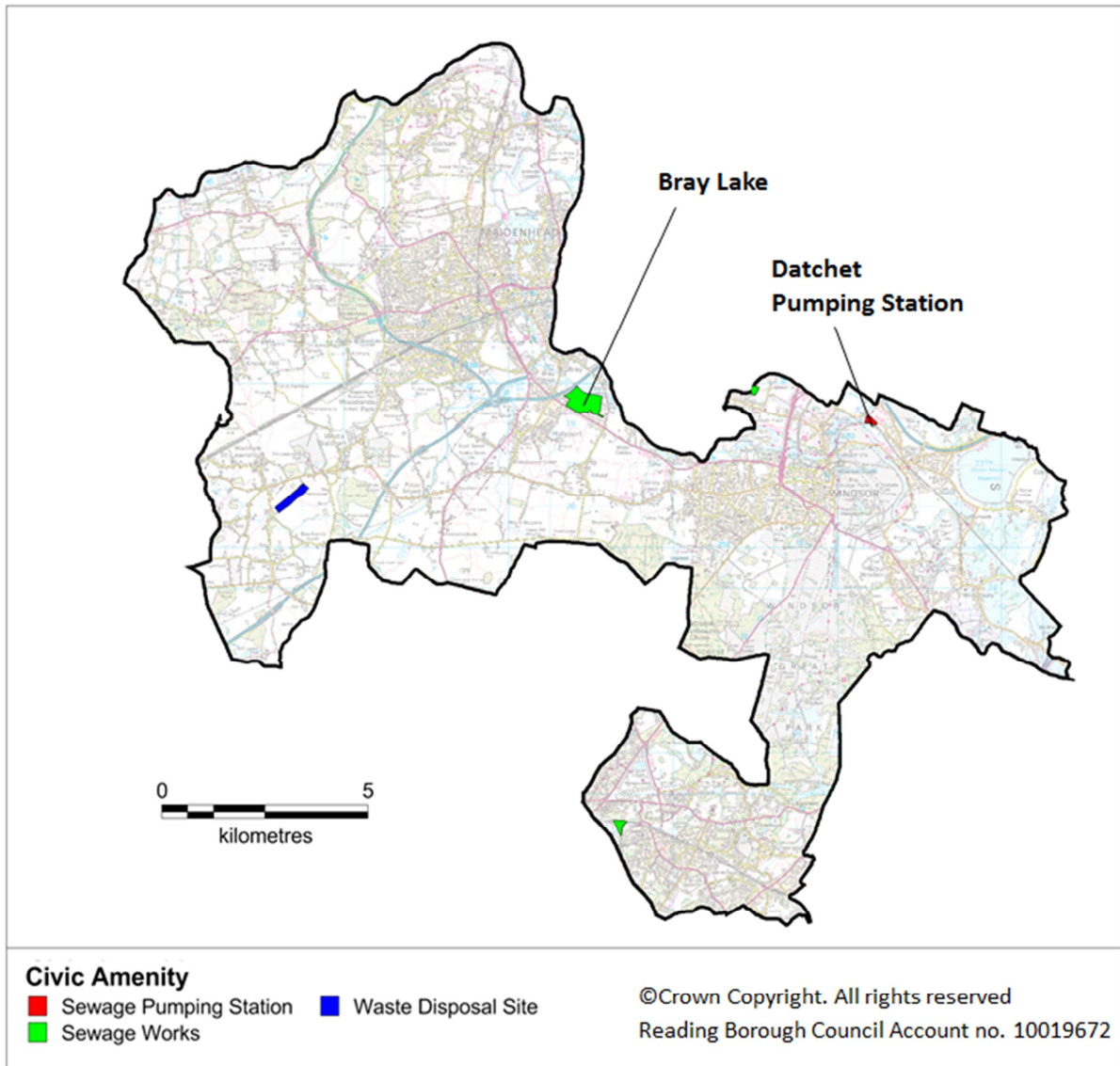
Figure 21. Previous Civic Amenity in Windsor and Maidenhead

10.5 Slough Borough

There are two sewage works currently in use within Slough Borough - Slough Sewage Works in the west, and Iver South Sewage Plant north of Colnbrook in the east. The first sewage plant in Slough was located close to Chalvey High Street; there is now a small industrial plant in that location. Wiggins recycling centre, a large waste disposal site, is partly located in Slough Borough by Poyle, and partly in Windsor and Maidenhead, and a small recycling centre in Chalvey. Another large waste disposal facility, the Biffa waste disposal site, was until very recently located north of Colnbrook. It has now been closed down and restored as a field, with little visual evidence of its former character.
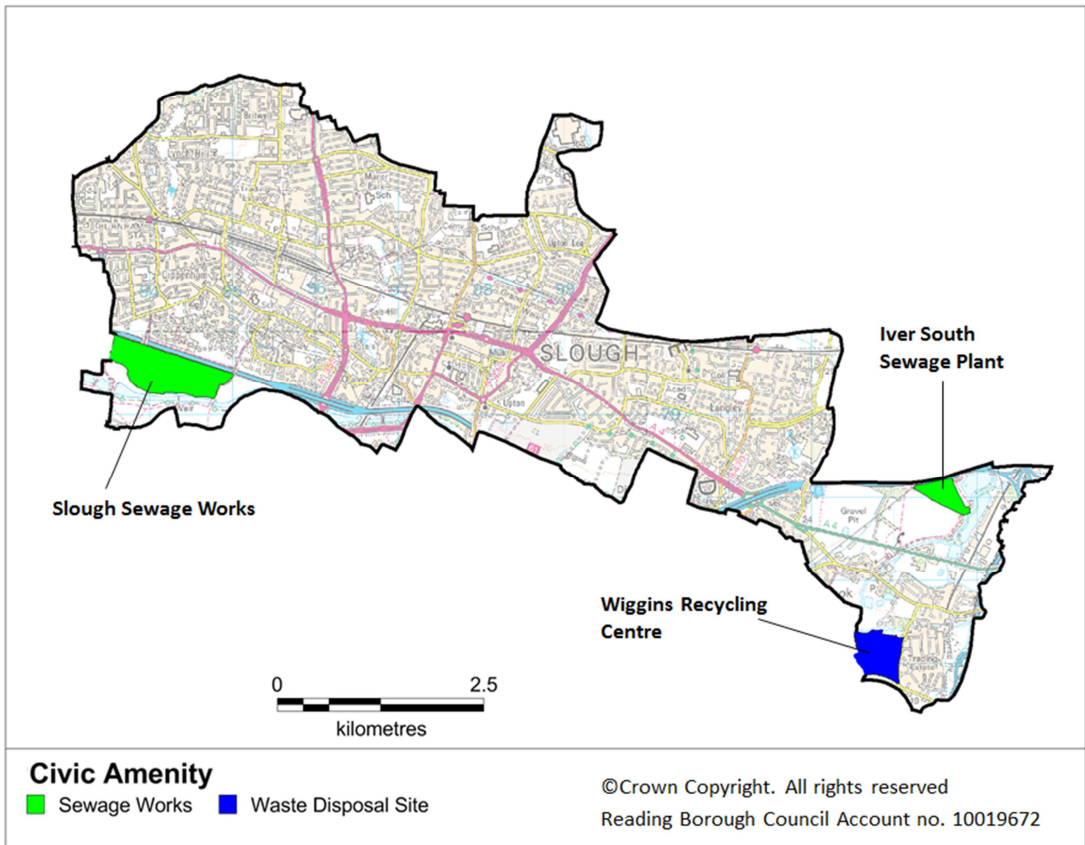
Figure 22. Civic Amenity in Slough
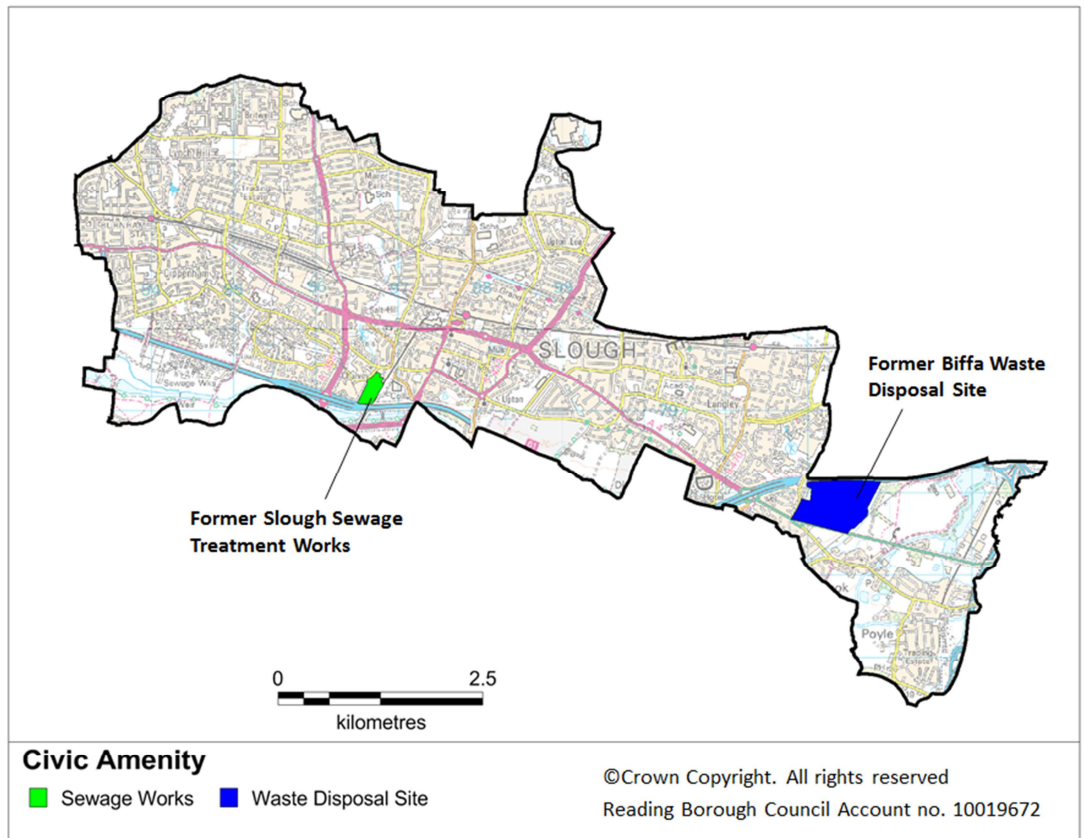
Figure 23. Previous Civic Amenity in Slough

11. Civic Provision

The "Civic Provision" broad type contains institutions that provide important services to the community. They are most usually located within towns and villages, close to their constituent users, and often include buildings and structures with characteristics relating to their particular use. As would be expected for an area of continued economic growth, the scale of civic provision has increased greatly since the mid-20th century in East Berkshire.

Narrow Types: *Almshouses, Community centres and services, Education, Fire station, Funerary, Government Office, Health, Law Court, Library, *Orphanage, Police Station, Prison, Religion, Research Facility, *Workhouse *(*recorded as previous type only)*

Polygons: 327 individual areas have been recorded as current Civic Provision, comprising a total of 1680 hectares. 89 polygons have Civic Provision recorded as a previous type.

Narrow HLC Types	Area / hectares
Total	1680
Community centres and services	24
Education	1216
Fire station	6
Funerary	72
Government Office	15
Health	125
Law Courts	3
Police Station	2
Prison	2
Religion	63
Research facility	152

Table 3. Civic Provision in East Berkshire

Education

The Civic Provision broad type is dominated by educational establishments – universities (and their halls of residence), colleges and schools. 216 individual polygons have been recorded, comprising a total of 1216 hectares.

There are three universities in East Berkshire. Reading University is located primarily in and around Reading, but also has a campus north of Henley in Oxfordshire. The Berkshire Institute for Health, which is located in central Reading, is part of the University of West London (UWL), formerly known as Thames Valley University. Imperial College London has a campus in Sunninghill. The out-of-town campuses often comprise formal and informal green space as well as numerous buildings, access and service roads, and amenity areas, whilst those in more central locations tend to occupy more densely built-up sites and appear urban in nature.

There are several colleges for higher education in the area, including Reading College, Chiltern College, Newbold College, Bracknell and Wokingham College, Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), the Sacred Heart College and East Berkshire College.

There are numerous primary and secondary schools in the area. Some, like Eton College and Wellington College are highly prestigious and occupy large areas, often incorporating elements of designed landscape, formal and informal gardens and playing fields. However, most schools in the area only occupy around 1-5 hectares of land. Many schools are run by religious establishments, usually connected to the Catholic Church or the Anglican Church.

Health

This HLC type includes hospitals, nursing and care homes, and ancillary provision such as ambulance stations. There are several major hospitals in East Berkshire, including four in Reading, two in Bracknell Forest, one in Wokingham, four in Windsor and Maidenhead, and two in Slough. Most are National Health Service (NHS) hospitals serving the general public, and as such are focused within the larger population centres, with densely developed sites showing various phases of expansion and rearrangement. Only two of the recorded hospitals are privately owned - Berkshire Independent Hospital in Reading and The Princess Margaret Hospital in Windsor. Broadmoor Hospital is perhaps the most well-known hospital in the area. It is a high-security psychiatric hospital run by the NHS – one out of only three in the country. Most of the patients have been committed to Broadmoor by a court of law after having committed serious crimes. Its large campus comprises a number of buildings and structures of various ages as well as green space, and dominates the landscape on the outskirts of Crowthorne. There are a number of nursing and care homes recorded in the area, again typically located in the larger towns and settlements.

Religion

28 areas are recorded within the HLC type "Religion", including 26 churches - obviously representing only a small fraction of the existing churches in the area. Most of the churches are located in the larger towns and settlements and thus fall into other broad types, but a number of the recorded churches are in more rural locations, with many being parish churches with large graveyards. St Sebastian Church in Wokingham is not a church, despite its name, but a chapel of ease. Only one vicarage (Old Windsor Vicarage) is recorded in the present-day landscape, with its associated church and surrounding lands. Ascot Priory in North Ascot, built in 1861, was formerly the mother house of the Society of the Most Holy Trinity, an Anglican religious order but is now an Anglican spiritual retreat. The convent of the Community of St John the Baptist an Anglican religious order, founded in 1852 as a refuge for marginalised women (e.g. prostitutes, destitute or homeless women), originally had its headquarters in Windsor, but the convent buildings have recently been converted to flats. The order is also known as Sisters of Mercy but should not be confused with the Roman Catholic religious order with that name. Warfield Priory is present on John Rocque's map of Berkshire (1761) and presumably has medieval origins. The former priory buildings have been converted to private residential housing.

Research facilities

A number of important research facilities are located in East Berkshire, concentrated in rural locations within Wokingham and Bracknell Forest Boroughs. Some of the research facilities are run by the private sector, some are associated with Reading University, and one, the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) is an independent intergovernmental organisation funded by most of the countries in Europe. These areas are largely of modern origin, comprising large-scale buildings and/or compounds of commercial or light industrial appearance, with associated ancillary and service areas.

Funerary

The Funerary HLC type includes cemeteries and crematoria, in a variety of locations but generally peripheral and sometimes rural. Cemeteries that are located more centrally – like Reading Old Cemetery – are usually older, and are located relatively centrally only because a settlement has grown beyond its former limits. Both often have characteristics of formal or informal gardens, with functional buildings, areas of open green space and occasionally small pieces of modern planted woodland.

Other community services

Many community services are located in the same areas e.g. **police stations**, magistrates courts, libraries, council offices and **community centres**, usually located in the town centres for easy access for users, with centralised services such as **fire stations** generally located within the larger towns but in areas with good road networks. HM **Prison** Reading was closed down in 2013 and is currently awaiting redevelopment, but retains its main cruciform Victorian building and more modern ancillary buildings as well as its perimeter wall.

Former types

There were formerly four **orphanages** in the area – one in Slough, one in Windsor, one in Wokingham and one west of Wokingham, at the current Bearwood College. There were previously nine **workhouses** in East Berkshire. Most of them were constructed in the 19th century, but one – the Oracle in Reading – was built in the 17th century. The current St Mark's Hospital in Maidenhead, Upton Hospital in Slough and Wokingham Hospital are all former workhouses. There are former 17th century **almshouses** along Bridge Road in Maidenhead and also at Chapel Green Farm in Wokingham. Although these previous types differ greatly in character and function to the currently recorded Civic Provision types, they also tend to mirror population density, clustered into areas of settlement in central locations.
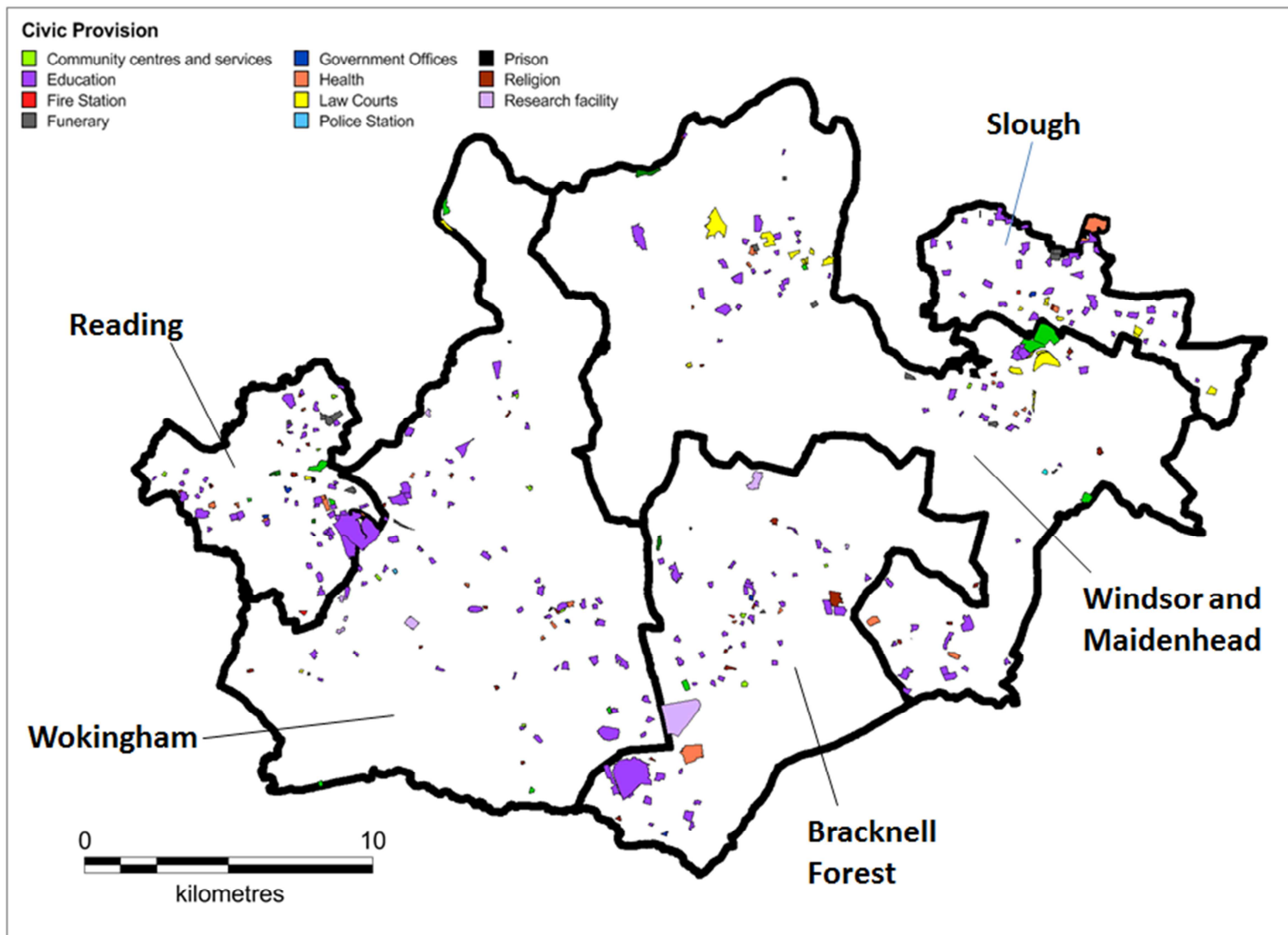
Figure 24. Civic Provision in East Berkshire

11.1. Reading Borough

Most of the civic provision in Reading Borough is modern, created after the Second World War. A few of the schools and churches, Reading Old Cemetery, The Royal Berkshire Hospital and Reading Prison have survived from the 19th century. The former workhouses have been replaced by modern housing.

35 schools are recorded in the HLC within Reading Borough, and are fairly evenly distributed across the Borough. The area of land that the schools occupy varies greatly from only around one hectare to more than 23 hectares (Leighton Park School). Most of the schools however occupy less than 5 hectares.

Figure 25. New Town Primary School, Reading

There are four hospitals in Reading – the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Prospect Park Hospital, Dellwood Community Hospital and Berkshire Independent Hospital. The Royal Berkshire Hospital is the oldest of the four, having been founded in 1839; it has been greatly expanded in the last few decades and occupies a densely developed site in the centre of the town. Prospect Park Hospital was founded as an isolation hospital in the early 20th century and is now the main hospital for people in Berkshire suffering from mental illness. Dellwood Community Hospital is a small community hospital which has an Occupational Therapy Centre, built after the early 1960s at some time. Berkshire Independent Hospital was founded in 1993, and is currently run by Ramsey Health Care UK.

HM **Prison** Reading is the former prison in Reading. It was built between 1842 and 1844 and closed down in November 2013. The most notable former inmate was Oscar Wilde, who was convicted of homosexual offences and served two years of hard labour at Reading and Pentonville prisons between 1895 and 1897. The prison is located within the precinct of the medieval Reading Abbey and although closed since 2013, is currently characterised within the civic broad provision type because the site has been mothballed and remains under the guardianship of the Ministry of Justice whilst negotiations concerning its future redevelopment are concluded.

Reading University has two campuses in Reading – the Whiteknights Campus and the London Road Campus. The University was founded in 1892; it moved to the London Road site in 1905, and was established at the Whiteknights site in 1947 (partially in Wokingham Borough). There are also three colleges in Reading recorded in the HLC – Reading College, Chiltern College which offers training in childcare, and UTC Reading which is a University Technical College for computer science and engineering. Reading College and UTC Reading were both previously part of Thames Valley University (now the University of West London).

Three cemeteries are recorded: Reading Old Cemetery was created between 1842 and 1843 to replace the medieval cemeteries in Reading, and is located at Cemetery Junction in the east part of the town. Reading Cemetery, located by, and originally a part of, Caversham Park, was originally created in the early 20th century and has been greatly expanded since then. Caversham Cemetery is a small cemetery located north of Caversham Primary School and originates in the late 19th century.

There is a **fire station** in Whitley Wood in the south of Reading, one at Dee Road in the west, one just north of Whiteknights Campus, and one at Caversham Road just north of the railway line. The Caversham Road fire station, which was built in 1939, is the oldest. The other fire stations appear to have been built at some time after the early 1960s.

Six churches are recorded thus in the HLC in Reading. The Church of St Peter in Caversham is originally a Norman Church, with surviving elements from the 12th century, 15th century and the Victorian era. St Barnabas Church, also in Caversham was built in the 19th century. The Church of Our Lady and St Anne in Caversham is a Catholic church, which was built in the early 20th century. A modern Mormon church is located at the Meadway in the west of Reading. Just to the south of that church is the Church of St Michael, a 14th century parish church. St John the Baptist's Church was built in the early 20th century. Caversham Hall and New Bridge Nursery School are also located here.

The Milestone Centre in Caversham is a modern **community centre** located by Caversham Park, and home to Caversham Park Village Association.

Lakeside Residential Housing at Whiteknights Road is a modern residential nursing home and St Luke's Care Home is a modern care home located in in Caversham**.**

Other **community services** are located at Corwen Road in Tilehurst, and around the Civic Centre in central Reading. Park Lane Primary School, a library, a GP clinic, and a police station are located at Corwen Road. The recently demolished Civic Centre was home to Reading Borough Council until 2015, in an area with a Magistrates Court, a Police Station, and the Hexagon, a cultural venue run by the local authority.
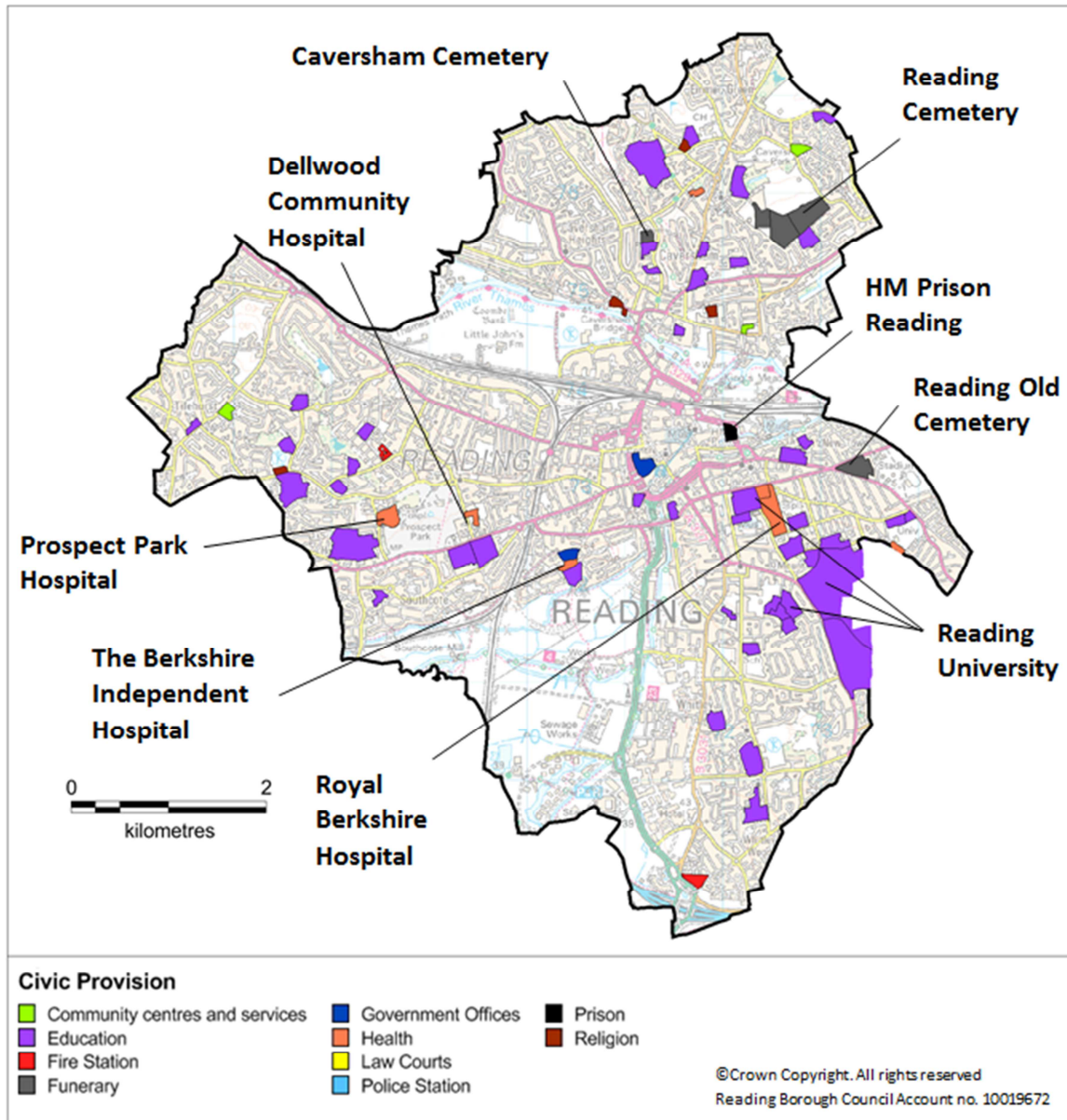
Figure 26. Civic Provision in Reading Borough
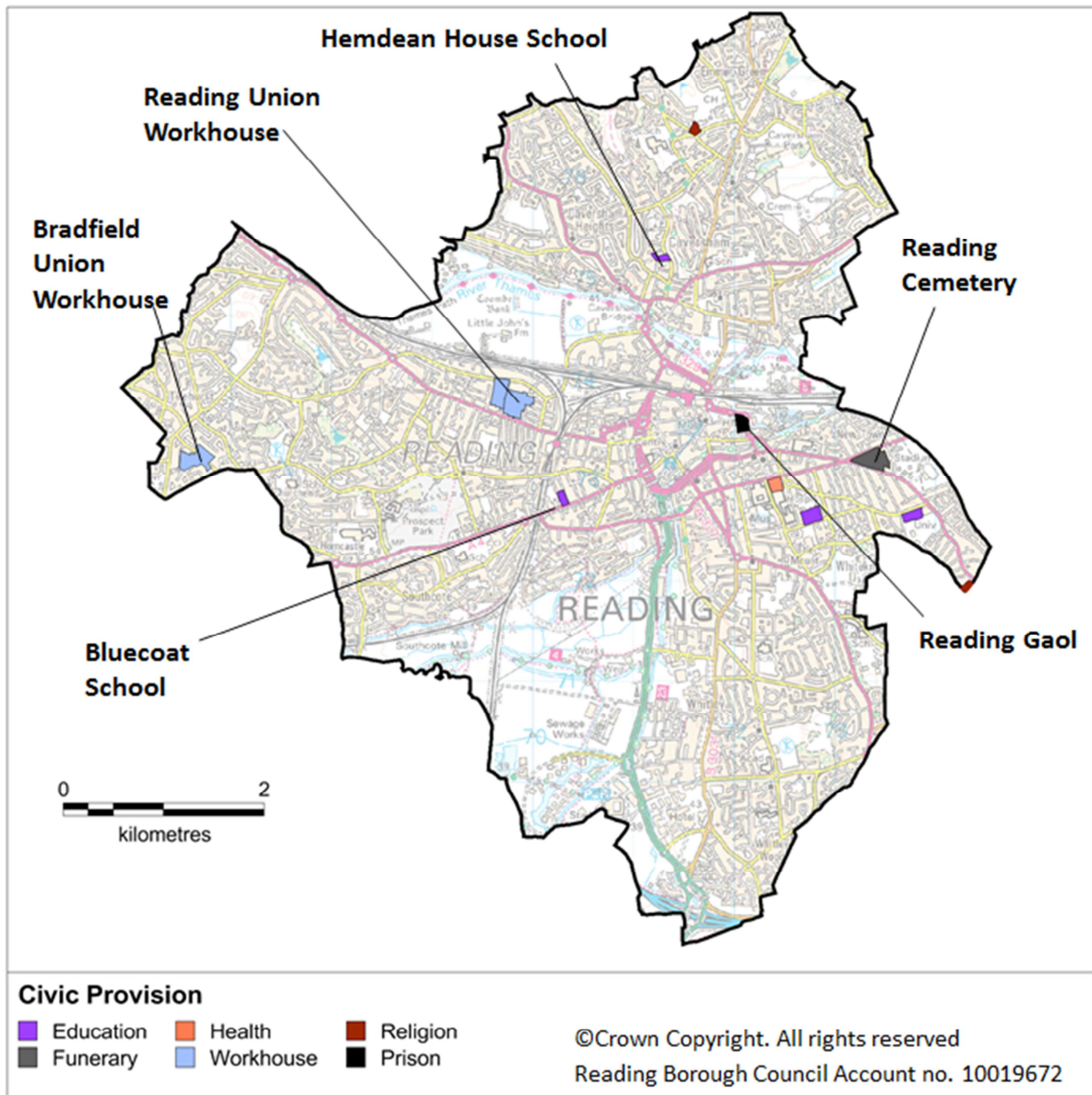
Figure 27 Civic Provision in Reading c. 1869

11.2 The Borough of Wokingham

Civic provision in Wokingham Borough is dominated by schools and research facilities. Since the 19th century and particularly after the Second World War, the character of the Borough has changed from a landscape dominated by rural settlements to one where large towns are of greater importance. Only churches and a small number of schools have survived from the 19th century.

47 schools are recorded in Wokingham Borough; few were founded before 1945. Almost all are located in the larger towns and settlements (Lower Earley, Twyford, Winnersh, Woodley, Wokingham, and Crowthorne). Most of the schools occupy less than 5 hectares of land, but there are a few much larger schools - the largest being Ravenswood Village Settlement, a residential school for children with disabilities, laid out in a campus style and occupying a total of 27 hectares of

land. Waingels College and the Bulmershe School, both in Woodley, are also very large, occupying around 11 hectares of land each.

There are a number of **research facilities** in the Borough. They include the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Lower Earley, the Dairy Institute in Shinfield, the Centre for Dairy Research north of Arborfield, the Aquatic Research Centre in Sonning, and Lane End Farm (a research farm associated with Reading University).

Reading University has two campuses in the Borough – the Whiteknights Campus is partly in Lower Earley and partly in Reading, and the Bulmershe Campus is located in Woodley. Each comprises a collection of buildings of varying ages but all originating in the 20th and 21st century, with surrounding green space and recreational facilities.

Vision Care Institute, located north of Crowthorne, is a private training facility run by Johnson and Johnson for eye care professionals (optometrists).

Wokingham Hospital in central Wokingham is located in the former **Workhouse** and was converted to a hospital after the creation of the National Health Service

Six churches are recorded as such in the HLC in Wokingham Borough. St James's Church in Finchampstead was built in the 12th century and is perhaps the oldest of the six. St James's Church in Barkham and Holy Trinity Church and Vicarage in Grazeley were both built in the mid-19th century, but may have had earlier predecessors. St Bartholomew's Church in Arborfield is a parish church built in 1863, and St John's Church in Woodley, a parish church of 1873. Network Vineyard Church in Earley is a modern church.

Four nursing homes and care homes are recorded in the HLC in Wokingham Borough. Glebelands Residential Home in Wokingham is a modern nursing and residential home for the elderly, housed in Glebelands - a Victorian country house. The Berkshire Nursing Home in Wokingham is a modern nursing home. Lord Harris Court in Sindlesham is a modern care home run by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Woodlands Court in Woodley is a modern nursing home.

The Funerary broad type in the Borough includes two cemeteries - Wokingham Free Church Burial Ground in Wokingham was opened in 1921 to provide a burial place for the non-conformists of the town, mainly Methodists and Baptists, and there is also a modern cemetery by Robert Piggott Church of England Primary School, Wargrave. This was previously the location of lime kilns.

Other community services in the area include Wokingham Youth and Community Centre in Wokingham (a youth club), Hurst Village Hall which is the former Working Men's Club, two community centres at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre in Lower Earley, the Council Offices in central Wokingham, and Loddon Valley Police Station in Lower Earley. A community centre is located in the same area as the police station.
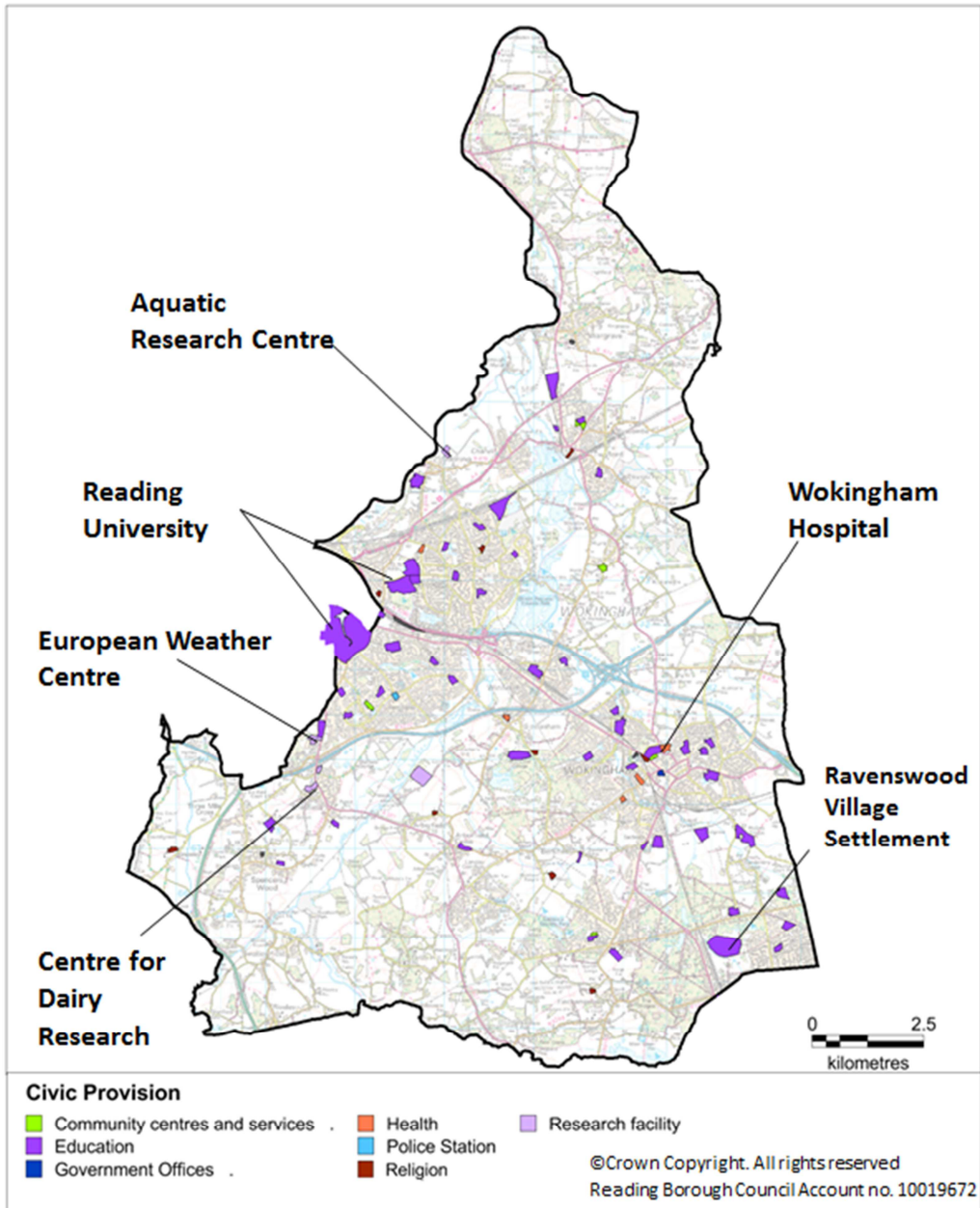
Figure 28. Civic Provision in Wokingham Borough
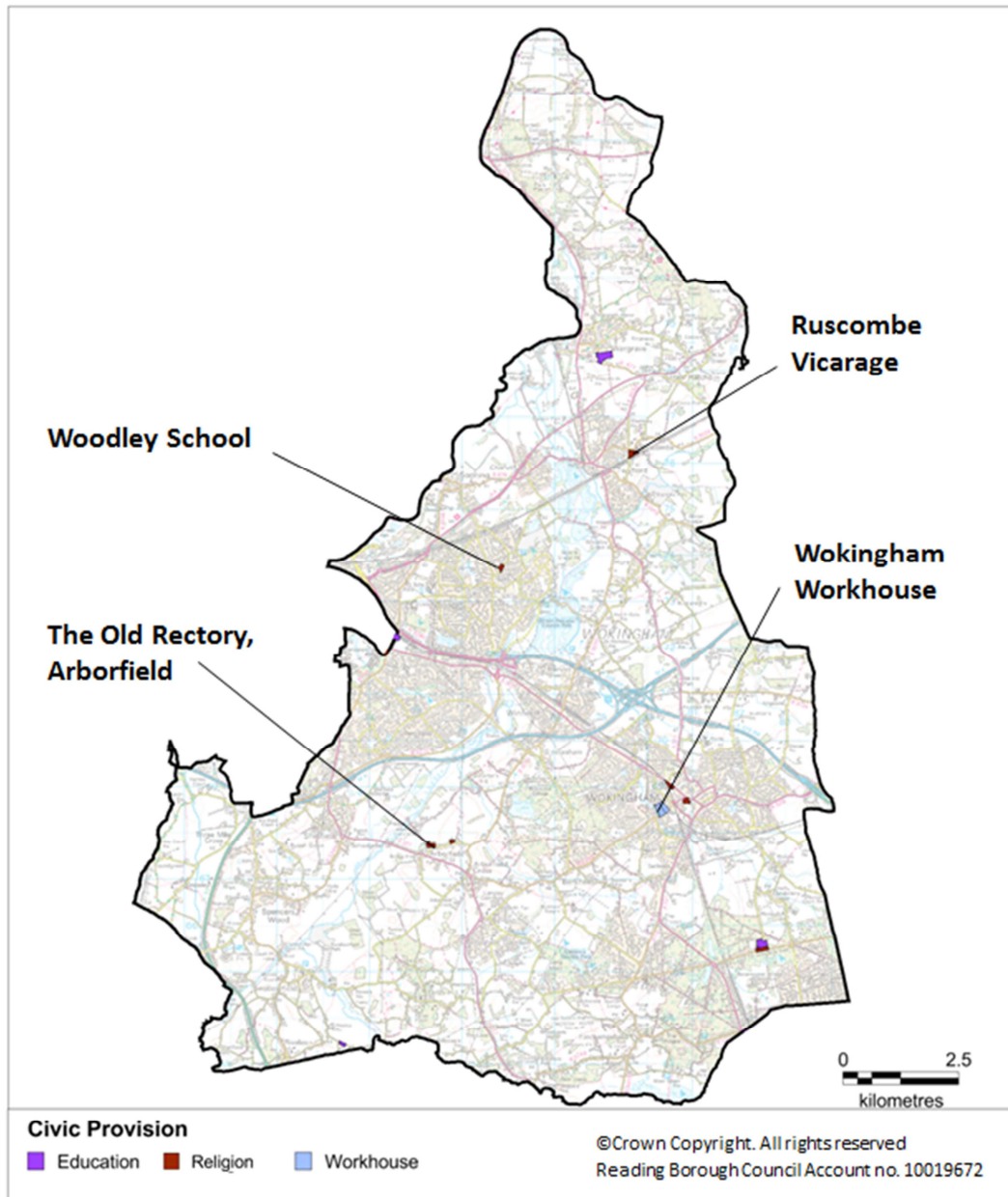
Figure 29. Civic Provision in Wokingham c.1869

11.3 Bracknell Forest

Most of the civic provision in Bracknell Forest is modern, created in the 20th century. In particular, the modern town of Bracknell is a New Town built in the 1960s and 1970s; much of what was formerly in the area of the town has been swept away in its creation. There are however some important facilities in Bracknell Forest that were built earlier in the 19th and 20th centuries, for instance the Transport Research Laboratory, (established 1933), Wellington College and Broadmoor Hospital (both established in the mid-19th century).

36 schools are recorded in the HLC in Bracknell Forest. Most of them are located in Bracknell itself, in Crowthorne, or in Sandhurst. The largest and most prestigious is Wellington College, a co-

educational boarding and day independent school originally founded for the purpose of educating war orphans. The school is named after the Duke of Wellington, and was opened in 1859. Only a minority of children at the school now come from military families. Wellington College occupies an impressive 141 hectares of land, including large buildings, ancillary and service structures, and a mix of playing fields and recreation areas. The largest two schools by area after Wellington College - Heathfield School and The Licensed Victuallers School - are located just south of Ascot Priory, in North Ascot, occupying around 11 hectares of land each. Most of the other schools only occupy around 2-3 hectares of land or less.

Two important **research facilities** are located in Bracknell Forest. Jealott's Hill International Research Centre in the north of the Borough is an agricultural research institute founded in 1928 by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), and owned today by Syngenta. Southwest of Bracknell is the Transport Research Laboratory, a private company offering a transport consultancy and research service to the public and private sector. The Transport Research Laboratory was established in 1933 by the UK government under the name Road Research Laboratory (RRL). It was privatised in 1996, and at the time of this study had just been closed and proposed for redevelopment.

There are two colleges in Bracknell Forest. Newbold College in Binfield was founded in 1901 and moved to Binfield in 1945. It is operated by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Bracknell and Wokingham College was established in 1963, and has 15 centres in Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough.

There is one NHS hospital in central Bracknell - Royal Berkshire Bracknell Healthspace – and a number of smaller clinics. Broadmoor Hospital is a high security psychiatric hospital founded in 1863, and originally known as the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Its estate is characterised by modern buildings within a network of service roads inside its secure perimeter, and overlooks the town of Crowthorne to the west.

There are two former monastic institutions in the area, though neither is actually still active in this capacity. Warfield Priory is located at Newell Green to the north of Bracknell. Ascot Priory, in North Ascot, was built in 1861. It was originally the mother house of the Society of the Most Holy Trinity, and is now a spiritual retreat, so still included in the Religion HLC type.

There are three cemeteries recorded in Bracknell Forest, the largest being Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium, occupying 7.5 hectares of land. This cemetery and Larges Lane Cemetery in Bracknell are both recent, created after the early 1960s. Binfield Graveyard is a small cemetery established in the 19th century.

Four churches are recorded as such in the HLC in the borough. The oldest recorded church in the area is St Michael and All Angels, a medieval parish church in Warfield. St Mary Magdalen and St Michael's Church is a 17th century parish church in Easthampstead; Kerith Community Church is a modern church in Bracknell. St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Church in Bracknell is also modern, as is the adjacent Mormon church.

Cooper's Hill Youth and Community Centre in Bracknell is a youth centre run by Bracknell Forest Council. Other community services are located south of Millennium Way in Bracknell, where the Council offices, a **police station** and a library are located. Downside Resource Centre in Bracknell, a

day care centre for the elderly, closed in 2010. Bracknell **fire station** is located on Downshire Road in Bracknell and was opened in 1966.
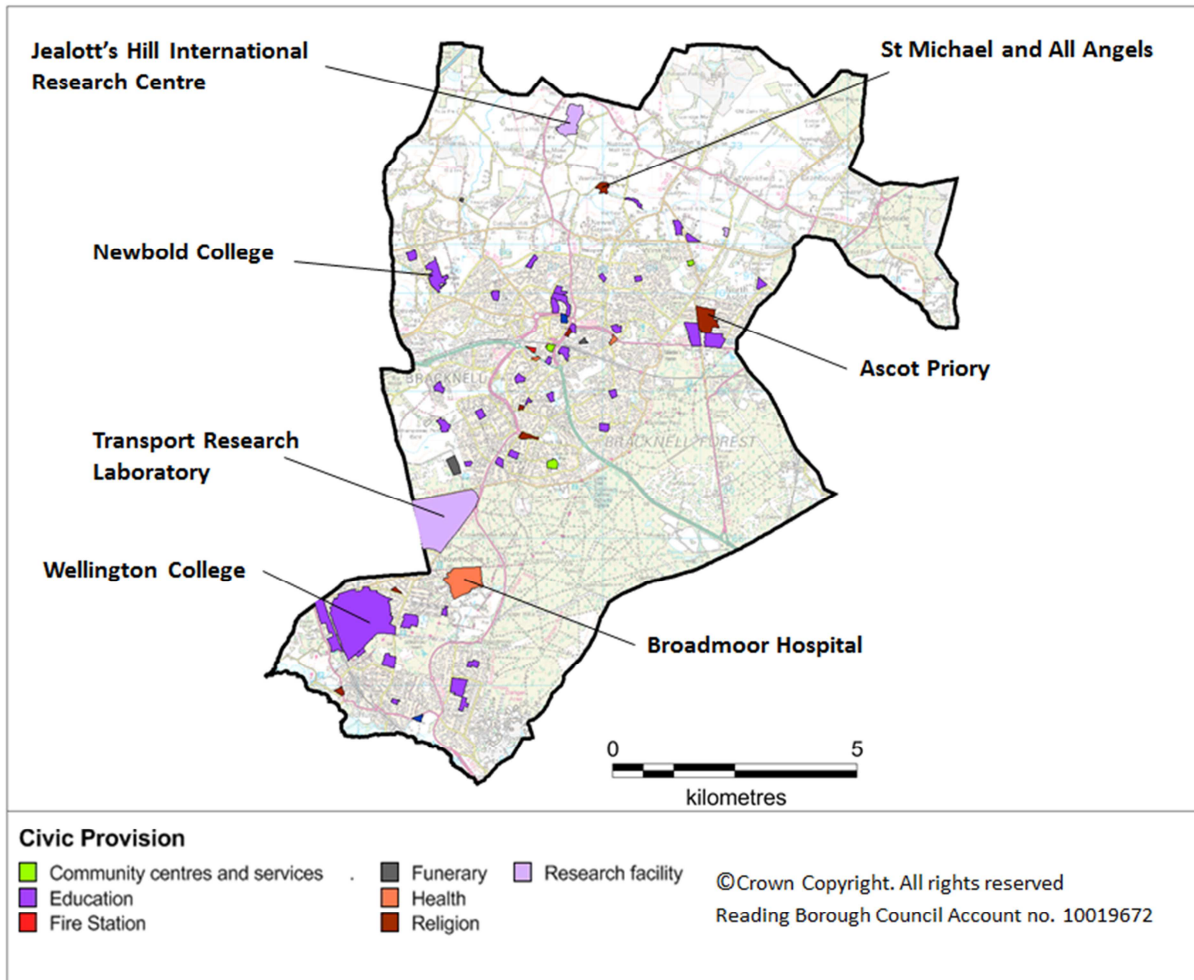
Figure 30. Civic Provision in Bracknell Forest
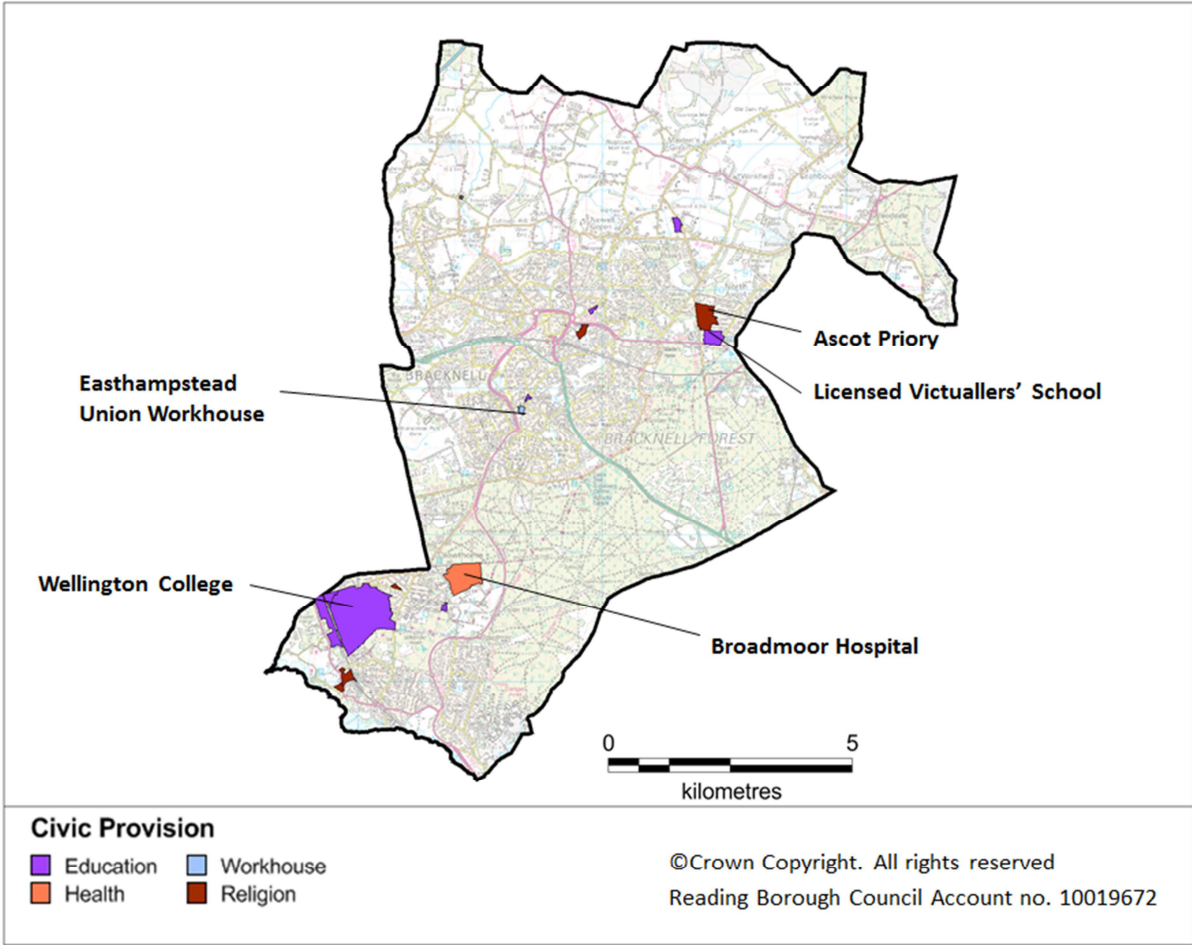
Figure 31. Civic Provision in Bracknell Forest c.1869

11.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Civic provision in Windsor and Maidenhead is dominated by schools, most of which are located in Maidenhead, in Windsor and in the Ascot / Sunninghill / Sunningdale area. 16 of the schools recorded in the HLC (37%) were founded before 1945. A few churches, a few schools and a vicarage have survived, of the 19th century provision.

In total 43 schools are recorded in the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The oldest, most prestigious and also the largest school by area in the Borough is Eton College, which occupies 24.5 hectares of land. It is an independent boarding school for boys, founded in 1440. Its houses and halls are spread throughout the small town of Eton and into the surrounding countryside, comprising a mix of mostly historic but some modern buildings, playing fields and other facilities, and boarding houses similar in character to the vernacular buildings in the medieval core of the town. The second oldest school in the area is The Royal School in Windsor Great Park, which was built in 1845 to provide schooling for the children of families in Her Majesty's immediate service. The second largest school by area is St Mary's School in Ascot, occupying 10.6 hectares of land. However, Furze Platt Senior, Junior and Infant Schools together occupy 13.2 hectares of land, with their classrooms buildings and ancillary spaces. Most of the schools in the Borough occupy less than 5 hectares, and often significantly less.

Figure 32. Eton College

Silwood Park is an Imperial College London university campus in Sunninghill, specialising in ecology, evolution, and conservation.

There are four hospitals in the Borough: the Princess Margaret Hospital in Windsor is a modern private hospital. King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor is an NHS hospital which was originally founded in 1909. St Mark's Hospital, Maidenhead was originally a Workhouse, founded in the 1860s and became an NHS hospital in 1948. Heatherwood Hospital in Ascot is a modern NHS hospital originating in the early 20th century.

The HLC records two colleges in the Borough. Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) was created in 1949 and was then known as the Berkshire Institute of Agriculture; it now offers courses in a range of subjects, not just relating to agriculture, and occupies a rural site at Burchett's Green. Sacred Heart College in Sunningdale is a Catholic college for missionaries.

In the **Funerary** HLC type, six cemeteries are recorded in the HLC within the Borough. Cookham Cemetery in Cookham was created in the early 20th century. All Saints Cemetery in Maidenhead, opened in 1888, was originally owned by The Maidenhead Cemetery Company and came into Council ownership during the 1950s. Braywick Cemetery in Maidenhead opened in July 1953, and Crimp Hill Cemetery in Old Windsor was created at some time after the early 1960s. Oakley Green Cemetery is a modern cemetery located in a rural location west of Windsor, whilst the earlier Windsor Cemetery in south Windsor was opened in 1854

Three nursing or care homes are recorded within the Borough. Cherry Garden Nursing Home and Clare Court Care Home in Maidenhead were probably built recently, after c.1980 at some time. Lynwood Care Home and retirement village in Sunninghill is also modern, built after the early 1960s.

Six churches are recorded in the HLC within the Borough. All Saints church in Bisham is a medieval parish church with attached vicarage. The medieval Old Windsor Church (St Peter and St Andrew Church) also has an associated 18th century vicarage. St Andrews Church was originally the parish church of Clewer, and has surviving Norman and Saxon architectural details. St Augustine's Church in Datchet is a Catholic church built in the early 20th century. All Souls Church in South Ascot was built in the late 19th century. St Michael and all Angel's Church in Sunninghill is a 19th century parish church. Waltham Grange is another vicarage in the Borough. It is presumably medieval in origin, but the extant buildings are 19th century.

There is one active monastic institution in the Borough - the convent of the Community of St John the Baptist (also known as Sisters of Mercy) is located in Clewer in Windsor. It is an Anglican religious order of Augustinian nuns founded in 1852 as a refuge for marginalised women (e.g. prostitutes, destitute or homeless women).

There is a modern **community centre** and youth centre by Dedworth Manor Open Ground in Windsor. Maidenhead Town Hall is a modern (of 1960s appearance) building in Maidenhead town centre. Other community services located in Maidenhead town centre include Maidenhead Magistrates **Court**, **Police Station** and **Fire Station**.
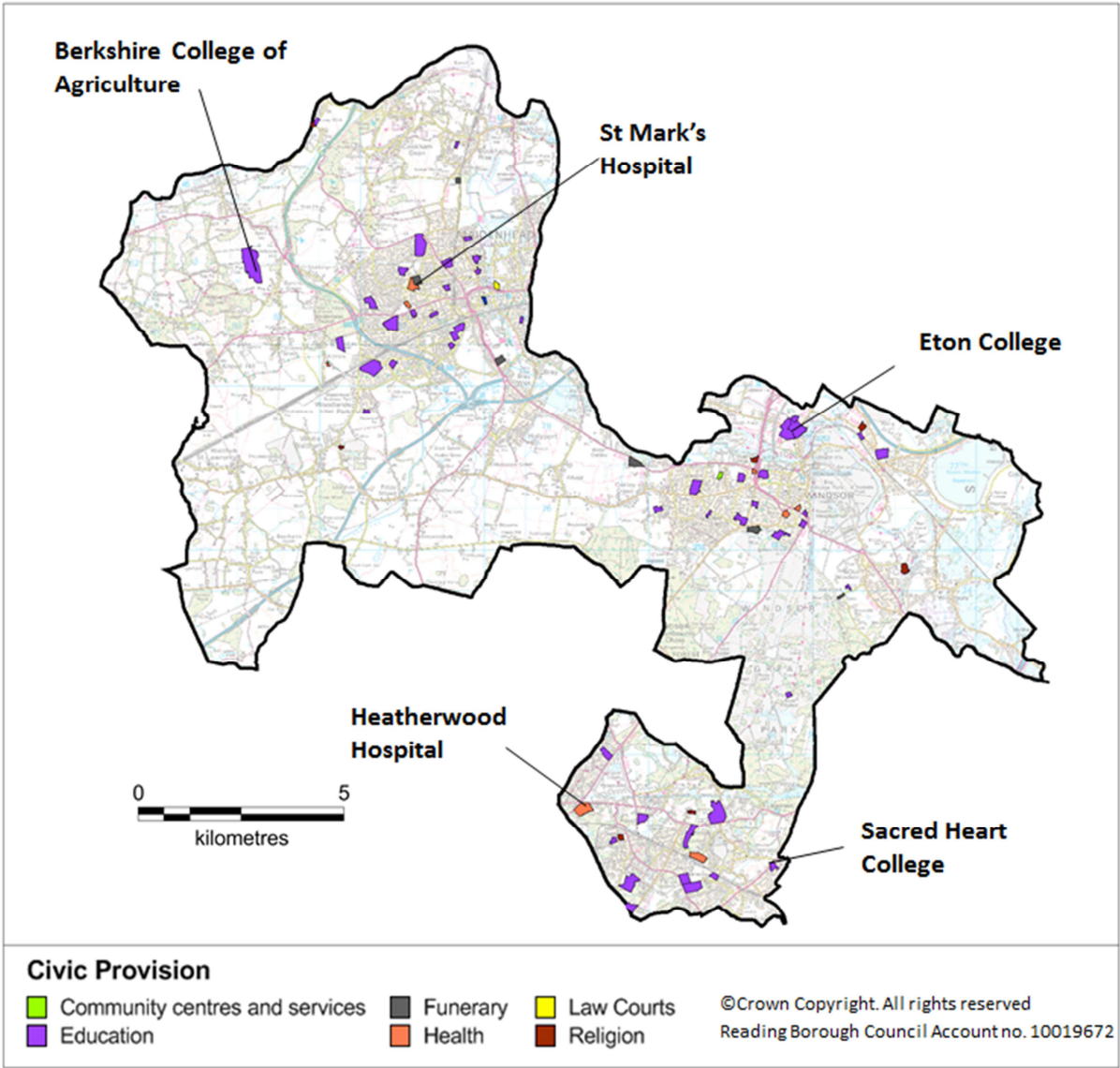
Figure 33. Civic Provision in Windsor and Maidenhead

Maidenhead Workhouse

National School (Infants)

Eton College

Windsor Cemetery

0   5
kilometres

Civic Provision

■ Education	■ Health	■ Religion
■ Funerary	■ Orphanage	■ Workhouse

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved
Reading Borough Council Account no. 10019672
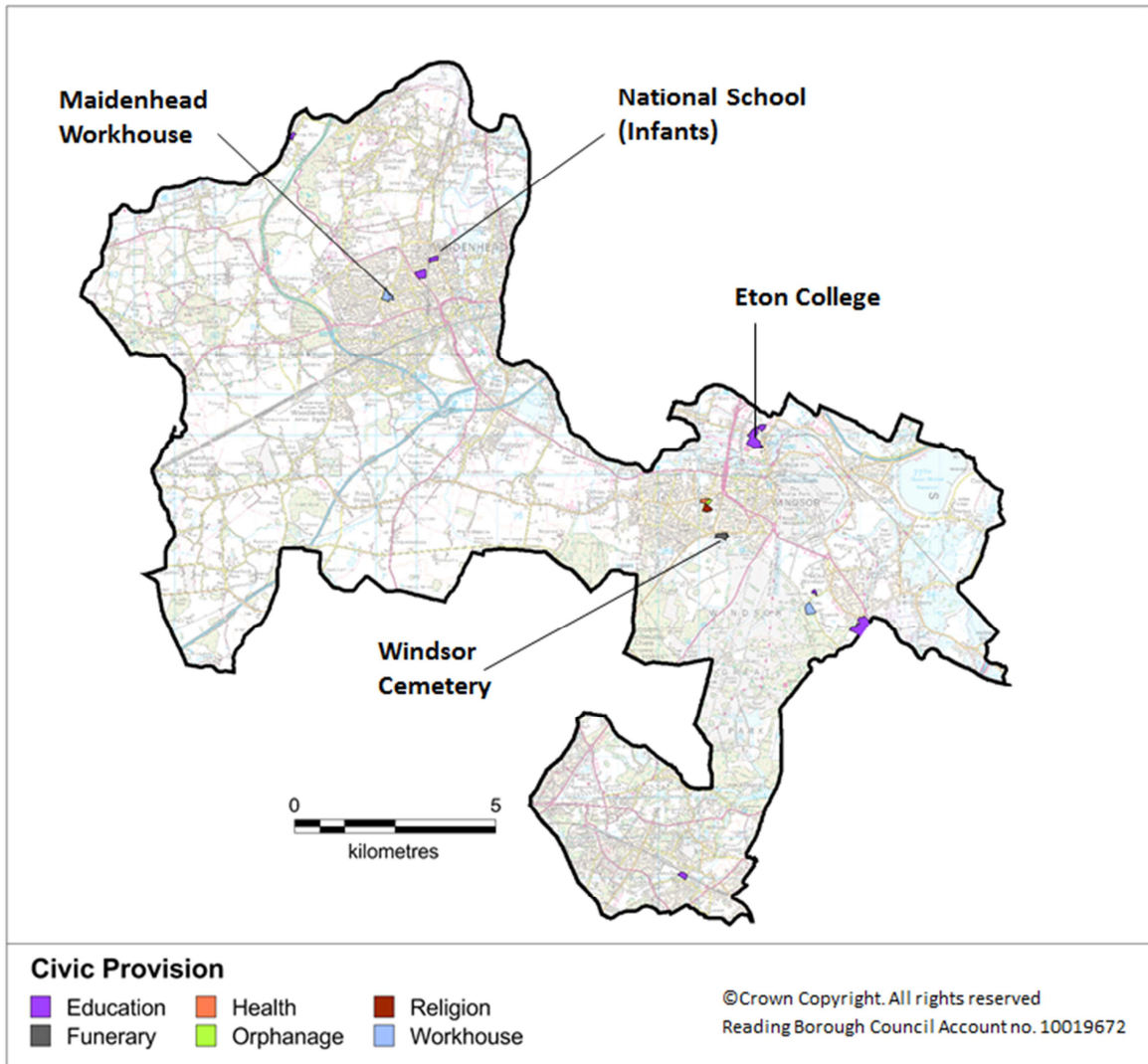
Figure 34. Civic Provision in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1869

11.5 Slough Borough

Current civic provision in Slough is again dominated by schools. In the mid-19th century, there was a workhouse, an orphanage (the British Orphan Asylum) and a rectory in the area; these have not survived from that period, but Colnbrook Church of England Primary School, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School and St Mary's Church in central Slough still remain.

32 schools are recorded in the HLC within Slough Borough, only four of which were founded before 1945. The largest individual school by area is Wexham School, occupying around 9.4 hectares of land. However, Arbour Vale School, Khalsa Primary School, and St Ethelberts Catholic Primary School are three adjoining schools that together occupy 15.3 hectares of land. Most of the schools in the Borough occupy less than 5 hectares.

University of West London (formerly Thames Valley University) had a campus in central Slough until 2010; at the time of this study the university buildings were still extant but not in use. East Berkshire College is a further education college; its Slough campus was formerly known as Langley College.

There are two hospitals in Slough. Upton Hospital was originally the Eton Union Workhouse, and was transferred to the newly-formed National Health Service in 1948 and renamed Upton Hospital. Wexham Park Hospital is a modern NHS hospital which was built in 1965. A modern care home built in 2007 is located just south of Wexham Hospital, at Wexham Court.

Slough Cemetery is of modern origin, constructed along with its associated crematorium, after the early 1960s. St Mary's Church in central Slough is a parish church, originally constructed in 1837, although the present building dates from 1874.

Thames Valley **Community Centre** is a new provision and Chalvey Early Years Centre and Chalvey Nursery School are also located here. Slough **Council Offices** and the former Slough Town Hall are located east of Salt Hill. The town hall, built in 1937, was converted to a school in 2011-12 (Claycots School). Slough Magistrates Court, County Court, and Police Station are all modern and located by Chalvey Park. Slough **Fire station** and Ambulance Service are located at Salt Hill. The Ambulance Service buildings were constructed at some time between 1948 and 1956, and the Fire Station at a later date.
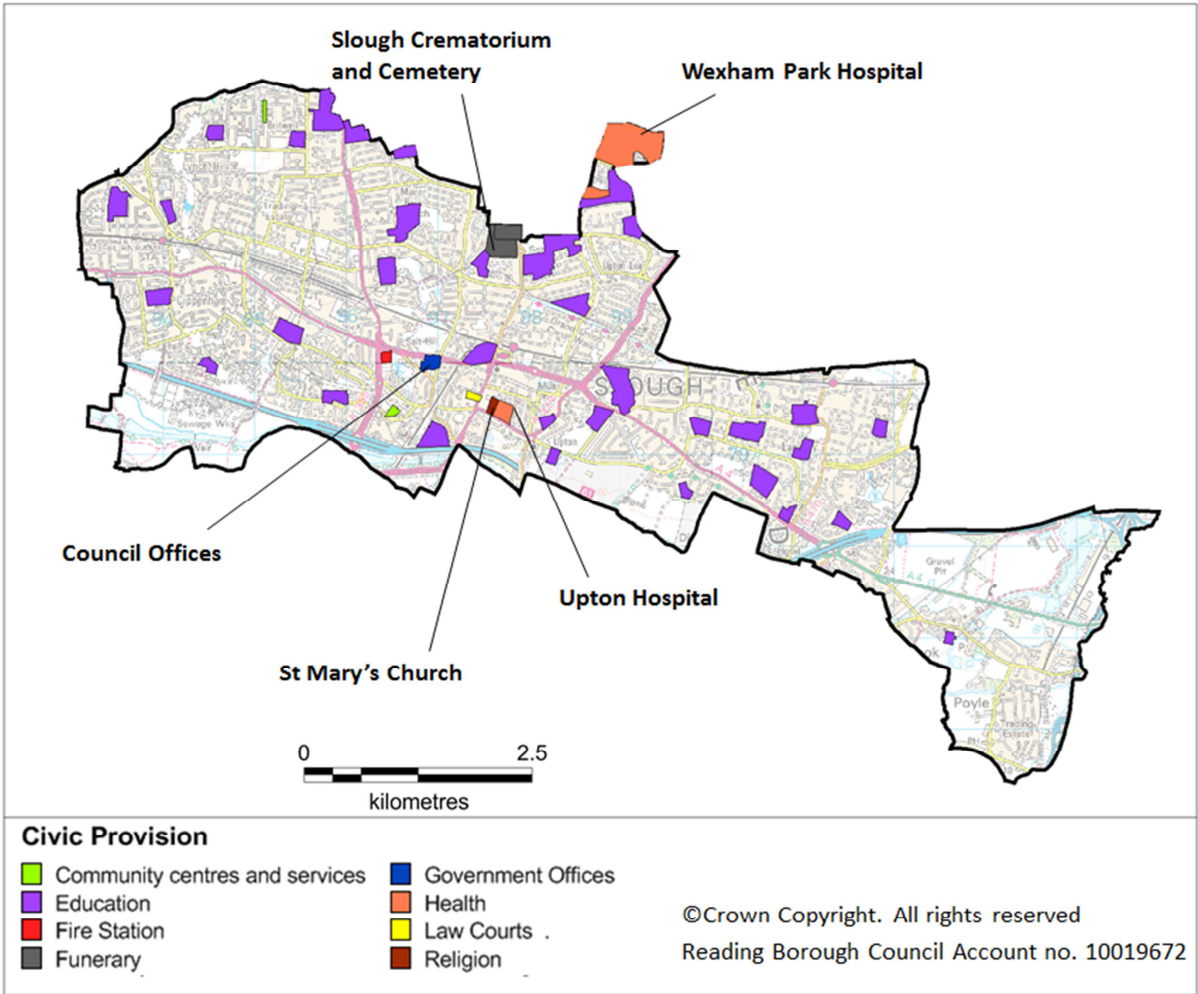
Figure 35. Civic Provision in Slough

Legend — Civic Provision:
- Community centres and services
- Education
- Fire Station
- Funerary
- Government Offices
- Health
- Law Courts
- Religion

Map labels: Slough Crematorium and Cemetery, Wexham Park Hospital, Council Offices, Upton Hospital, St Mary's Church
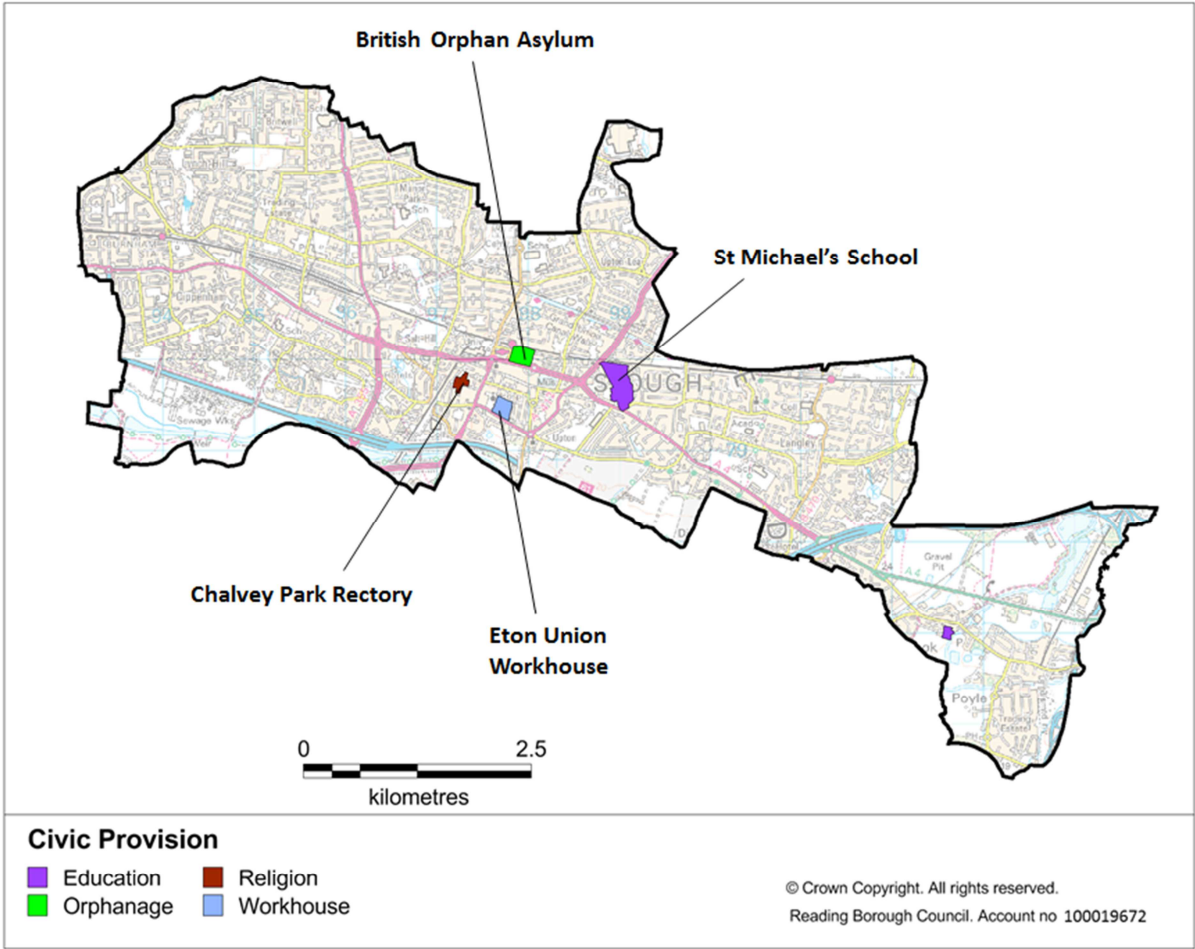
Figure 36. Civic Provision in Slough Borough c.1869

12. Commercial

The Commercial broad type comprises areas where landscape character originates in activities relating to commerce or businesses (excluding industrial and extractive activities). Today's commercial environment is diverse, and changes rapidly; like most of the country the long term trend is away from an economy and a society based on industrial production, with the service economy becoming increasingly important. These trends are reflected in the narrow types recorded, with the vast majority directly relating to the service sector. Most of the recorded types are modern in origin, and were not found in the landscape even 50 years ago. The area occupied by commercial activities is also much larger than in the past – commercial areas and facilities in the past recorded in the HLC only comprise hotels, pubs, a few shopping streets and town centres.

Narrow Types: Business Park, Commercial Core, Conference Centre, Distribution Centre, Garden Centre, Hostel, Large Shops and Retail Outlets, Offices, Petrol Station, Retail Park, Shopping Centre, Shops, Other Commercial

Polygons: 193 areas are recorded within the broad type, covering a total of 940ha. 30 polygons are recorded with Commercial as a previous broad type.

	Area (hectares)
Total	**940**
Business Park	**274**
Commercial Core	**72**
Conference Centre	**15**
Distribution Centre	**27**
Garden centre	**36**
Hotel	**100**
Large shops and retail outlets	**96**
Offices	**125**
Other Commercial	**66**
Petrol Station	**3**
Retail Park	**72**
Shopping Centre	**6**
Shops	**48**

Table 4. Commercial in East Berkshire

It is clear that not every type of commercial activity can be included – only activities that dominate around one hectare of land or more have been recorded. It is also difficult to summarise the trends, since the recorded types reflect a huge variety of commercial activities. The HLC type "Other Commercial" includes areas previously recorded under specific types such as "Car Dealership" and

"Pet Shop" following a rationalisation during the latter stages of the project, in order to avoid splitting the types beyond a meaningful categorisation.

Shops and other consumer outlets: Larger shops in particular can be found principally in three different locations: along major roads in urban settings, in out-of-town areas, and in town centres. Smaller **shops** and shopping streets formed the typical pre-Second World War pattern, which contrasts sharply with what is visible in the landscape today. Older shops and shopping streets have in many cases survived, though their relative importance to the current population has declined dramatically. **Commercial cores** are the areas of shopping streets that can be found in the centre of the larger towns and settlements and are often characterised by a mix of small, traditional shops and larger stores, alongside high street services and specialist trades, and more reflective of earlier commercial provision in terms of geography, and in some respects, character. **Shopping centres** typically comprise a group of shops constructed contemporaneously and clustered around a pedestrian walkway, often with other services included.

Figure 37. Reading Retail Park, Reading

Offices: Areas dominated by large multi-storey **office** blocks are common in town centres, where they usually occupy densely developed sites. **Business parks**, **distribution centres**, self-storage facilities, and offices of large companies tend to be located in the periphery of larger towns, and incorporate car parking, ancillary services and an amount of green space and/or soft landscaping. Scrapyards, large garages and commercial provision resembling light industry are commonly found in rural and peripheral locations.

There is a single recorded **conference centre**, and that is Easthampstead Park Conference Centre which is located in Bracknell. A former conference centre in Caversham (Rosehill Conference Centre) has been replaced by modern housing

Other commercial: the old Cattle Market in Reading is a large Victorian building which has been converted to an auction house. An animal sanctuary recorded in the HLC, Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary

in North Ascot, established in 1958, is a small independent animal rescue organisation which rescues and rehomes dogs.. Showcase Cinemas in Winnersh is the only cinema recorded in this HLC type; obviously there are others, but none that occupy a significant area of land. Likewise, there are obviously many restaurants in the area, but only two occupy a significant area of land – they are the Hideout in Bracknell Forest (currently a Thai Restaurant) and The Island on Piper's Island in the Thames at Caversham by Reading. Bray Studios is a film studio which has been housed at Down Place in Bray since 1951.

Hotels and Public Houses: There are a number of notable **hotels** in East Berkshire, with many of the largest hotels originating in the Victorian period, though most of the purpose-built hotels in the area were built in the last few decades. There are no large-scale hostels in the area, but in the early 1960s a large YWCA was located in Windsor, a nurses' hostel was located in Slough, and a large hostel was located in Colnbrook. Public houses recorded in the Other Commercial narrow type are The Greyhound Public House in Poyle (modern pub), The Goose in Bracknell which was originally the Station Hotel (built in the Victorian period), and The World Turned Upside Down Public House in Reading (originating in the Victorian period or earlier). Again, there are obviously many more pubs in the area, but none that occupy a hectare of land or more.
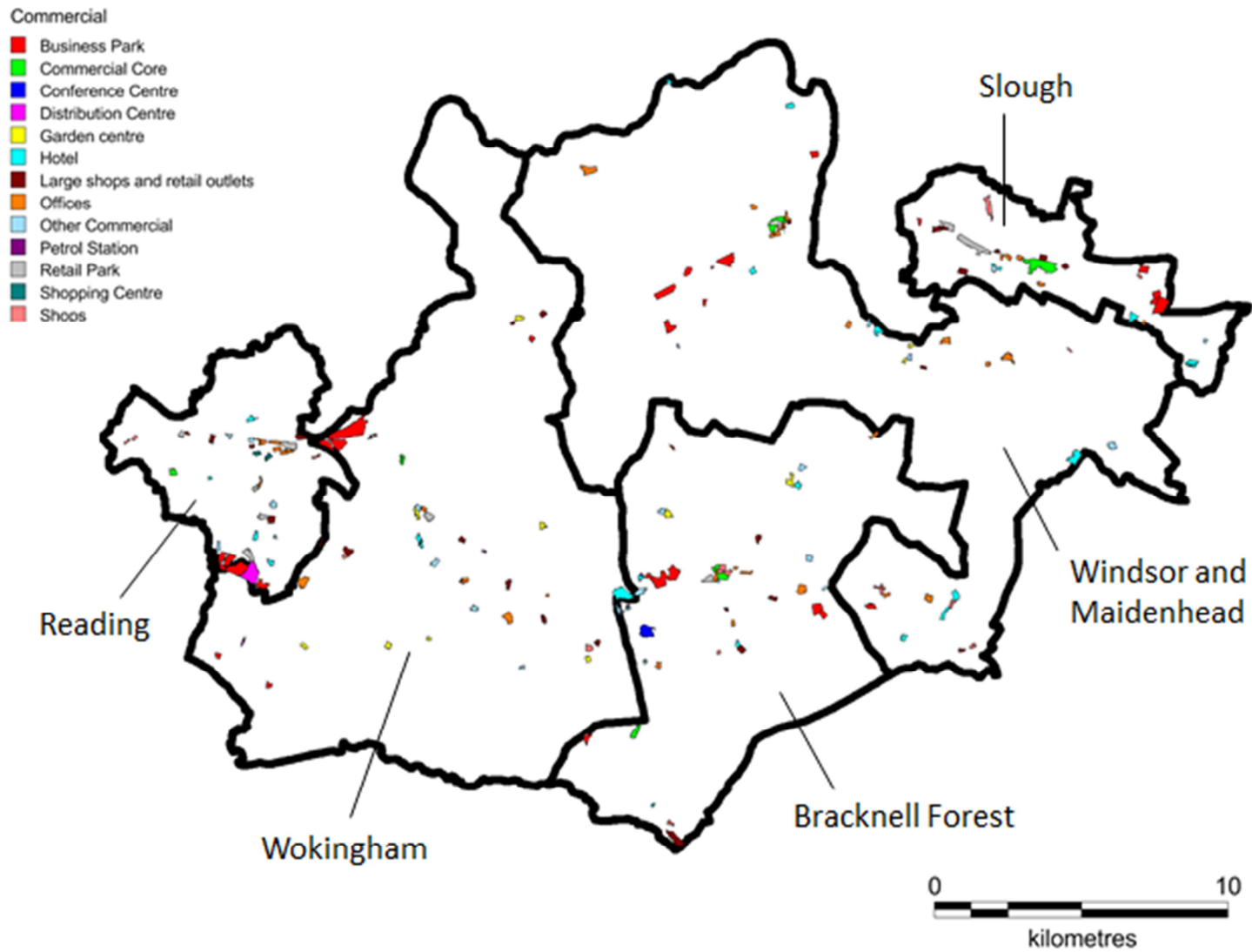
Figure 38. Commercial areas and facilities in East Berkshire

Commercial

- Business Park
- Commercial Core
- Conference Centre
- Distribution Centre
- Garden centre
- Hotel
- Large shops and retail outlets
- Offices
- Other Commercial
- Petrol Station
- Retail Park
- Shopping Centre
- Shoos

Slough

Windsor and Maidenhead

Reading

Wokingham

Bracknell Forest

0   10
kilometres

12.1 Reading Borough

A large proportion of the commercial activities in Reading borough is located either in the town centre or along the A33, in the southern part of the town which has expanded dramatically in the second half of the 20th century, with a well-developed main road network.

The town centre has two modern shopping malls – the Oracle Centre and Broad Street Mall. Several retail parks are located along the A33 - Reading Link Retail Park, Brunel Retail Park, and Reading Gate Retail Park, and further development was planned in this area at the time of the study. The Forbury Retail Park is located just to the east of the town centre. A fifth retail park - Reading Retail Park – is located by Oxford Road in the west part of the town. Two business parks – Green Park and Reading International Business Park – are located close to Junction 11 of the M4, together with a large Tesco distribution centre, unsurprisingly close to the main roads. Three superstores are recorded as such within the borough, all 21st century origin and built to serve the rapidly growing population in the town. Meadway Precinct – a modern shopping precinct– is located just to the west of Prospect Park, in the west part of the Borough.
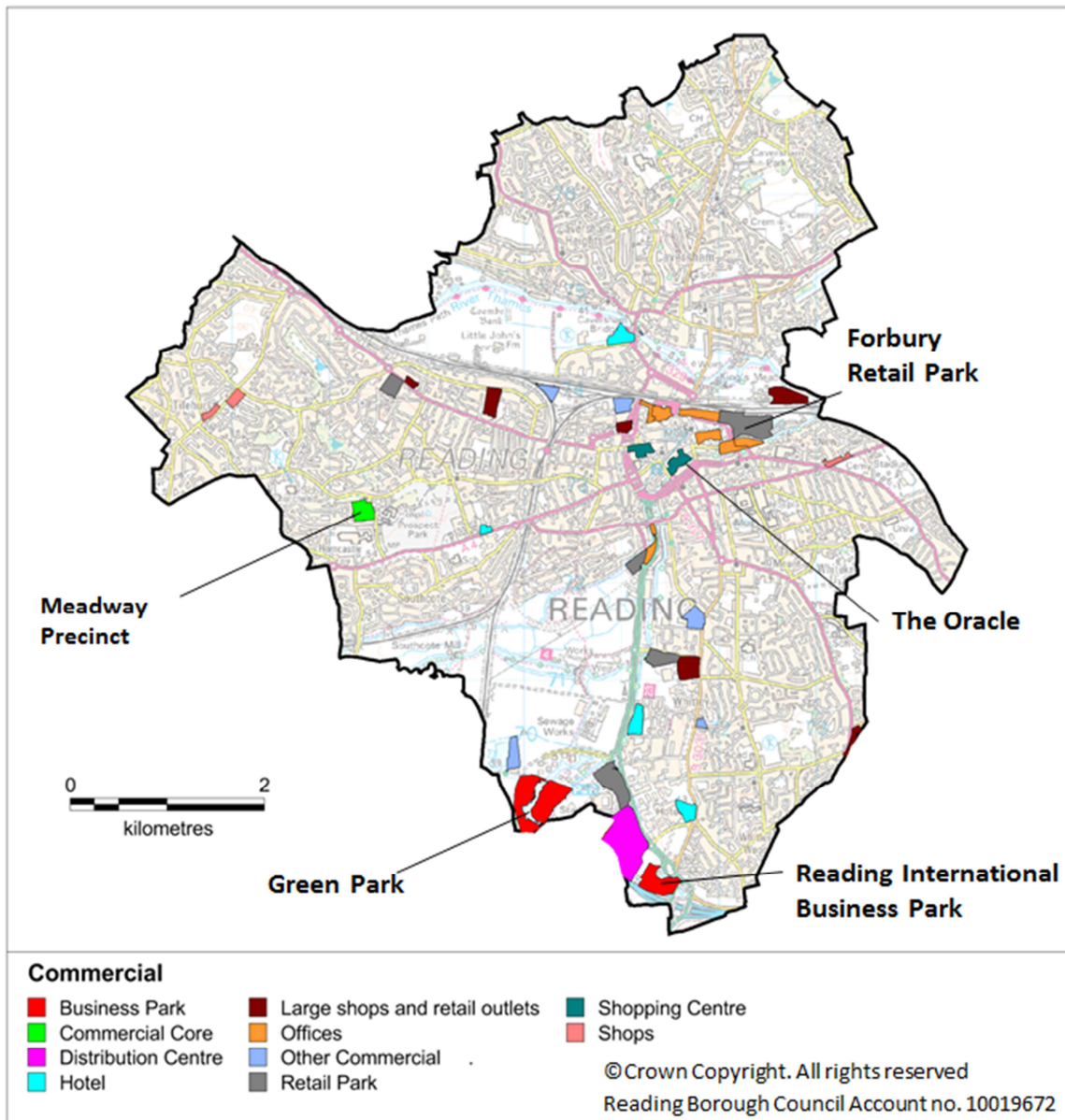
Figure 39. Commercial in Reading Borough

The contrast between the commercial activities today and in the past is stark. The commercial areas in Reading in the 1930s consisted of a few shopping streets, two pubs along Basingstoke Road and a third along Bath Road, and an area of hotels in Caversham. The old Cattle Market may still have been in use (the building is Victorian and is now an auction house). In addition to that, there would have been commercial activities in the town centre. Commercial activity in the 1870s and later can be clearly viewed from the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping as well as other sources.
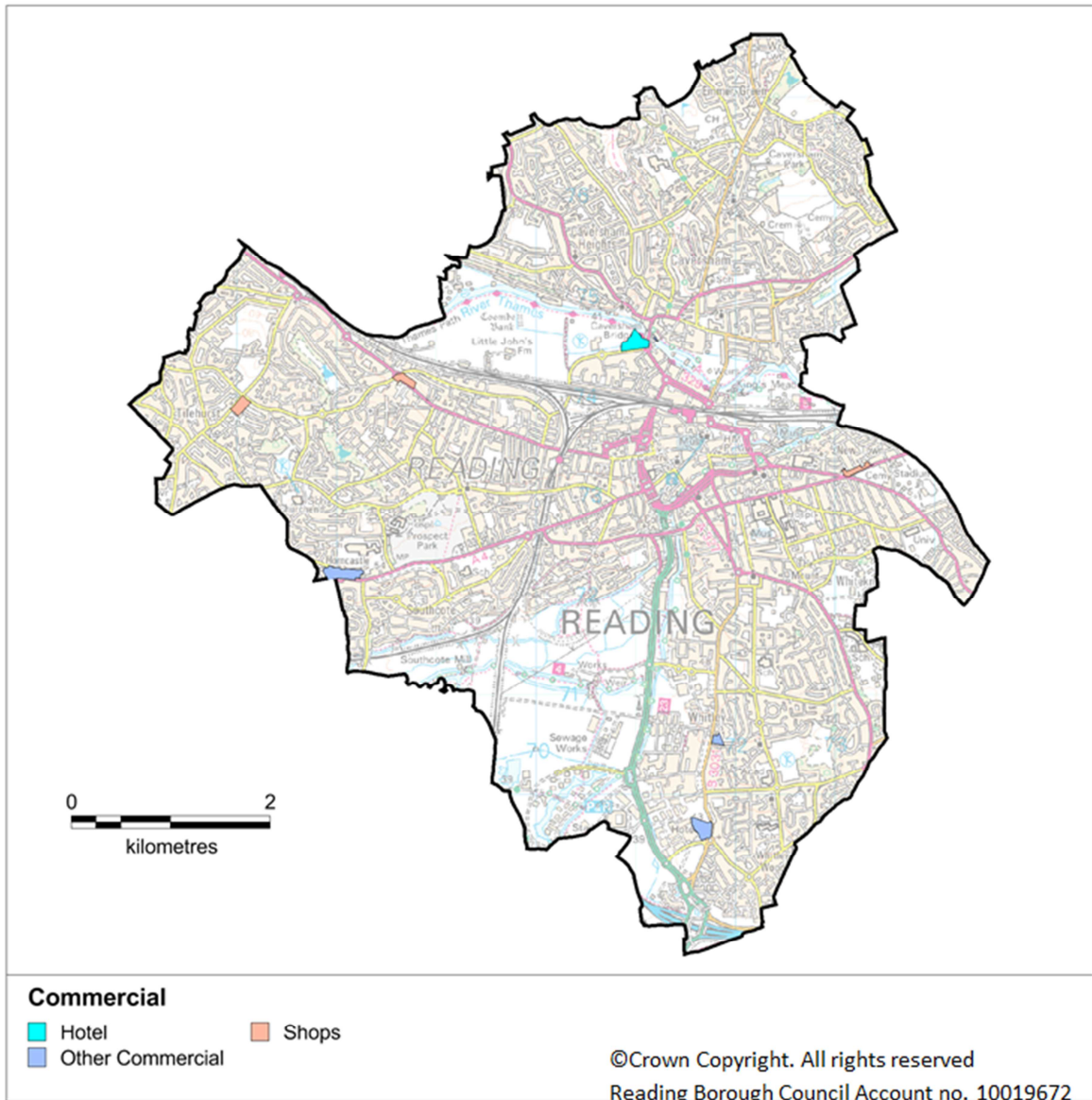
Figure 40. Commercial areas in Reading Borough c.1939 (excluding the town centre)

Commercial
- Hotel
- Other Commercial
- Shops

12.2 The Borough of Wokingham

Commercial areas in the Borough of Wokingham are mostly located in rural or peripheral settings. The recorded superstores are somewhat of an exception – there is currently an ASDA in a residential area in Lower Earley, a Sainsbury's located centrally in Winnersh, and a Morrison's also located quite centrally in the town of Wokingham. There is also a large Tesco in Wokingham, but it is located on the outskirts of the town.
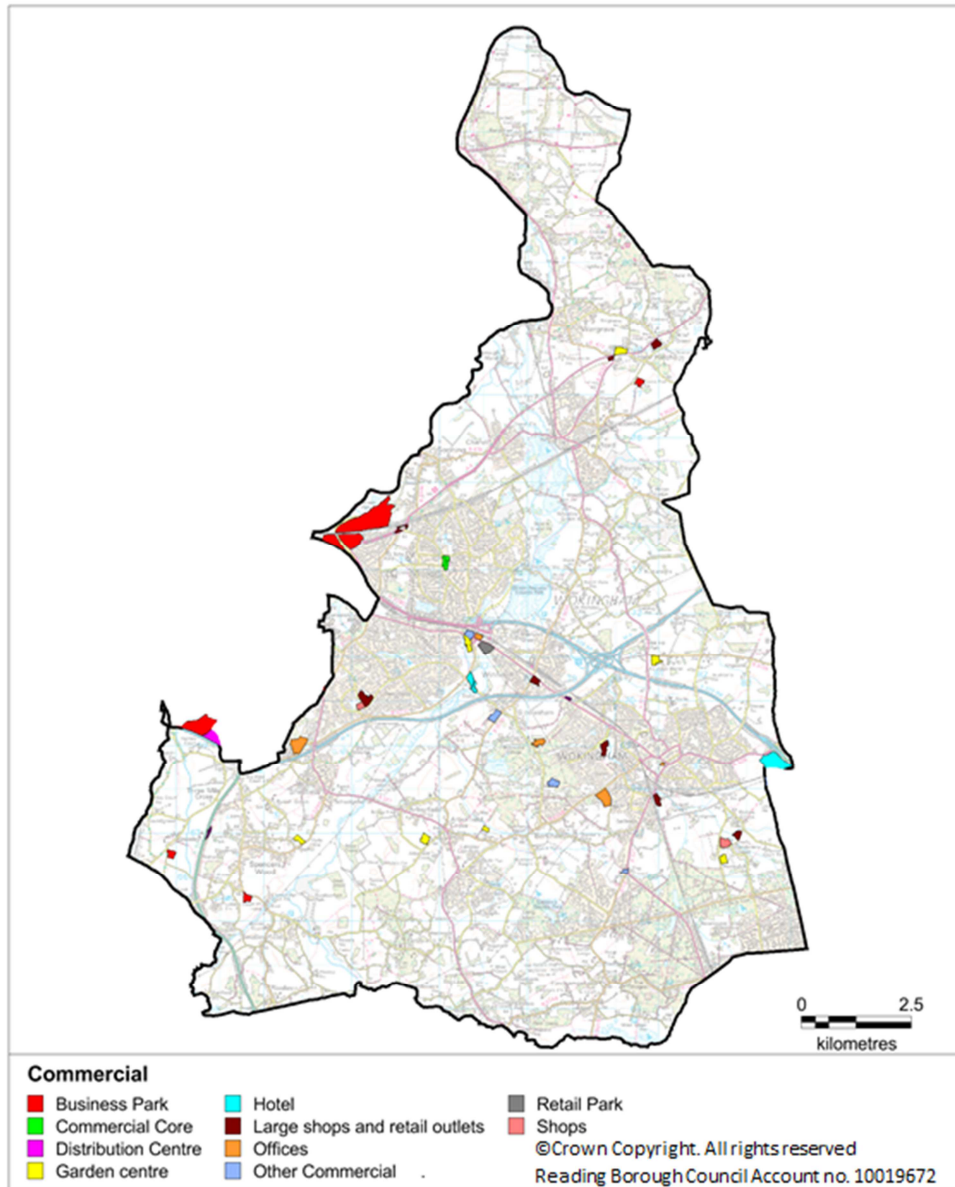
Figure 41. Commercial areas in Wokingham Borough

Offices and business parks are amongst the most important commercial areas in the Borough. Thames Valley Business Park and the adjacent Suttons Business Park are located in Sonning and Lower Earley and are modern planned facilities, typically comprising large office buildings, often with car parking and green spaces, with associated roads and service areas. Green Park is located partly in the south of Reading Borough and partly in Wokingham Borough, close to the M4 as a "gateway"

development. The offices of Amec Foster Wheeler (a large consultancy firm) are also located in the Borough and visually dominate the road network at Shinfield Park.
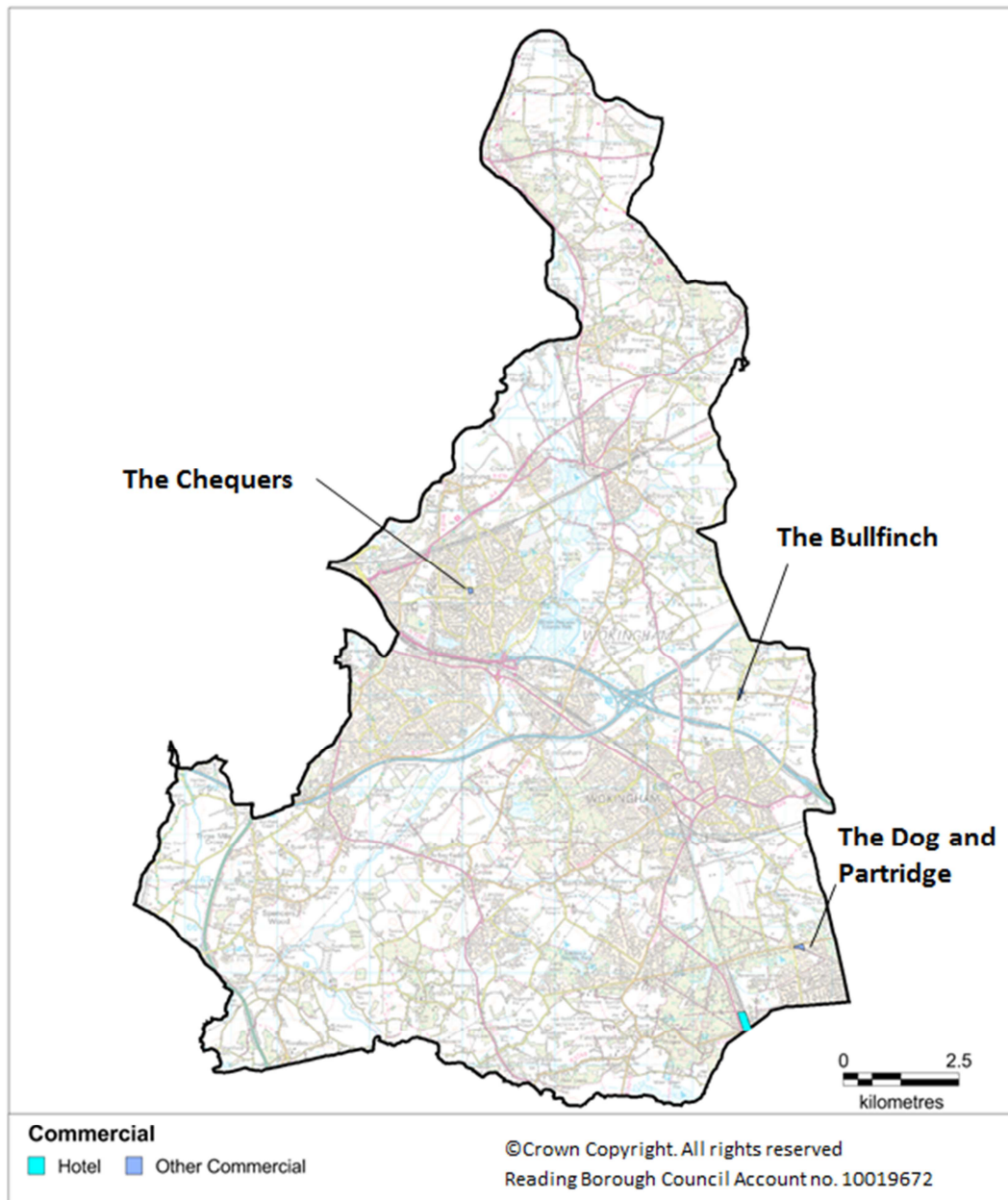
Figure 42. Commercial areas in Wokingham Borough c.1939 (excluding town centres)

The recorded commercial areas in the interwar period in the Borough (excluding the town centres) consisted of three public houses and one hotel, all of which originated in the 19th century. The Chequers public house was located where the modern town centre now is in Woodley. There is still a pub there with the same name, but it is modern. The Dog and Partridge was located in Crowthorne, but has been replaced by modern housing. The Bullfinch is located in a rural location northeast of the town of Wokingham. It survives, but is now surrounded by modern residential housing. The Wellington Hotel was located in Crowthorne, and has also been replaced by modern residential housing.

12.3 Bracknell Forest

The commercial areas in the Unitary Authority area of Bracknell Forest are concentrated in and around the town of Bracknell, as the major population centre. Bracknell has three superstores on its outskirts, but the remaining shopping areas recorded are within the town centre. Other important commercial activities are business parks and offices; two large garden centres are also located to the north of Bracknell. There is also a dog sanctuary (Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary) and a large conference centre (Easthampstead Park) within a more rural setting in the borough.
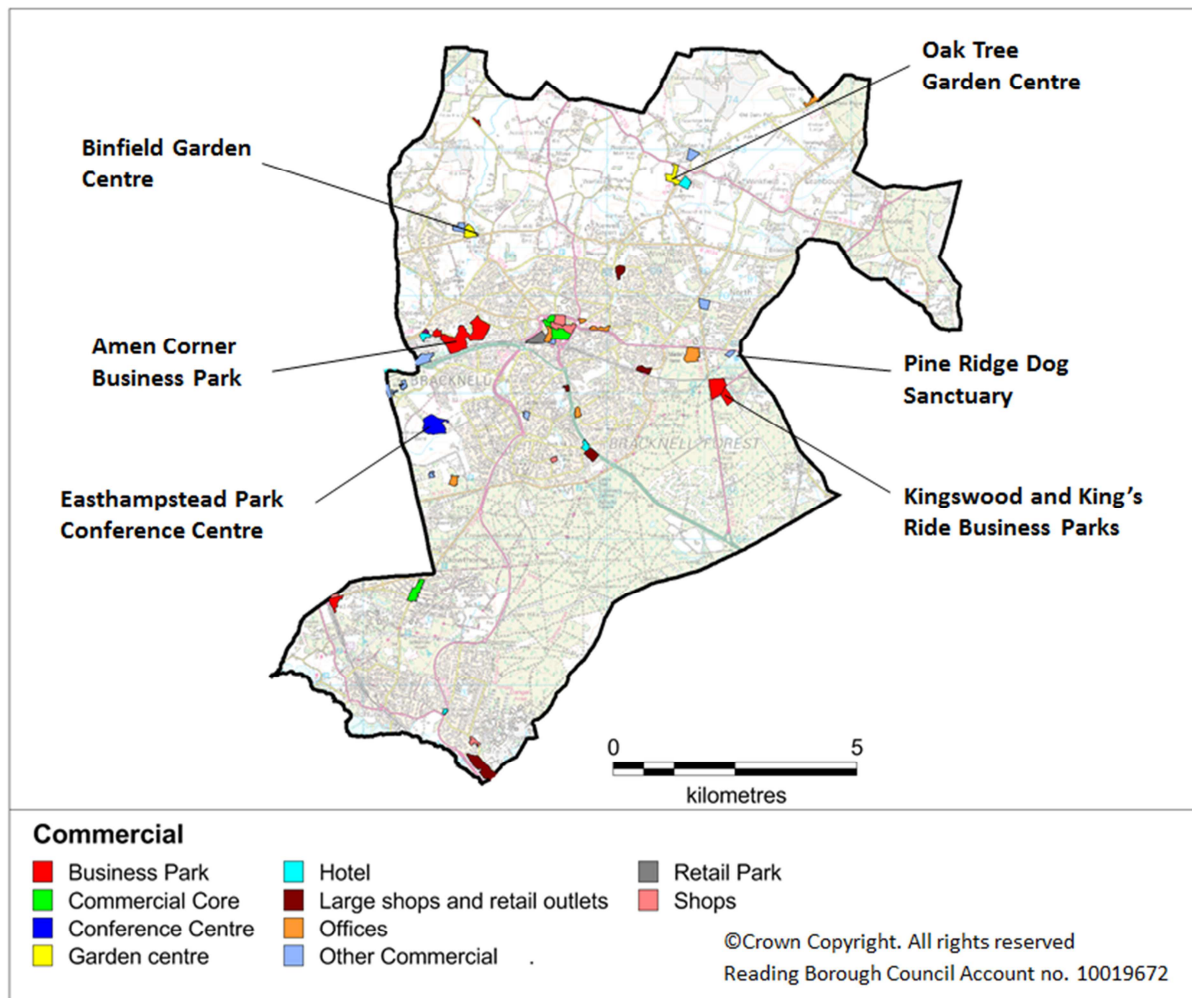
Figure 43. Commercial areas in Bracknell Forest

Excluding the town centres, the recorded commercial areas in the Borough before the last few decades consist of a single Public House (the Horse and Groom). The pub is visible already on John Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761, and still survives today, though it is now located in the middle of a residential area.

12.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Areas recorded within the Commercial broad type in the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead consist mostly of business parks, offices, and hotels. The commercial areas are again focussed on the larger population centres and thus located in and around Maidenhead and Windsor, and around Ascot, Sunninghill, and Sunningdale. Maidenhead especially has a very well-defined modern commercial town centre, with a network of streets of mixed shops, and a large business area southwest of the town. Its town centre also contains one of only two recorded superstores in the borough; the other being in Windsor.
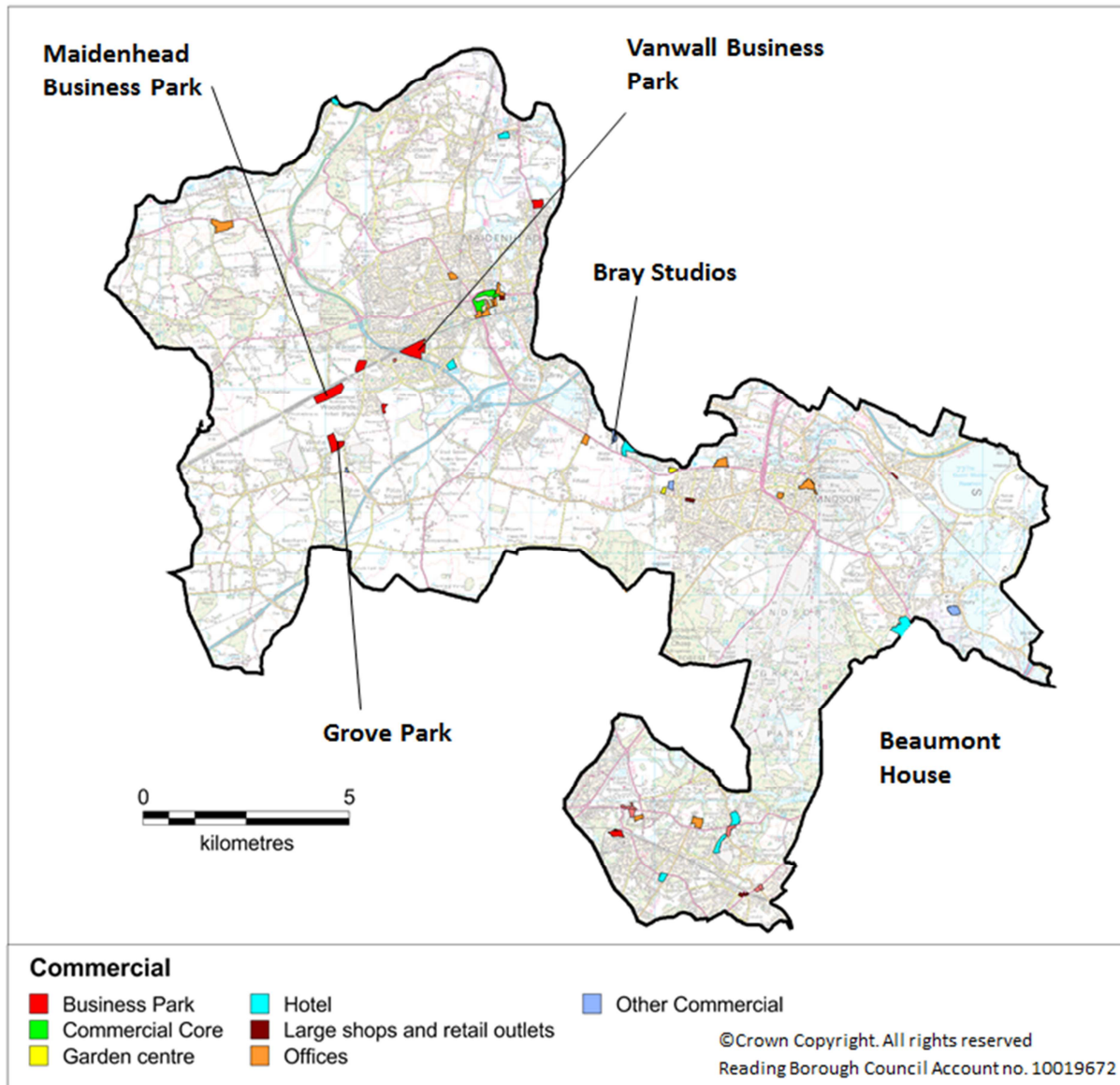
Figure 44. Commercial areas in Windsor and Maidenhead

The recorded commercial areas recorded as such in Windsor and Maidenhead in the interwar period (excluding the town centres) are principally hotels and shopping streets, although others of smaller size are known from OS mapping.

12.5 Slough Borough

The commercial areas in Slough are unsurprisingly concentrated around the A4 Bath Road (the main route through the town and borough) in the west and in Langley in the east. A number of retail parks and superstores are located along Bath Road, and Slough also has a modern commercial town centre. A few large business parks are located in Langley in the east. The large hotels are located in the south and the east, presumably to allow easy access to Windsor and Heathrow Airport.
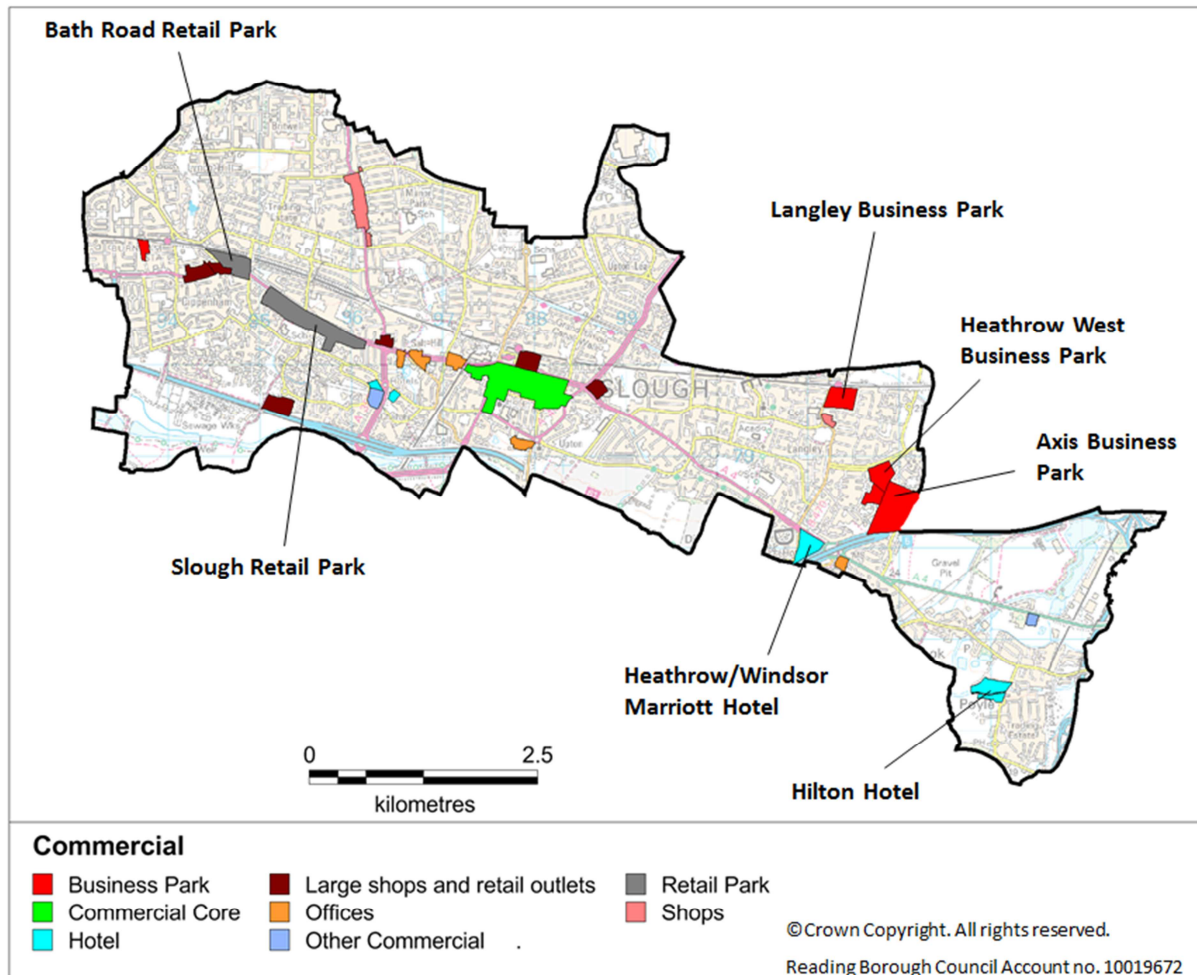
Figure 45. Commercial areas in Slough Borough

The recorded commercial areas in Slough in the interwar period (apart from Slough town centre) comprised an area of hotels north of Bath Road, and one public house. The hotels were built in the 19th century, in the location of Slough's newly-built bus station. The public house was located where the modern Harrow Market now is.

13. Communications

Communications are features and facilities that relate to travel and to the transportation of goods. East Berkshire has a well-developed communication network comprising primarily of roads, railways and waterways.

Narrow Types: Bus Station, Canal, Car Park, Civilian Airfield, Lay-By, Lock, Railway, Railway Station, Railyard, Road, Roundabout/Crossroads, Slip Road

Polygons: 71 separate areas, comprising 1179 hectares, relate to communications in the HLC database. This however underestimates the area covered by communications in several ways. To comprehensively analyse the road network and its history is not within the remit of this project - only some of the major roads in the area have been recorded, as comprising the chief characteristics of a particular area, otherwise the area covered by communications would have been much higher. It should also be noted that within the database navigable rivers are not a HLC type (see Valley Floor and Water Management); had they been recorded under this type, the total area covered would rise to 1649 hectares.

	Area / hectares
Total	1179
Bus Station	5
Canal	14
Car Park	15
Civilian Airfield	117
Lay-By	1
Lock	7
Railway	338
Railway Station	11
Rail yard	23
Road	617
Roundabout / Crossroads	20
Slip road	11

Table 5. Communications in East Berkshire

Communications – by HLC Type

Railways & associated features

Former railways & associated features

Roads and associated features

Former roads and associated features

Civilian airfield

Canals and waterways

Windsor and Maidenhead

Slough

Wokingham

Reading

Bracknell Forest

0   10

kilometres
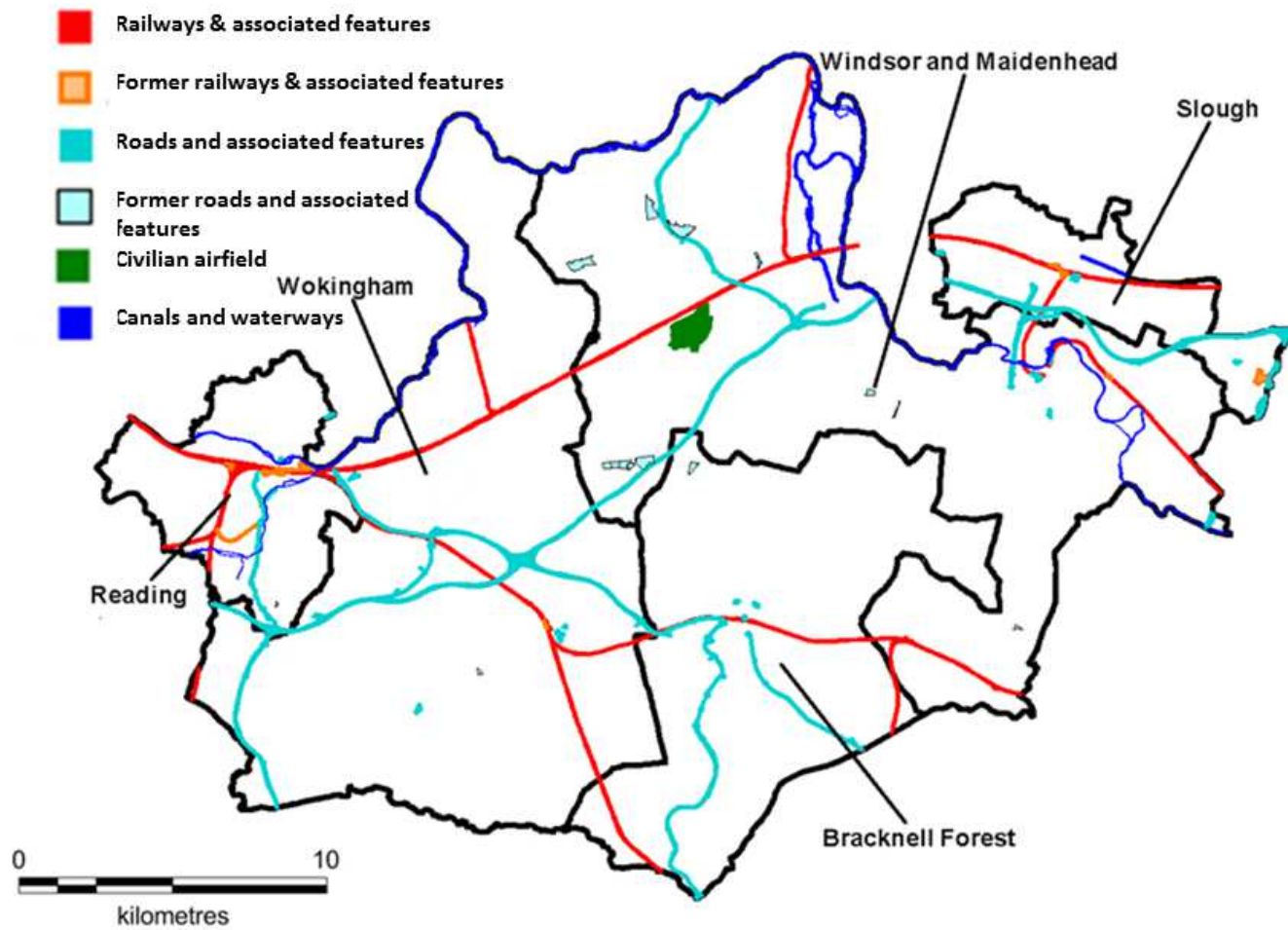
Figure 46. Communications in East Berkshire

13.1 Railways

Railways in East Berkshire originate almost entirely in the 19th century, with the only exception being the Coley Branch Line in south Reading. This was a single-track branch of the Reading to Basingstoke Line meant for goods traffic, which was built in 1908 and closed in 1983. The railway network has changed very little in the area since it was constructed; the only other line now out of use is the Staines and West Drayton Railway which opened in 1884 and closed down in 1966. The northernmost parts of the line, between West Drayton and the former Colnbrook Station (now an industrial estate) do still survive and are used to transport construction materials and for deliveries of fuel to a terminal serving Heathrow Airport.

Though very few railway lines have closed, parts of Wokingham and Reading rail yards have been converted to industrial estates and offices, and some railway sidings have also been converted to other uses, yet often retain characteristics of their former type.

In common with the other largely linear features in the Communications broad type, railways are extremely distinctive features in the landscape, and often bisect larger areas of other landscape types such as Residential or Enclosed Land; they are clearly visible on almost all sources explored, from their date of origin. Their associated features such as yards, engine sheds and stations tend to be large-scale and often out of character particularly where located within settlement areas.
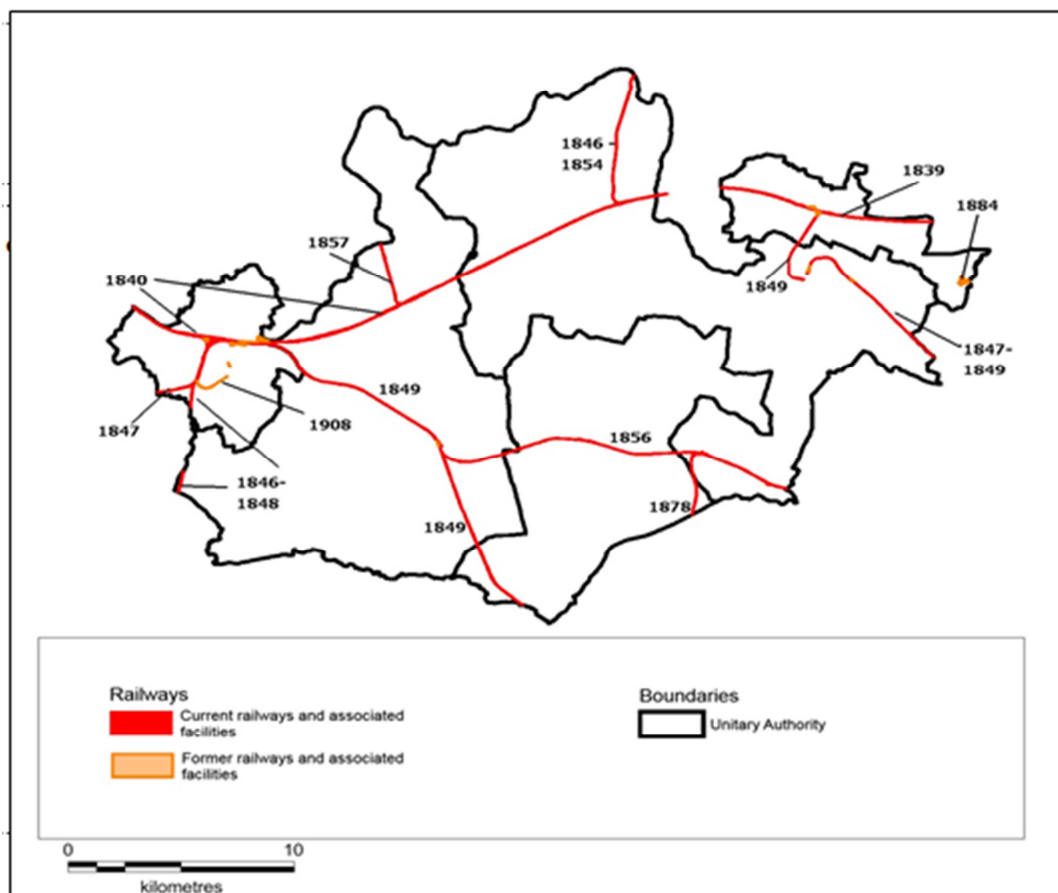
Figure 47. Current and former railways and associated facilities in East Berkshire

The first railway to be built in East Berkshire was Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway between London and Bristol. The line reached Maidenhead by 1839 and Reading by 1840.
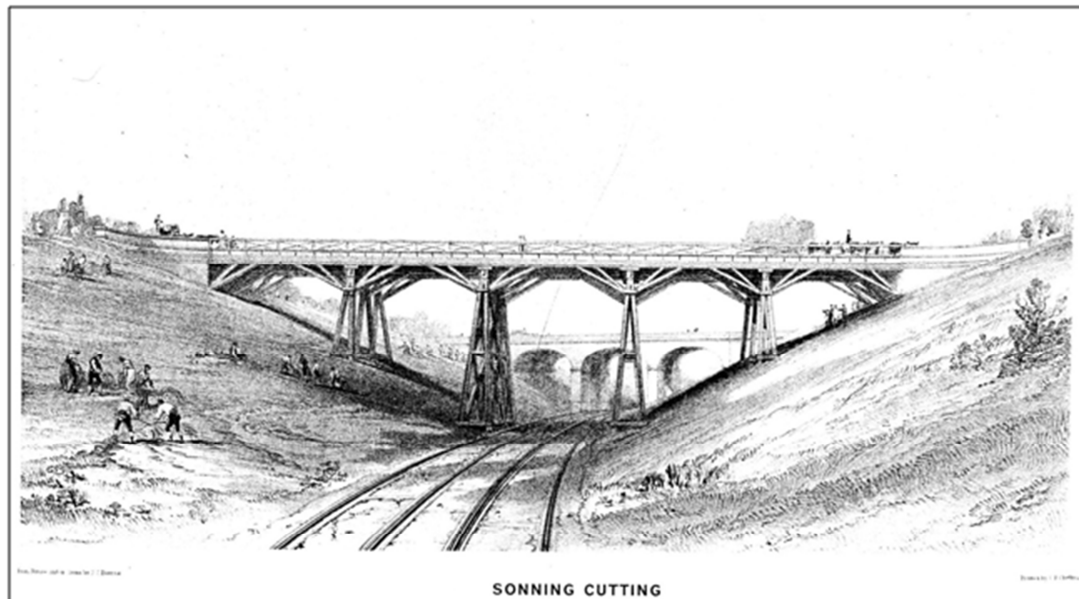
Figure 48. View of Sonning railway cutting 1846

Most of the other railway lines in the area connect directly or indirectly to the London to Bristol line, and reflect the generalised trend of east-west communications in the county. The line from Reading to Newbury and Hungerford opened in 1847, and the Reading to Basingstoke line was opened in 1848. In 1849, two lines reached Windsor from different directions, each with their own station in the town - one was built from Slough in the north, providing a connection to the London to Bristol line, and the other (LSWR) provided Windsor with a connection to Richmond via Staines in Surrey. In the same year, the North Downs Line was completed connecting Reading with Redhill on the Brighton mainline. The Maidenhead to High Wycombe line was completed in 1854, and the Henley to Twyford line in 1857, both connecting to the London to Bristol line. The Staines to Wokingham line reached Ascot on 4 June 1856, and on 9 July the same year, the line was extended to Wokingham. The last major railway to be built in East Berkshire was the Ascot to Ash Vale line, completed in 1878 as part of the Ascot to Guildford line. The only two railways built in the area after 1878 were the Staines and West Drayton Railway (1884) and the previously mentioned Coley Branch line (1908). Reading station, recently modernised and extended, remains a major hub in the region.

13.2 Canals and waterways

There are two navigable rivers in East Berkshire – The Thames and the Kennet. The Thames is navigable from London up to Lechlade in Gloucestershire, a distance of 94 miles, and has been an important transportation link since ancient times, transporting people and goods between London and the inland. The Kennet is a tributary of the River Thames, joining the Thames at Reading. The Kennet was made navigable from Reading to Newbury in the early 18th century, as part of the Kennet and Avon canal. The canal consists of two navigable rivers (Kennet Navigation and Avon Navigation) linked by an artificial canal built between 1794 and 1810. The construction of this waterway makes it

possible to travel by boat between Bristol and Reading, and by extension to London. Before the 18th century, the Kennet would only have been navigable for a short stretch from where it flows into the River Thames at Reading. The only part of the Kennet which is in East Berkshire is Kennet Navigation.

The part of the Kennet that flows through Reading has been heavily altered and improved, and though strictly speaking a river, it does in parts resemble a canal, often with the characteristic associated features such as sluices and gates, artificially straightened/built up banks and related tow paths.
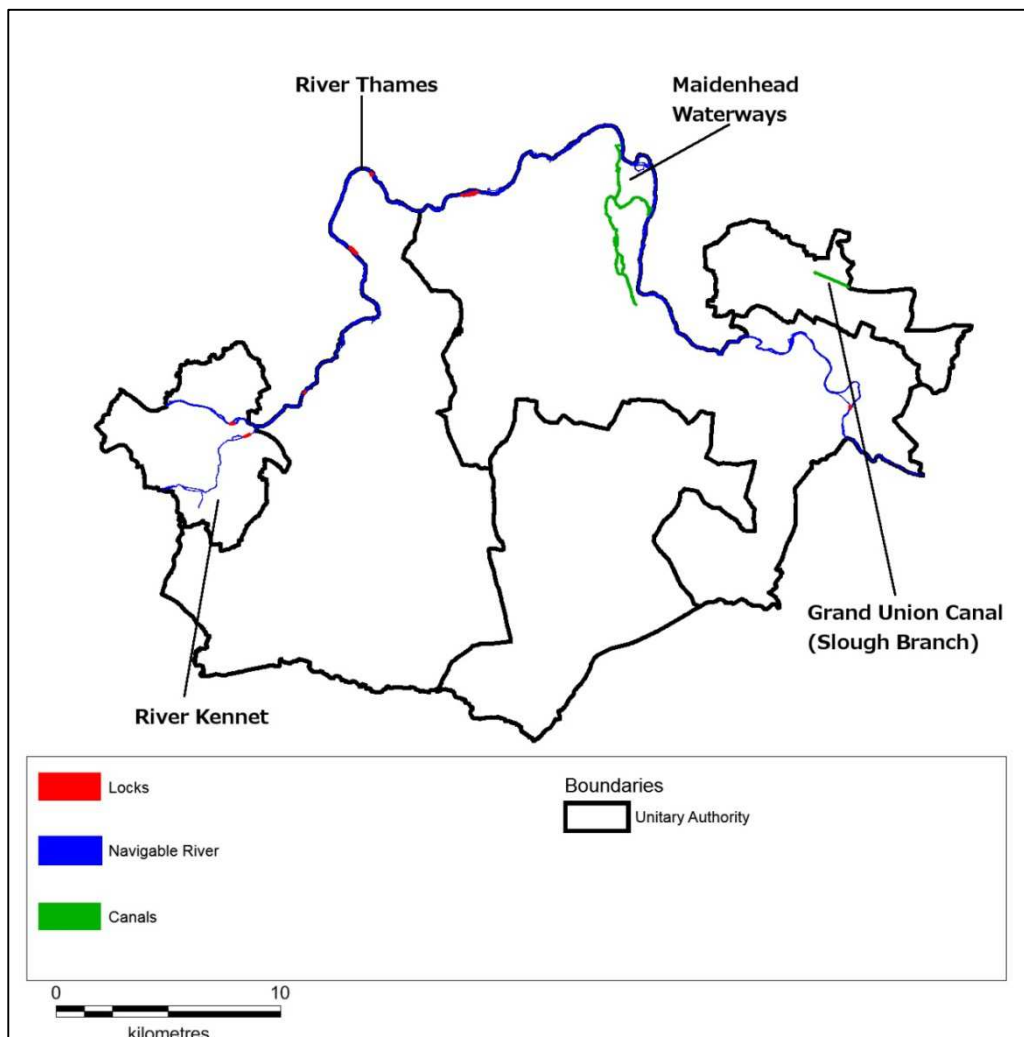
Figure 49. Navigable rivers, canals and locks in East Berkshire

Navigation on both rivers has been greatly aided by the construction of weirs and locks, regulating both the flow of water and the traffic. The extant locks in East Berkshire were built in the 18th century and are all of the pound lock type, comprising a chamber with gates at either end. The gates regulate the water level in the chamber to allow boats to pass safely through. The pound locks replaced medieval so-called flash locks that only consisted of a single gate, creating a "flash" of water to flow through the lock when the gate was opened.

Maidenhead Waterways form a complex system of minor waterways and canals that run through Maidenhead. The waterways leave the Thames close to Cookham and run alongside the river before eventually rejoining it at Bray. The waterways were probably constructed in the latter half of the 18th century, or in the early 19th century and are thought to have originally been navigable, but at the time of writing are largely derelict and silted up. Lately, there have been concerted efforts to restore the former waterways to a navigable standard. Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group – a local charity - was formed in 2007 for this purpose. The aim is to eventually allow narrow boats to travel on the waterways, as part of a larger plan to regenerate Maidenhead, and to improve the appearance and bio-diversity of the waterways by planting and soft-landscaping.

Figure 50. A pound lock (County Lock) on the River Kennet in Reading town centre

The Slough Branch of the Grand Union Canal was opened in 1882 to serve the brickworks in the area. The branch runs from Slough eastwards for five miles until it reaches the Grand Union Canal at Cowley Peachey. The Slough Branch has no locks. The last commercial traffic on the line was in March 1960, after which it was closed for traffic. However, a local campaign to save the canal resulted in it being re-opened in 1975. It is used today for narrow boats and pleasure crafts.

13.3 Civilian Airfields

The only airfield in East Berkshire today is the White Waltham Airfield. It operates as a general aviation aerodrome, which means that it serves all civil aviation except large-scale passenger or freight operations. The airfield was constructed in 1928 by the de Havilland family and was initially home to a flying school. In 1938 it was taken over by the government, and between 1940 and 1945 it was home to the Air Transport Auxiliary. After the war, the airfield continued to be under RAF control until 1982, when it was sold to its present owners. Located within an area of flat, open land, it comprises the typical ancillary structures and hardstandings, along with a secure perimeter.
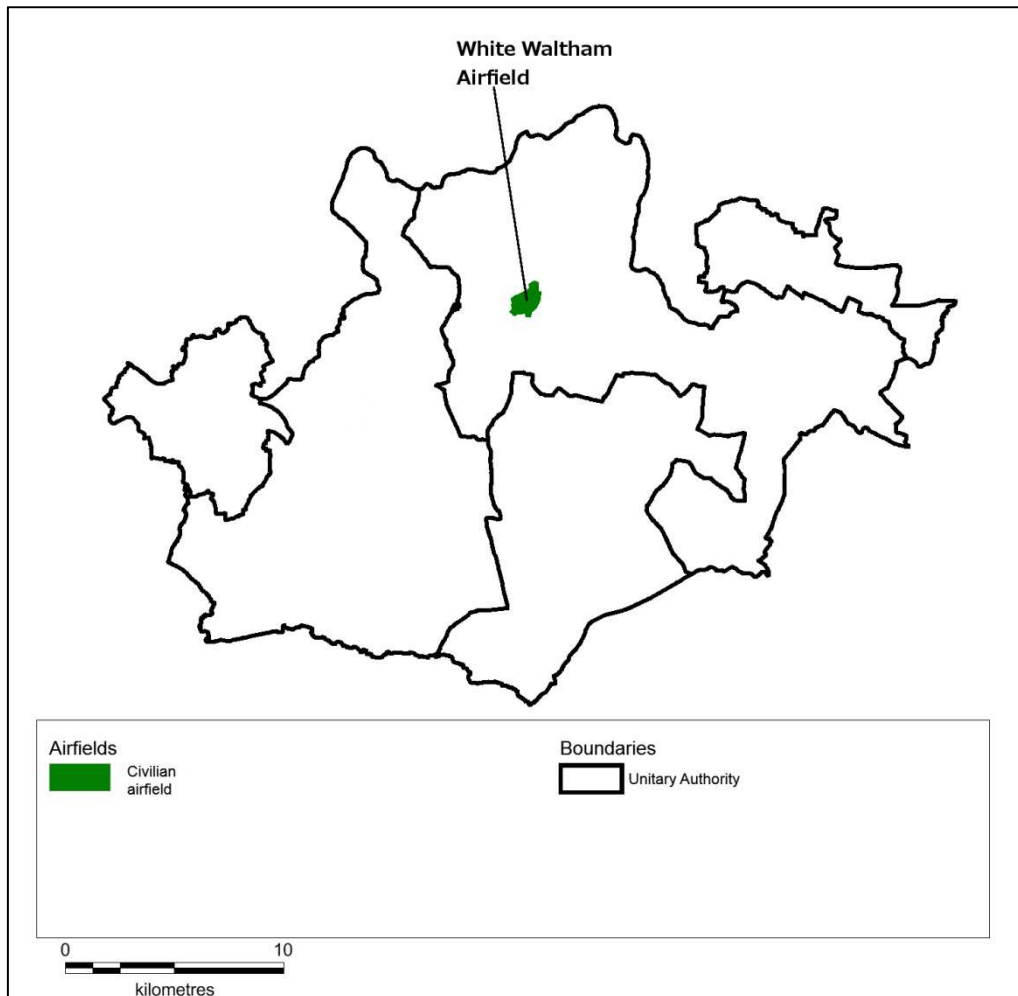
Figure 51. Civilian airfields in East Berkshire

13.4 Roads

The road system in East Berkshire is complex and consists of many roads of different sizes, ages and importance, and in some cases significant time-depth.

The oldest known road in East Berkshire is the Roman Road between London and Silchester via Staines, known locally as the Devil's Highway. Parts of this road survive as a bridleway (also with two sections of extant agger) through Bracknell Forest. In the Anglo-Saxon period, the most important road was between London and Bristol, passing through Datchet, Maidenhead, Twyford and Reading. The current Bath Road in Reading is on the same alignment as the old Anglo-Saxon Road; however, the Thames was only bridged at Maidenhead in 1280. Before that, it is possible that some of the traffic took a more southerly route, crossing the Thames at Staines in Surrey rather than at Maidenhead, continuing on the Devil's Highway before travelling through or close to Bracknell and Wokingham. Another important medieval road was the road between Winchester and Oxford, passing through Reading; the modern Reading to Basingstoke Road runs partly on the same alignment. These centuries-old routeways have attracted settlement, light industry and commerce along their lines, as is demonstrated by the distribution of other current and previous HLC types. Similarly to railways, as linear features the roads in East Berkshire are often "alien" features within

larger areas of rural settlement or enclosed land and with their ancillary features, tend to dominate any landscape they cross.

The major roads in today's East Berkshire are discussed briefly below. These are all modern roads, but often had a historic predecessor on the same alignment.

M4 The M4 runs between London and South Wales and was first proposed in the 1930s. The first part of the motorway to be built was the Chiswick flyover in 1959, which at that time was not classed as a motorway. The first part of the motorway to be built in East Berkshire was Maidenhead bypass, which was finished in 1961. The English part of the motorway was completed in 1971 when the section between Maidenhead and Swindon was opened, and the Welsh part in 1993 with the opening of the Briton Ferry motorway bridge. The M4 links a number of important towns and cities – London in the east, Slough, Bracknell, Maidenhead and Reading in East Berkshire, and Newbury, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Newport, Cardiff, and Swansea to the west. The area adjacent to the M4 is known as the M4 corridor, and its eastern end, including the part in East Berkshire, is regarded as a major technology hub and sometimes referred to as "England's Silicon Valley".

M25 The M25 is an orbital motorway that circles London. Built between 1973 and 1986, it was initially conceived not as a single road but as four different ring roads. Only very short sections of the M25 are located in East Berkshire – parts of Junction 15, a short stretch to the east of Poyle, and a short section north of Egham in Surrey.

Figure.52. The A33 by the Castle Street roundabout, Reading

A33 The A33 is the Reading to Basingstoke road. The part in East Berkshire is a modern dual carriageway, stretching from just south of Caversham Bridge in Reading, to the village of Riseley in the south. The road between Reading and Basingstoke was originally constructed in the medieval period and the part of the modern A33 south of Reading follows the alignment of the medieval road; the stretch within Reading is however entirely modern.

A329(M) / A3290 The A329(M) is a short stretch of motorway connecting Bracknell with the M4. The A3290 is a modern dual carriageway and the former western end of the A329(M). It provides a direct route between western Reading, the M4 and the A329(M).

Bracknell to Sandhurst road (A3095 / A321) The road between Bracknell and Sandhurst is known variously as the A3095 and the A321. It is a single carriageway, built through Bracknell Forest at some time after c.1962.

A404(M) / A404 The A404(M) is a short stretch of motorway west of Maidenhead, connecting the M4 with the A404. It was originally the end of the M4. The A404 runs between the north end of the A404(M) and High Wycombe, where it turns to the east to eventually end up in west London. The East Berkshire stretch of this road was built at some time after c.1962, and is a modern dual carriageway.

A322 The A322 is the Bracknell to Bagshot Road, originally constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century. It is now a modern dual carriageway.

Slough to Windsor Way (A332) This is a short section of dual carriageway between Slough and Windsor, built in its entirety at some time after c.1962.
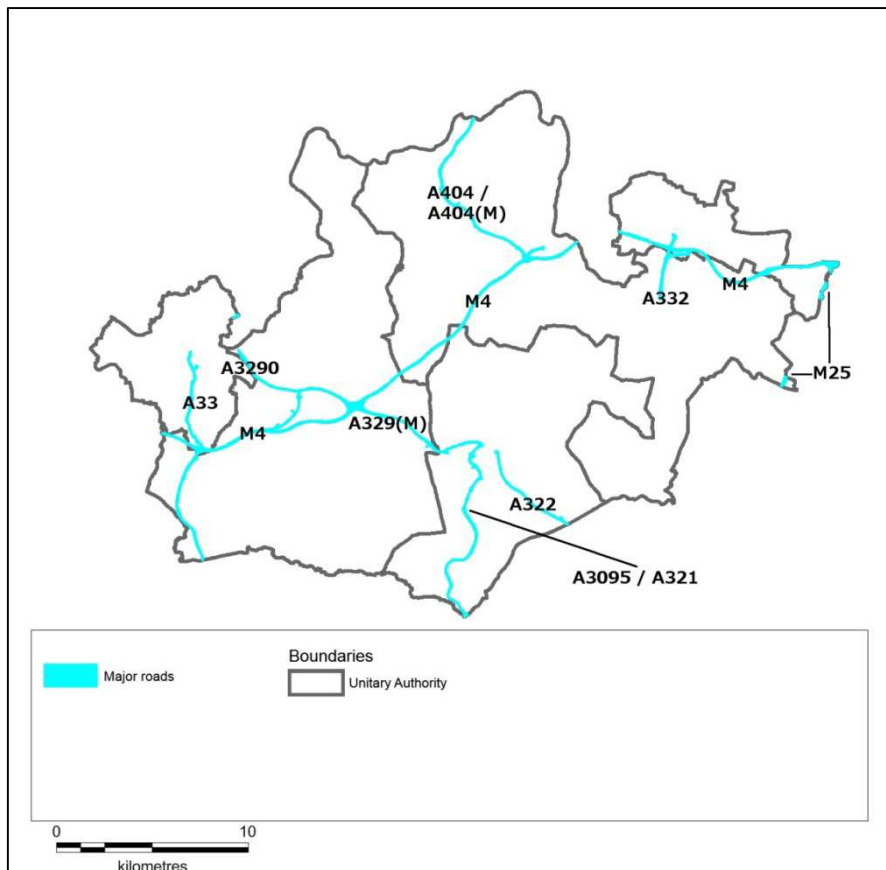
Figure 53. Major roads in East Berkshire

No major roads have been removed or taken out of use since at least the 18th century. A number of smaller roads in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have however been removed or converted to other kinds of land use and character. This is in most cases associated with the enclosure of common land.

13.5 Features and facilities associated with roads and road use

A number of features and facilities associated with road use have been recorded in East Berkshire. These include features relating to the structure of the road network itself - crossroads and roundabouts, slip roads, and lay-bys - but also includes bus stations and large car parks. Most of the recorded features are associated with the large towns and population centres in East Berkshire
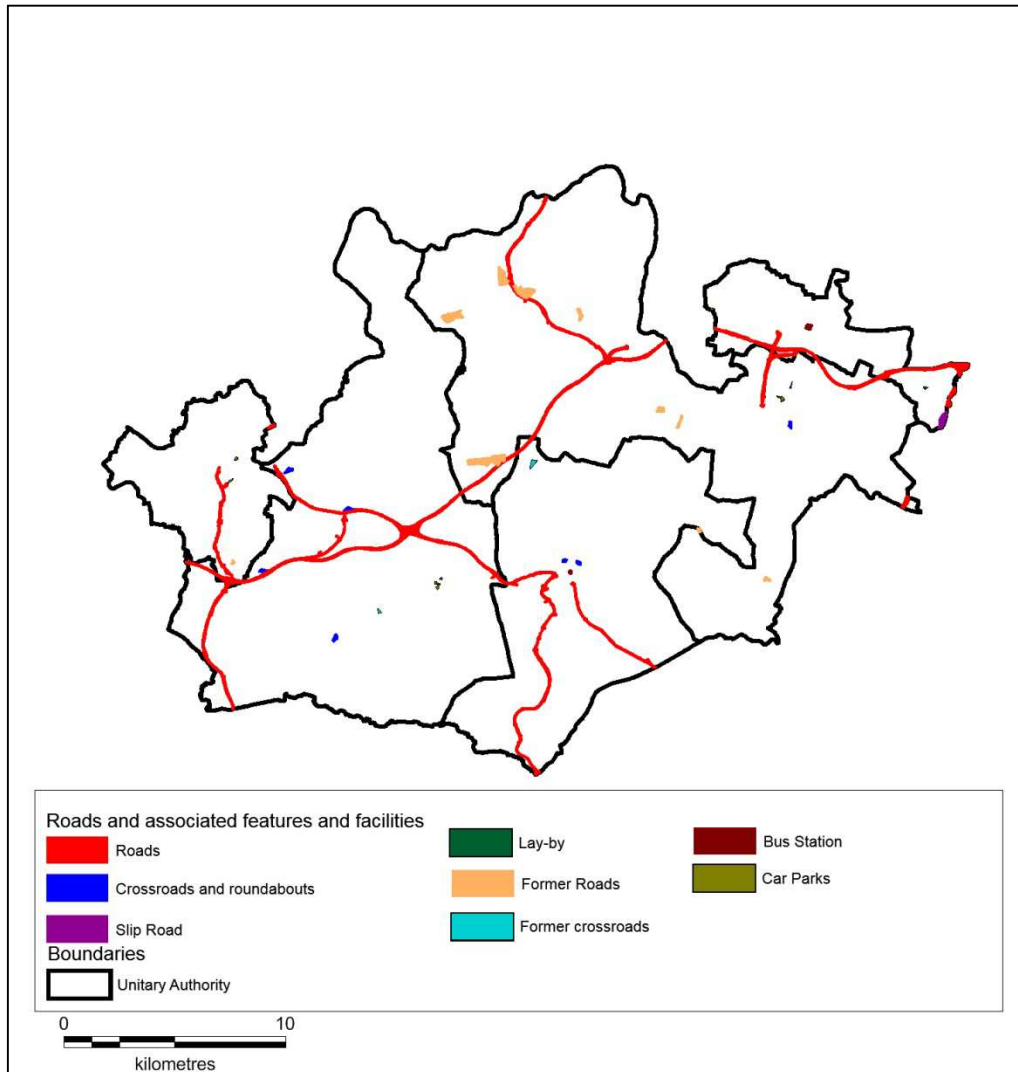
Figure 54 Roads and associated features and facilities in East Berkshire

14. Enclosed Land

The Enclosed Land broad type category refers to areas or parcels of land enclosed by field boundaries for cultivation or the grazing of livestock. Fields have been in existence in the landscape since the introduction of agriculture in the prehistoric period and changes in agricultural approaches and techniques, as well as its relative importance, are reflected in the morphology, size and distribution of enclosed land.

Narrow Types: Assart, Coaxial Field System, Field System of early origin, *Improved Pasture, Paddocks and Animal Enclosures, Piecemeal Enclosure, Planned Enclosure, *Pre-19th Century Field, Reorganised Field, Restored Field *(*recorded as previous type only*)

Polygons: 586 polygons have Enclosed Land as their current type, covering an area of 16,529 hectares. 3853 areas have this as a previous type

HLC types	Area / hectares
Total	16529
Assart	385
Coaxial field system	28
Field System of early origin	33
Paddocks and animal enclosures	2262
Piecemeal enclosure	2339
Planned enclosure	3963
Reorganised field	7417
Restored field	102

Table 6. Areas of Enclosed Land in East Berkshire

Assart

Assart is land that has been enclosed from woodland to agricultural use, a process which became commonplace in the later medieval period, and continued well into the post-medieval. Areas of assart tend to be characterised by their association with extant woodland, tree-lined or hedgerow

boundaries, and irregular boundaries. The area around the Great Wood (northwest of Bracknell) is a clear example which explains the shape of the Great Wood today; other probable areas of assart include former wooded areas northwest of Maidenhead.

Field system of early origin

This HLC type encompasses field systems that can be demonstrated from archaeological research to be either prehistoric or medieval in origin by virtue of their form. One surviving ancient field system has been identified through historic mapping and aerial photography at Threemile Cross, and a coaxial system (see below) around Cranbourne; both are likely to have originated in the medieval period or earlier. Recent research recognises that such early field systems are rare in the archaeological record in East Berkshire.

Coaxial field system

A coaxial field system has the dominant field boundary axis aligned in a single direction; other boundaries may be perpendicular this main axis. This gives a regular pattern of small to medium sized fields, which is rare in East Berkshire. One possible coaxial field system was identified on historic maps around Cranbourne, adjacent to Windsor Forest. Only a small area of the original field system has survived until present day; it cannot be dated with any accuracy but is likely to be medieval or earlier.

Improved pasture

Improved pasture is grassland that has been enclosed as fields, and improved in other ways (e.g. through extensive drainage). These types of fields are common particularly by the main rivers in East Berkshire (on the floodplains), but also in areas unsuitable for arable cultivation (e.g. enclosed former heathland).

Paddocks and animal enclosures

Paddocks are enclosures for horses, and are often easy to identify on aerial photographs. It is more difficult to distinguish between paddocks and other types of animal enclosures (cattle enclosures in particular). The enclosures are usually bounded by fences, and the fence lines can easily be identified on aerial photographs. Fences and fence posts must be replaced regularly, so any fence lines that are visible on modern aerial photographs are almost by definition modern as well. The presence of fenced-off paddocks in a field today may therefore be a poor guide to how the land was used in the past. In the few cases where the enclosures are bounded by older hedge lines, the current land use may be better indication of past land use. Other features noted in this narrow type include bird pens which include characteristic structures as well as open areas. Paddocks and animal enclosures are distributed fairly evenly across the region.

Piecemeal Enclosure

This narrow type comprises fields evolving from the gradual, and often informal, enclosure of open fields. Fields are typically irregular in shape and of varying size, in contrast to the planned enclosure fields that have been subject to formal survey and layout (see below).

Planned enclosure

98

Planned enclosure comprises privately owned fields that have been created through enclosing areas used for other purposes, usually common land or arable land held in open field systems. Much of this land was enclosed through Parliamentary Enclosure in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Only a small amount of land was enclosed later than the mid-19th century. A substantial amount of land was however enclosed earlier through informal agreements. The agricultural land created through planned enclosure in East Berkshire is concentrated in an area north of Wokingham and Bracknell, between Twyford in the west and Windsor Forest in the east, and comprises regular fields with straight boundaries.

Pre 19th century fields

Pre 19th century fields are fields that were present in the 18th century or earlier, as evidenced by their presence on John Rocque's map of Berkshire (1761). This is a generic narrow type only used for recording previous types where enclosed land is indicated by Roque but lacks obvious attributes that would enable classification by other Enclosed Land narrow types.

Reorganised fields

Reorganised fields are fields that had their layout substantially changed. Sometimes the shape of the field has been changed. In other cases, the fields have lost most or all of their internal boundaries, or the layout of the internal boundaries may have changed. That a field has been reorganised in this way can be determined through comparing modern maps and aerial photographs with historic maps; reorganisation of fields that took place before the earliest available detailed historic mapping (1761) is harder to determine.

Reorganised fields recorded in the HLC cluster in an area in the southwest of Wokingham Borough, in a central belt running north of Wokingham and Bracknell, and south of Maidenhead, as well as more dispersed locations throughout East Berkshire, covering a total area of 7417 hectares, in 191 polygons.

Restored fields

Restored fields are modern fields established on land restored from quarrying, land fill or similar types of land use. There are only four such fields recorded in the HLC for East Berkshire - the former Biffa waste disposal site in Slough, a former landfill site in Waltham St Lawrence, and quarries in Bray Wick, and Horton.

Enclosed Land

- ■ Assart
- ■ Coaxial field system
- ■ Field System of early origin
- ■ Paddocks and animal enclosures
- ■ Piecemeal enclosure
- ■ Planned enclosure
- ■ Reorganised field
- ■ Restored field

Slough

Wokingham

Reading

Windsor & Maidenhead

Bracknell Forest

0   5
kilometres
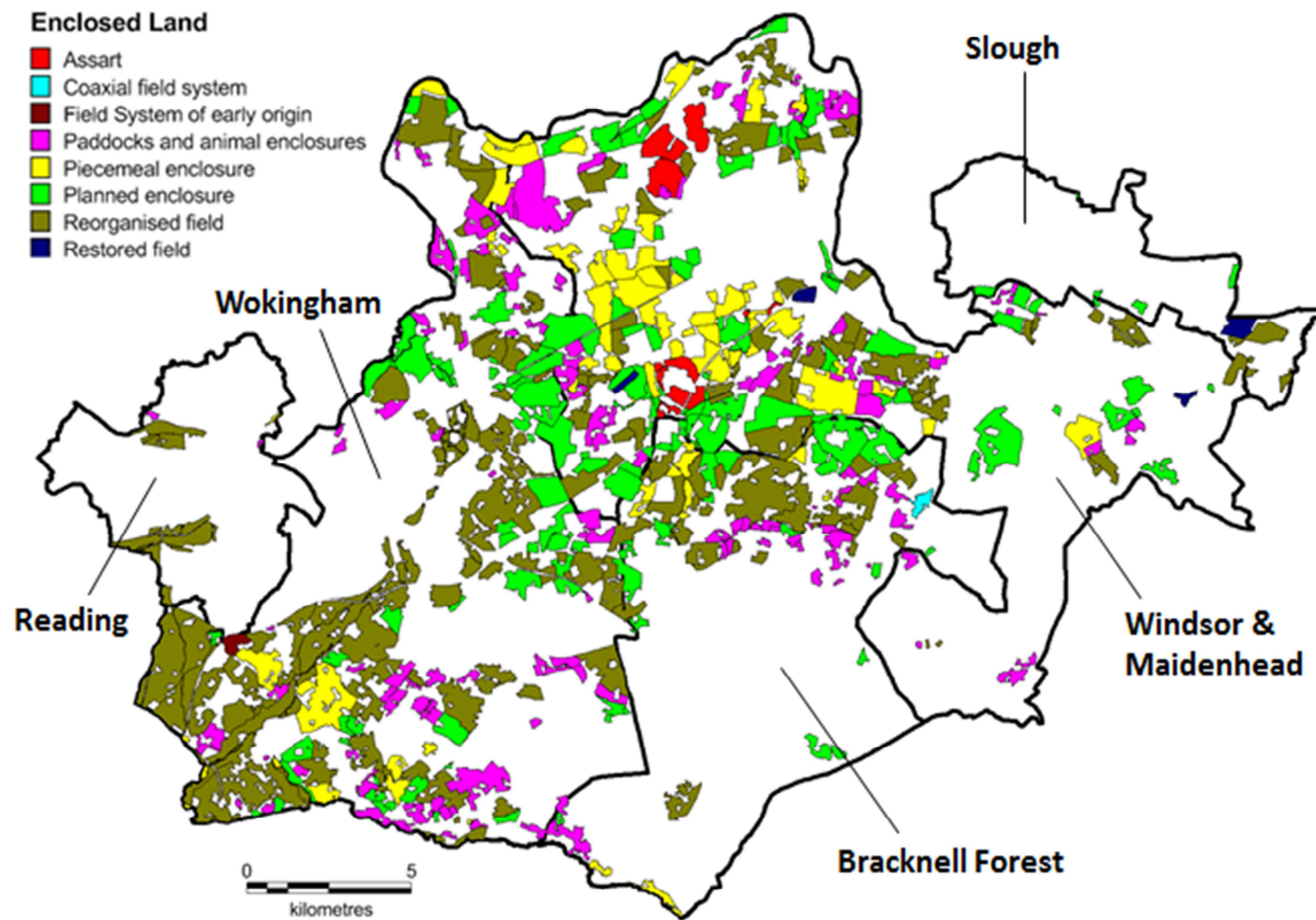
Figure 55. Enclosed Land in East Berkshire

100

Average Size of Fields
- <5 hectares
- 5-15 hectares
- >15 hectares

Slough

Wokingham

Reading

Windsor and Maidenhead

Bracknell Forest

0 5
kilometres
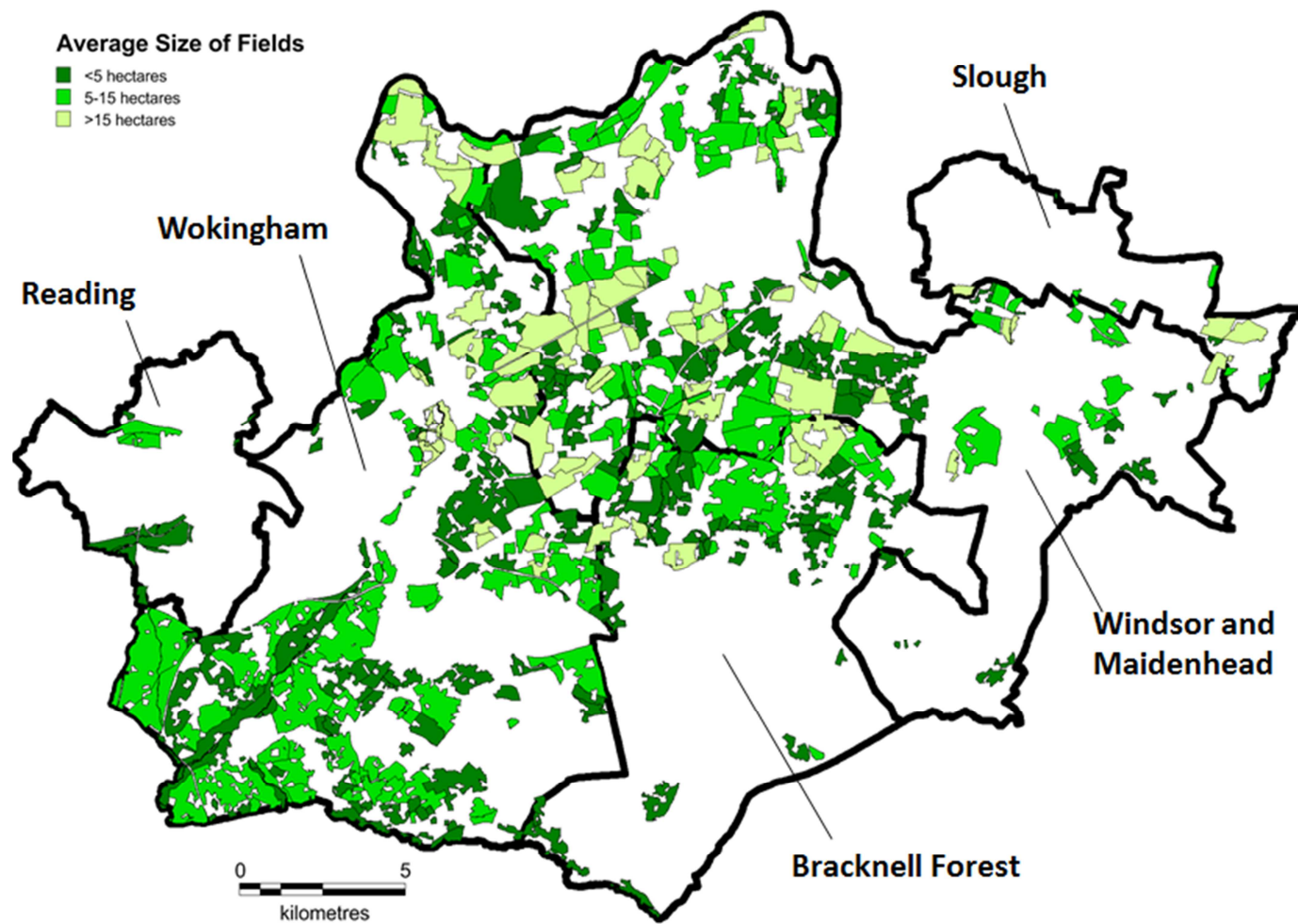
Figure.56. Average size of individual field
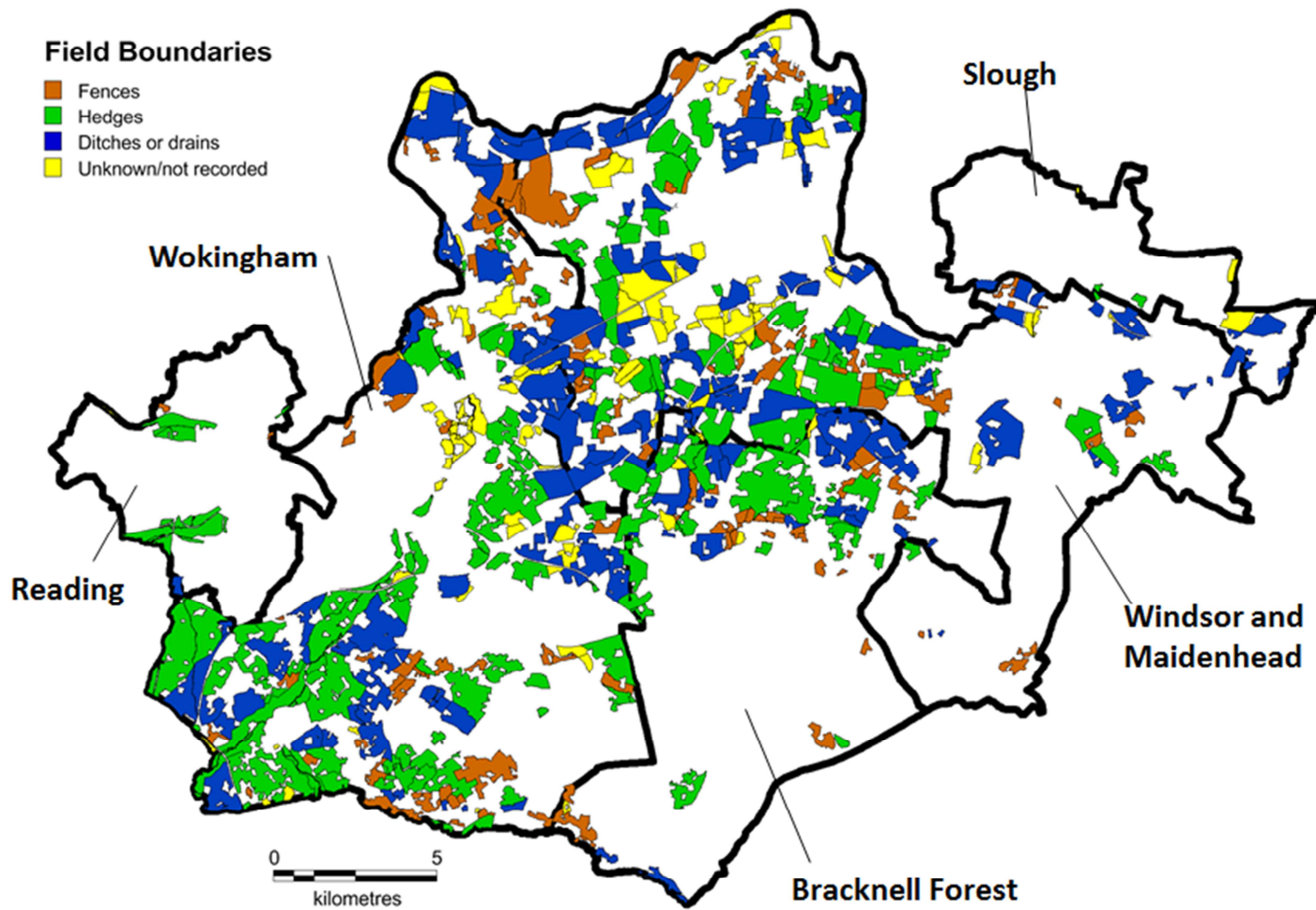
Figure57. Nature of internal field boundaries

14.1 Reading Borough

Surviving enclosed land in Reading Borough mostly comprises grassland associated with the floodplains of the River Thames and the River Kennet / Holy Brook. On aerial photographs, it is clear that these areas are divided into a number of large fields by hedges, ditches and possibly earthworks. The fields are not easily datable, but are likely to have been created in the medieval period or earlier. Since these areas are prone to flooding and are in parts marshy, they are unsuitable not just for settlement but also for arable cultivation, and were in all probability used for pasture.
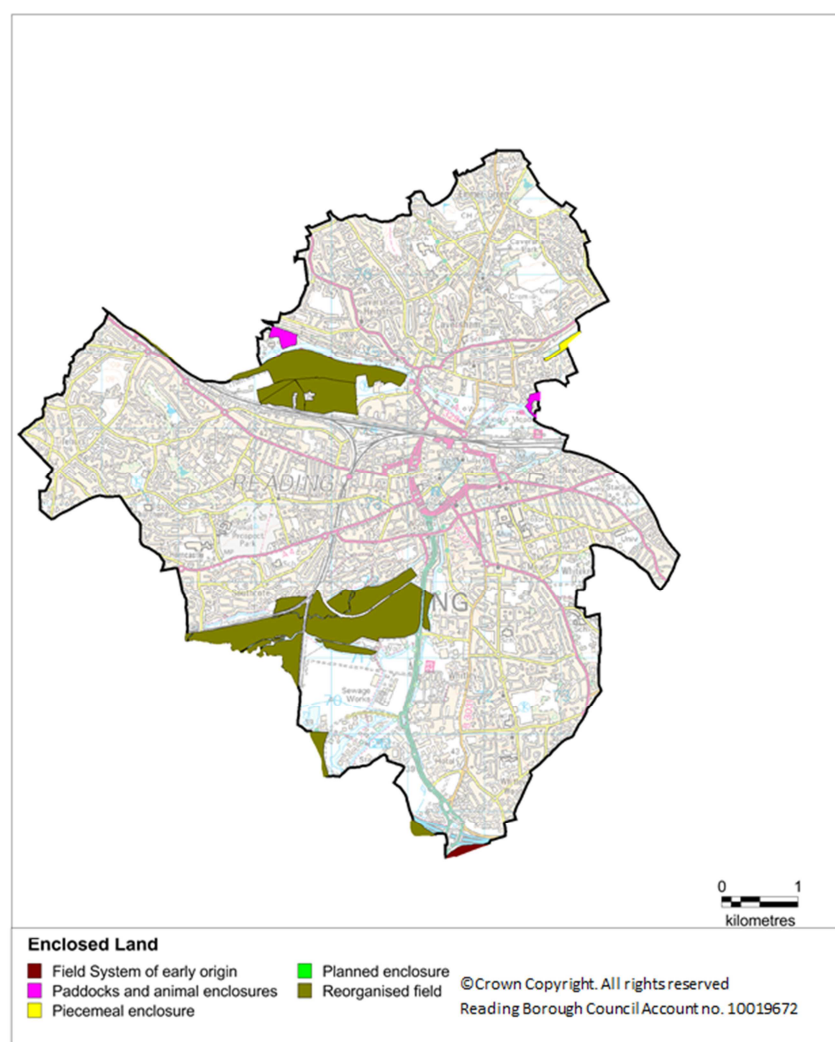
Figure 58. Enclosed land in Reading Borough

The modern town of Reading was largely created on agricultural land in the 19th and 20th century. Tilehurst and Kentwood Common were enclosed in the 19th century. However, the rapid expansion of Reading and Caversham meant that far more agricultural land was lost in the Borough in the 19th century than was gained through enclosure. Since the mid-19th century, most of the agricultural land in the Borough has been lost to development.

Agricultural Land Loss and Gain

■ Agricultural land c.1760
■ Agricultural land lost 1762 - c.1870
■ Agricultural land added 1762 - c.1870
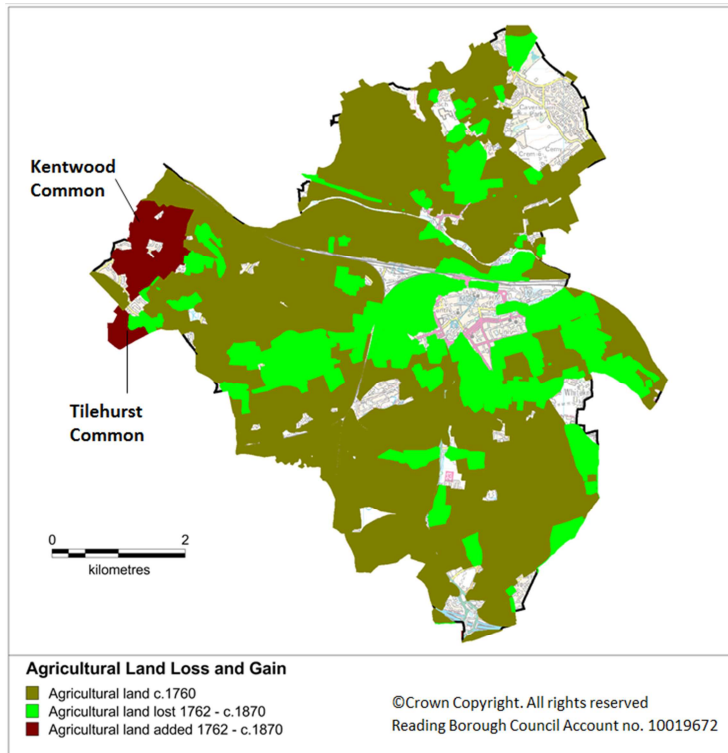
Figure 59. Agricultural land lost and gained c.1762 to c.1870 in Reading Borough

Agricultural Land Loss and Gain

■ Agricultural land lost since c.1870
■ Extent of agricultural land 2016
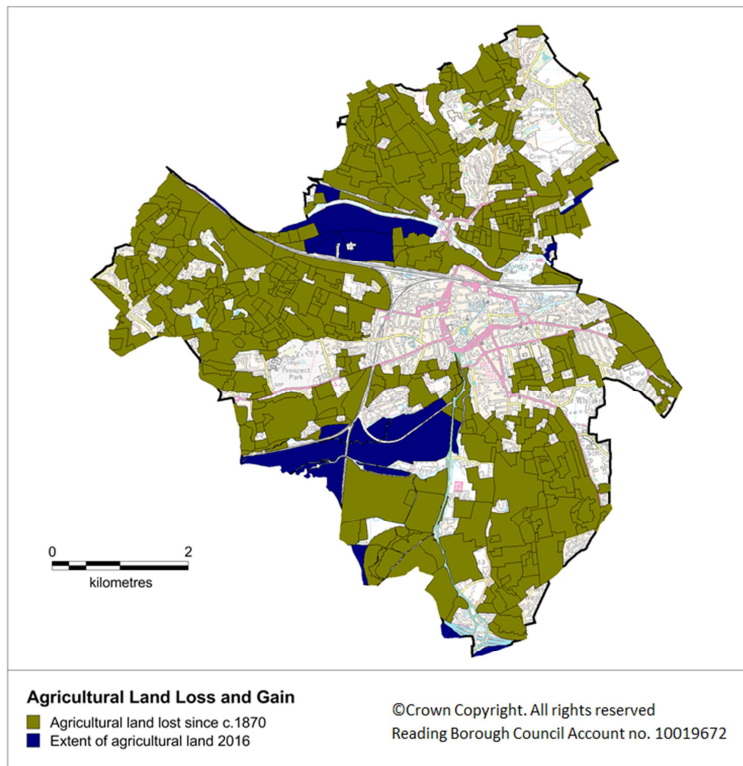
Figure 60. Agricultural land lost since c.1870 in Reading Borough

14.2 The Borough of Wokingham

The distribution of narrow types of enclosed land across Wokingham Borough is complex and difficult to summarise; a few points are apparent however. The River Loddon runs straight through the middle of the Borough of Wokingham; along its length, as well as along the Foudry Brook and the River Thames are grassland fields. These are mostly divided by hedges and were presumably used for pasture. A number of the fields around the Loddon and Foudry Brook appear to have been reorganised, probably in the post-medieval period. Fields used for paddocks are common around Wargrave in the north and west of Finchampstead in the south. Fields created from enclosure (mostly in the 18th and 19th centuries) are more prevalent north of Wokingham and Woodley than south of these conurbations. The fields north of Wokingham and Woodley are also larger than those in the south.
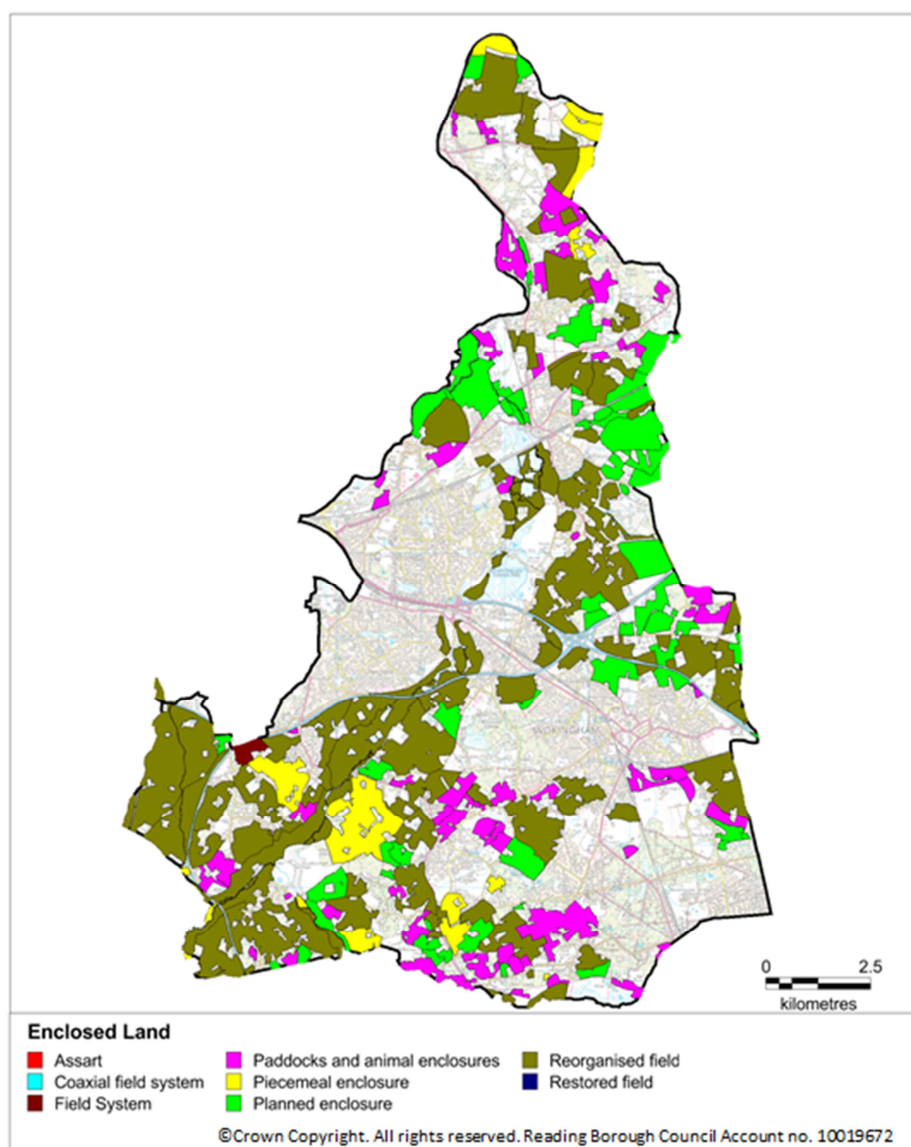
Figure 61. Enclosed land in Wokingham Borough

Most fields in Wokingham Borough were present already in the mid-18th century, with open fields near Ruscombe and Barkham being enclosed in the 19th century, along with Broad Common, Bearwood Common, Toutley Common, Sindlesham Common and other areas. A number of fields also disappeared in the late 18th and 19th centuries, some being converted to parkland, including Luckley Park and areas around Bulmershe Park and Haineshill. Large areas of fields disappeared in the 20th century when the modern towns of Lower Earley and Woodley developed, and Wokingham expanded.
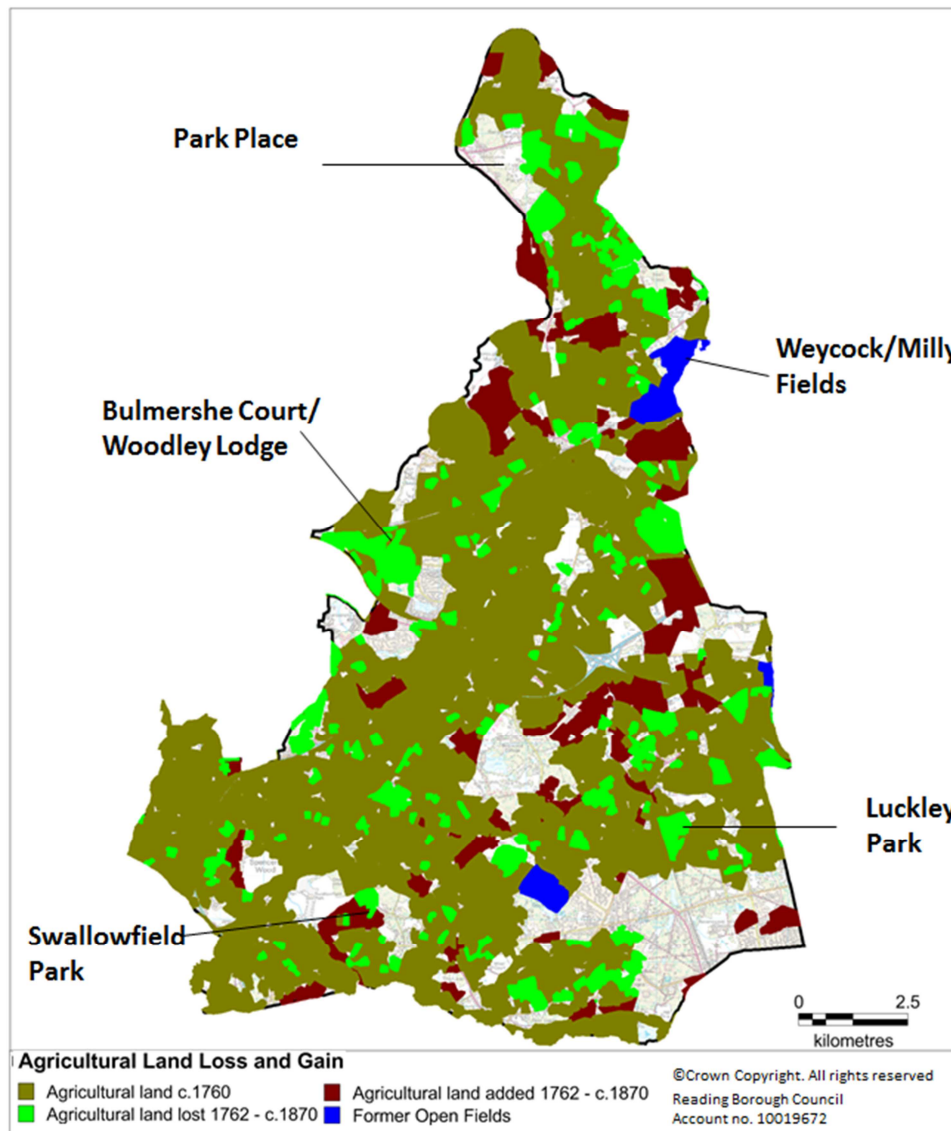
Figure 62. Agricultural and lost and gained c.1760 to c.1870 in Wokingham Borough
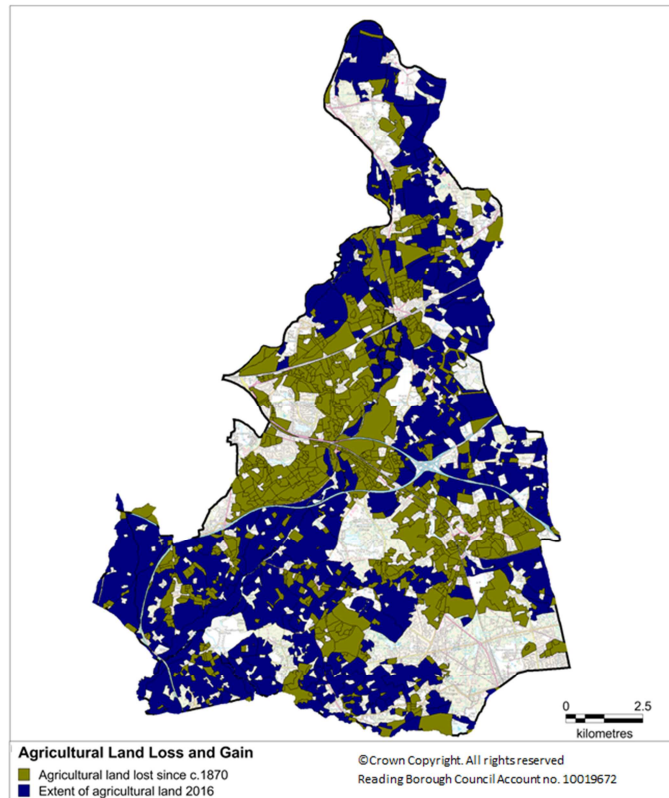
Figure 63. Agricultural land lost since c.1870 in Wokingham Borough

A surviving medieval or earlier field system can be seen on aerial photographs as well as on current and historic maps by Three Mile Cross just to the south of Reading. These are large ploughed fields arranged in a fan pattern, with traces of curving boundaries with hedges, a pattern suggestive of medieval stripfield enclosure by agreement.
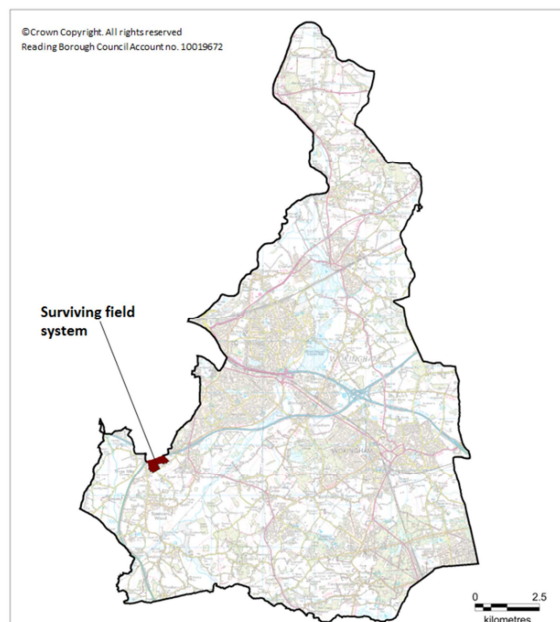
Figure 64. Location of a surviving early field system in Wokingham Borough
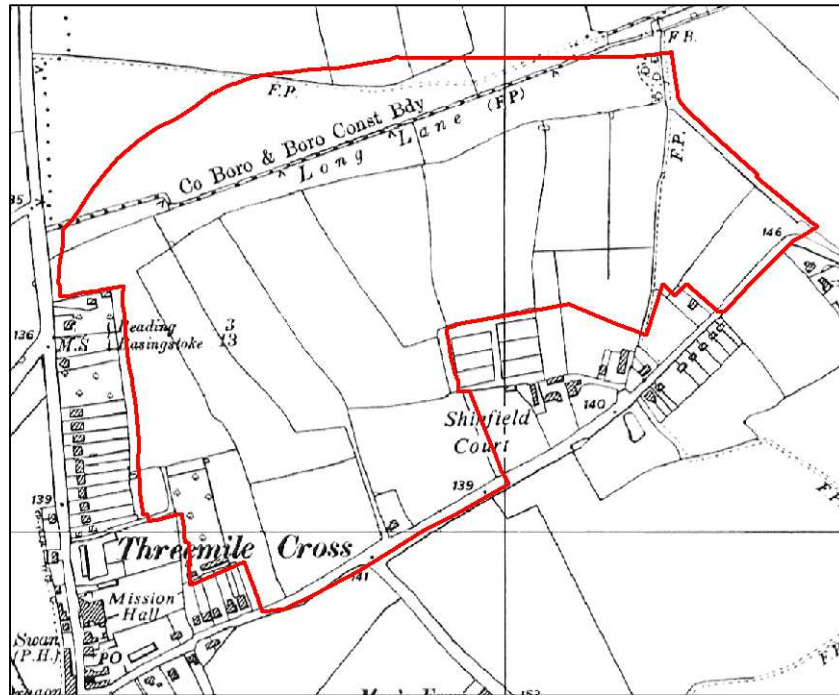
Figure 65. Surviving field system by Three Mile Cross. Ordnance Survey 1960-62 1:10,000

14.3 Bracknell Forest

In Bracknell Forest, enclosed land is concentrated north of Bracknell, with coherent areas also in the south around Sandhurst (mostly paddocks), and more isolated areas south of Bracknell, in and around Bracknell Forest (other types of grassland). Northeast of Bracknell around Winkfield, enclosed land is mainly dominated by grassland and paddocks. Large areas of fields disappeared in the 19th and 20th centuries to make room for the modern towns of Sandhurst, North Ascot and Bracknell.
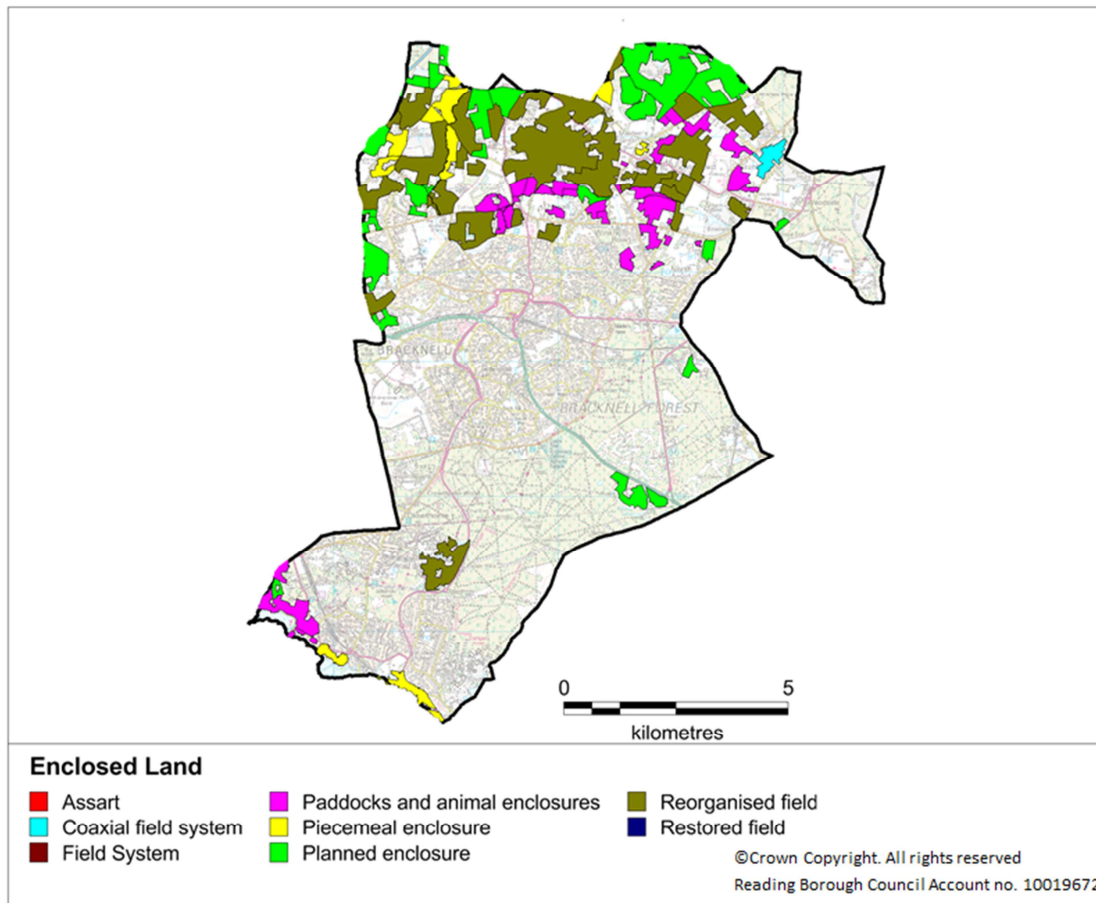
Figure 66. Enclosed land in Bracknell Forest

Most fields in the area to the north of Bracknell were present already in the mid-18th century, when John Rocque created his map of Berkshire. Notably, parts of Foliejon Park were converted to fields at a later date, together with Priestwood Common and a few smaller areas around Binfield, Jealott's Hill and in Bracknell Forest. A few areas in the northwest of the Borough show signs of having been reorganised in the post-medieval period (probably in the 19th or 20th centuries). These fields are however present already in the 18th century. A number of areas fields also disappeared in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Most of them were converted to parkland, including Binfield Park, Allenby Park, parts of Easthampstead Park, and Ascot Place.

A possible coaxial field system can be seen on earlier maps in the area around Cranbourne in the northeast part of the Borough. Unfortunately, most of it is no longer visible on modern maps or aerial photographs. Only a small part survives today. It is difficult to date the field system, but it is likely to have been created in the medieval period or earlier. There are also surviving remnants of a medieval or earlier field system in the area around Winkfield Row.
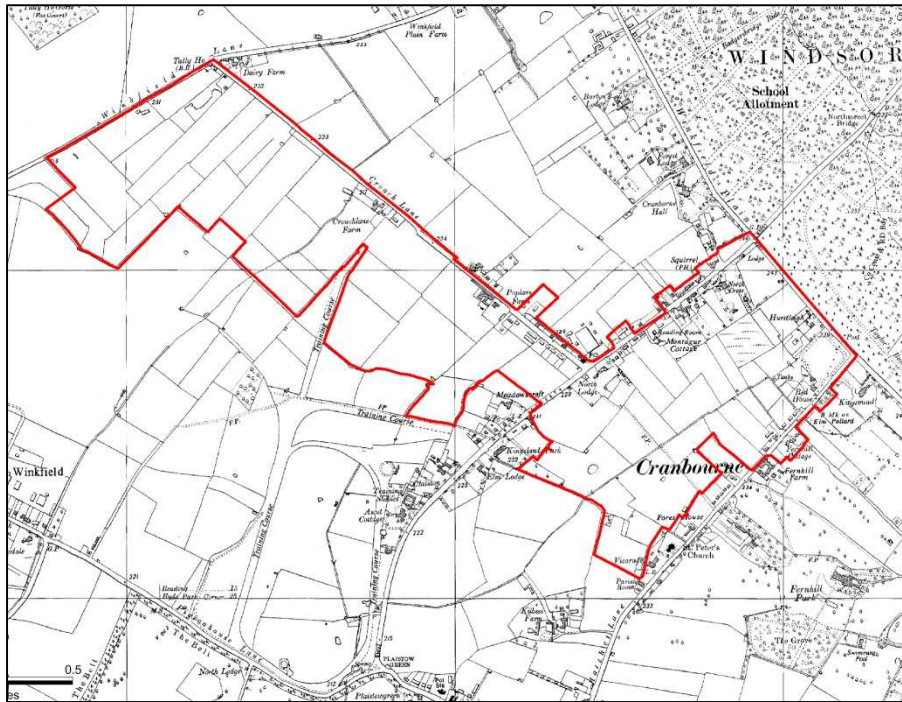
Figure 67. Possible coaxial field system at Cranbourne. Ordnance Survey 1960-62 1:10,000
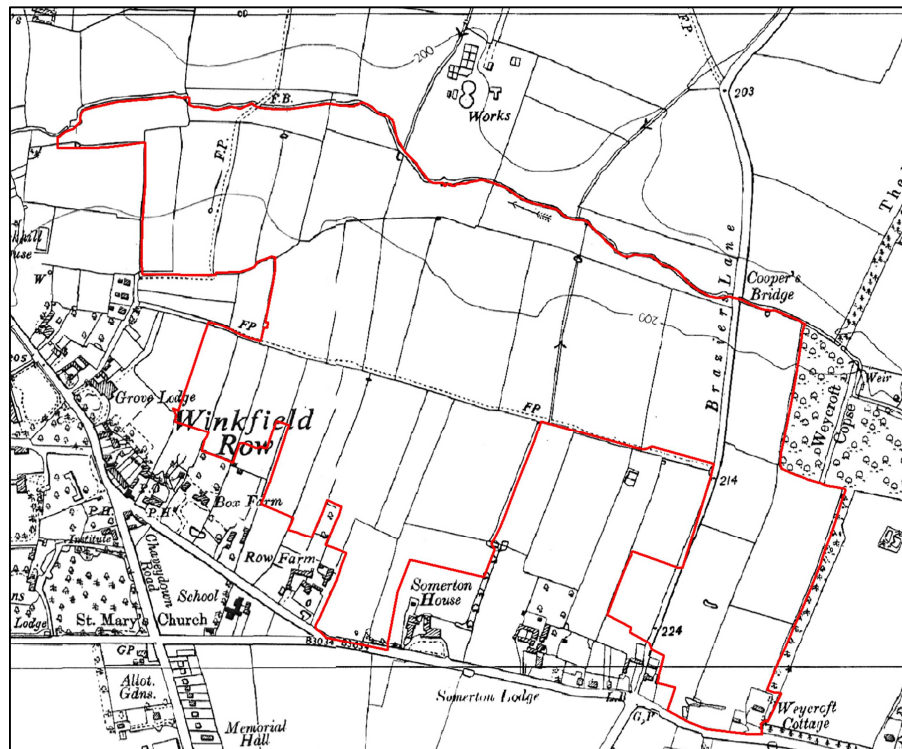
Figure 68. Field system at Winkfield Row. Ordnance Survey 1960-62 1:10,000
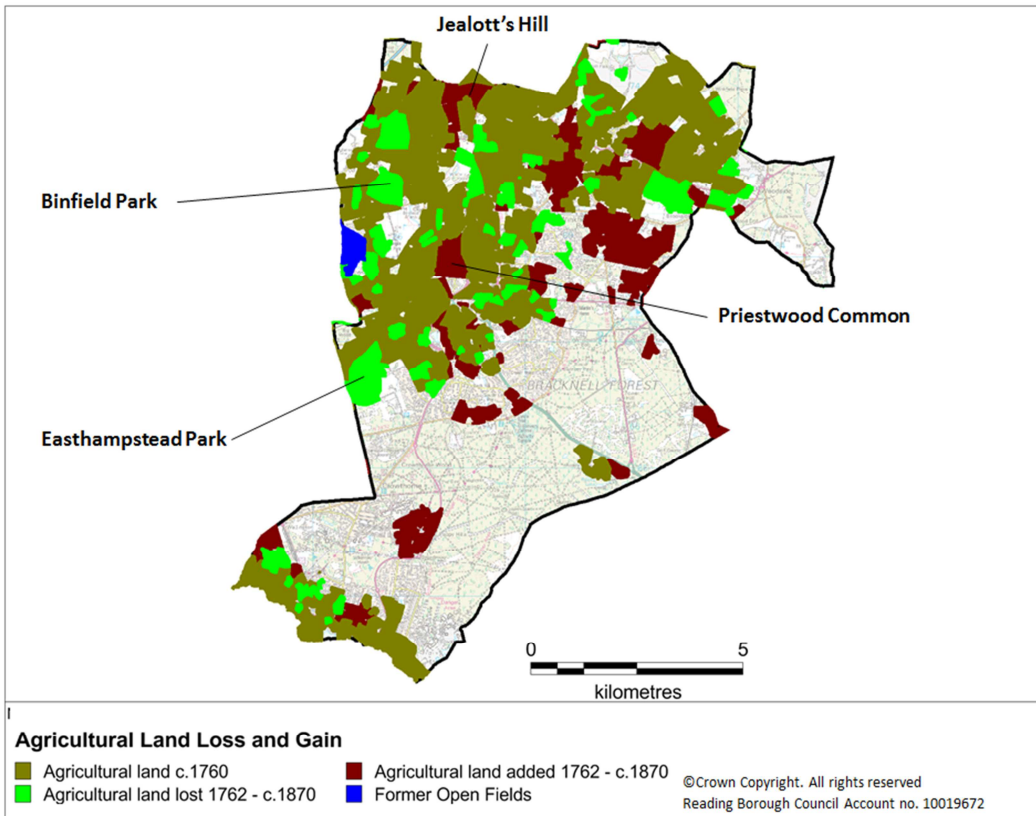
Figure 69. Agricultural land lost and gained from c.1762 to c.1870 in Bracknell Forest
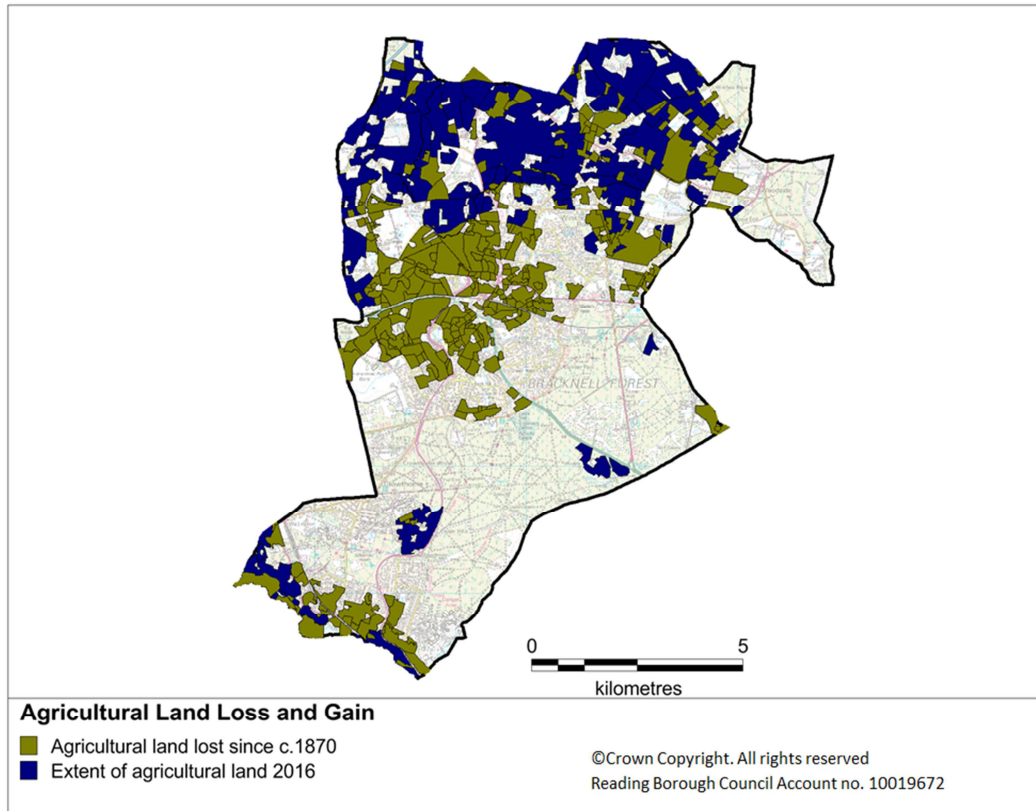
Figure 70. Agricultural land lost since c.1870 in Bracknell Forest

14.4. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

The majority of enclosed land in the borough is located west of Windsor. Most of the fields enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries in the Borough are located around the villages of Waltham St Lawrence, Shurlock Row and Paley Street, close to the edge of former heathland. The area around the Great Wood was in all probability converted to farmland from woodland in a piecemeal fashion (assart), and this may also be the case in an area northwest of Maidenhead (around Pinkney's Green). Large areas of paddocks can be found in the areas around Warren Row, Shurlock Row and Waltham St Lawrence. Copas Turkey Farm at Cookham Dean has the typical bird pens and houses clearly visible on aerial photography.
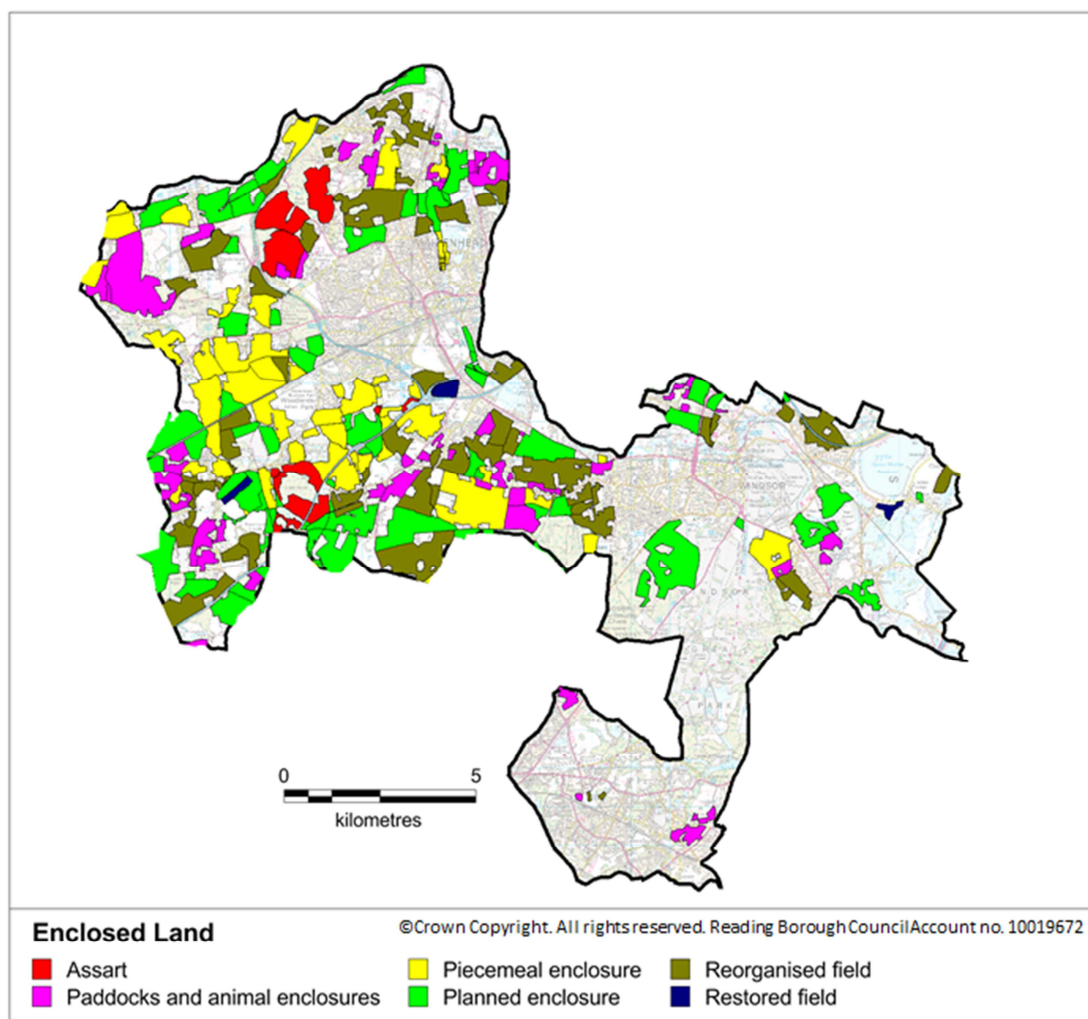
Figure 71. Enclosed land in Windsor and Maidenhead

A number of areas in the Borough were probably originally Open Fields, including areas south of Colnbrook, at Eton Wick, Waltham St Lawrence and Maidenhead. These were probably enclosed in the 19th century along with Bray Wood, Waltham Common, and other areas.
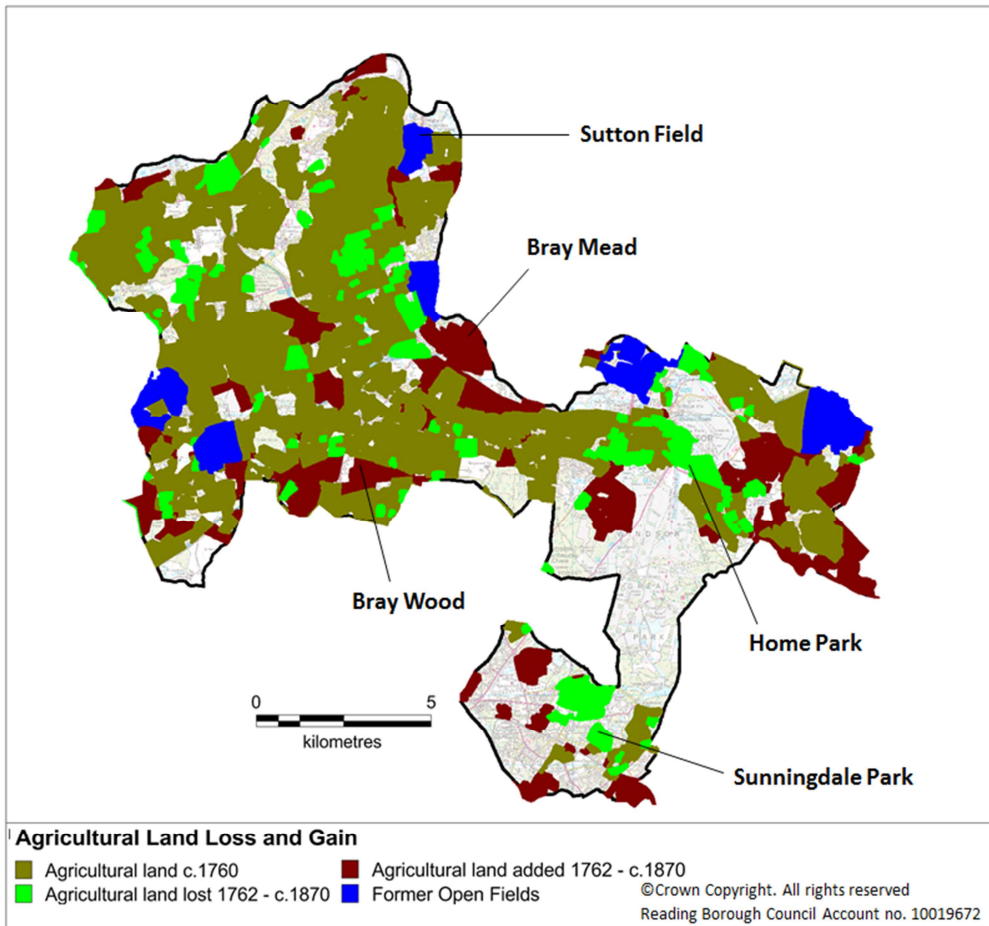
Figure 72. Agricultural and lost and gained from c.1762 to c.1870 in Windsor and Maidenhead

Agricultural Land Loss and Gain

■ Agricultural land lost since c.1870
■ Extent of agricultural land 2016
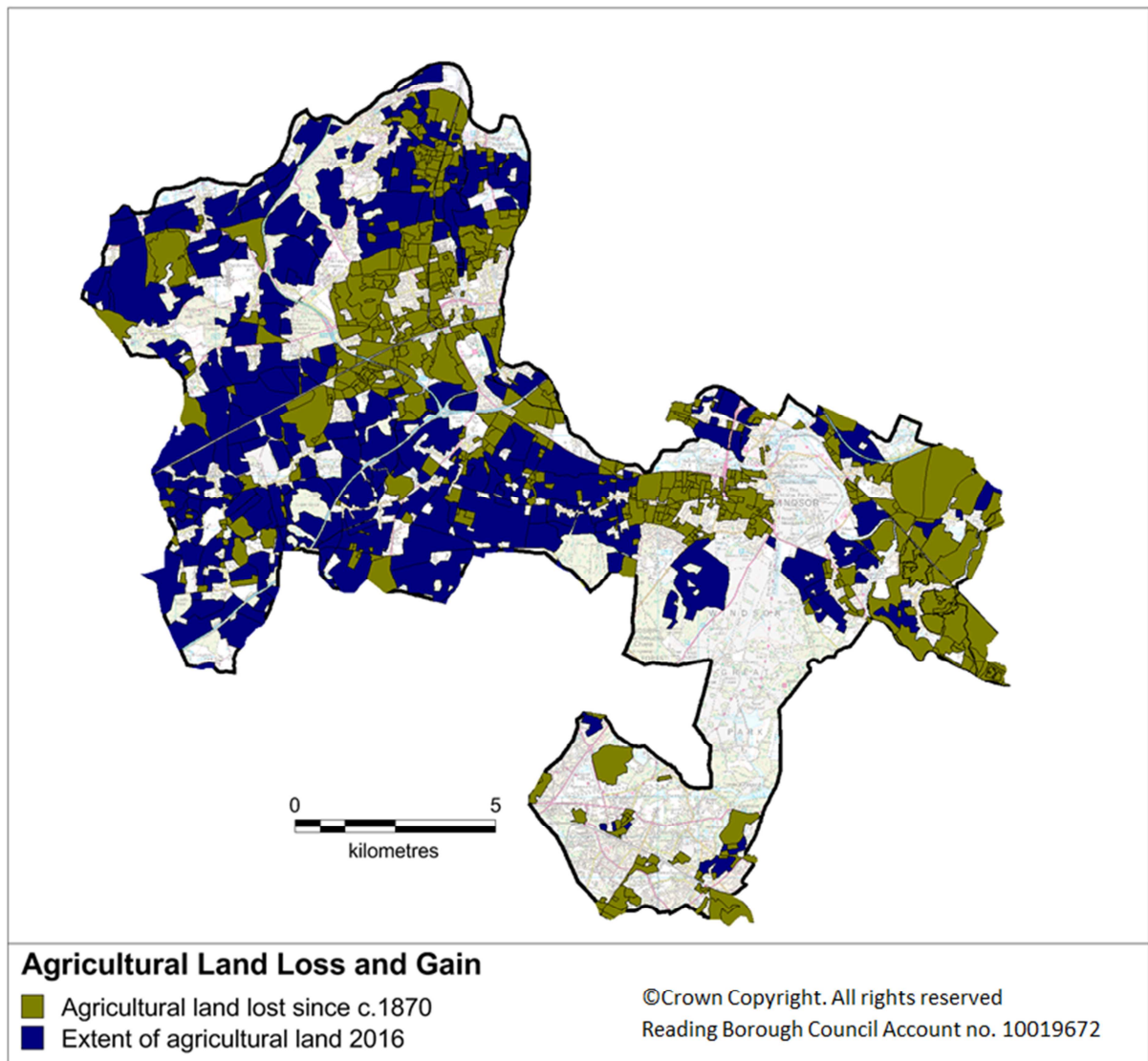
Figure 73. Agricultural land lost since c.1870 in Windsor and Maidenhead

Flemish Farm in Windsor Great Park and the farmland surrounding it is not present on John Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761. It must have been created from parkland after that date but before 1811, when it is clearly visible on an Ordnance Survey drawing. A number of fields disappeared in the late 18th and 19th centuries in the Borough for a variety of reasons, including for the creation of woodland, parkland, and residential housing. Large areas of fields disappeared later in the 20th century as a direct result of development when the modern towns of Maidenhead and Windsor were built.

14.5 Slough Borough

There are few areas of enclosed land remaining within Slough Borough. The fields that do exist are located in the south of the Borough and around Colnbrook in the east. One of the largest extant fields in the area is the former Biffa waste disposal site in Colnbrook, a restored field. Most of the

fieldscapes in Slough Borough disappeared in the 20th century as the result of the expansion of the modern town of Slough. However, substantial areas disappeared already in the 19th century and were replaced with quarries, industrial sites and residential areas. Various fields in the east of the borough were probably originally Open Fields enclosed in the 19th century.
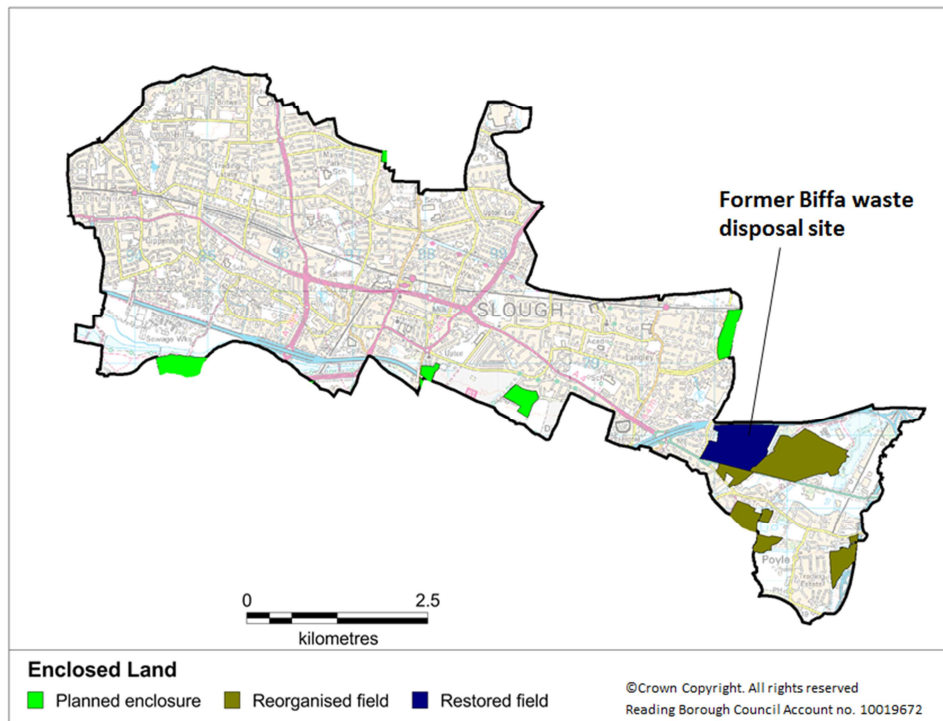
Figure 74. Enclosed land in Slough Borough
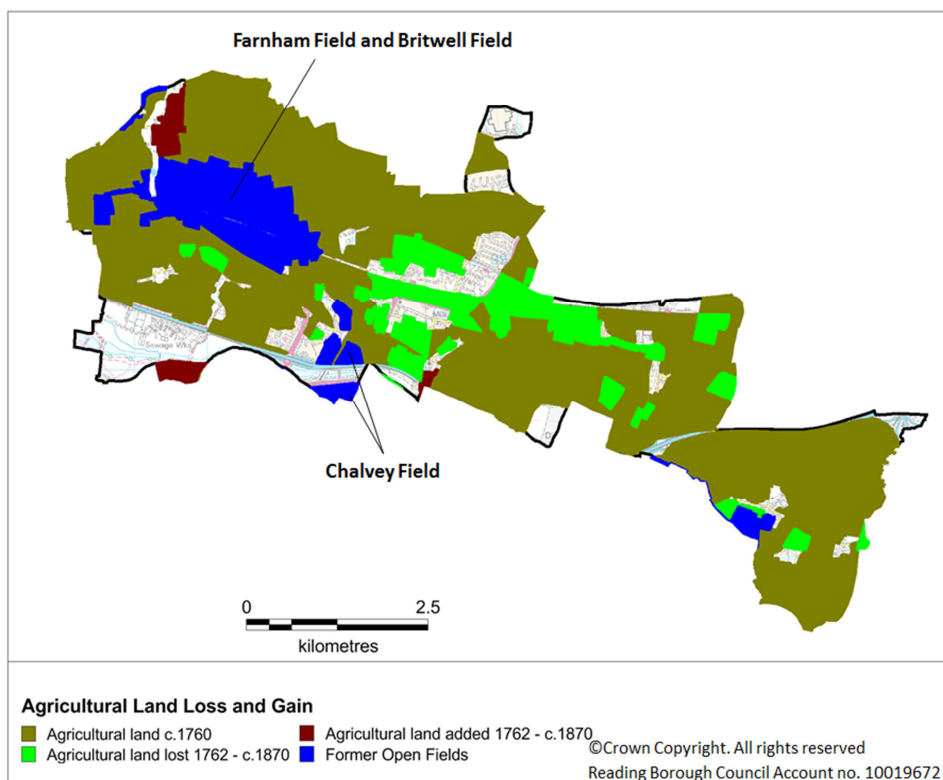
Figure 75. Loss and gain of agricultural land between c.1762 and c.1870 in Slough Borough

115

Agricultural Land Loss and Gain

- Agricultural land lost since c.1870
- Extent of agricultural land 2016
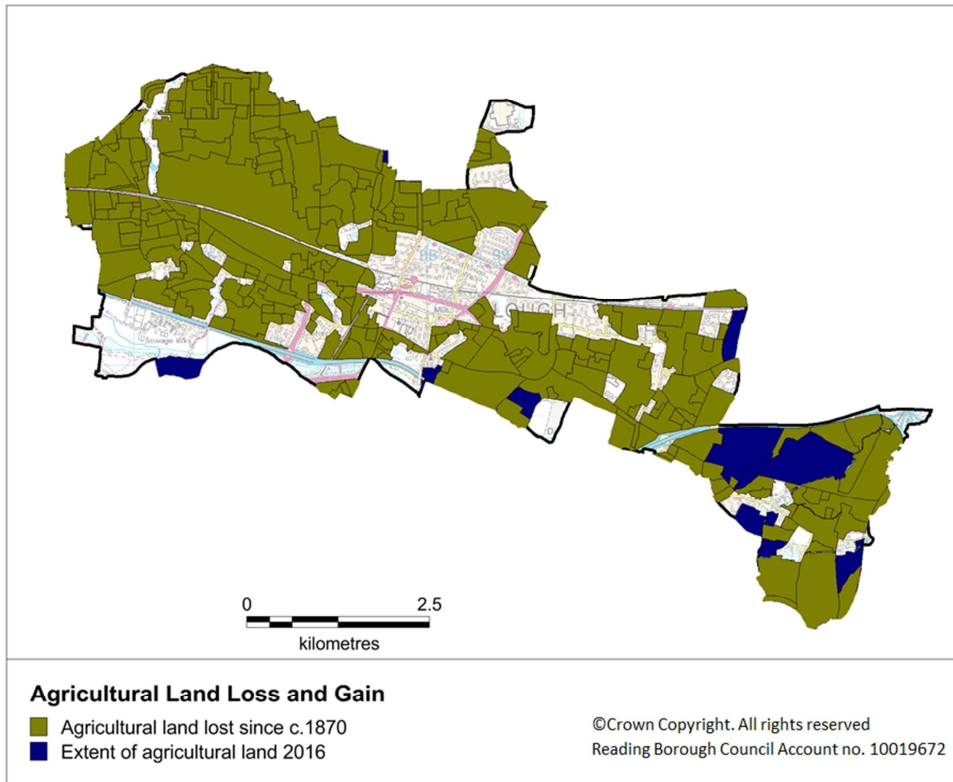
Figure 76. Loss of agricultural land since c.1870 in Slough Borough

15.Industrial and extractive

The Industrial and Extractive broad type relates to processes of manufacture and the exploitation of resources to supply these processes. Industrial and extractive areas in East Berkshire are today dominated by industrial estates and gravel quarries, with most having originated in the post-Second World War period.

Narrow Types: *Brewery, Brickworks, *Corn Mill. Depot, Electricity Distribution Site, Factory, Gasworks, Industrial Estate, *Iron Works, *Laundry, *Limekilns, *Paper Mill, *Pottery Works, Quarry, Saw Mill, *Smithy, *Tannery, Telephone Exchange, Water Mill, *Windmill Workshops *(*recorded as previous type only)*

Polygons: 140 separate areas are recorded as industrial and extractive in the current landscape, covering a total of 1408 hectares. 252 areas have Industrial and Extractive recorded as their previous type, often showing a time-depth of re-use across decades and even centuries (see maps following)

	Area (hectares)
Total	1408
Brickworks	9
Depot	30
Electricity Distribution Site	6
Factory	1
Gasworks	8
Industrial Estate	1026
Quarry	306
Saw Mill	2
Telephone Exchange	2
Water Mill	3
Workshops	15

Table 7. Industrial and Extractive in East Berkshire

Industrial practices historically played, and continue to play, an important role in economic growth within East Berkshire. The distribution, and to a large extent the character, of industrial and

extractive areas is principally influenced by geology and topography, since this broad type includes, for example, areas of sand and gravel extraction within the gravel terraces of the major water courses in the county and brickworks exploiting London Clay; however a focus on towns and major routeways, including road, rail and river, can also be seen.

The industrial and extractive sector has changed dramatically over the years. A number of sectors that dominated in the 18th and 19th centuries have declined dramatically or have disappeared entirely, while others have grown significantly to dominate.

Brickworks - The only brickworks that exist today in East Berkshire is Star Works at Knowl Hill, which was founded in the Victorian period. Brickworks were a common feature in the past, exploiting the clay geology within the county, comprising a complex of buildings and structures for manufacture and storage, and could often be found in rural or semi-rural settings close to major towns. Associated features within the same broad type may include clay pits/quarries.

Depots are spaces or yards used for the storage and maintenance of vehicles, but may also be used for storing a range of goods and products; they did not exist before the 20th century. Today they are often found in more peripheral or rural settings, occupying less valuable land but still connected to communication routes; they were previously more likely to be located in more urban locations. There are eight recorded current depots in East Berkshire, and six areas recorded as former depots.

Factories, on a large scale, were more common in the 19th and early 20th century landscape than they are today. However, smaller workshops are active on the many industrial estates in East Berkshire. There is only one factory recorded in East Berkshire today, producing precision instruments. By contrast, ten factories have been recorded as previous types, producing a variety of goods, including aircraft, plastics, optical instruments, and tractors.

 Gas Works are facilities where gas is produced for domestic purposes (heating, cooking) and industrial purposes. They are associated with larger towns, and when introduced in the 19th century, they would have used coal used to produce the gas. A single gas valve compound is also recorded in this narrow type.

Industrial estates dominate the industrial and extractive sector in East Berkshire today. Many, especially those located in more rural locations, only occupy a few hectares; some, such as the Slough Trading Estate can however be very large.

Quarries are facilities where stone or other materials are extracted from the ground. In East Berkshire, almost all are gravel quarries, exploiting the superficial geology making up river terraces. There are 16 areas with quarry as their current HLC type; many more quarries of large and small size are known from the Roman period onwards. The large-scale groundworks associated with quarrying tend to remove all previous landscape character, with their impact extending beyond the immediate extraction zone to include storage hoppers, various hard-standings and processing complexes, and conveyor lines.

Figure 77. Telephone Exchange, Basingstoke Road, Reading

Former narrow types within the Industrial and Extractive broad type reflect a very different industrial and commercial environment from today. In the pre-industrial period - before the late 18th century - the main industrial and extractive facilities in East Berkshire were lime and gravel quarries, limekilns, water mills and windmills. In the 19th century the variety of industrial facilities increased greatly, as well as the area that such facilities occupied. Nevertheless, the sector was dominated mainly by two kinds of activities: gravel quarries and brick and tile works.

Breweries were common in the Victorian period and earlier, when many towns had their own breweries. However, only two former breweries are recorded in the area: Simonds Brewery in Reading, and Hurst Brewery in the village of Hurst - which was gone already by 1900. This is a clear under-representation of the number of former breweries in the area, since a number of breweries were too small or insignificant to be recorded on any map.

Two former **iron works** are known from the area: there was an iron foundry – where cast iron products were manufactured - in the village of Bray, and a large ironworks in Slough (Gotha, later Windsor Ironworks). The iron foundry occupied c.9 hectares, but the ironworks in Slough occupied an impressive 46 hectares of land. Iron working over the centuries from the Iron Age onwards is known from HER data, but early workings are small in scale and survive only as features revealed through excavation rather than extant visible earthworks.

Laundries , as the name implies, are commercial establishments where clothes or linens are laundered. Only two former such establishments are recorded in East Berkshire; today, commercial laundries are likely to be part of larger industrial estates and therefore included within that HLC type.

Lime kilns are kilns where limestone is burnt to produce quicklime. Quicklime has several uses, but perhaps the most important historically were mortar production (mixed with sand) and the more

widespread agricultural use to improve soils. Only one small area has been recorded with this as a previous type.

Paper mills produce paper on an industrial scale. There were two paper mills in East Berkshire in the 19th century. One was Horton Mill, a watermill founded in the late 18th century by Thomas Hodgson; the other was probably also a watermill since it was located by the Emmbrook, then northwest of Wokingham but today within the town. This mill was founded in the 19th century, at some time before c.1870.

Pottery works are similar to brickworks in that both types of facilities burn clay to produce ceramic materials. Not all clay is however suitable for pottery production. The former Coley Pottery in Reading is the only pottery works recorded in the East Berkshire HLC although smaller areas are likely to have existed.

Smithies are workshops for blacksmiths, where small-scale iron working takes place, and would have been fairly common in the past. Despite this, only a single smithy, located in the village of Finchampstead, has been recorded in the HLC, under-representing the number of former smithies in the area due to size.

Tanneries process skins and hides of animals to produce leather. A tannery was located in the current Tanhouse Lane in Wokingham in the 18th and 19th centuries, and perhaps before that.

Windmills and **watermills -** Watermills are known from the medieval period but were used into the 19th and sometimes the 20th century. They were often used as corn mills, but were also used as a power source to run factories and for other industrial purposes, especially before the introduction of steam power. There are ten watermills recorded as a previous type in the HLC. Windmills were also used to grind corn into flour; a single windmill is recorded, located by the current Windmill Pond in Wokingham. There is also a windmill in the village of Wraysbury.

	Current number of areas / facilities	Current area occupied (hectares)	Past number of areas / facilities (not still in use)	Past area occupied (hectares)
Breweries	0	0	2	10
Brickworks	1	9	81	442
Depots	8	30	6	20
Electricity Distribution	3	6	0	0
Factories	1	1	10	46
Gas Works	2	8	3	8
Industrial Estates	142	1026	29	105
Iron Works	0	0	2	54
Laundries	0	0	1	3
Lime kilns	0	0	1	<1
Paper Mill	0	0	2	7
Pottery Works	0	0	1	c.2-3
Quarries	16	306	99	1005
Smithies	0	0	1	<1
Tanneries	0	0	1	
Windmill	0	0	1	<1
Watermills (including known corn mills)	0	0	10	24
Workshops	3	15	0	0

Table 8. Current and former industrial and extractive areas
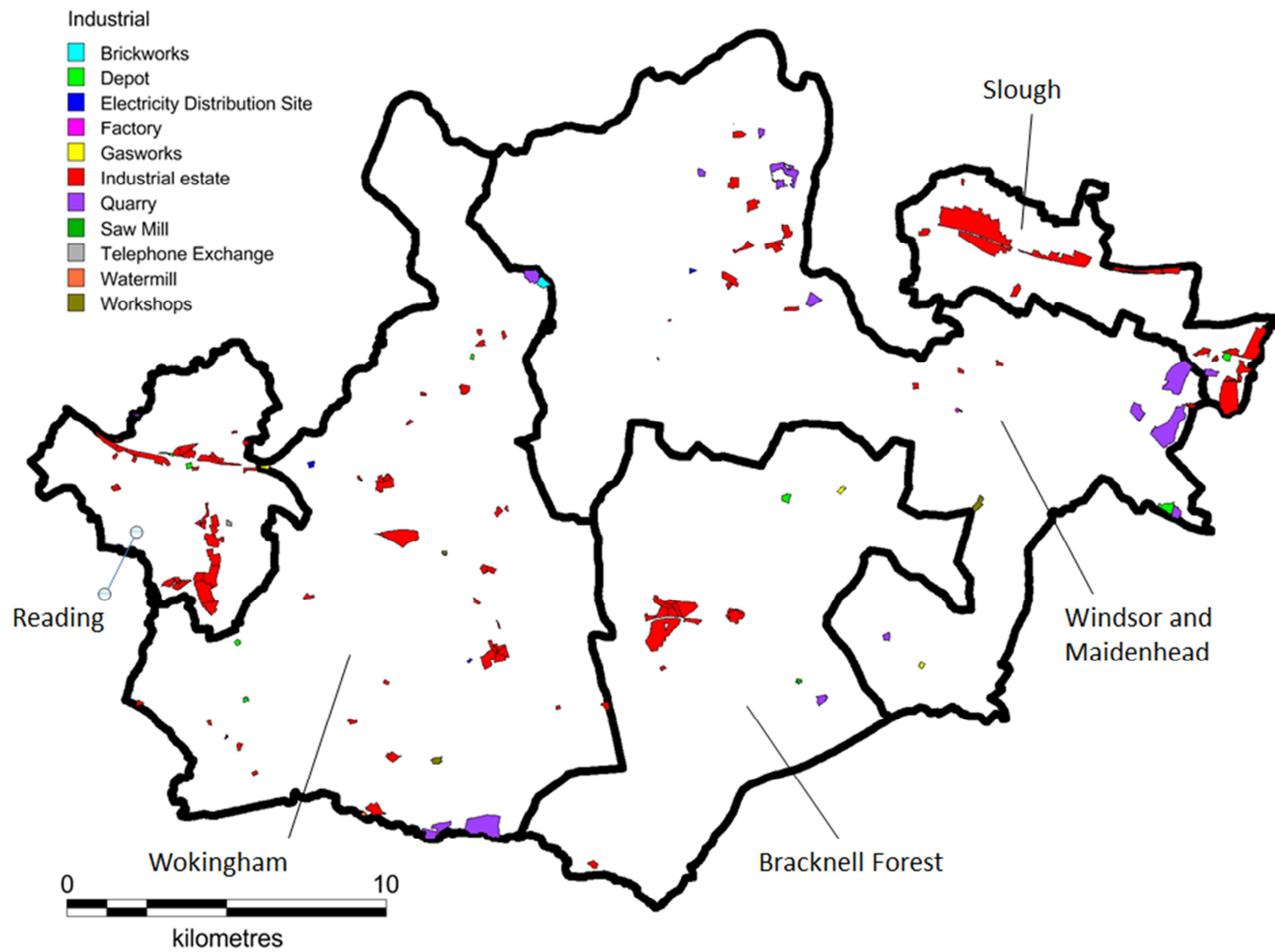
Figure 78. Current Industrial and extractive areas in east Berkshire.
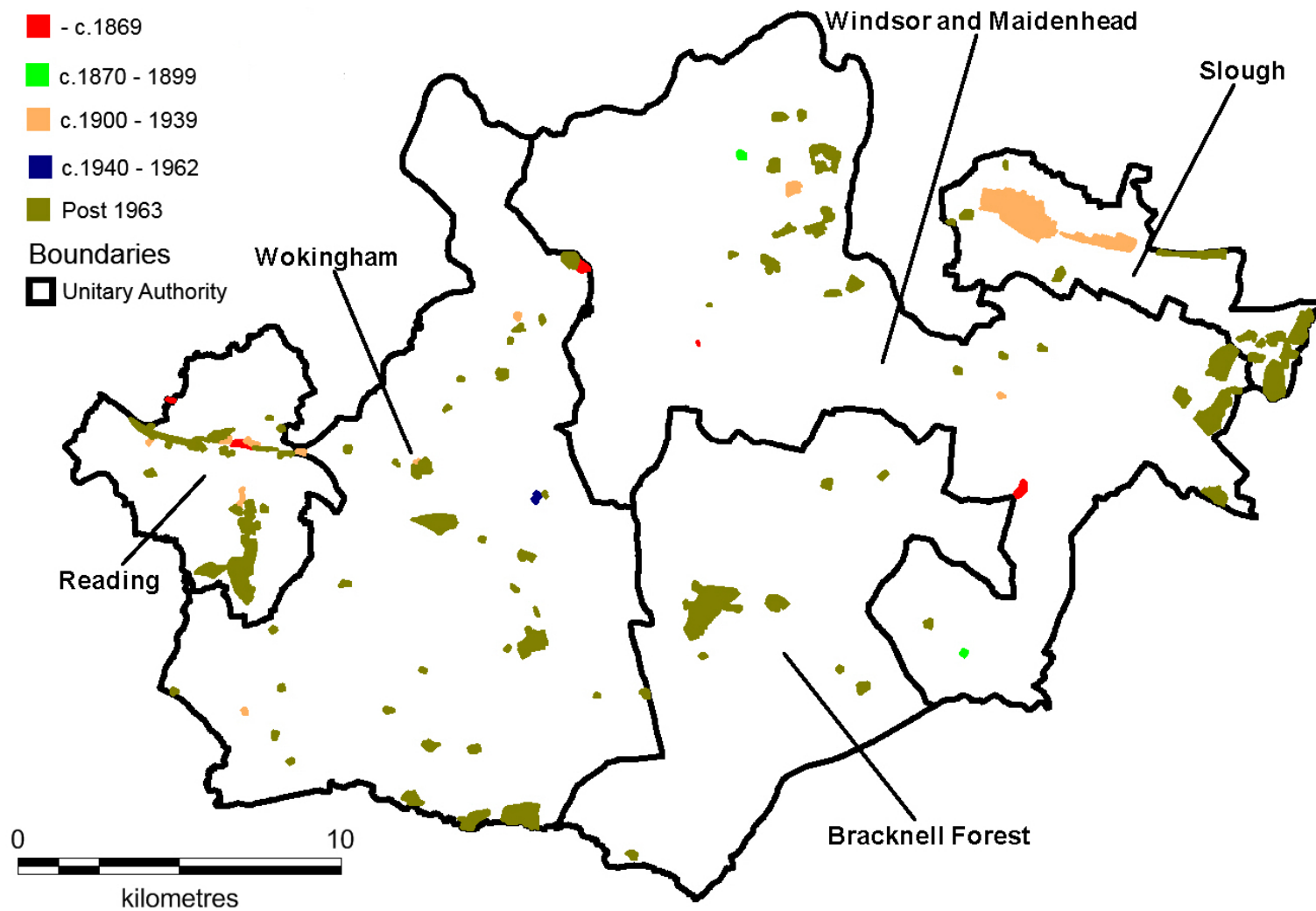
Figure 79. Time depth of current industrial and extractive areas.

Legend:
- - c.1869
- c.1870 - 1899
- c.1900 - 1939
- c.1940 - 1962
- Post 1963

Boundaries
- Unitary Authority

Labels: Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, Wokingham, Reading, Bracknell Forest

0   10 kilometres

15.1 Reading Borough

The Industrial and Extractive broad type in Reading Borough today is represented predominantly by industrial estates, with one band of industrial estates stretching east to west along the railway line between Reading and Tilehurst. These estates have developed incrementally, starting in the 19th century, but they are mostly built in the 20th century. Another band stretches south to north, located between Basingstoke Road and the A33, and built mostly after 1962. Very little of the 19th century industrial and extractive areas remain today.

Two corn mills are known from the Reading in the period before the late 18th century. These were medieval watermills - Caversham Mill in the north, and St Giles's Mill in the south. In the 19th century, Reading emerged as an important industrial town, and became known as the town of the three B's - Biscuits, Beer and Bulbs. The Huntley and Palmers biscuit factory was founded in 1820 and produced biscuits in Reading until 1976. Today, there is a retail park where the factory once stood. The most important brewery was Simonds Brewery, founded in 1785. It was originally located in Broad Street but later moved to Bridge Street, a site now occupied by the modern Oracle shopping centre. Production of beer continued on the Bridge Street site until 1980. The third B, "Bulbs", is an allusion to Suttons Seeds – a producer of seeds for farms and gardens.

Apart from the "three B's", brickworks and gravel quarries were also important in the Victorian period, occupying large areas of land just outside the town, and exploiting the local clay geology – in

Figure 80. Reading Gas Works

north Caversham, in Tilehurst in the west, in Whitley in the south, and in the east of the town where Reading College is now located. Many of the brickworks and quarries survived up to the Second World War –indeed, there was an expansion of quarrying in the west and the north – but none survive today.

Industrial and Extractive
- 🟩 Depot
- 🟥 Industrial estate
- 🟪 Quarry
- ⬜ Telephone Exchange
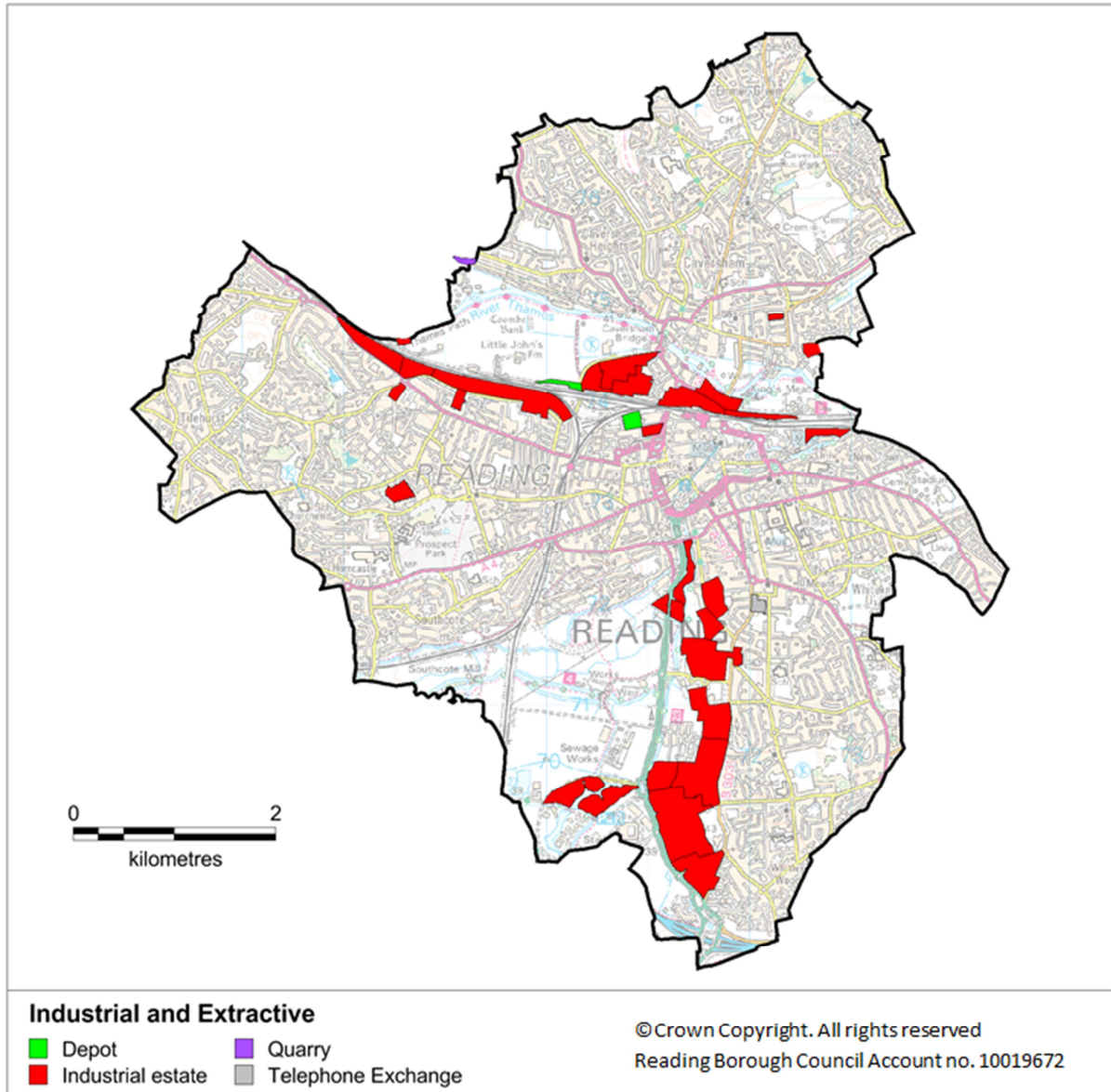
Figure 81. Current industrial and extractive areas in Reading
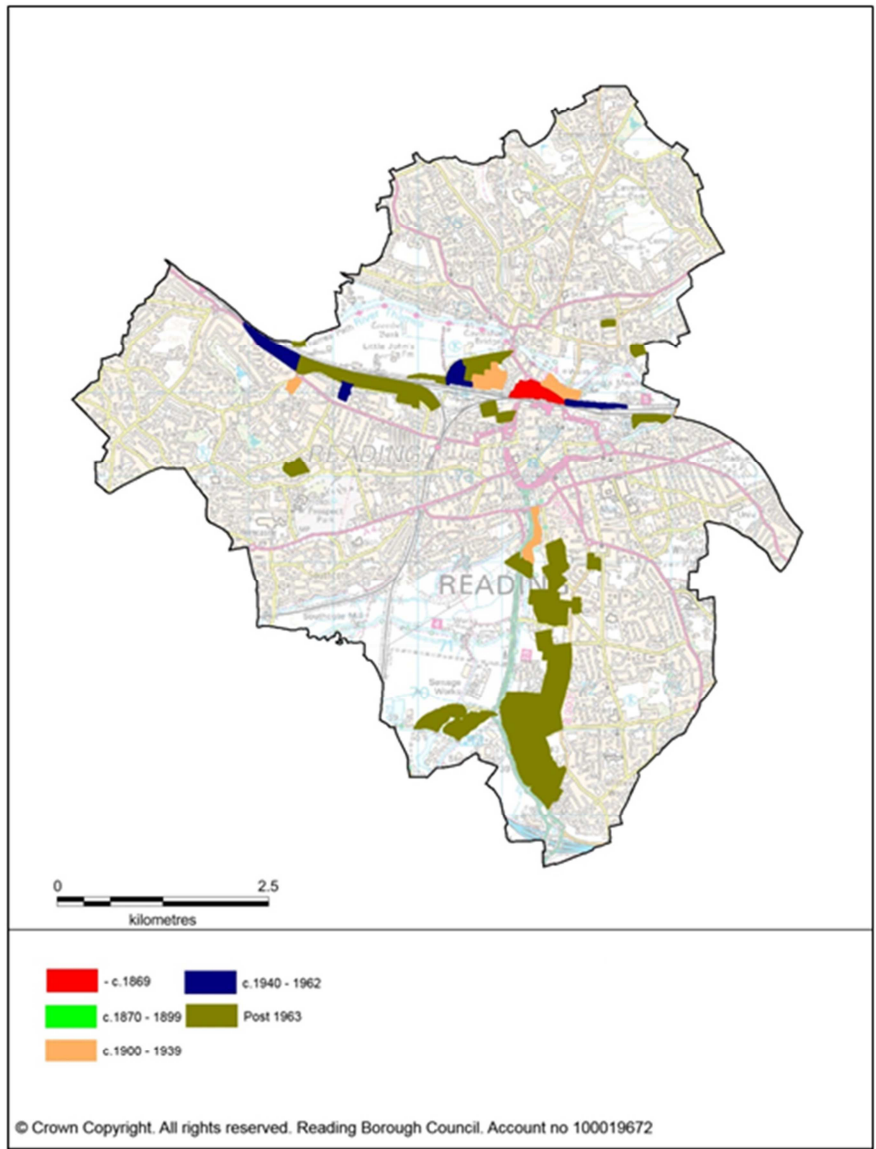
Figure 82. Current industrial and extractive areas in Reading – time depth

Industrial and Extractive

- Brewery
- Brickworks
- Depot
- Factory
- Gasworks
- Industrial estate
- Laundry
- Quarry
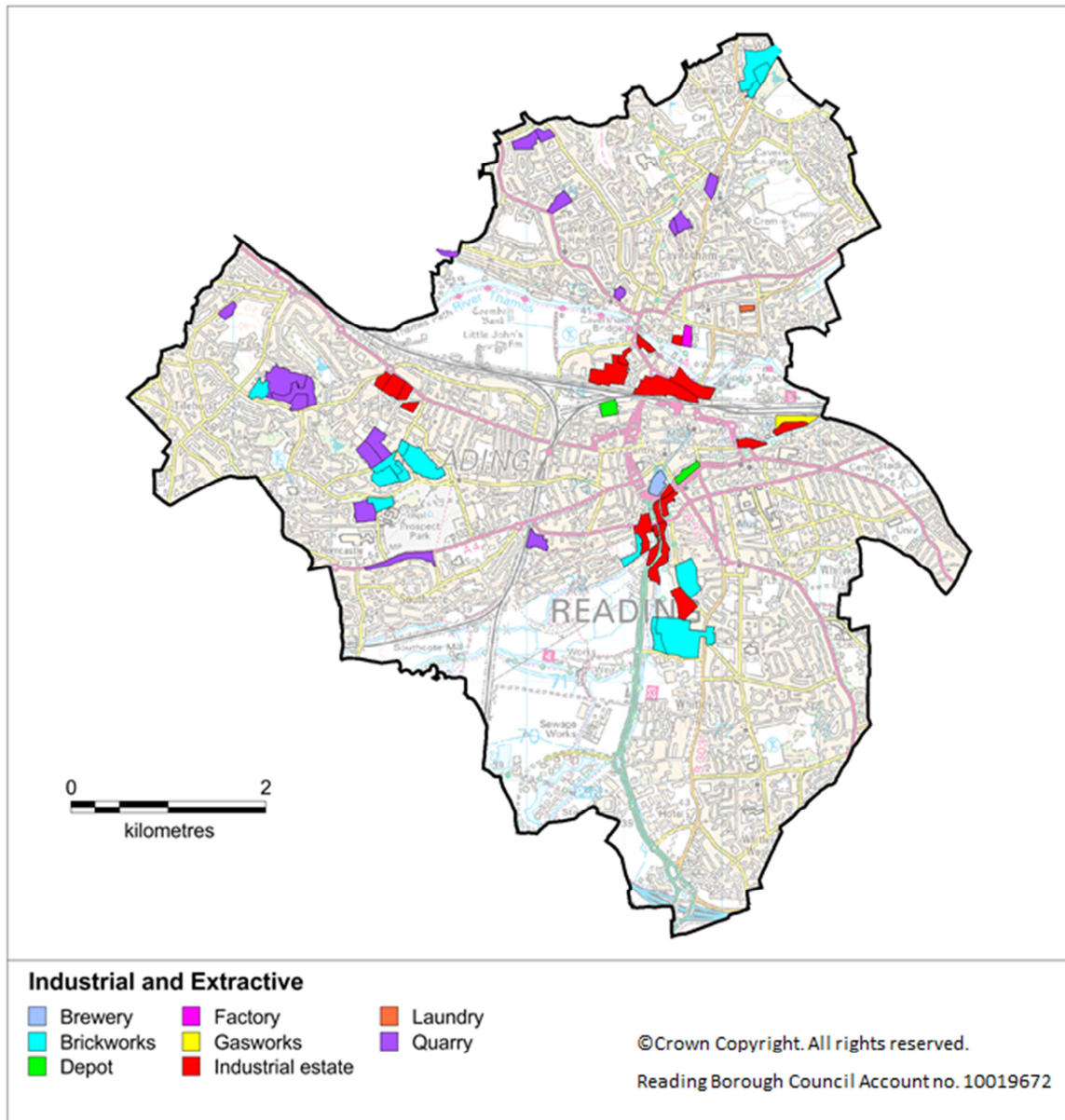
Figure 83. Industrial and extractive areas in Reading c.1939
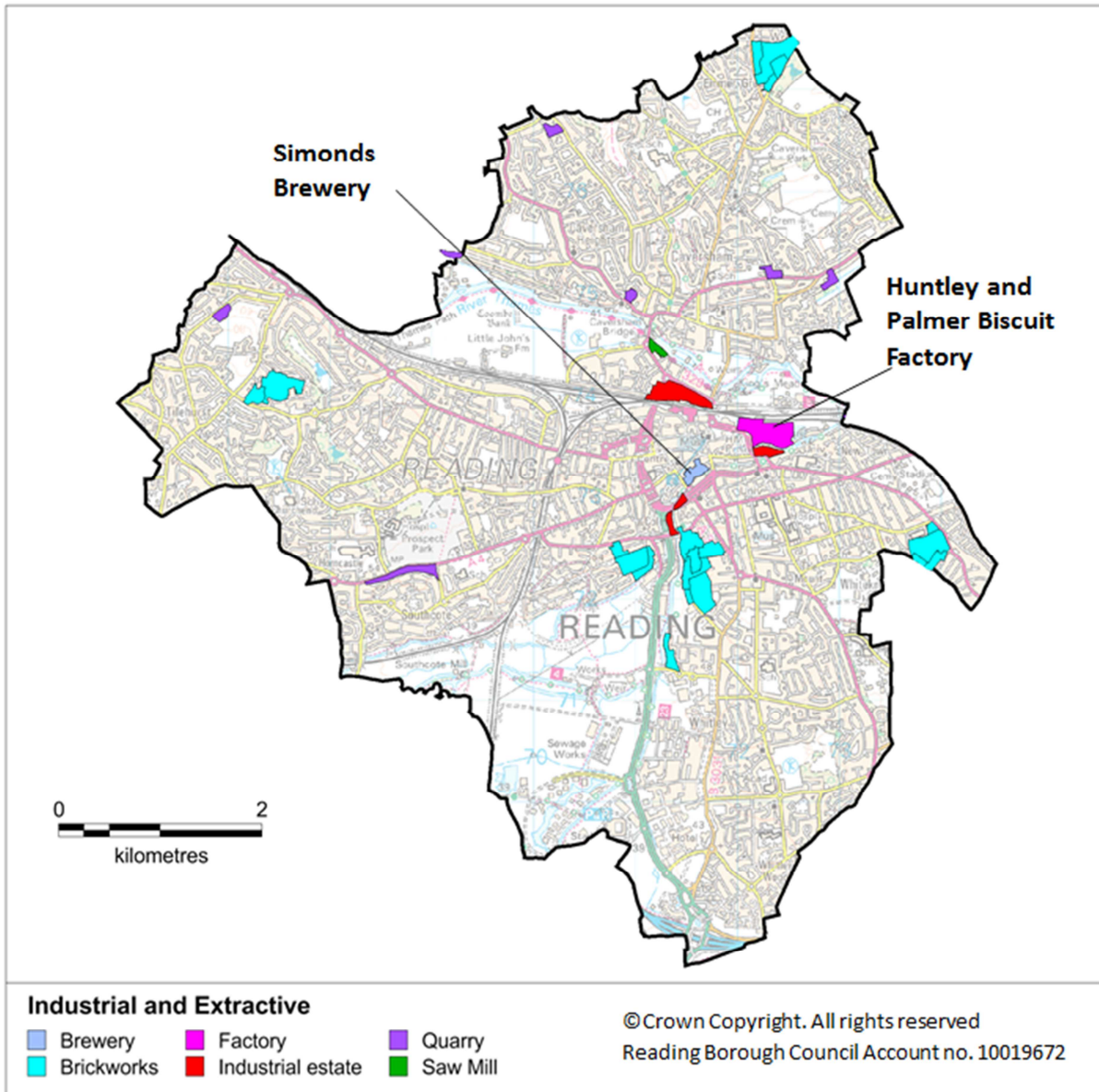
Figure 74. Industrial and extractive areas in Reading c.1870

Industrial and Extractive

■ Corn Mill
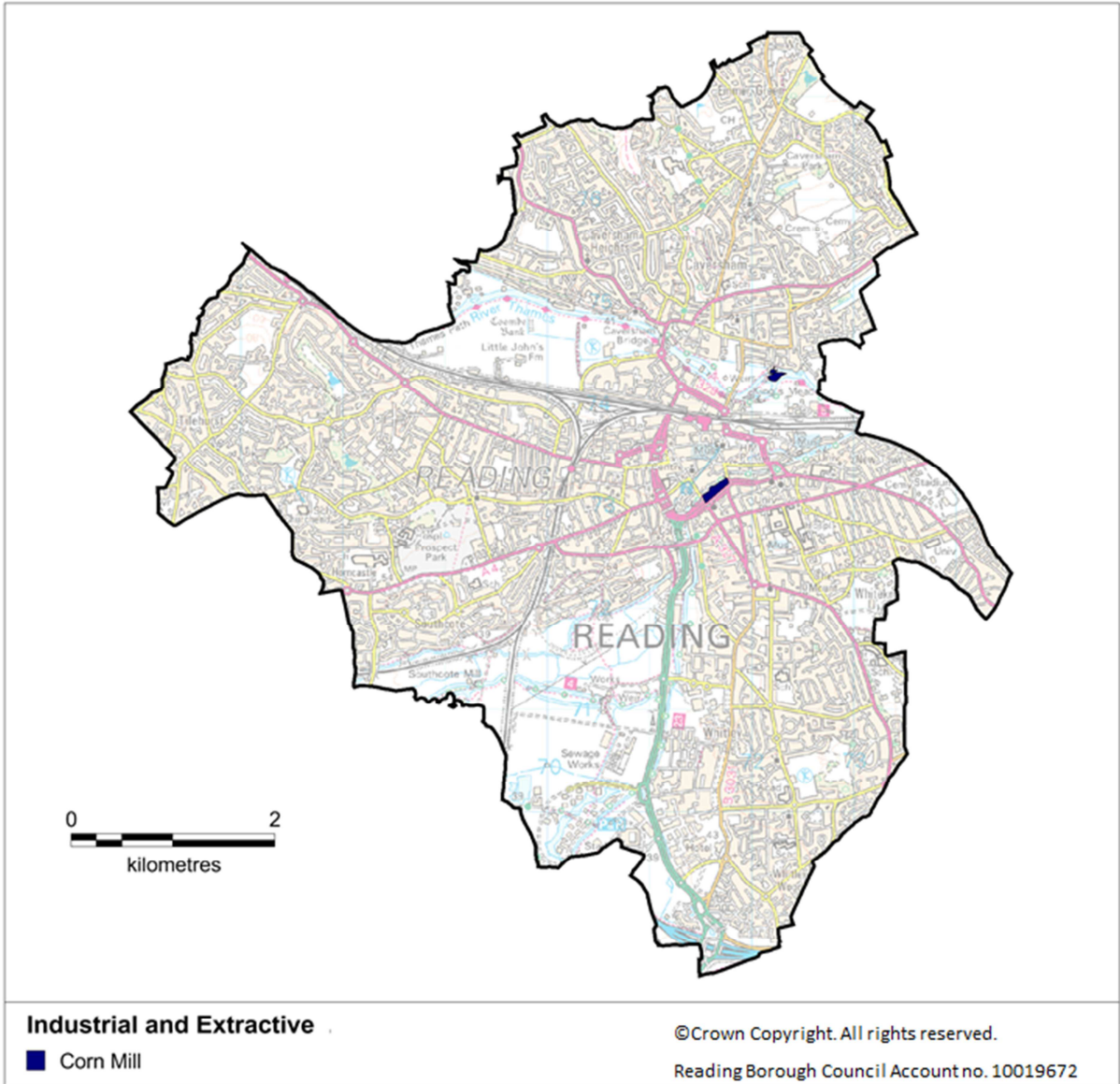
Figure 85. Industrial and extractive areas in Reading c.1761

15.2 Wokingham

Apart from several fairly large, modern industrial estates in Winnersh, Woodley, Twyford, and in Wokingham itself, most of the recorded Industrial and Extractive areas in the Borough of Wokingham are small and located in the countryside. In general terms, this pattern is not new but was established already in the early 20th century. However, with a few exceptions, the current industrial and extractive areas in the Borough have been created in the last few decades.
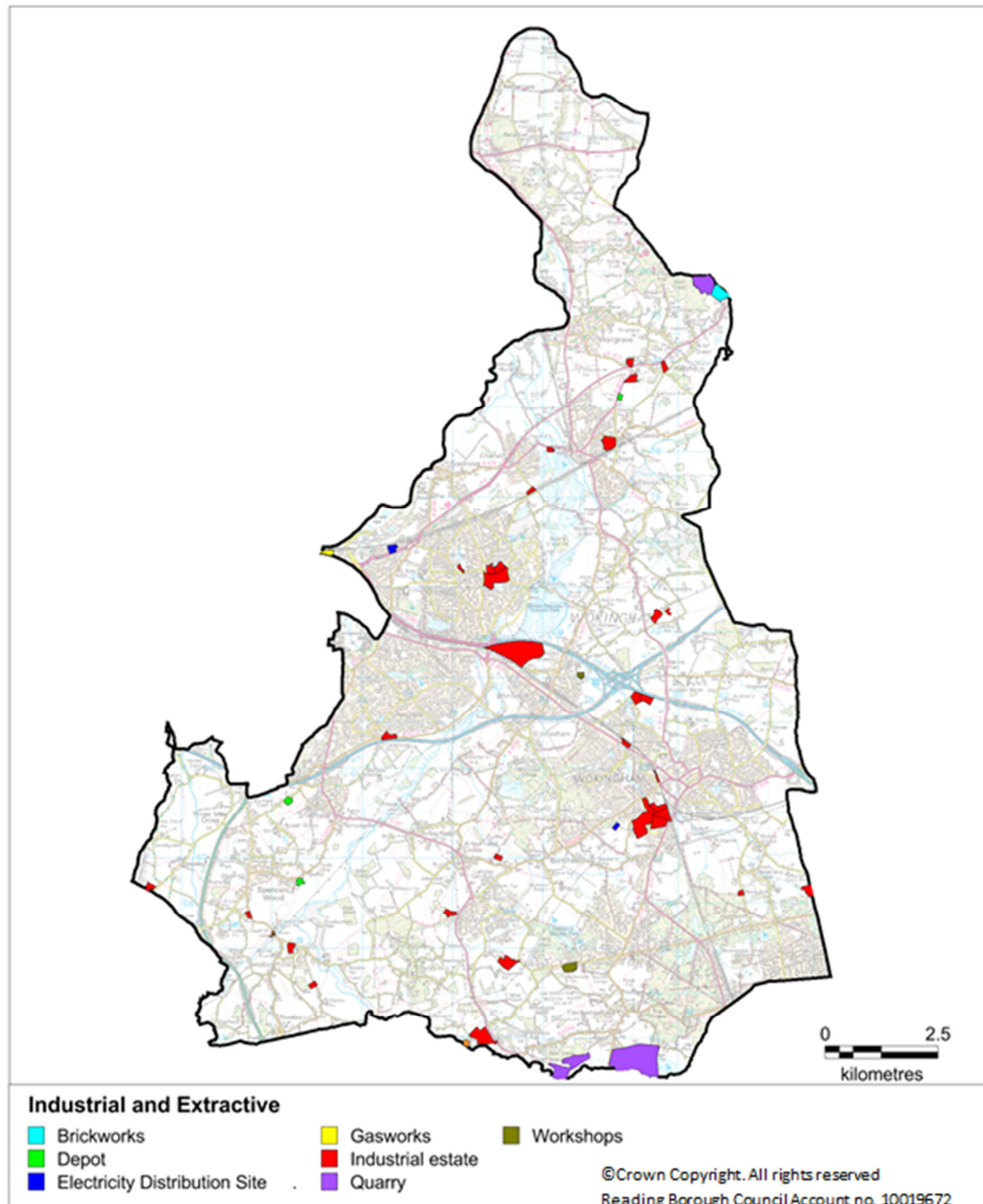
Figure 86. Current industrial and extractive areas in Wokingham

The industrial and extractive sectors were quite varied in the mid-18th century, with watermills, windmills, a tannery, quarries, brickworks and limekilns present within the Borough and recorded on the HLC. In the 19th and early 20th century, the picture is dominated by quarries and brickworks, with industrial estates only starting to dominate after the Second World War. The modern pattern with

numerous very small industrial estates in rural locations originated in the last 20 – 30 years, perhaps as a response to diversification within the rural economy.
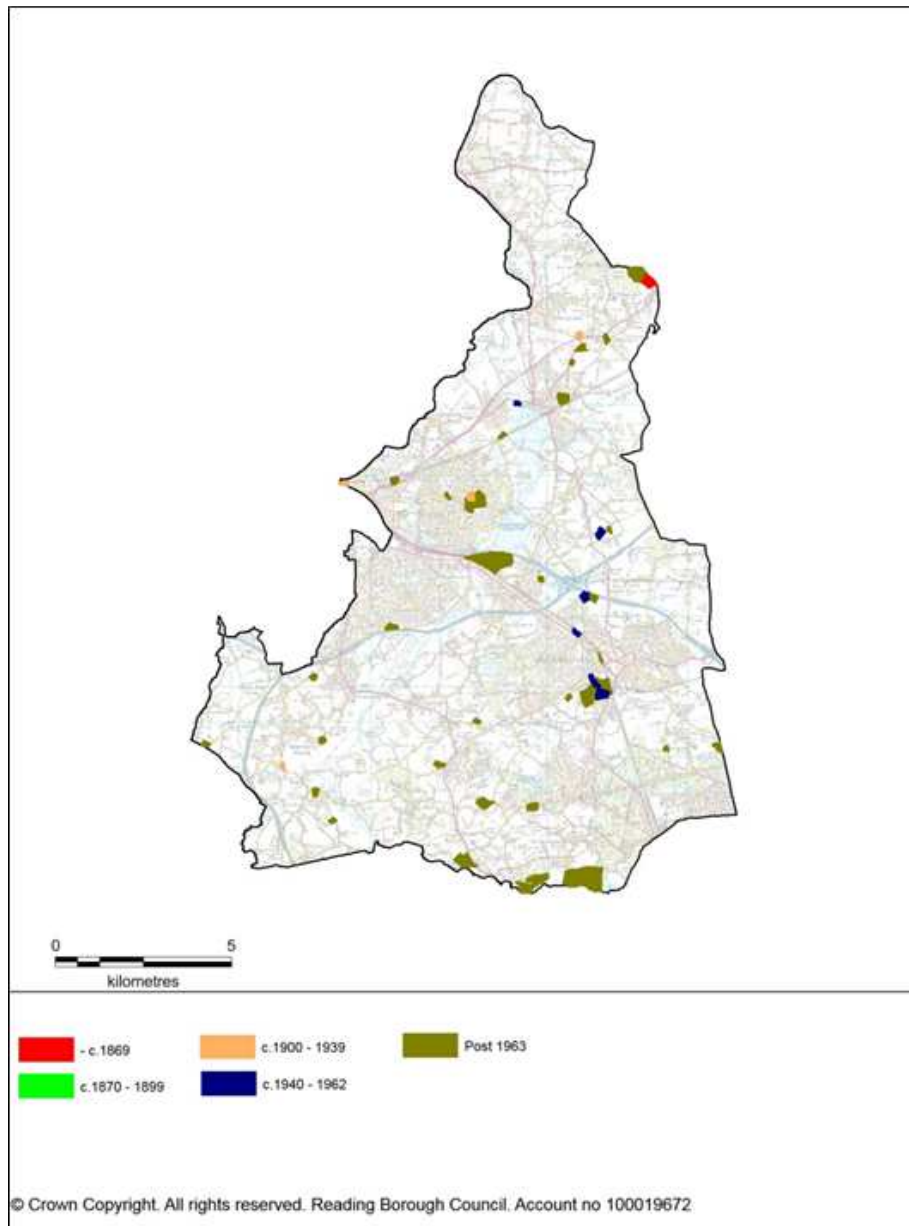
Figure 87. Current industrial and extractive areas in Wokingham – time depth

Industrial and Extractive

- Depot
- Factory
- Industrial estate
- Quarry
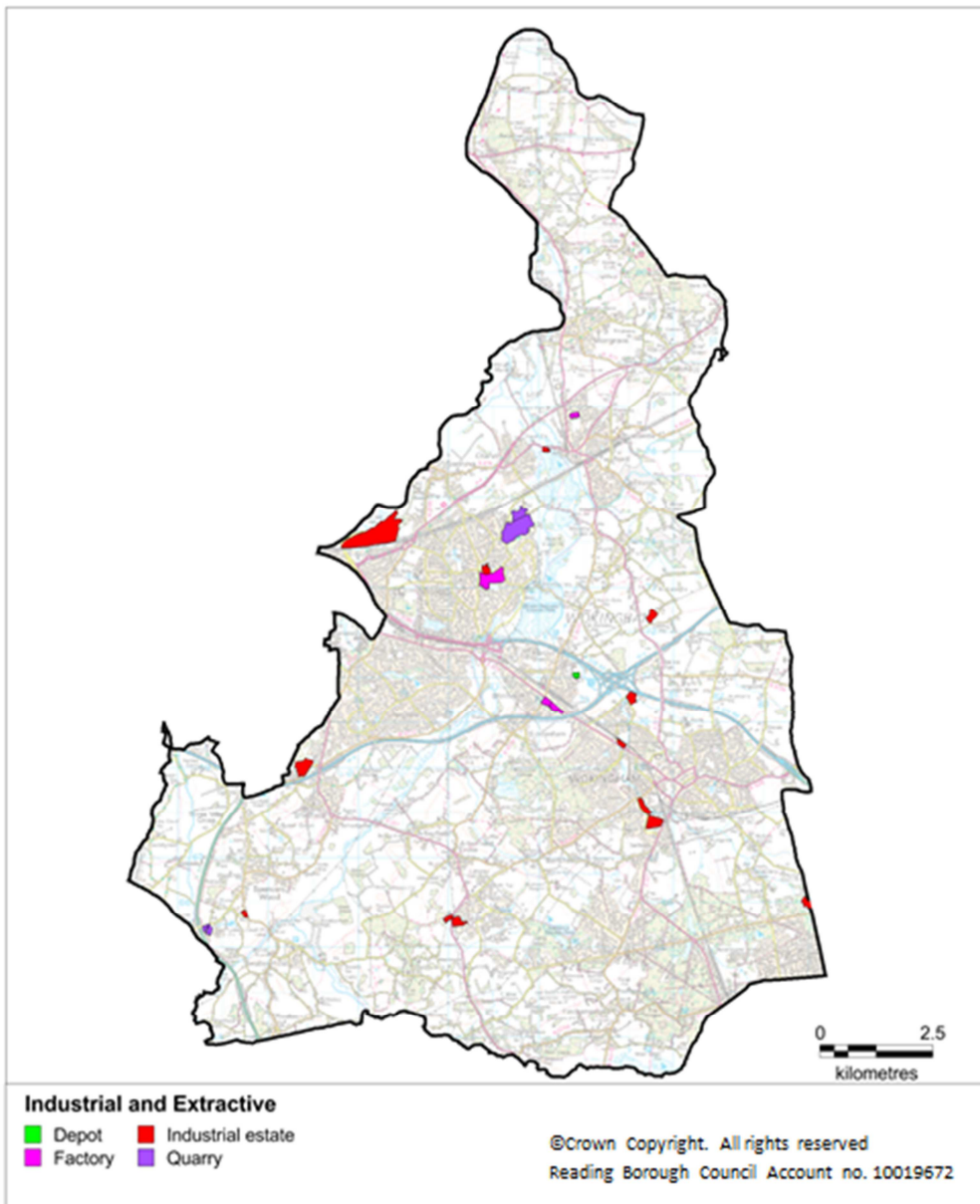
Figure 88. Industrial and extractive areas in Wokingham c.1939

Industrial and Extractive

▨ Brewery	▨ Factory	▨ Quarry
▨ Brickworks	▨ Industrial estate	▨ Saw Mill
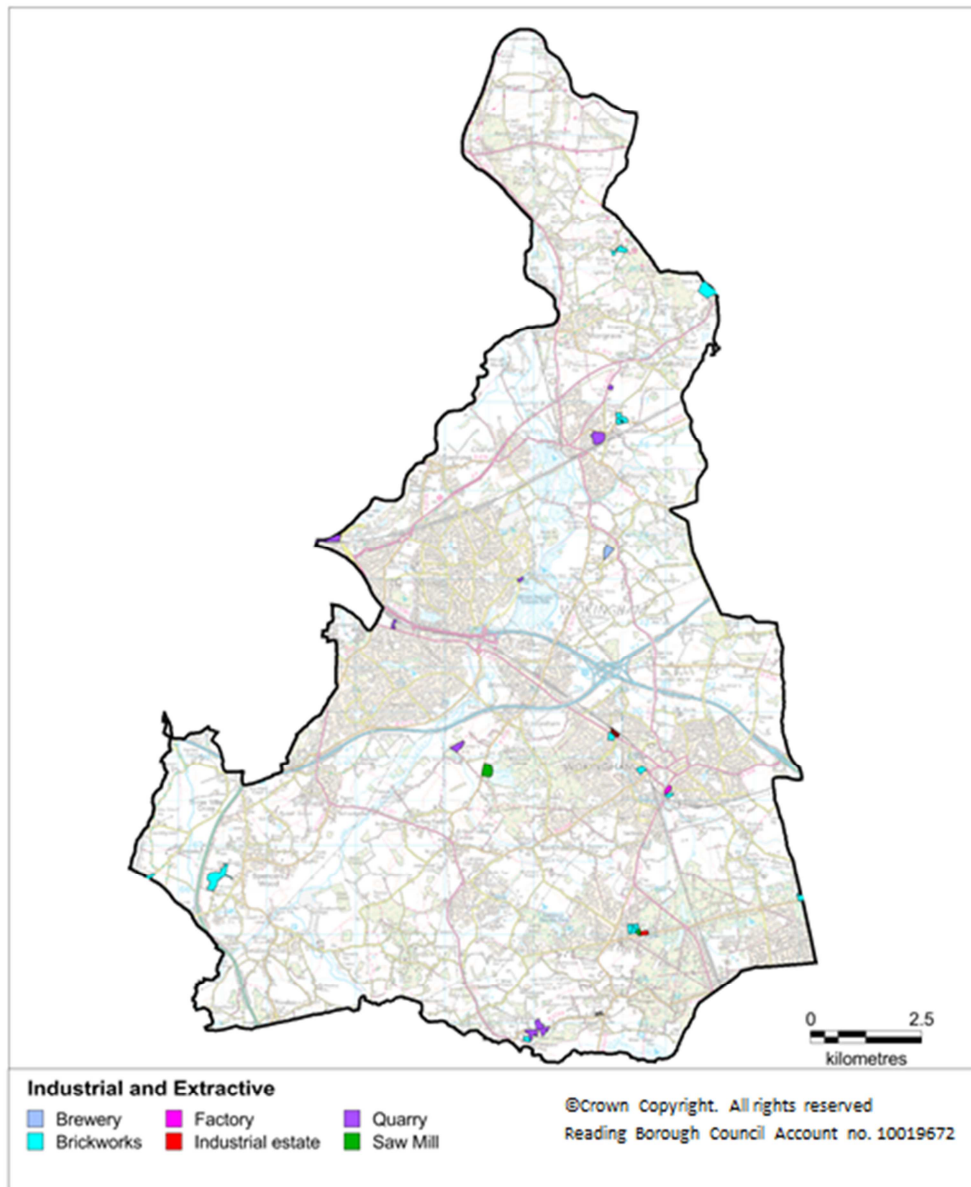
Figure 89. Industrial and extractive areas in Wokingham c.1870

Industrial and Extractive

■ Brickworks	■ Quarry	■ Watermill
■ Limekilns	■ Tannery	■ Windmill

Figure 90. Industrial and extractive areas in Wokingham c.1761

15.3 Bracknell Forest

The industrial and extractive areas in Bracknell Forest mainly consist of modern industrial estates. The largest industrial estates in the Borough are the Eastern Industrial Estate and the Western Industrial Estate, both located in Bracknell itself and built after 1949 when Bracknell was designated as a New Town. Before then, industrial and extractive areas or facilities in Bracknell Forest mainly comprised brickworks and gravel quarries, again exploiting natural geological resources within the borough. No industrial or extractive areas are recorded in Bracknell Forest before the 19th century; small facilities may have existed but were clearly not the dominant broad type in terms of historic landscape character

.

Western Industrial Estate

Eastern Industrial Estate

0   5
kilometres

Industrial and Extractive

■ Depot   ■ Industrial estate .   ■ Saw Mill
■ Gasworks   ■ Quarry

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved
Reading Borough Council Account no. 10019672
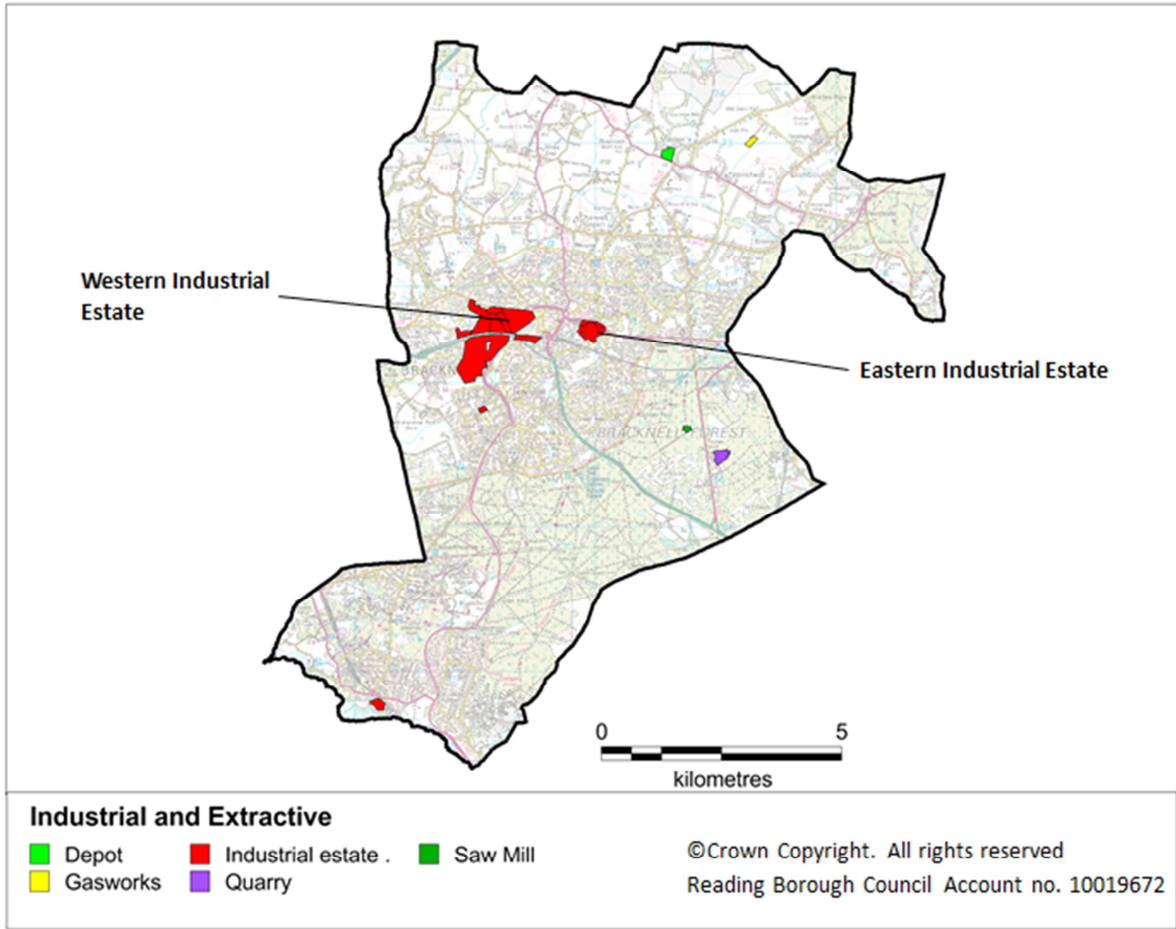
Figure 91. Current industrial and extractive areas in Bracknell Forest
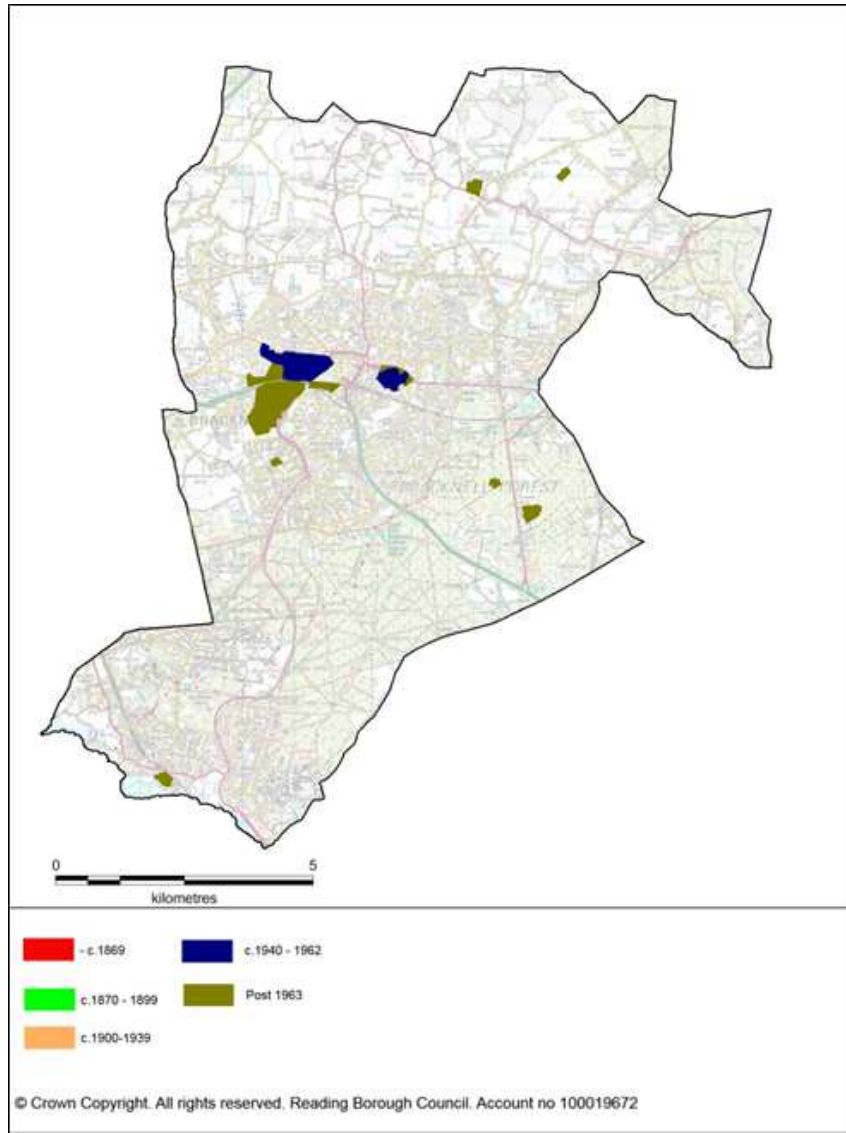
Figure 92. Current industrial areas in Bracknell Forest - time depth
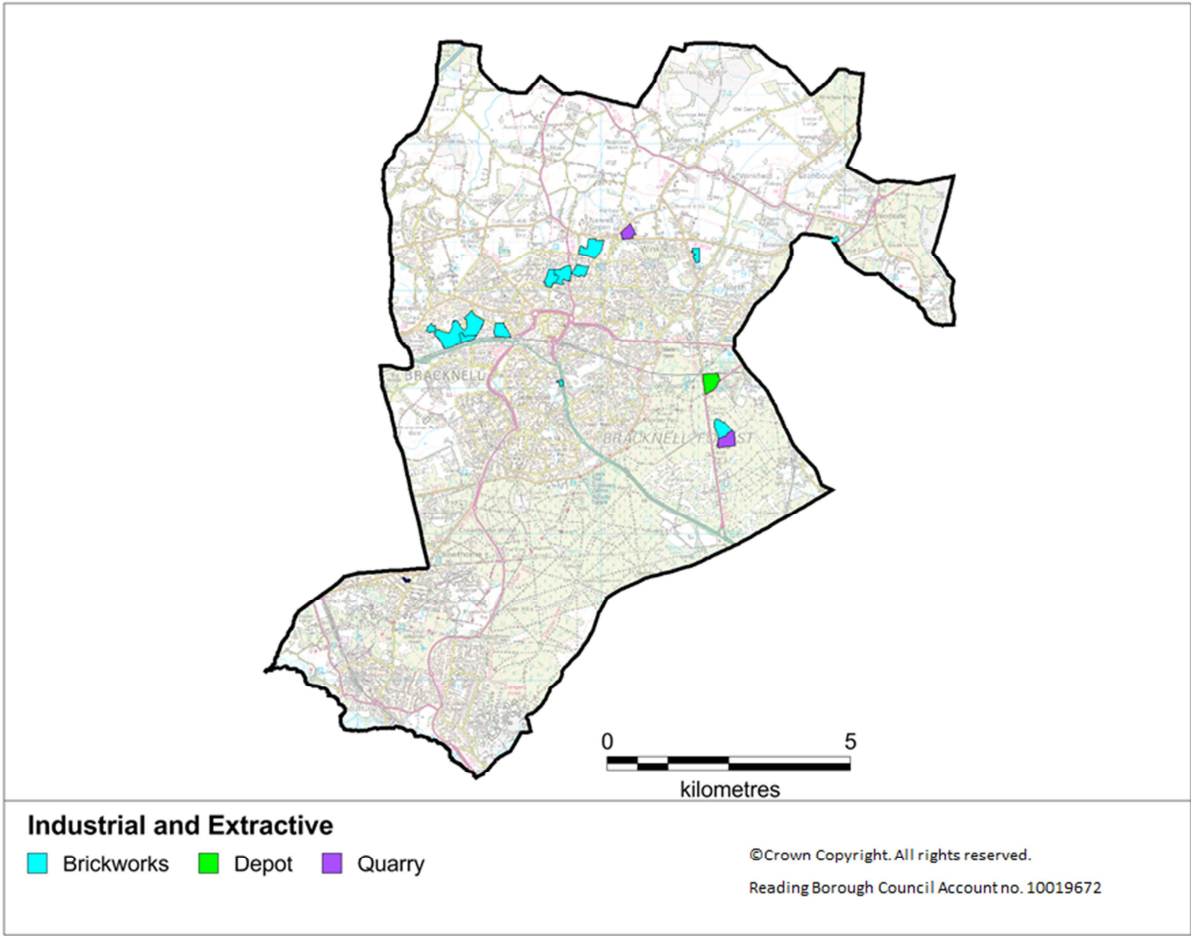
Figure 93. Industrial and extractive areas in Bracknell Forest c.1939

Industrial and Extractive

☐ Brickworks ☐ Quarry
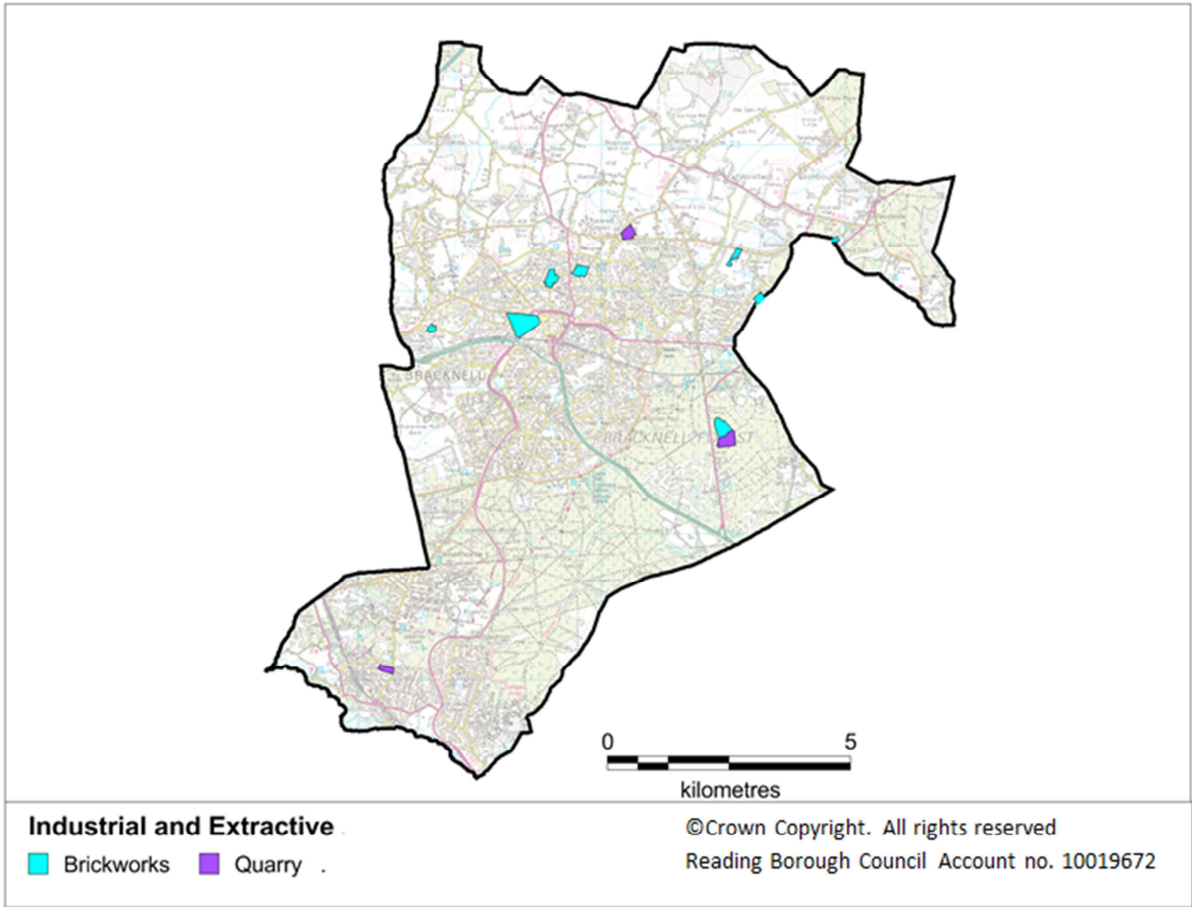
Figure 94. Industrial and extractive areas in Bracknell Forest c.1870

15.4 Windsor and Maidenhead

Industrial and extractive areas in Windsor and Maidenhead mostly consist of industrial estates and gravel quarries, with almost all of these areas having been created after the Second World War. The industrial estates are mostly located in and around Maidenhead, with a few located in Windsor, as being the main population centres. The quarries are mainly located around Maidenhead and around Wraysbury in the east, to exploit gravel terraces associated with the River Thames.
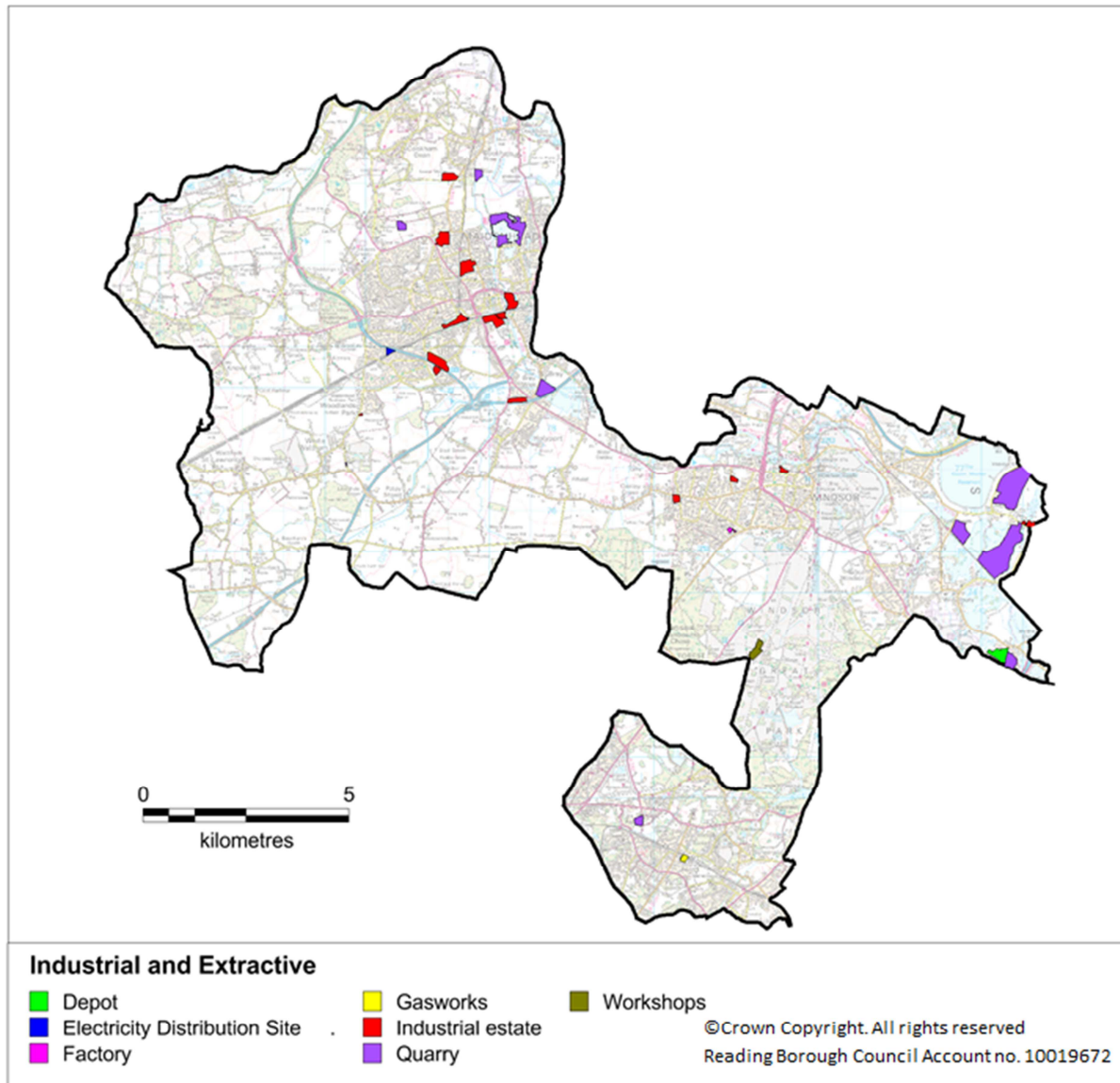
Figure 95.Current industrial and extractive areas in Windsor and Maidenhead

Watermills are the only industrial and extractive facilities recorded in Windsor and Maidenhead in the mid-18th century; two were located close to Windsor (one at Clewer in the west of the town and one north of Windsor Castle). Two others were located east and west of the village of Hurley, northwest of Maidenhead. The late 19th century presents a more complex picture, with brickworks,

quarries, gasworks, workshops (the Prince Consort's Workshops in Windsor Great Park) and an iron foundry (disused by the 1870s) present. Minor brickworks and quarries dominated however.

By the late 1930s, the picture had changed again, with quarries dominating. Large gravel quarries were being worked at Wraysbury and around Maidenhead, with the typical associated buildings and structures visible on mapping from the period. The now-disused workings around Wraysbury now form water reservoirs providing a supply to London – the modern quarries are located slightly further to the north. Most of the quarries around Maidenhead present in the 1930s are no longer active but are under modern housing or recorded as other types.
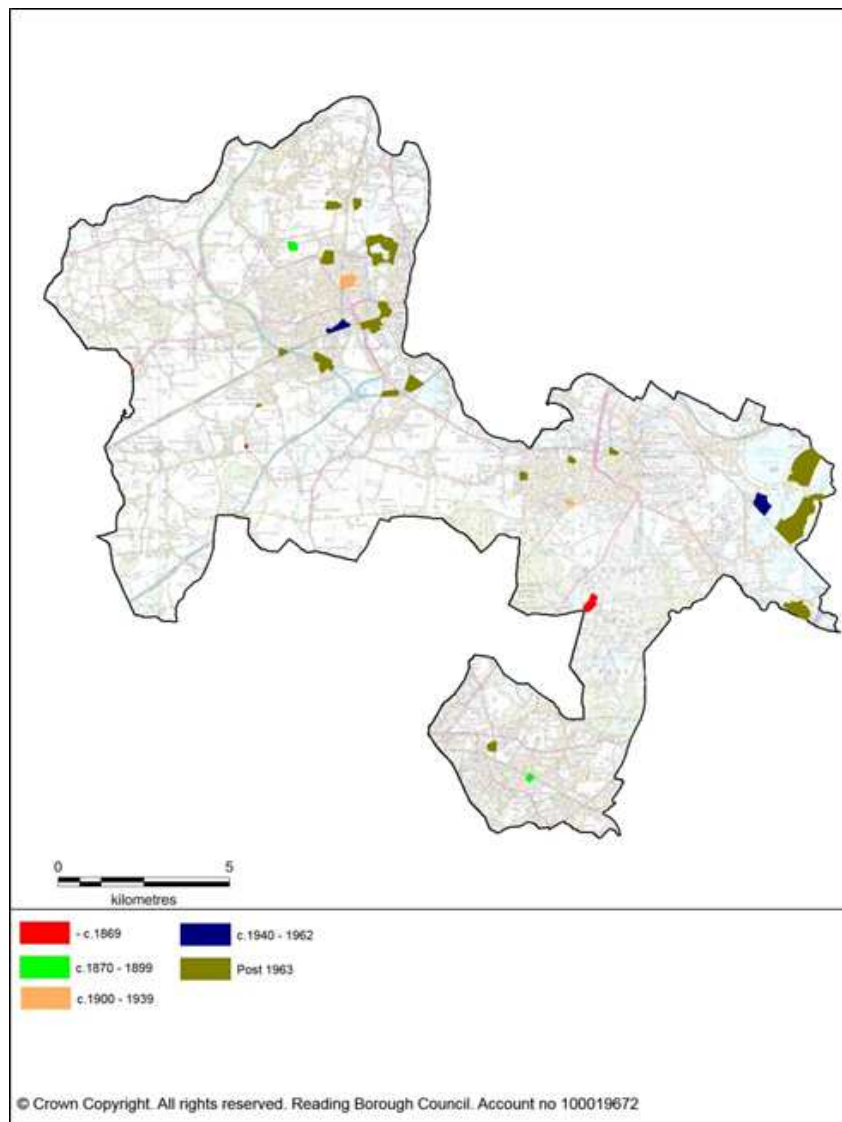
Figure 96. Current industrial and extractive areas in Windsor and Maidenhead – time depth

Industrial and Extractive

- Depot
- Factory
- Industrial estate
- Quarry
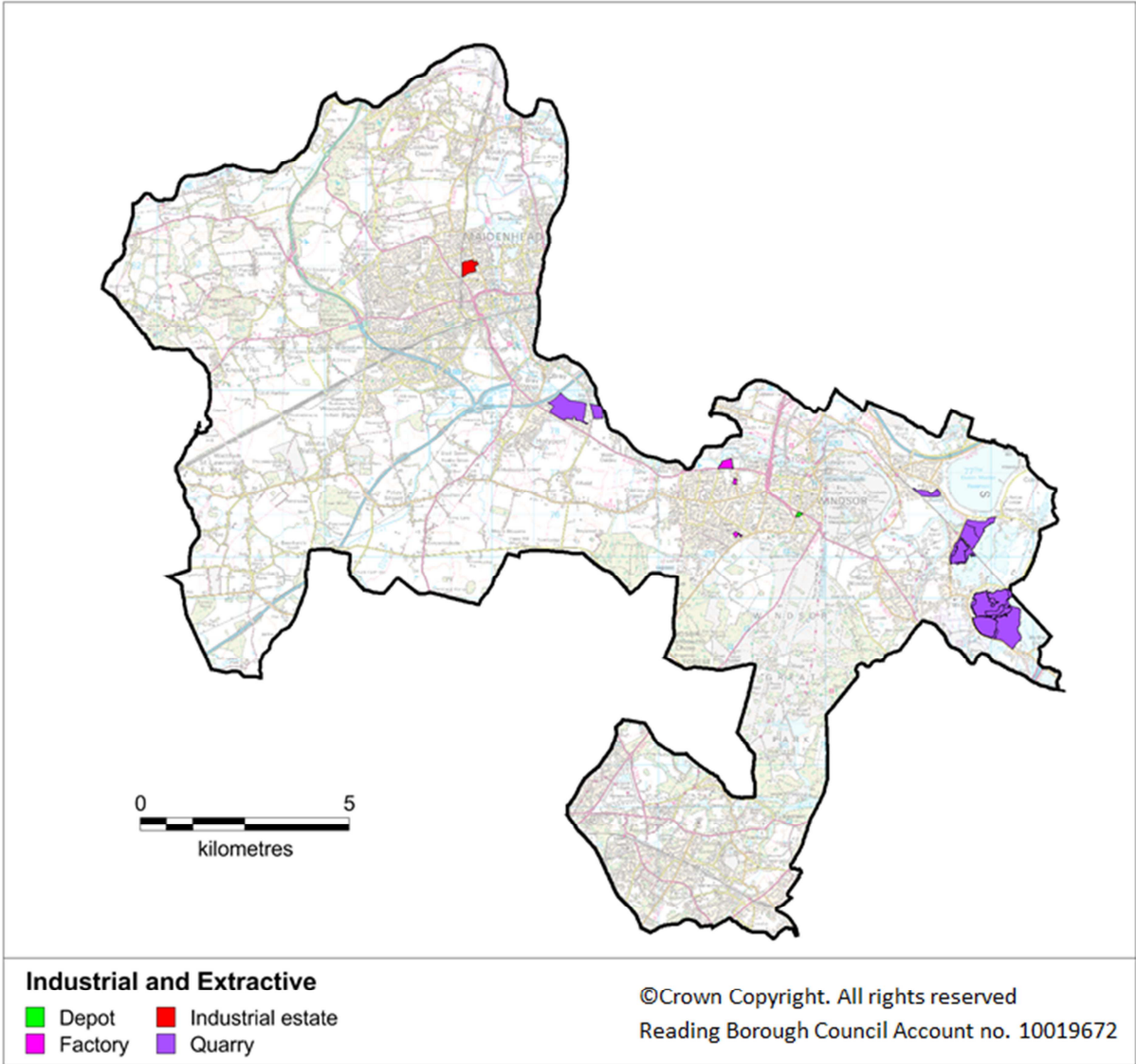
Figure 97. Industrial and extractive areas in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1939
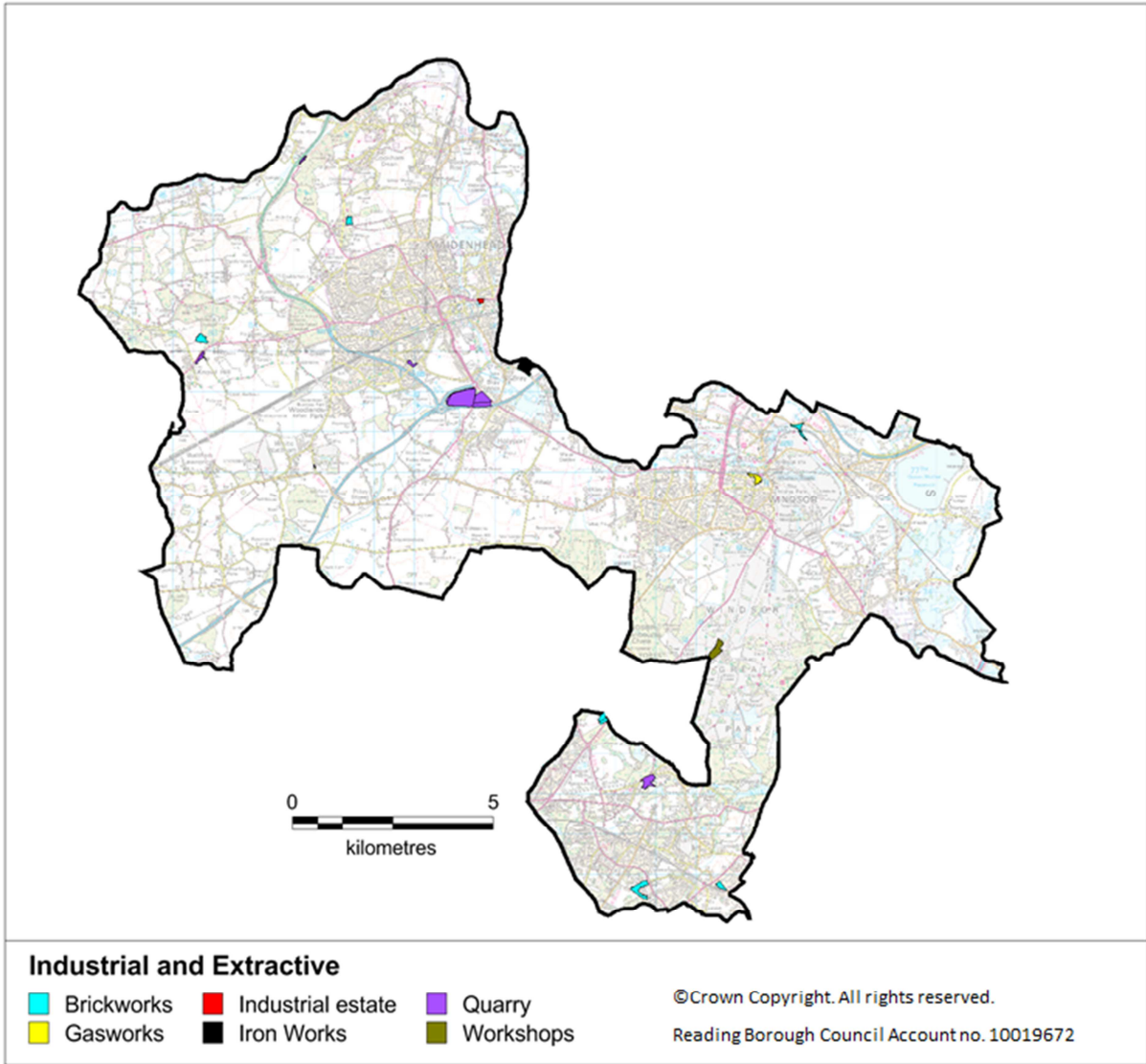
Figure 98. Industrial and extractive areas in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1870
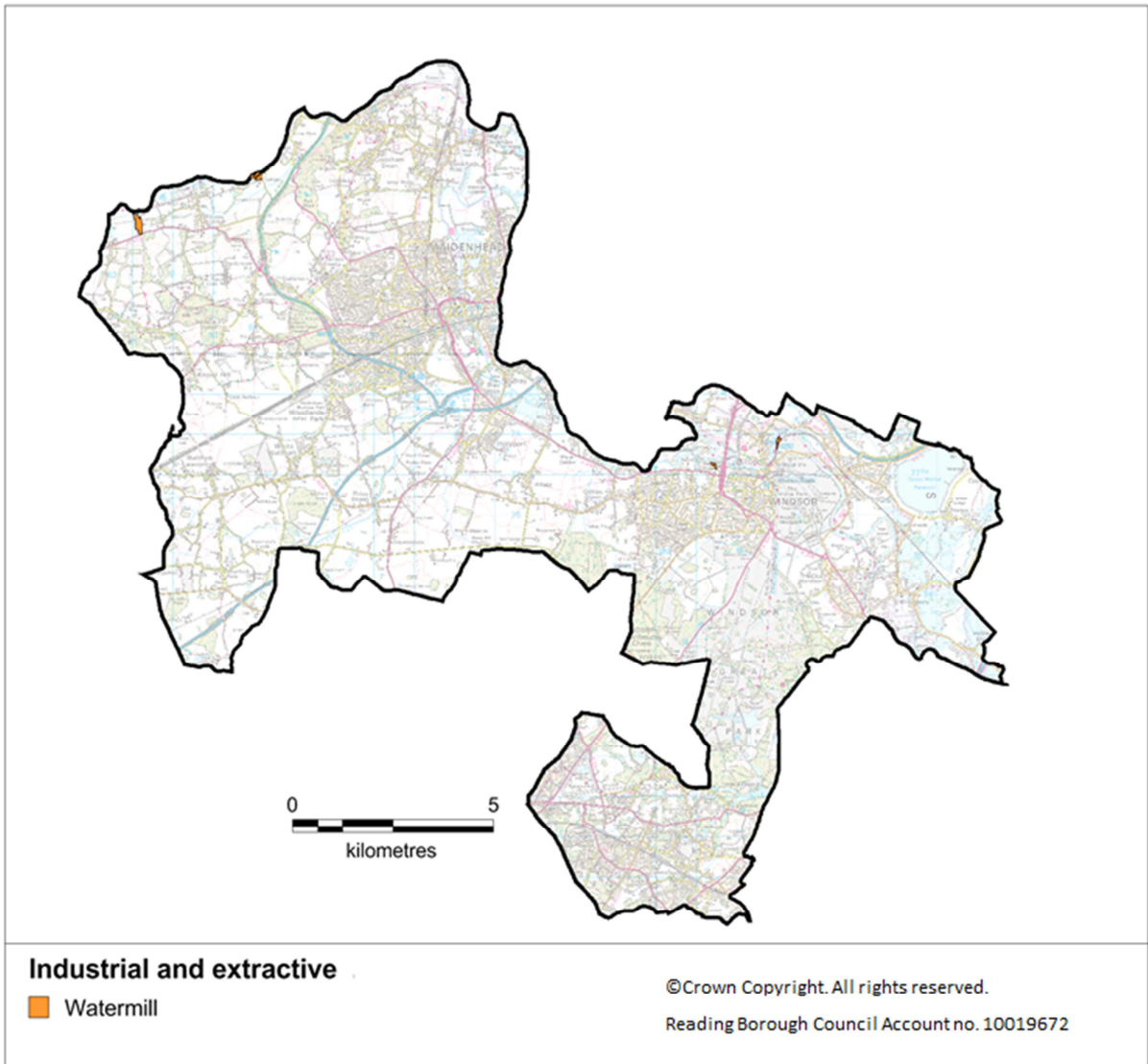
Figure 99. Industrial and extractive areas in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1761

15.5 Slough Borough

Industrial and extractive areas in the Borough of Slough today consist almost entirely of industrial estates, all created in the 20th century. However, some of the current industrial estates were previously brickworks, and one estate was originally a 19th century Iron Works.
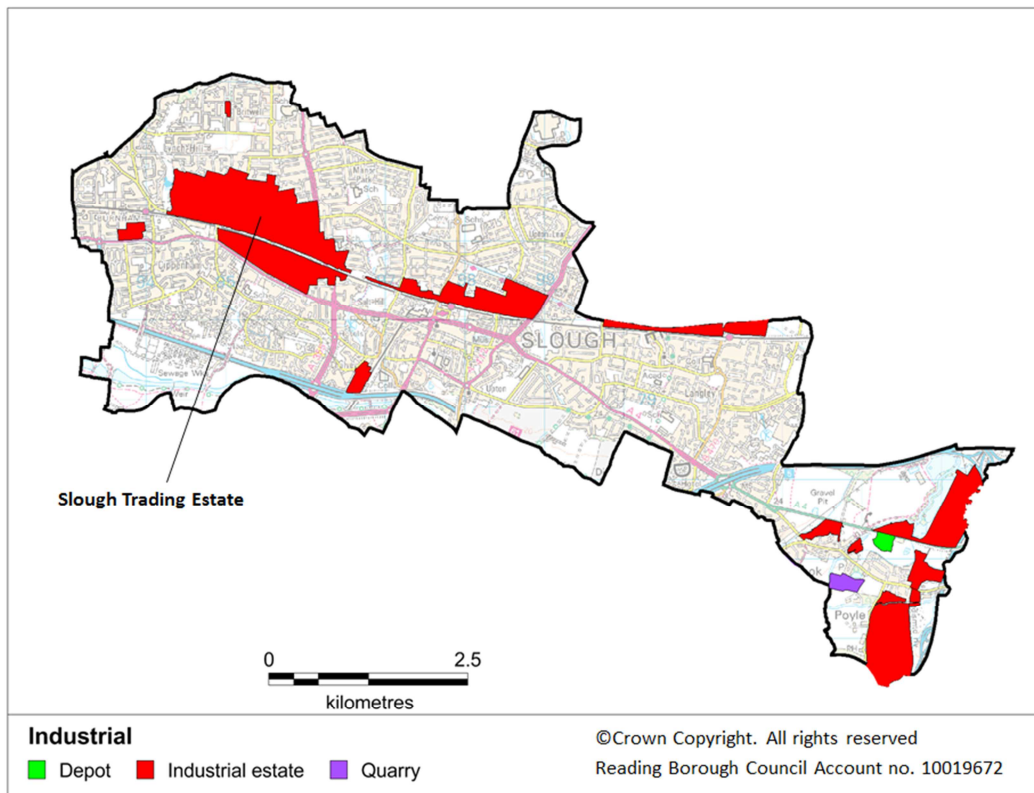
Figure 100. Current industrial and extractive areas in Slough

Slough emerged as an industrial town in the 19th century and housed many industries in this period. No industrial facilities are recorded in the borough before then in the HLC, although many will not be recorded due to size. Gotha Iron Works, renamed Windsor Iron Works during the First World War, was situated north of the town along the railway line on the site of the current Slough Interchange Industrial Estate. Extensive brickworks were located to the east at Langley, and the brickworks that were located to the north of the railway line have been transformed into modern industrial estates. The rest are now built-up areas of modern housing.

Slough Trading Estate was founded in 1918, originally as a depot dedicated to the repair of military vehicles. It was sold by the government to a group of private investors in 1920, and was subsequently formally transformed to an industrial estate in 1926. The success of the Trading Estate meant it expanded its operations even at the height of the Great Depression, and it is now home to more than 300 different companies, and the largest industrial estate in Europe under single company ownership. The trading estate is a "simplified planning zone" meaning it enjoys a specialised planning permission for certain types of development, as a priority area for regeneration.

Another important concentration of industries in Slough is around the village of Colnbrook in the east of the borough. The village is surrounded by modern industrial estates built after the Second World War. Colnbrook is very close to Heathrow airport, which is located just on the other side of the M25; many of the industrial estates primarily provide services to the airport, especially those located south of Colnbrook, at Poyle.
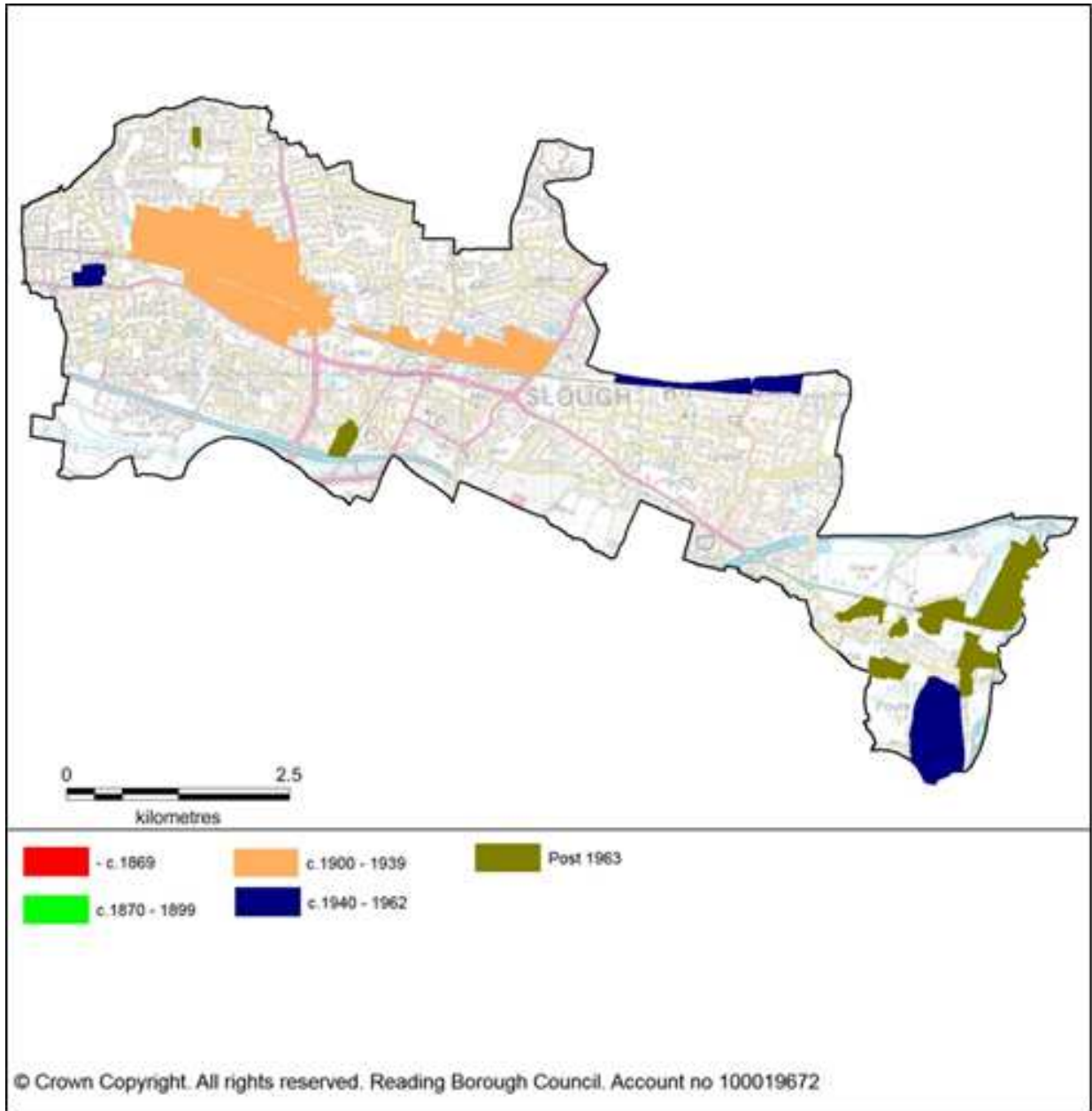
Figure 101. Current industrial and extractive areas in Slough – time depth
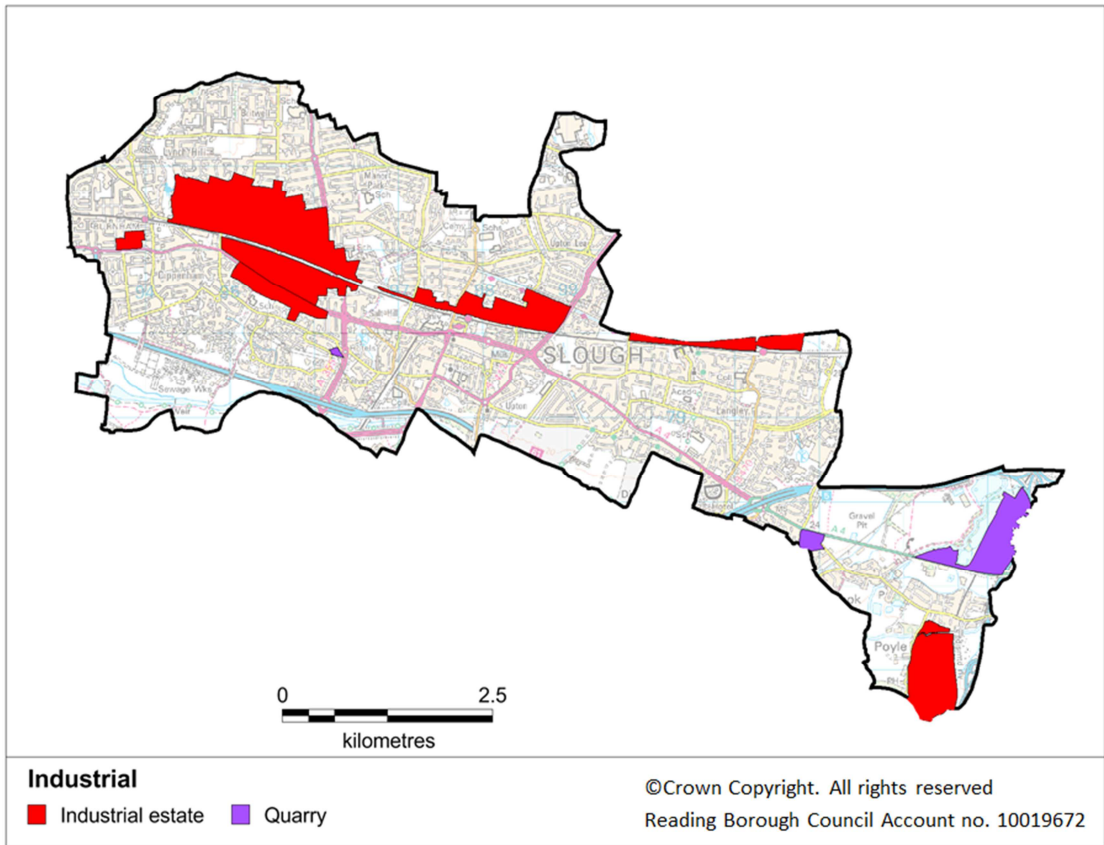
Figure 102. Industrial and extractive areas in Slough c.1939
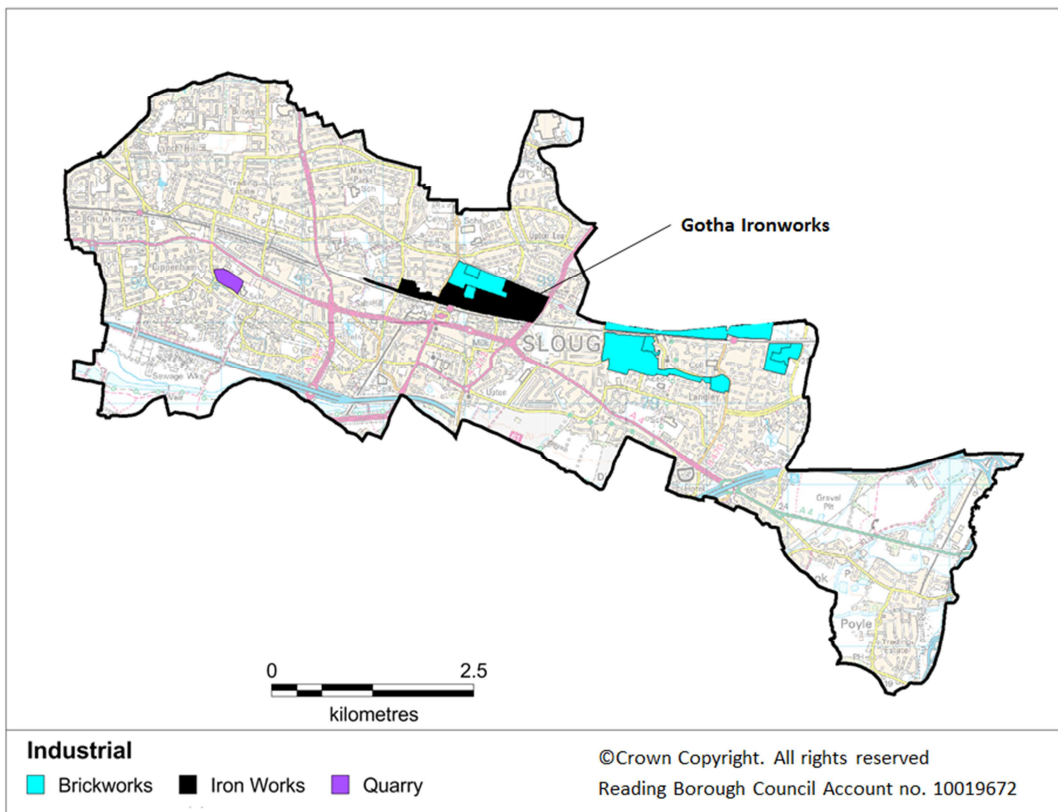
Figure 103. Industrial and extractive areas in Slough c.1870

146

16.Military

There are only seven existing areas recorded as Military broad type in East Berkshire, comprising Brock Barracks in Reading, Victoria and Combermere Barracks in Windsor, the component parts of Arborfield Garrison, and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Narrow Types: Barracks, *Drill Hall, *Hillfort, *Military Airfield, Military Base, Military College, *Military Depot, *Rifle Range *(*recorded as previous type only)*

Polygons: Seven discrete polygons cover a combined area of 295ha; 29 areas have Military recorded as a previous type, spreading over a much wider area.

	Area / hectares
Total	295
Barracks	15
Military Base	125
Military Academy	155

Table 9. Military in East Berkshire

Barracks are buildings or areas used to house members of the armed forces. In spite of the layout within, often containing green space and hardstandings for drill as well as buildings and service areas, often the visible features of barracks are limited to perimeter walls and other security features such as gates and check-points.

Brock Barracks in Reading was built in 1881 and named after Major-General Sir Isaac Brock who defended Canada from an American invasion in the War of 1812. Before the construction of the barracks, the area was used as an army depot for a few years. The barracks' imposing façade in the style of a defensive keep is incongruous in the largely residential and commercial Oxford Road. Victoria Barracks was built in 1853 and enlarged in 1911. It is from Victoria Barracks that troops set off to change the guard at Windsor Castle, making the barracks an important landmark within the town. Combermere Barracks was built in 1804 and is the home of the Household Cavalry Regiment, the monarch's official bodyguard.

Figure 104. Brock Barracks, Reading

A **military base** refers to a group of buildings used to accommodate and train members of the armed forces. Arborfield Garrison was initially an army depot known as the Remount Depot, which supplied the military with horses. The depot was established in 1904 and closed in 1937. Arborfield Garrison has been associated with a number of army technical schools, for many years housing the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering and the School of Army Aeronautical Engineering; it was also the regimental headquarters of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. At the time of writing the garrison was going through an active closure of facilities and has been procured for housing and a school, with associated infrastructure. As well as the areas included in the military base HLC type, the modern boundary of the garrison also included areas in the Urban Settlement, Rural Settlement, Recreation, Enclosed Land and Unimproved broad types, reflecting the varying attributes visible in its current landscape.

A **military college** is an educational institution which prepares candidates for service in the officer corps of the Army, the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard. The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst was founded in 1801 as the Royal Military College. It is known under its current name since 1947, when it merged with the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. The Academy moved to Sandhurst in 1812. It was built on heathland in what must then have been a fairly isolated location, presumably on land with very little economic value at the time. The College shares some attributes with institutes recorded in the Education HLC type within the Civic Provision broad type, comprising a mix of old and new buildings in a variety of styles, formal and informal landscaping, and service areas, set in a campus-style estate; however the large scale, and the presence of various types of accommodation and military installations clearly point to its inclusion in the Military broad type.

Figure 105. The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. By WyrdLight.com, CC BY 3.0,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12423885

Previous Military types - There are three former **military airfields** in East Berkshire: Reading (later known as Woodley) Aerodrome, Langley Airfield (also known as Parlaunt Park), and RAF Winkfield. Reading Aerodrome was constructed in 1929, used by the RAF during WWII, and closed down in 1953. A Miles aircraft factory was built at Reading Aerodrome before the war. Its main role during the war was to host Elementary Flying Training School courses. Part of the field is now used for housing. Langley Airfield was mostly used for flight testing by the Hawker Aircraft Company. During WWII, a major aircraft factory was located here, manufacturing the Hawker Hurricane, Tempest and Sea Fury. The field was operational between 1939 and 1956, and the factory closed down in 1958. RAF Winkfield was used by the RAF between 1941 and 1945 as a relief landing ground. It is now part of an equestrian centre. The distribution of airfields, as with other military installations, tends to relate to land topography as well as geographic importance within a strategic defence/offence network; other features of military character that may have made this network more visible are not recorded in the HLC however, due to their small size.

A **drill hall**, built in the late 19th century, was located at Elm Road in Wokingham. There is now a multi-storey car park there. A **rifle range** was formerly located south of Quarry Wood Road in Cookham. It is open grassland today, and not used as a rifle range. Another rifle range, possibly in use during WWII, was located west of today's Desborough College in Maidenhead, and is now a site for park homes.
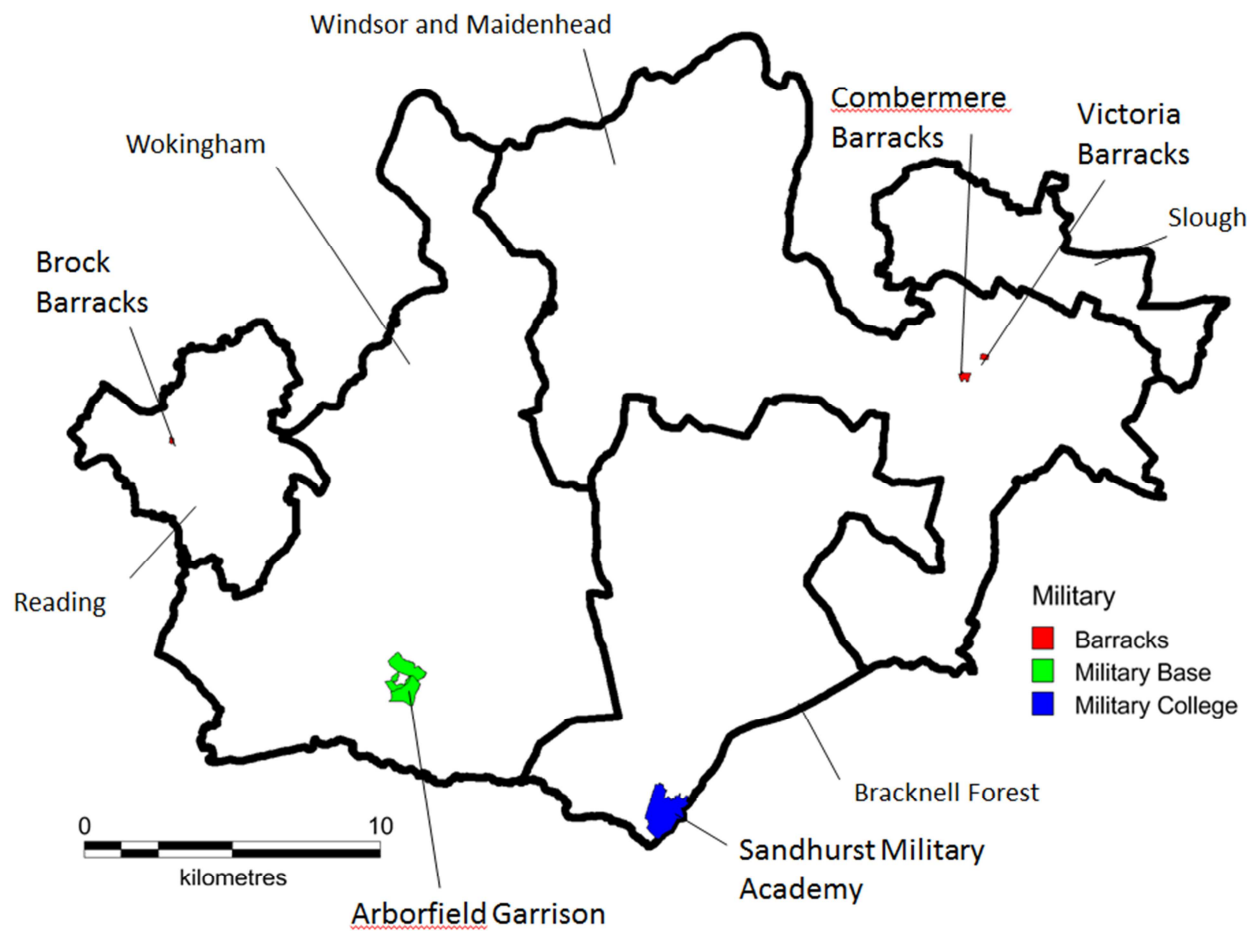
Figure 106. Military establishments in East Berkshire
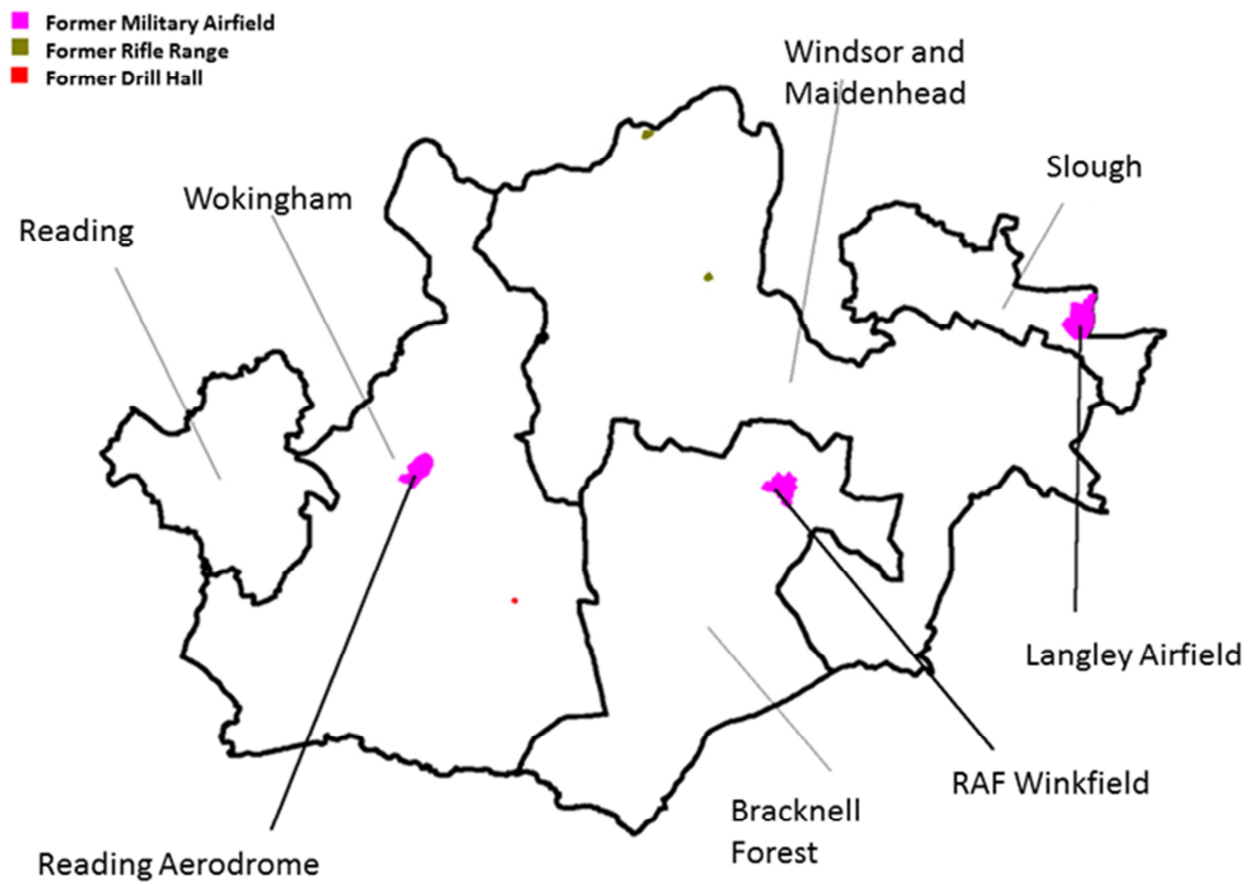
Figure 107. Previous military establishments

17. Orchards and Horticulture

The "Orchards and Horticulture" broad type contains features relating to organised fruit, vegetable and flower production, and other garden-related activity.

Narrow Types: Allotments, Garden, Nurseries, Orchards, Polytunnel Horticulture, Vinery.

Polygons: 82 individual areas have been recorded, comprising a total of 451 hectares. Most of the extant features have been created in the 20th century, although it is likely that smaller-scale orchards and gardens originating in the medieval or post-medieval period are not recorded as such due to their size.

HLC type	Area (hectares)
Total	464
Allotments	148
Garden	73
Nurseries	42
Orchards	12
Polytunnel horticulture	188
Vinery	1

Table 10 Orchards and Horticulture in East Berkshire

Allotments - The allotment sites in East Berkshire are spread out fairly evenly across the area. They tend to be located in towns and settlements, often in peripheral locations, and are easily characterised as small parcels of land clearly used for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, with a range of small structures and facilities to aid this purpose, and often enclosed within a perimeter fence or wall . The vast majority of the extant allotment sites were created in the 20th century, often as part of larger development schemes, as a way of providing outdoor space and a means of food and flower production to families without gardens. Allotment gardening is largely Victorian invention, but most of the 19th century allotments have now been converted to different uses.

Gardens - Formal gardens have survived better than other features connected to gardens or horticulture: most of the features present in the mid-19th century have survived until today. This may be because most are associated with the Royal landscape (Frogmore, the Royal Gardens, Valley

Gardens) or are high-status in some other way (e.g. Luxmoore's Garden, Farleyhill Place Gardens); the clustering of records within this HLC type around Windsor and the Great Park is not coincidental.

Nurseries - Plant nurseries are mostly found in rural locations in East Berkshire, and as well as land for growing plants and trees, often include sheds and buildings such as greenhouses. Historically, large areas in Reading and Slough were taken up by nurseries, but almost all of the historic nurseries have disappeared. Of the 15 nurseries recorded in the HLC, only three existed in the 19th century.

Orchards - Orchards used to be much more common in the landscape than apparent today. Some former orchards can be seen on historic maps from the 18th century up to the early 1960s, but are missing on modern maps. Orchards can often be seen to be associated with certain farms, and may represent side businesses supplanting the main income of the farm; historic orchards linked to small-holdings in the past may not be fully represented in the HLC due to their small size, within an area of enclosed land or rural settlement.

Polytunnel horticulture - The cultivation of berries and fruit under the cover of polytunnels is a recent phenomenon. There are only two areas in East Berkshire where this is practised, both in Wokingham borough: around Gardeners Green and around Sheeplands Farm. During the covered seasons the polytunnels create a distinctive landscape feature, often masking the field morphology from view.

Vinery - There is only a single **vinery** in East Berkshire, located in Windsor Great Park, by the Royal School.
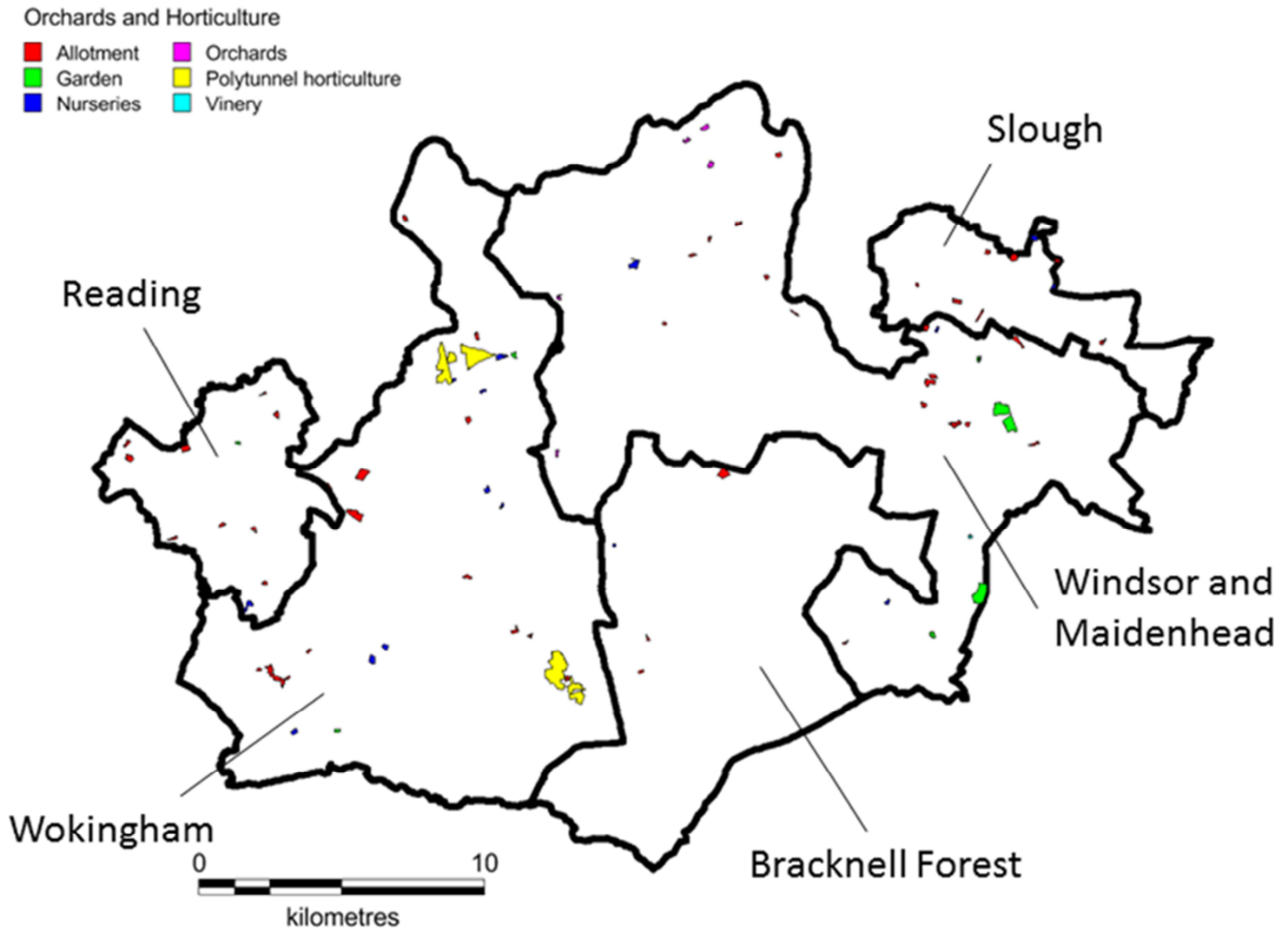
Figure 108. Orchards and horticulture in East Berkshire

154
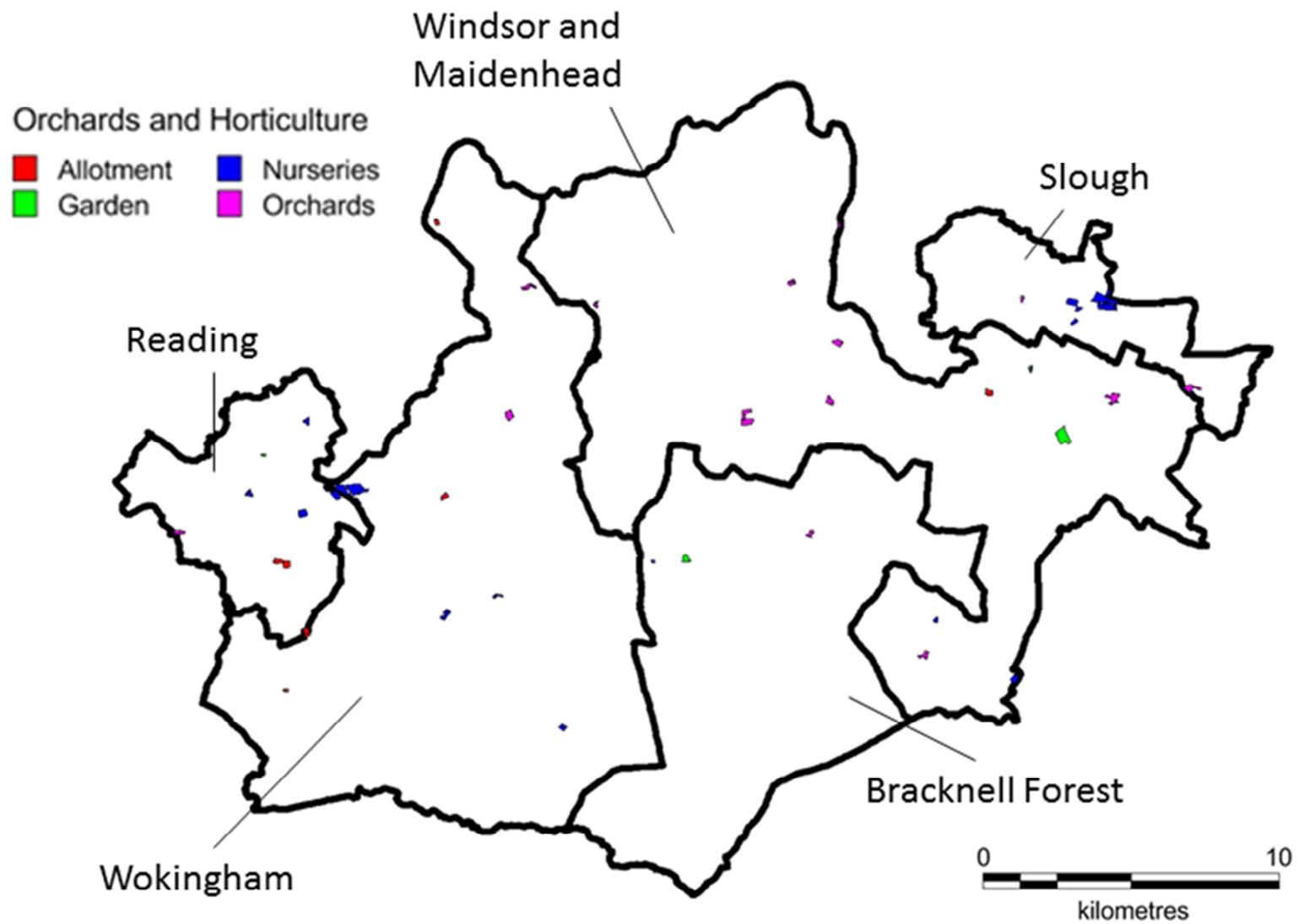
Figure 109. Orchards and horticulture in East Berkshire c.1869

17.1 Reading Borough

Caversham Court Gardens is a modern public garden located on the site of a formal garden of the 17th century Old Rectory, which has been demolished. The 17th century stables and 19th century coach house remain. The gardens were laid out in the mid-17th century by Thomas Loveday. Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity owns a large **allotment site** at Armour Hill, and Reading Borough Council lists an additional 20 sites distributed around the Borough. All of the allotment sites recorded in the HLC were created in the 20th century, many before the Second World War. There is also a modern **plant nursery** adjacent to Reading International Business Park in south Reading.

In the 19th century, there were a number of nurseries in the Reading area, including Harvey's Nurseries in Caversham and the famous Trial Grounds of Sutton's Seeds which were visible from the train when approaching Reading from London, and formed an important component of Reading's "Three B's" ("bulbs"). Some orchards were located in Southcote, and there was an allotment site in Whitley, where a modern supermarket is now located. All of those features have now disappeared.
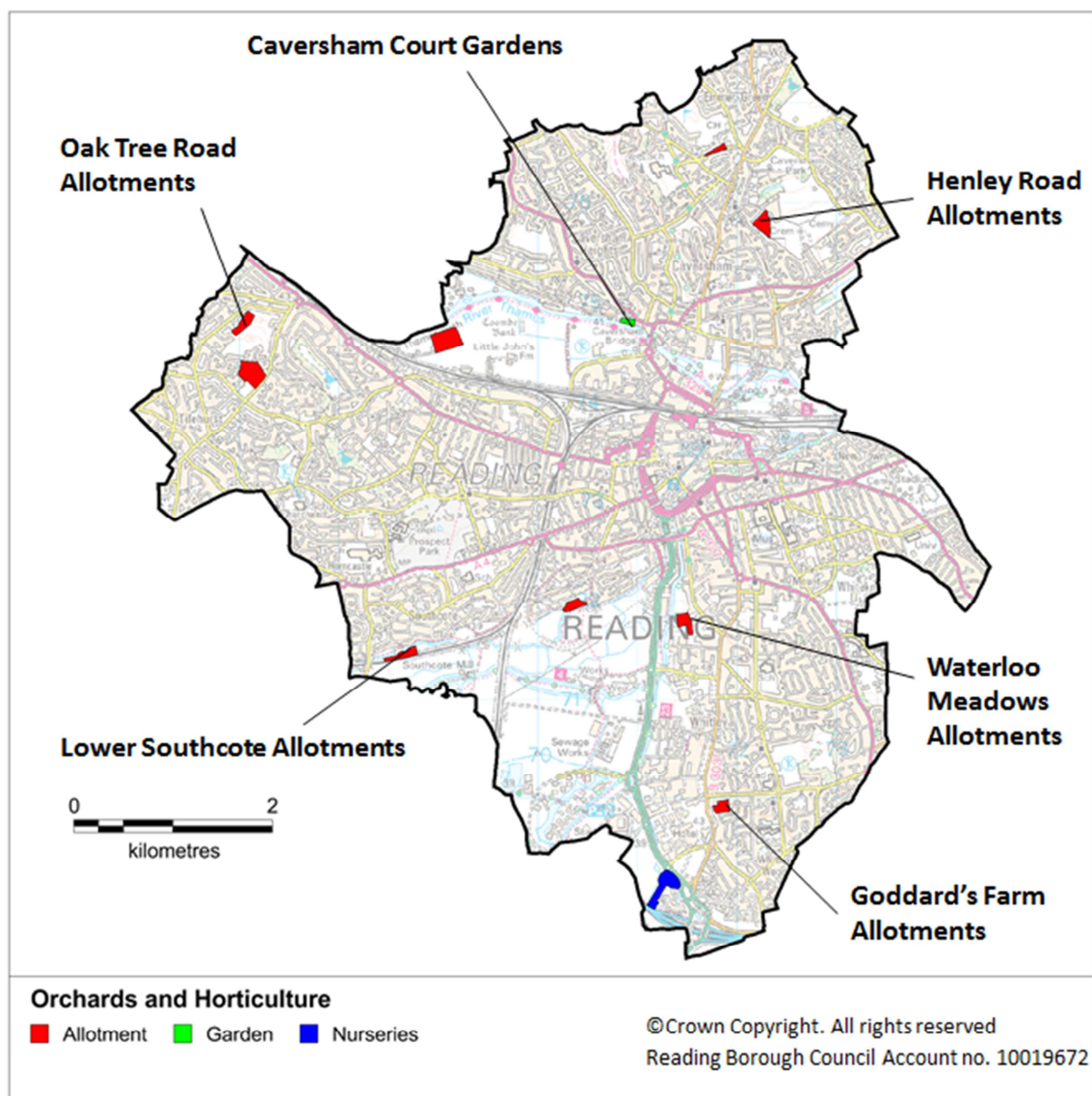
Figure 110. Orchards and horticulture in Reading
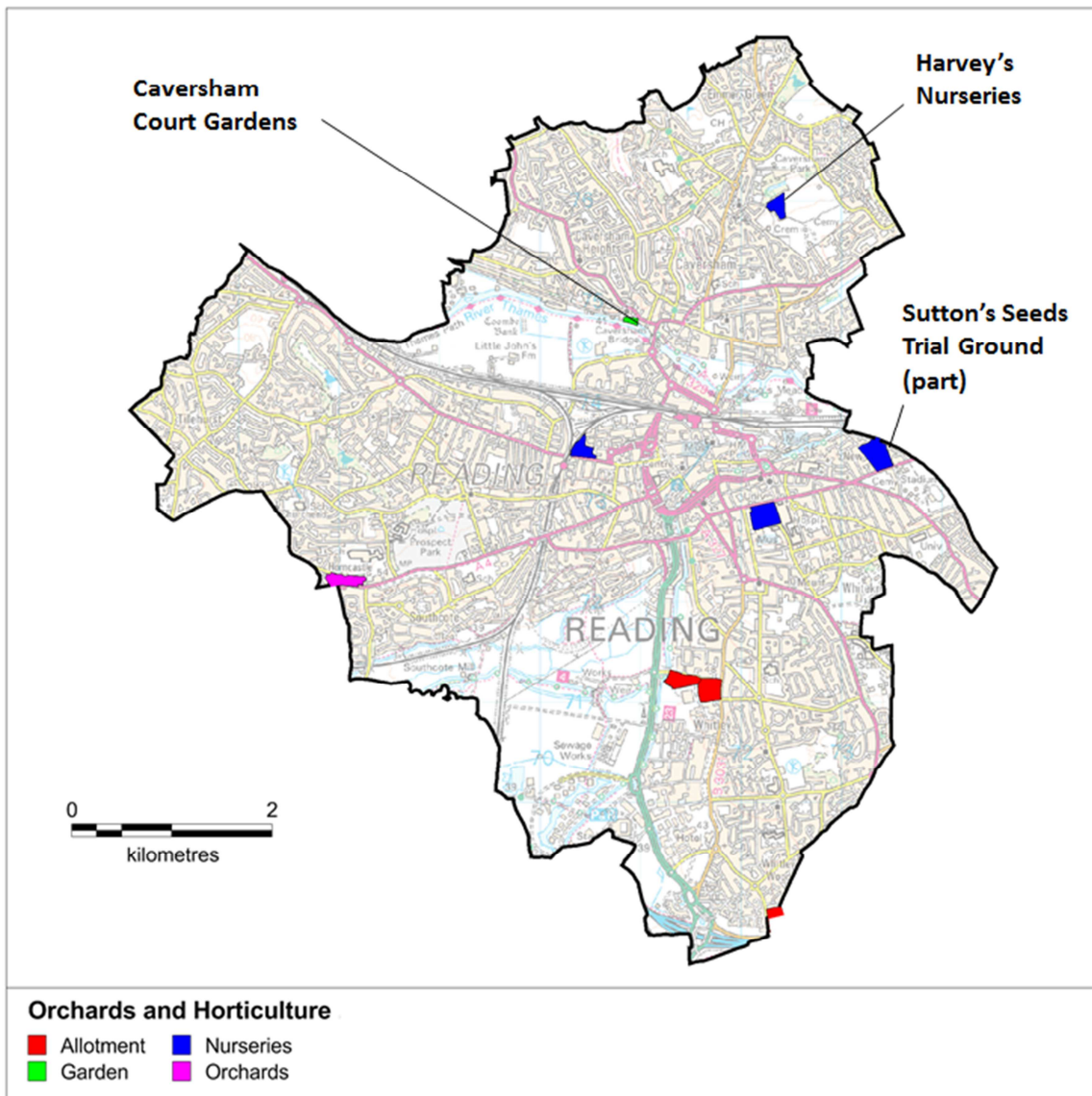
Figure 111. Orchards and horticulture in Reading c.1869

17.2 Bracknell Forest

The **Council Nursery**, also known as **Binfield Nursery**, was originally created in the 19th century as a walled private garden in the grounds of Binfield House, a Grade II listed 18th century house. It is now run as a plant nursery by Bracknell Council. Only two **allotment sites** are recorded in the HLC in Bracknell Forest, one at Ringmead and one at South Road south of Easthampstead Park (several smaller sites are almost known but not recorded in this type). Both of the recorded allotment sites were created recently, after the early 1960s at some time. **Jealott's Hill Community Landshare** (JHCL) is a horticultural garden project run by volunteers, which encourages local groups and individuals to work together to grow fruit, vegetables and other plants.
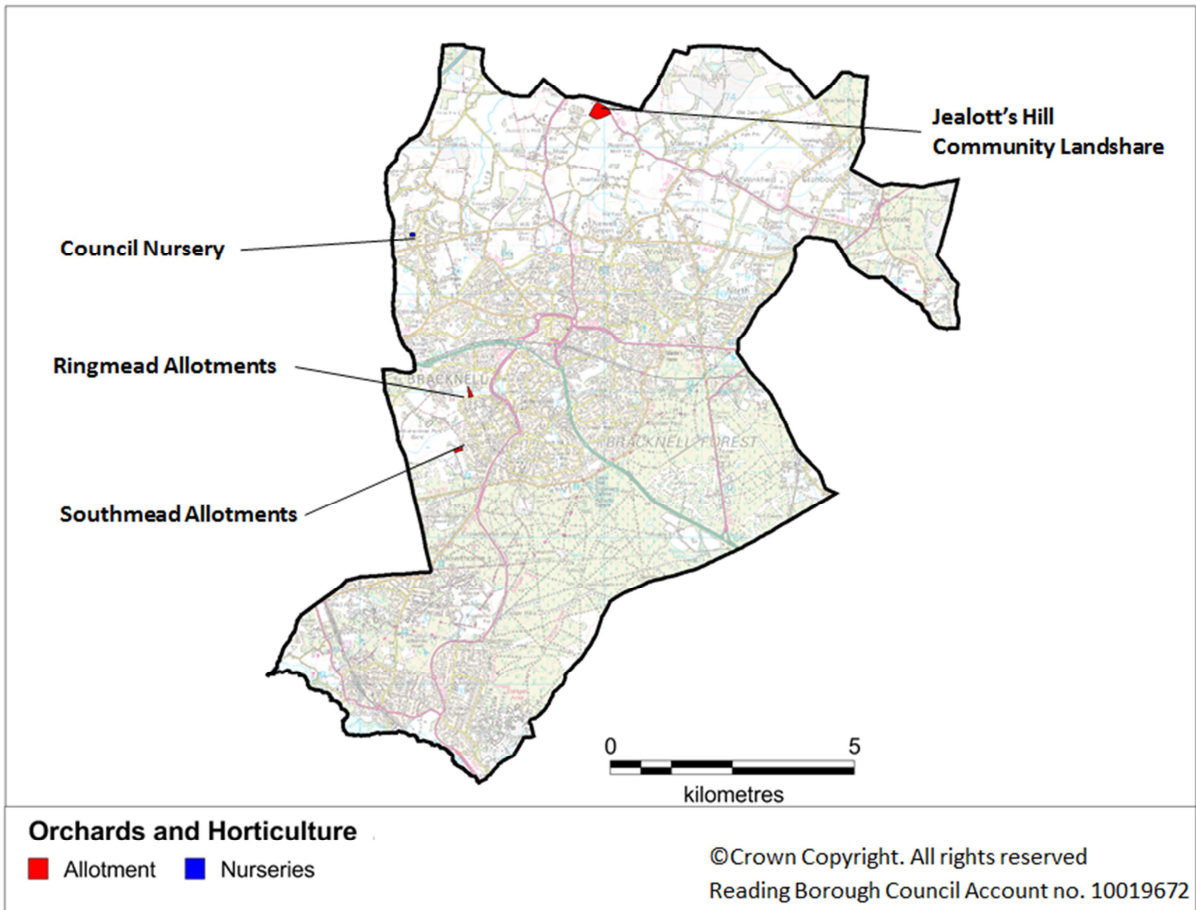
Figure 112. Orchards and horticulture in Bracknell Forest

Apart from Binfield Nursery, all of the extant horticultural and garden related features in Bracknell Forest were created in the 20th century. Features that have not survived from the mid-19th century include formal gardens to the east of Binfield (now a garden centre) and orchards at Brock Hill (now rows of houses).

Orchards and Horticulture

■ Garden ■ Orchards
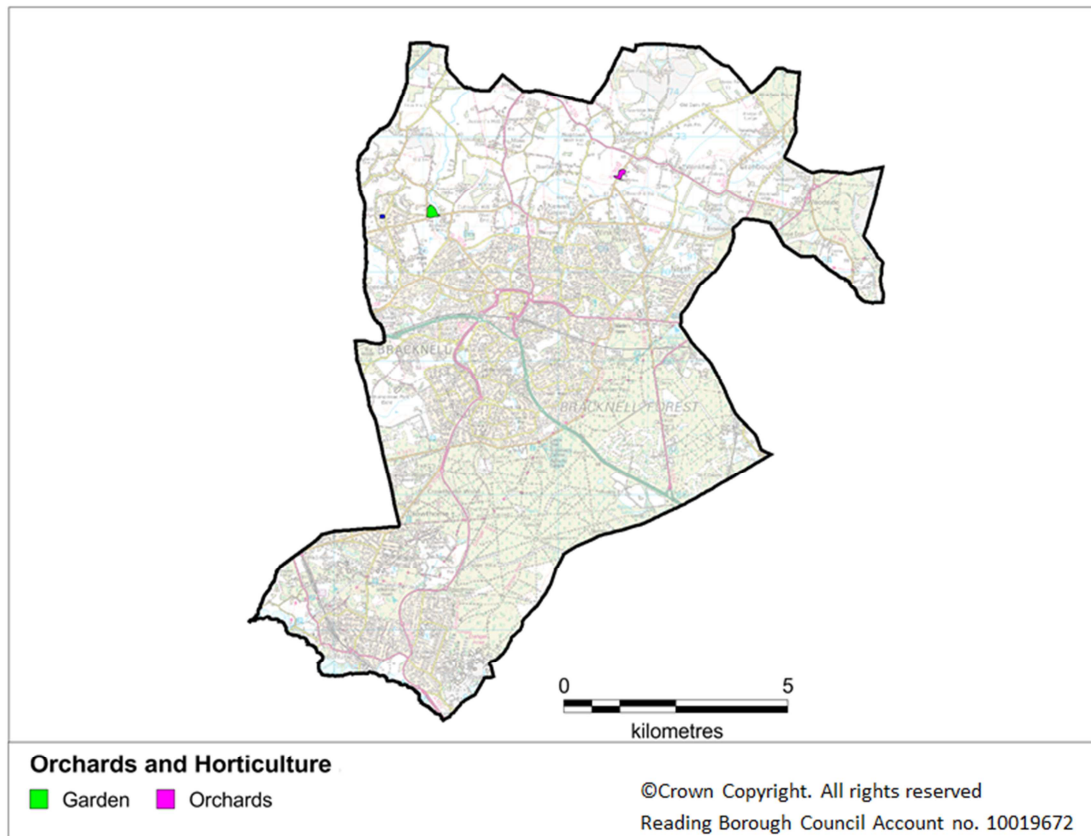
Figure 113. Orchards and horticulture in Bracknell Forest c.1869

17.3 Wokingham Borough

There are two areas in Wokingham Borough where horticulture under the cover of polytunnels is practiced – around Sheeplands Farm close to Twyford, and Gardeners Green south of Wokingham. There are several **plant nurseries** around Wargrave, Twyford, Hurst, Arborfield and Swallowfield. The largest two **allotment sites** in the Borough are the Bulmershe site and the Reading Road site in Woodley, occupying 13 and 10 hectares of land respectively. Most of the parishes in the Borough have at least one allotment site. Wokingham Town Council has four, and there are seven sites in Shinfield.
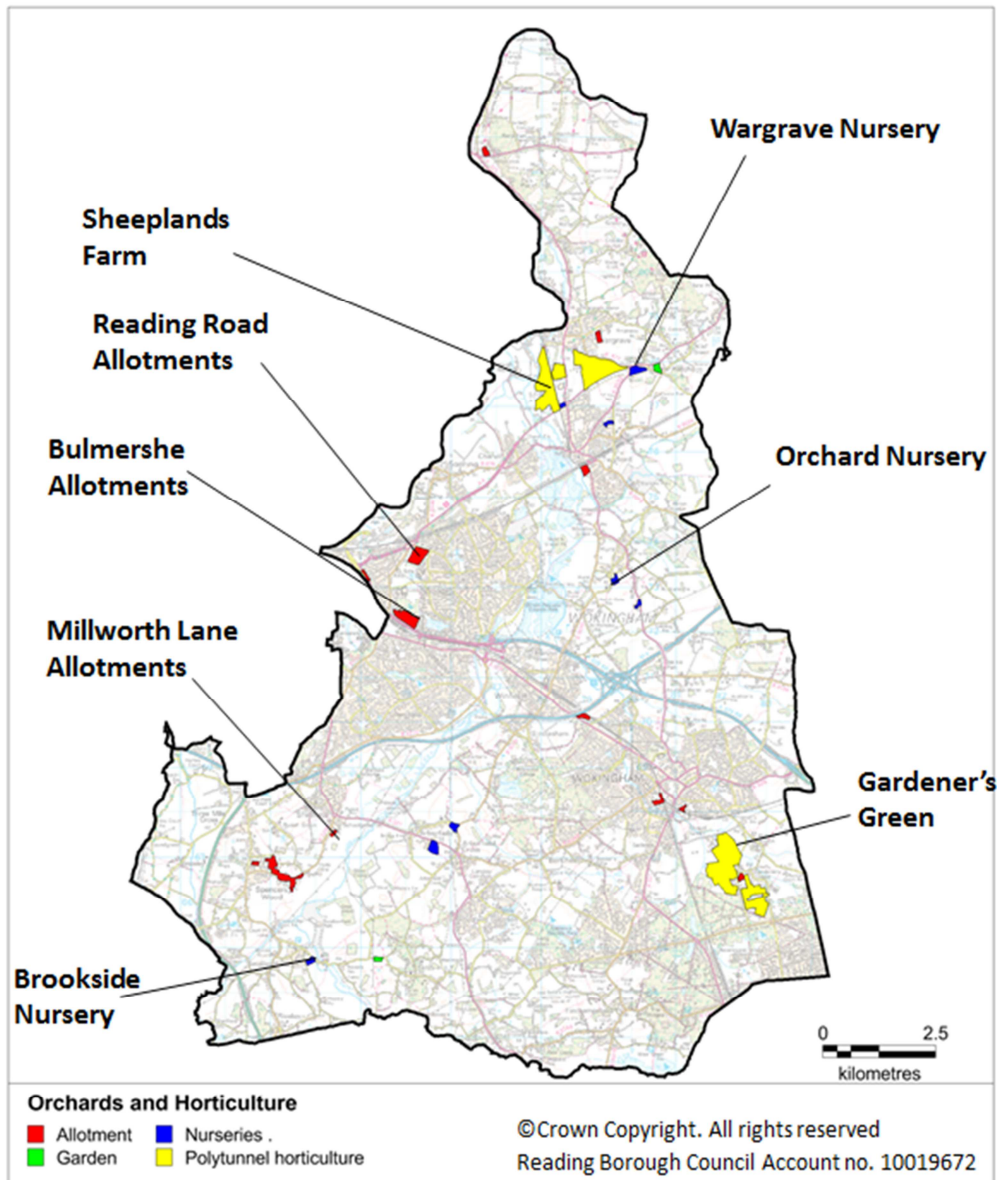
Figure 114. Orchards and horticulture in Wokingham Borough

Almost all of the extant horticultural and garden related features in Wokingham were created in the 20th century. An allotment site in Spencer's Wood and one in Remenham has survived from the mid-19th century, but the rest of the allotments, plant nurseries and orchards have disappeared.

Greencroft Allotments

Sutton's Seeds Trial Ground (part)

Orchards and Horticulture .

■ Allotment ■ Nurseries ■ Orchards

0   2.5
kilometres
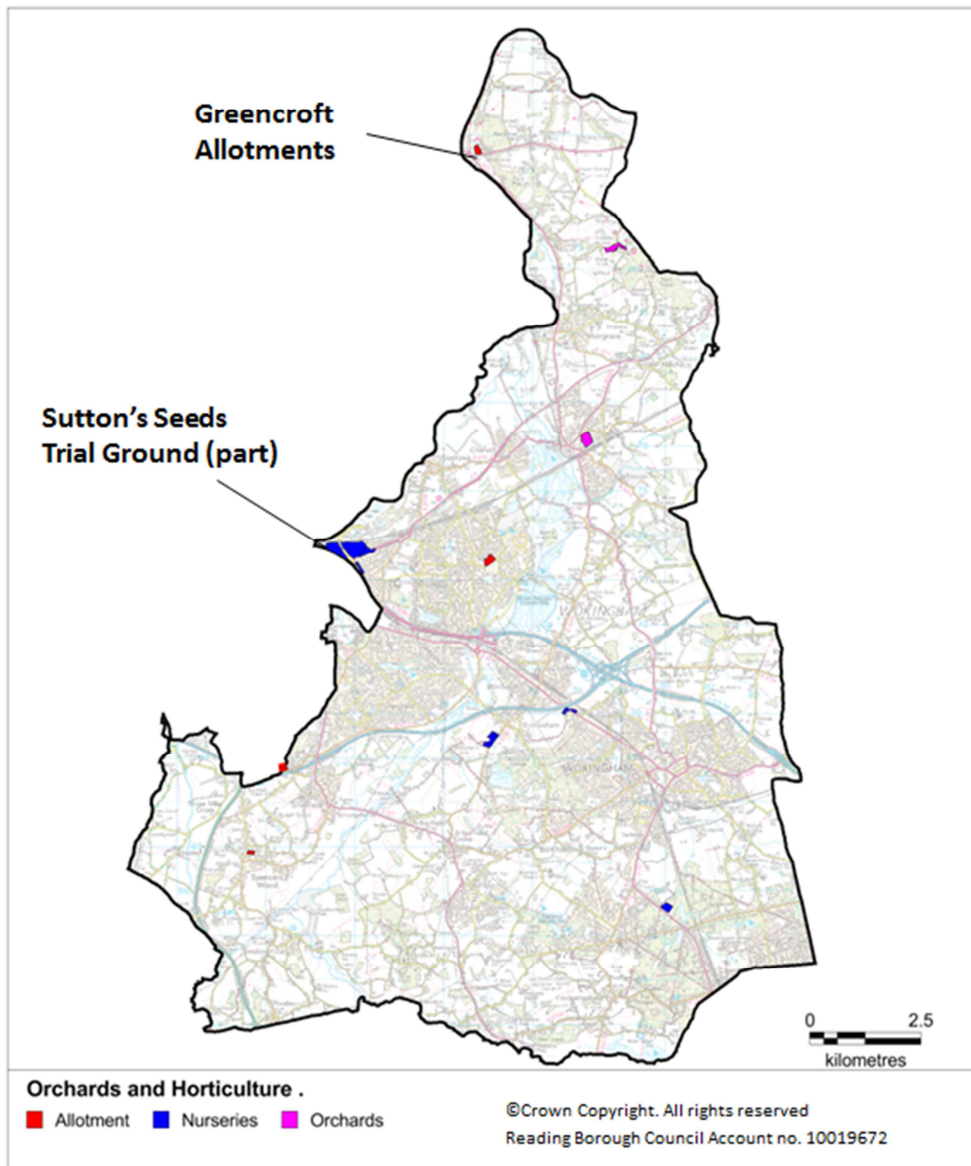
Figure 115. Orchards and horticulture in Wokingham Borough c.1869

17.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Allotment sites in Windsor and Maidenhead are mainly located, as expected, within and in the immediate vicinity of the towns of Windsor and Maidenhead, with nine sites in Maidenhead and nine sites in Windsor. Three **plant nurseries** are recorded in the HLC in the Borough – Stubbings Nursery at Maidenhead Thicket, Silwood Park Nursery in Silwood Park, and a small nursery at Eton Wick.
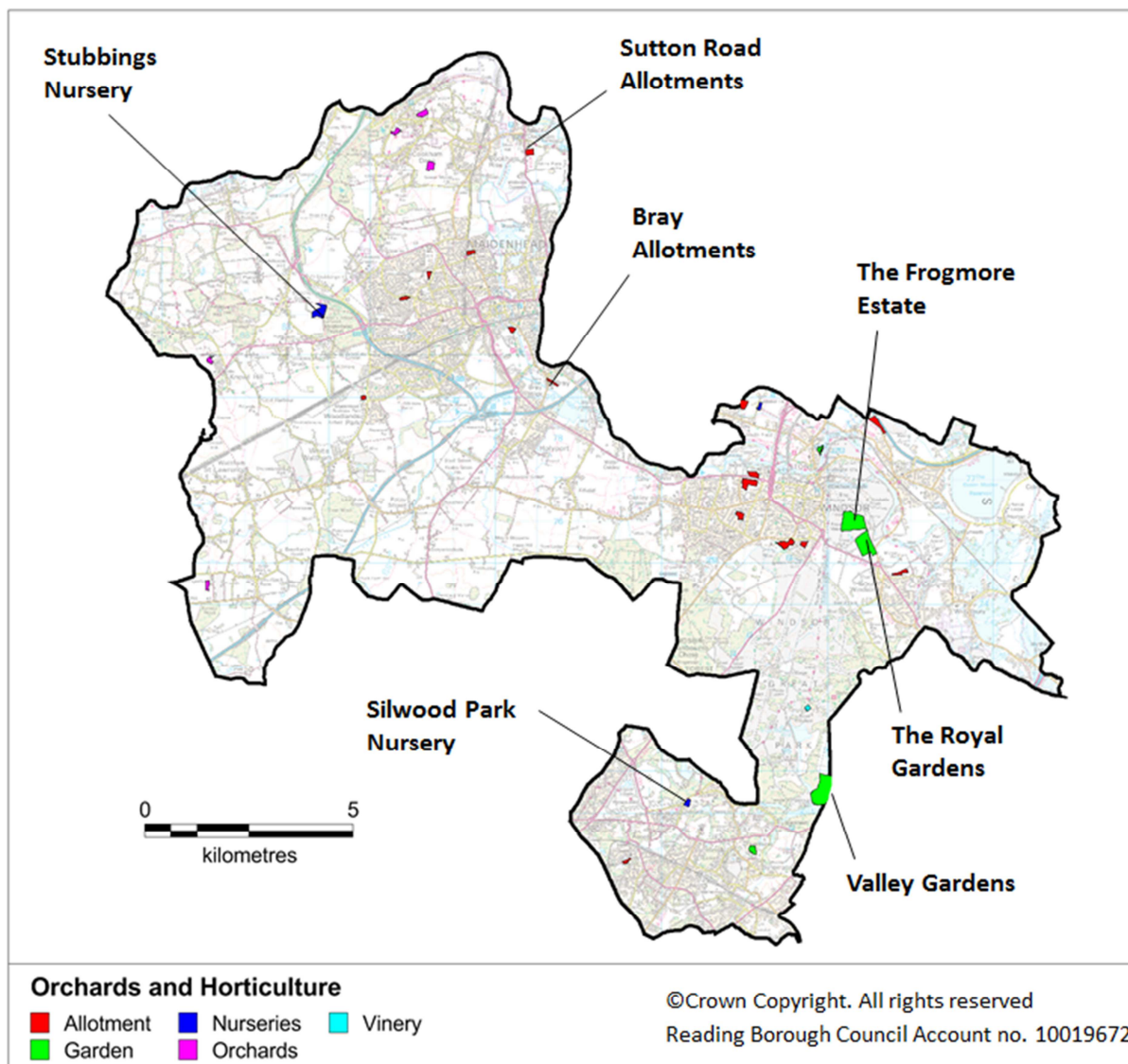
Figure 116. Orchards and horticulture in Windsor and Maidenhead

A number of notable **gardens** are present in the Borough, several with Royal connections. The Frogmore Estate is a **private garden** within the grounds of the Home Park; Frogmore House, a Royal retreat, is located within the Estate. The house was originally created between 1680 and 1684. The Royal Gardens are located just south of the Frogmore Estate and are also private. Luxmoore's Garden was created by the Eton housemaster HE Luxmoore on Tangiers Island in the Thames in the 19th century. It remains associated with Eton College and not open to the public. Valley Gardens and

the nearby Savill Gardens (not located in Berkshire) were created within Windsor Great Park by Sir Eric Savill between 1932 and 1939, and later extended in the 1950s and in 1977. The gardens are open to the public. There is also a small **vinery** in the Great Park, by the Royal School. It was created in the early 20th century.
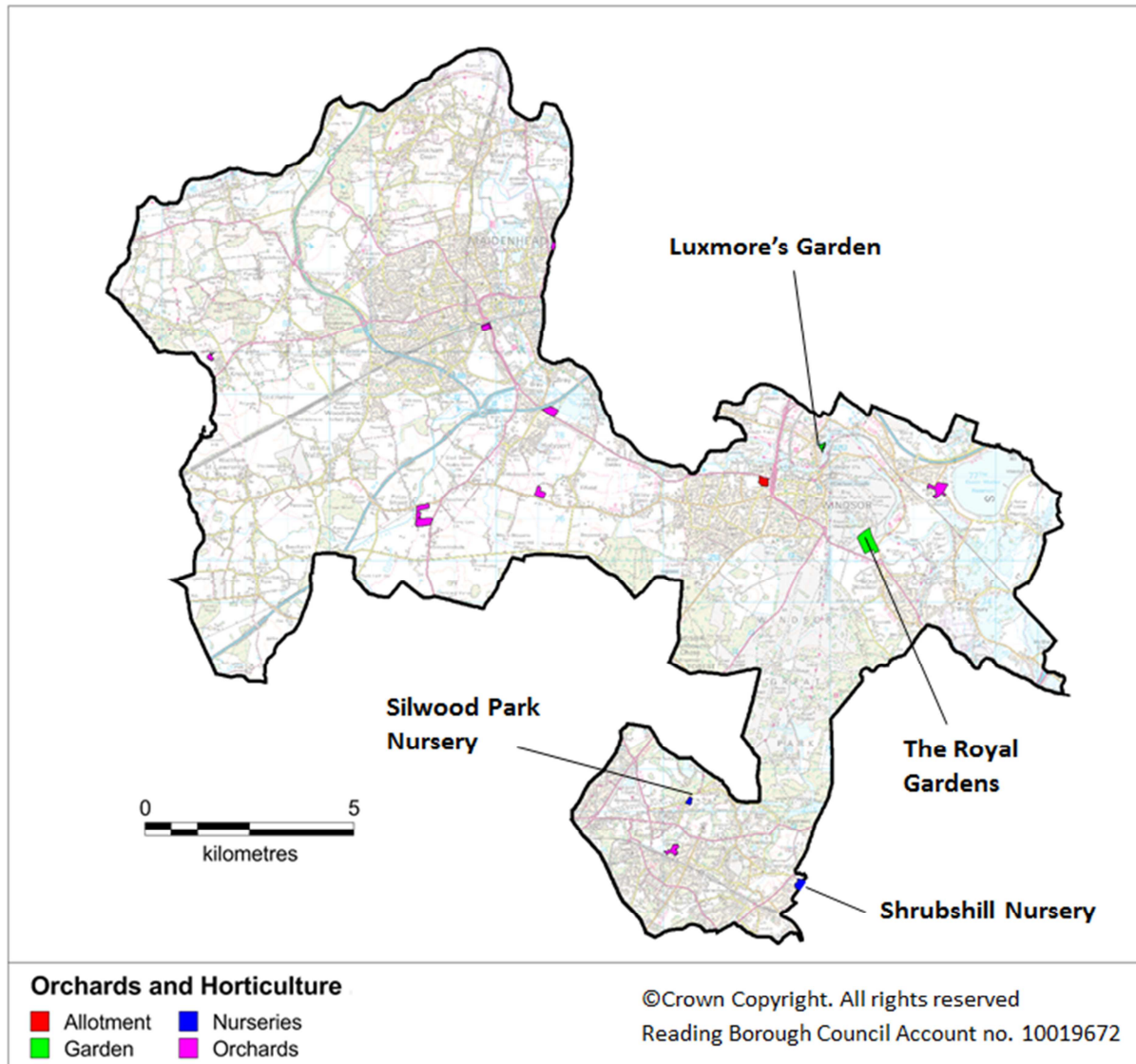
Figure 117. Orchards and horticulture in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1869

Most of the extant horticultural and garden related features in the Borough were created in the 20th century. The Frogmore Estate, the Royal Gardens, Luxmoore's Garden and Silwood Park Nursery have all survived from the mid-19th century, but a significant number of orchards have disappeared since then.

17.4. Slough Borough

There are 12 **allotment sites** recorded in Slough, present in all parts of the Borough, except around Colnbrook and Poyle in the east. All of the allotment sites recorded in the HLC have been created after the Second World War. **Wexham Nursery** is located just to the south of Wexham Hospital. It

was built after the early 1960s. A small part of another nursery is located east of Upton Lea. The nursery was originally built in the 19th century, and is mostly located in Buckinghamshire.
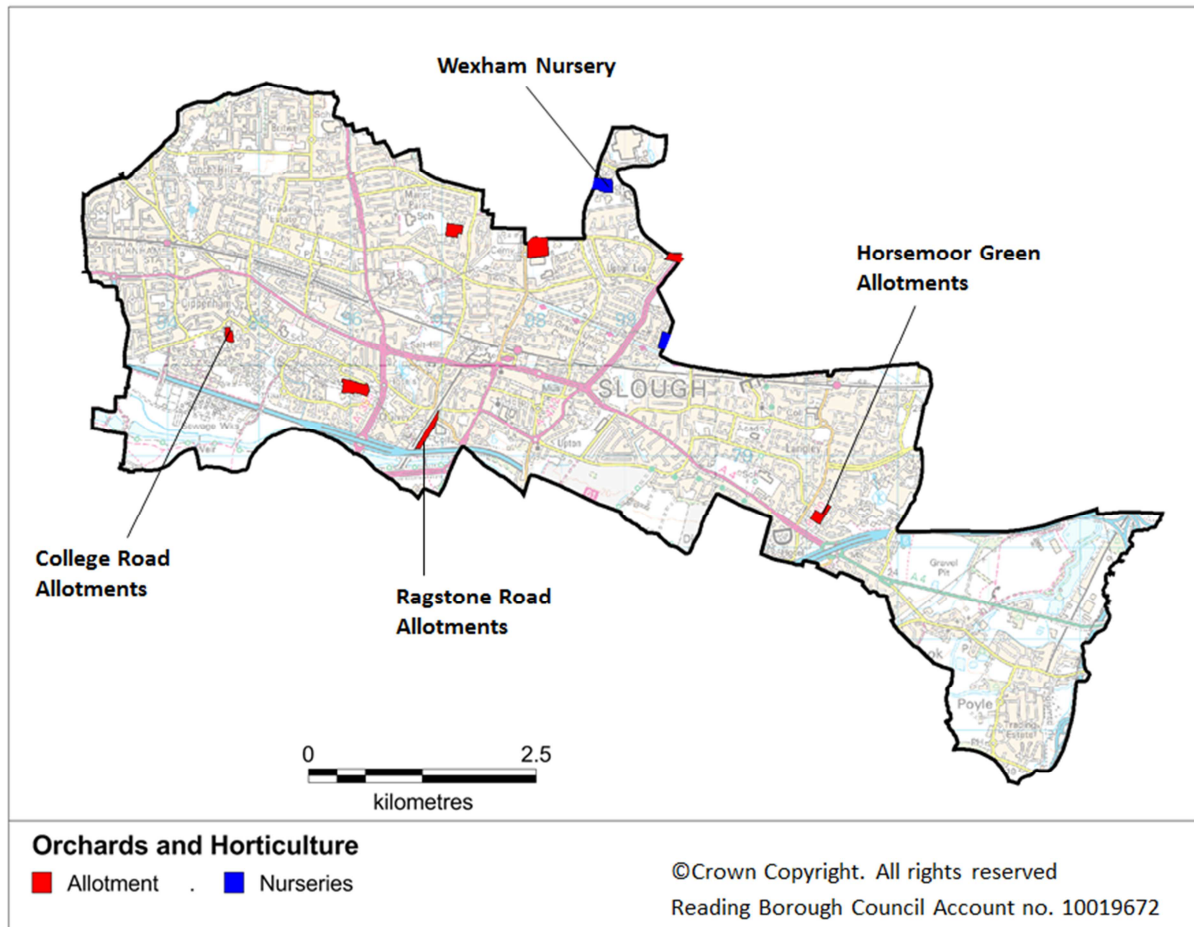
Figure 118. Orchards and horticulture in Slough

In the 19th century, there were orchards south of Colnbrook village and at Salt Hill. The area northeast of the Victorian town was dominated by plant nurseries and seed trial grounds from the 19th century to as late as the early 1960s. As mentioned above, a small part located east of Upton Lea has survived, but they have mostly been replaced with modern housing.

Orchards and Horticulture

■ Nurseries　.　■ Orchards
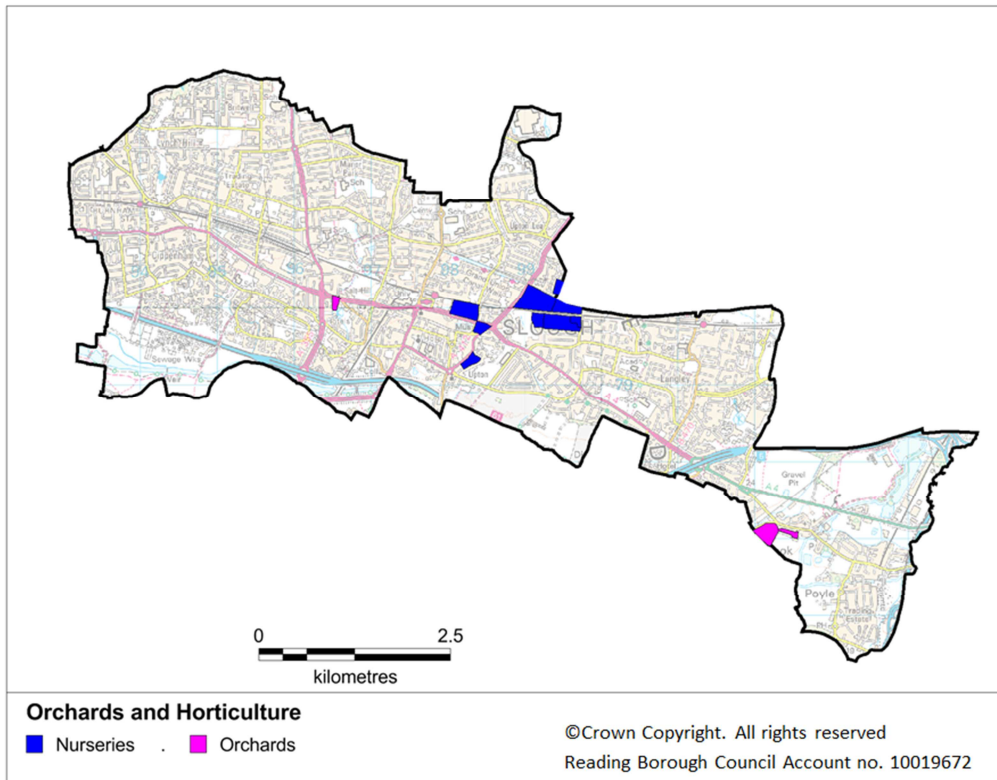
Figure 119. Orchards and horticulture in Slough c.1869

18. Parkland and Designed Landscapes

The "Parkland and Designed Landscapes" broad type comprises features relating to private parkland usually assuming an ornamental character and often associated with large estates.

Narrow types: Avenue, Ornamental Plantations and Wooded Parkland, Park Pale, Parkland

Polygons: 203 records have this broad type, covering an area of 4243 hectares. 447 polygons have parkland and designed landscapes noted as a previous type

HLC type	Area (hectares)
Total	4243
Avenue	69
Ornamental plantations and wooded parkland	627
Park Pale	22
Parkland	3525

Table 11. Parkland areas in East Berkshire

Parkland comprises privately owned, landscaped recreational areas (as opposed to public parks attributed to the Recreational broad type). **Avenues** are paths or roads that are lined with trees along either side and form distinct landscape features highly visible on maps and on the ground. They are typically found in large landscaped parks. **Ornamental plantations and wooded parkland** are plantations of trees that are parts of larger areas of parkland and form part of the overall design. **Park Pales** form the boundaries of a medieval deer parks and typically consist of a ditch and a bank that are designed to allow deer to bound into the park but prevent them from leaping out again. The only Park Pale recorded in the East Berkshire HLC is located in Windsor Great Park, although the HER notes a further possible example at Barkham.

Most of the extant parkland was created in the post-medieval period. Many of the medieval parks in East Berkshire do appear to have survived in some form, though only a fraction of the original parkland area now remains. In the medieval period, most, perhaps all, parkland in East Berkshire consisted of deer parks, which were private hunting grounds for the nobility, such as Billingbear Park, Shottesbrooke Park, Swallowfield Park, Foliejon Park, Moat Park, Bagshot Park and Little Park (later known as Home Park). Caversham Park may also have started out as a deer park; it was originally the location of Caversham Manor. Whistley Park, Park Place, Maiden Erlegh nature reserve, Easthampstead Park, Bigshot Rails (i.e. the current Ravenswood village settlement) and Swinley Park may also have originated as deer parks.

Parkland and designed landscapes
- Avenue
- Ornamental plantations and wooded parkland
- Park Pale
- Parkland

Windsor and Maidenhead

Slough

Wokingham

Reading

Bracknell Forest

0   10

kilometres
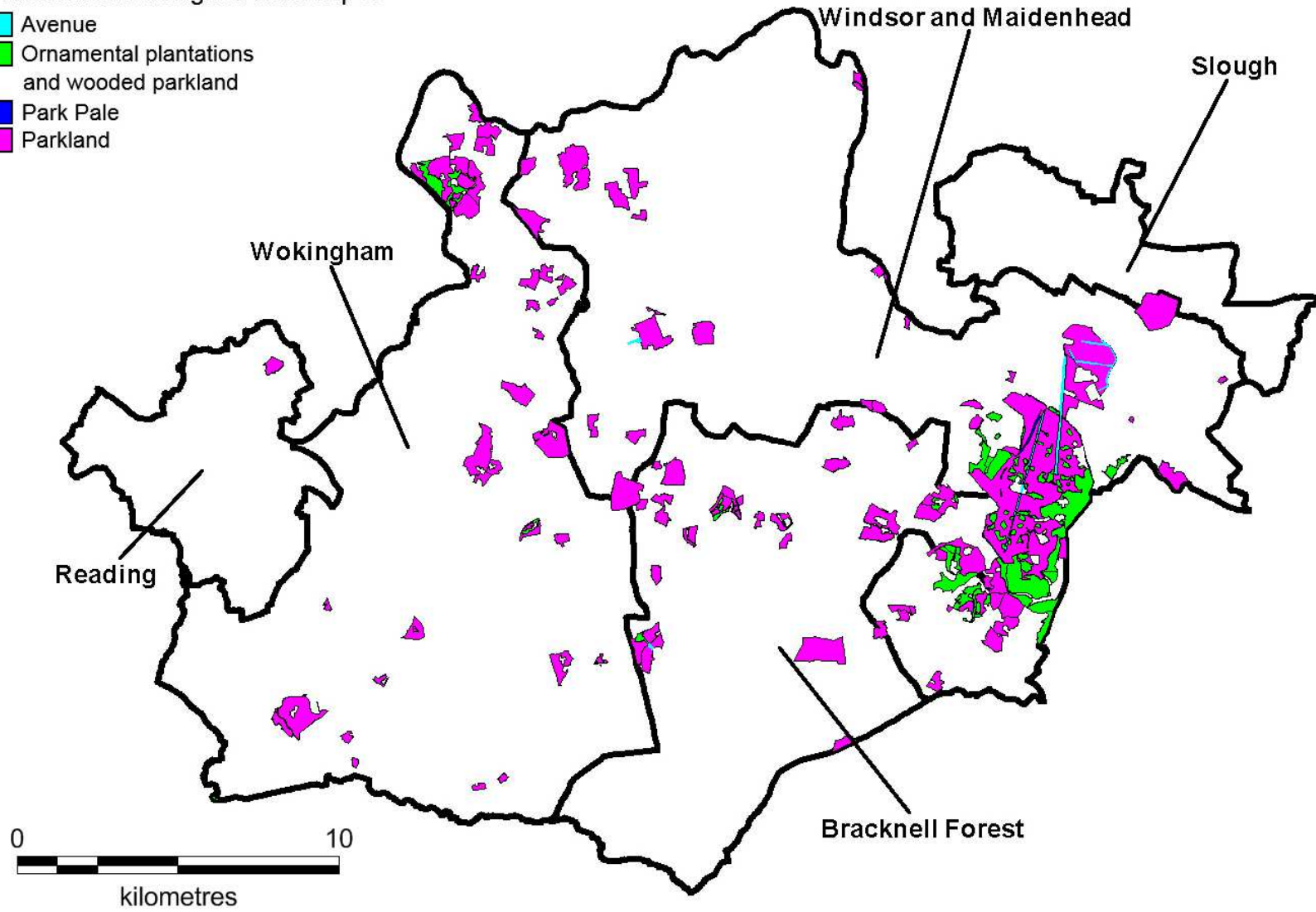
Figure 120. Parkland and designed landscapes in East Berkshire

167
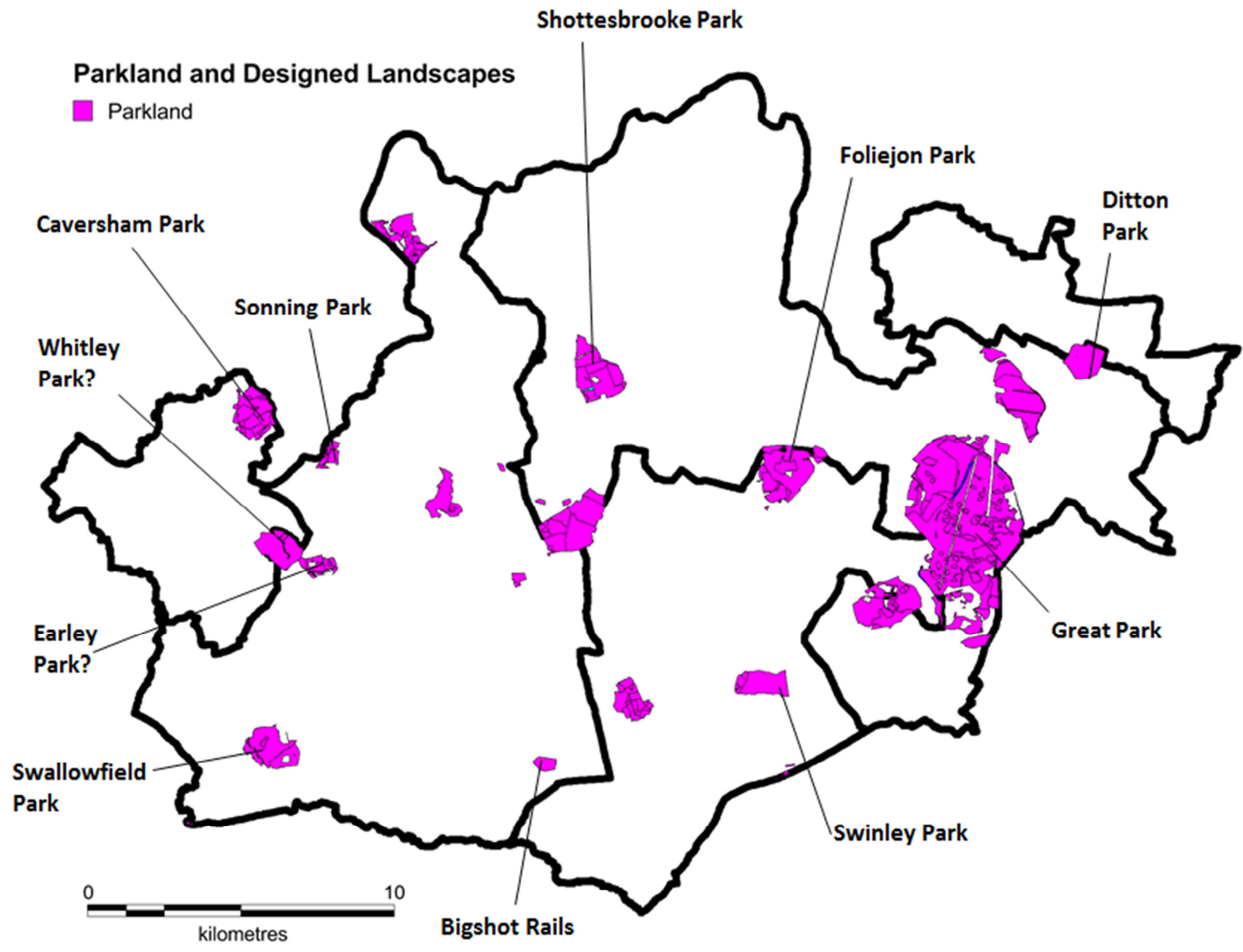
Figure 121. Known and probable medieval parkland in East Berkshire
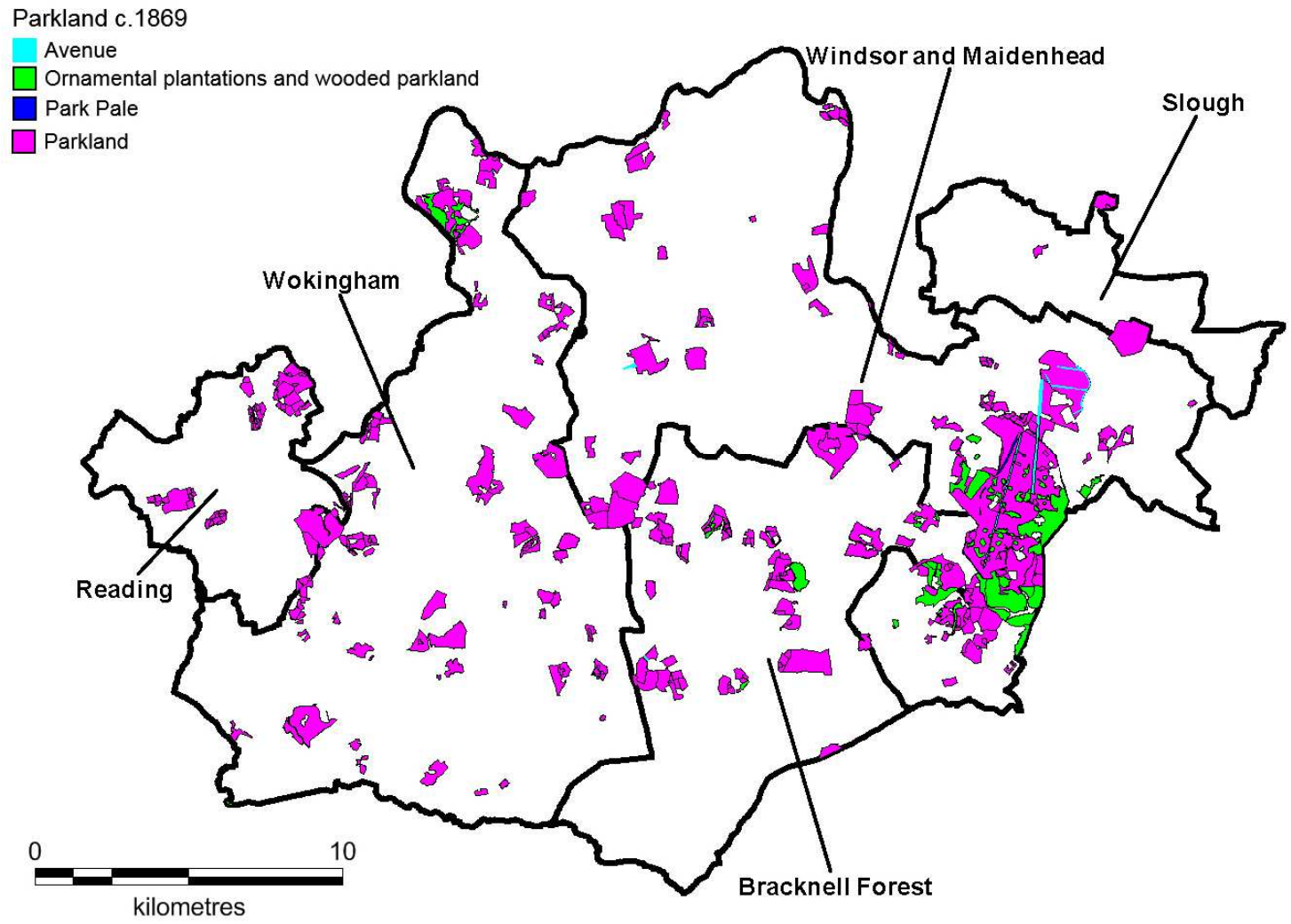
Figure 122. Parkland and designed landscapes in East Berkshire c.1869
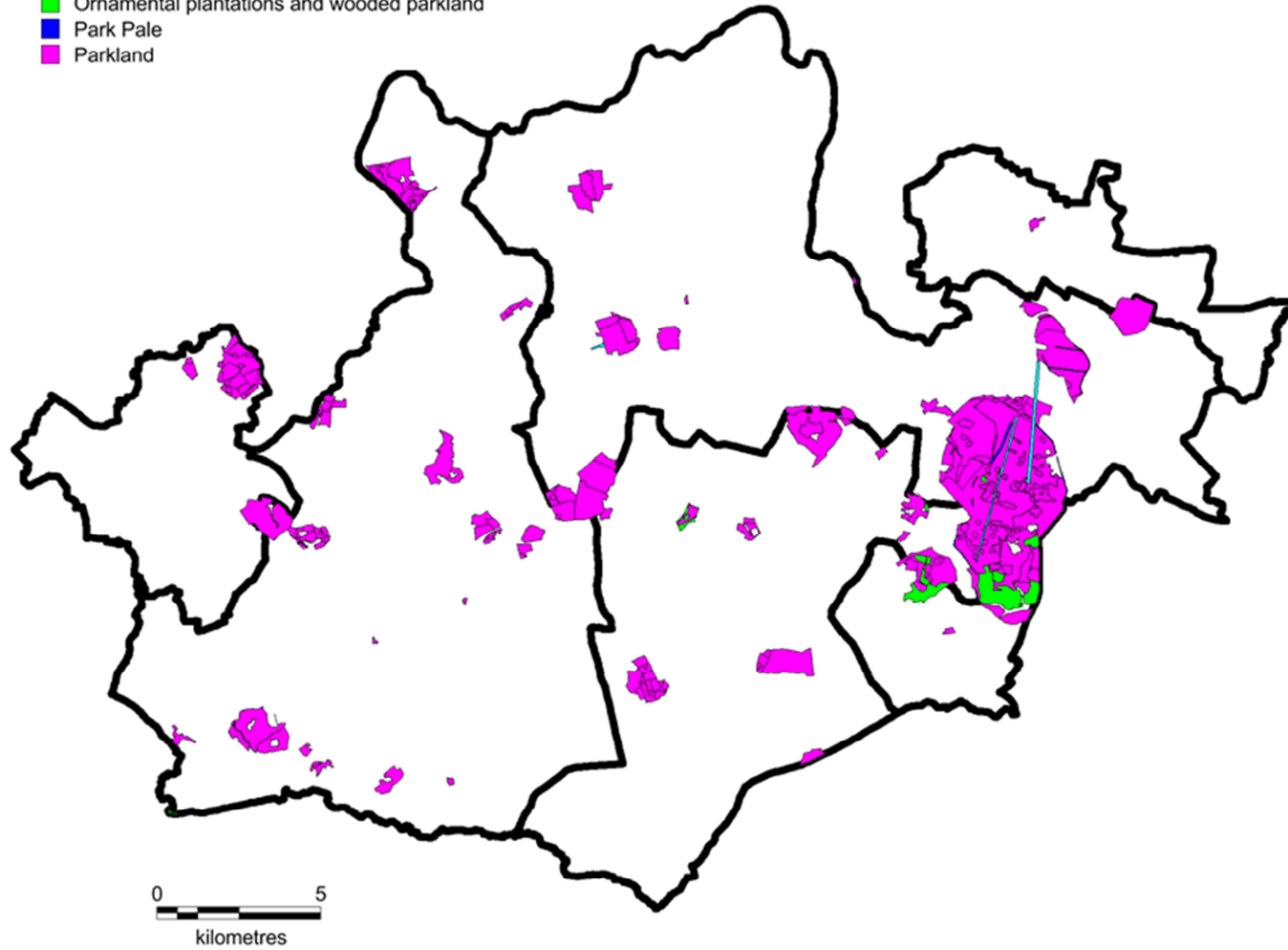
Figure 123. Parkland in East Berkshire c.1760

18.1 Reading Borough

The only surviving parkland within Reading Borough is a small remnant of the originally much larger Caversham Park. In the park is a country house built in 1850. This is since 1943 home to BBC Monitoring, a division of the BBC which monitors and reports on foreign mass media; BBC Radio Berkshire is also located here. There is also a part of Caversham Park which is public.

The park as it is portrayed on the earliest available mapping is the product of extensive landscaping in the 17th century. However, the post-medieval park did have a predecessor: The medieval Caversham Manor was located somewhere within the area of the later park. Perhaps Caversham Park was emparked already in the medieval period - the sheer size (169 hectares) and also the shape of Caversham Park in the 18th century makes this interpretation likely.

Parkland that has been lost since the 19th century within the Borough (apart from most of Caversham Park) includes Caversham Grove (now under modern housing), Whiteknights Park (now one of the Reading University campuses), Prospect Park (now a public park), Coley Park (mostly under modern housing, though a small part has survived as a public park), and parkland surrounding Goodrest Country House (now under modern housing).

Figure 124. Caversham Park country house

Caversham Park

Parkland and Designed Landscapes
Parkland
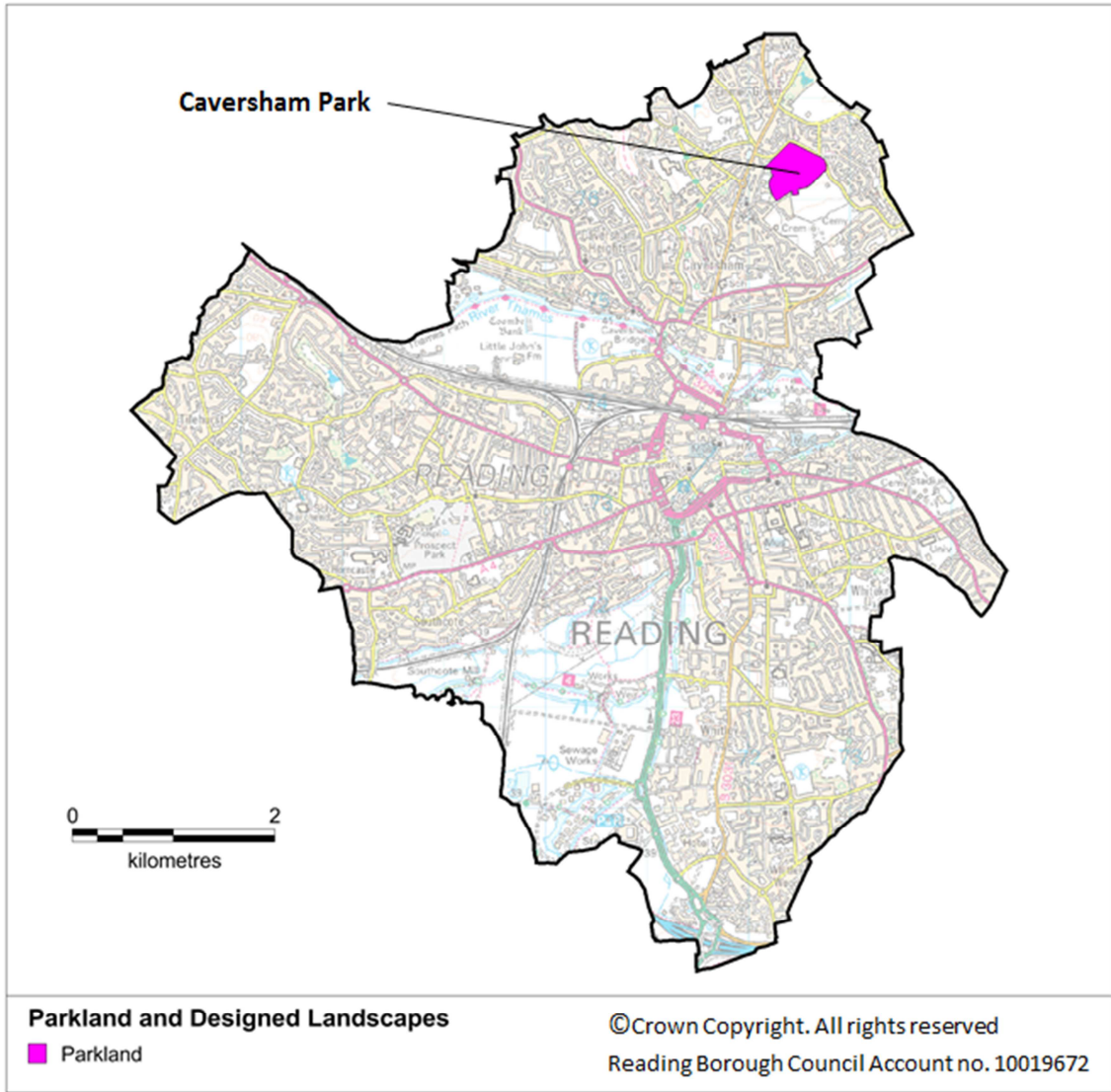
Figure 125. Parkland and designed landscapes in Reading Borough
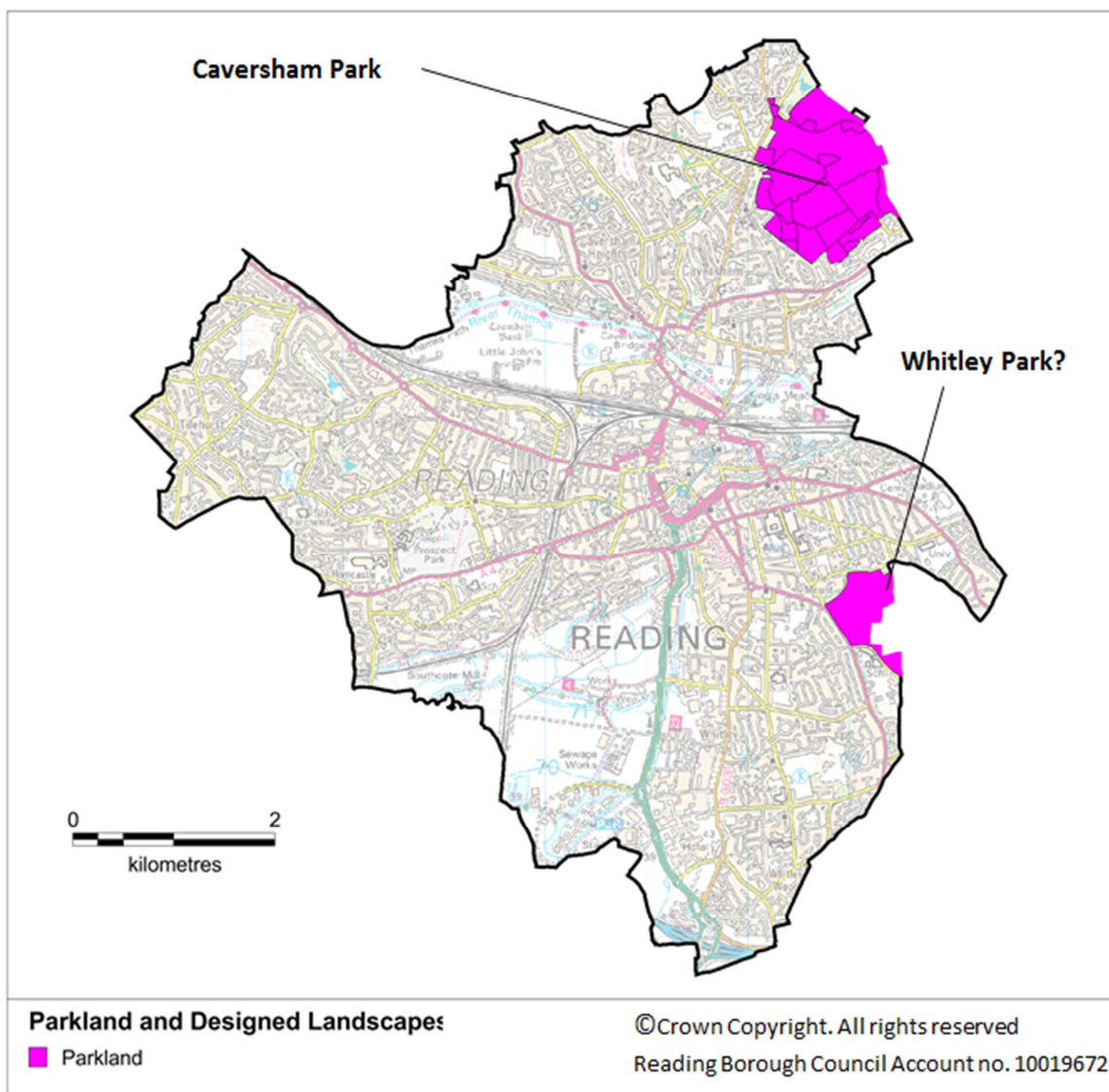
Figure 126. Possible parkland in Reading Borough in the medieval period
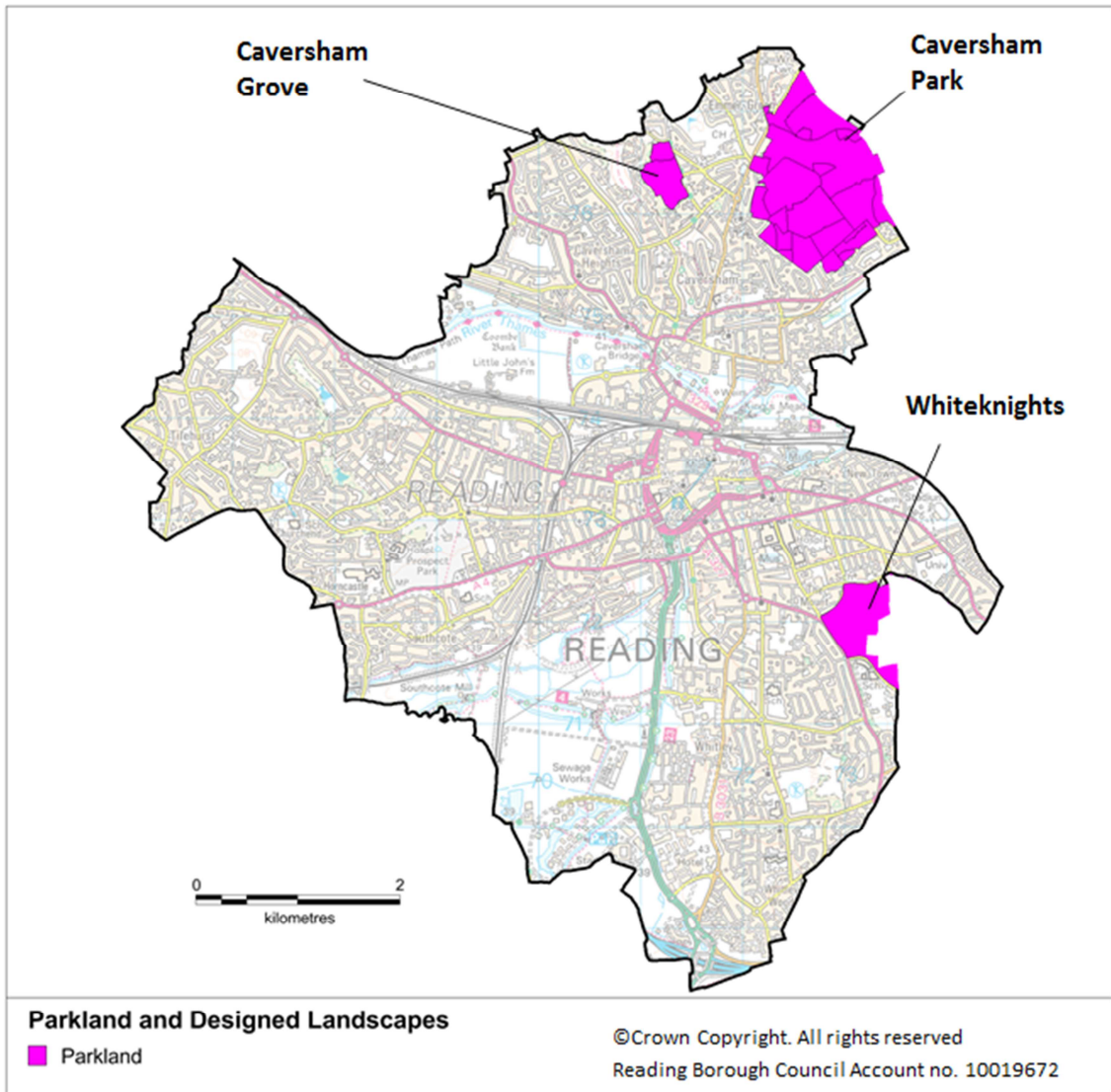
Figure 127. Parkland in Reading Borough c.1760

174
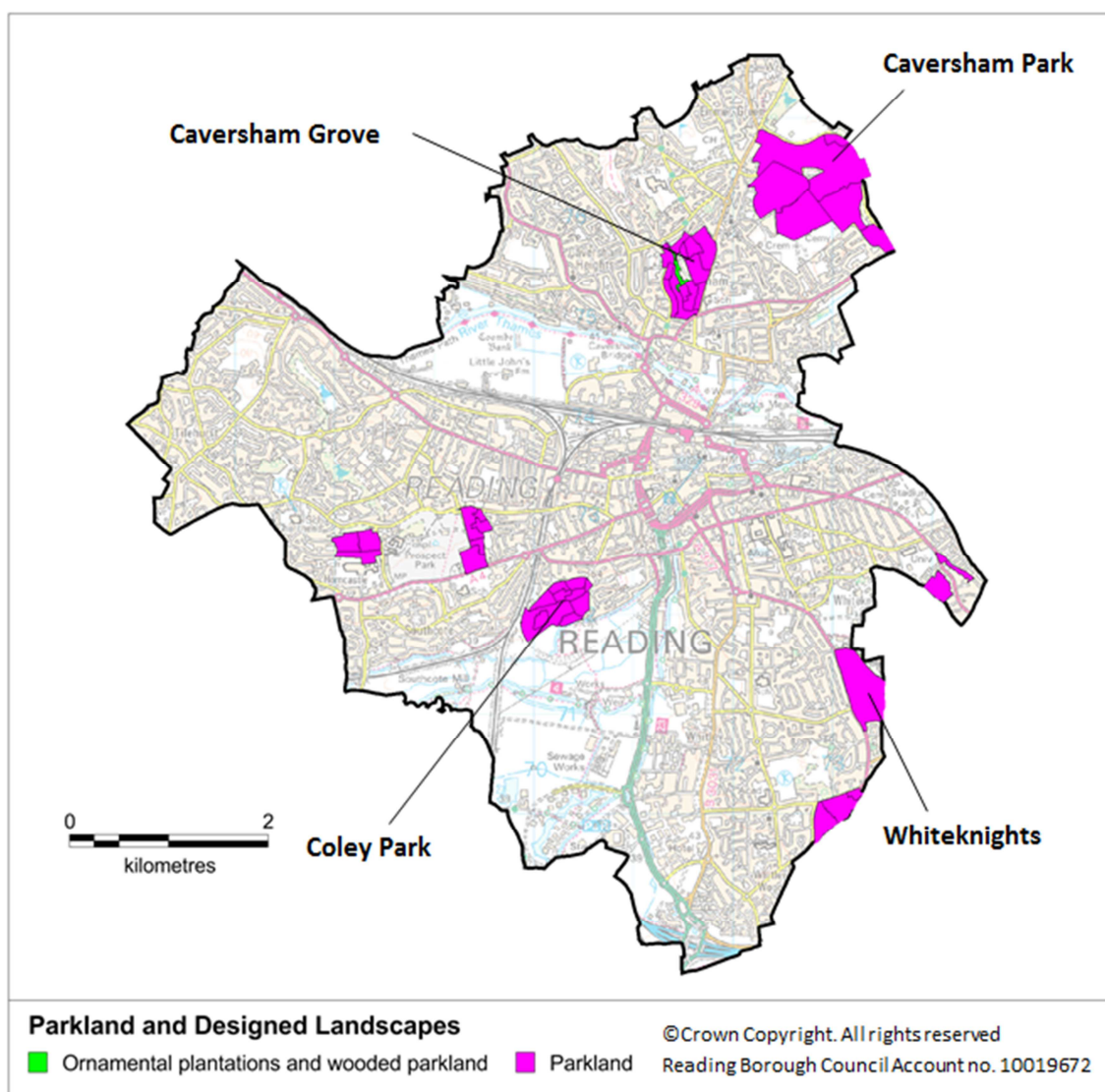
Figure 128. Parkland in Reading Borough c.1869

18.2 Bracknell Forest

Parkland in Bracknell Forest is concentrated to the area north of Bracknell, and was mostly created in the post-medieval period. The area south of Bracknell was historically heathland, and less suitable for designed landscape. Warfield Park, Lily Hill Park and Martins Heron were previously areas of parkland. When the New Town of Bracknell was created in the 1960s and 1970s the parkland within Bracknell was either built upon or converted to public parks; Lily Hill Park and South Hill Park are now public parks, but Warfield Park and Martins Heron have been replaced by modern housing.
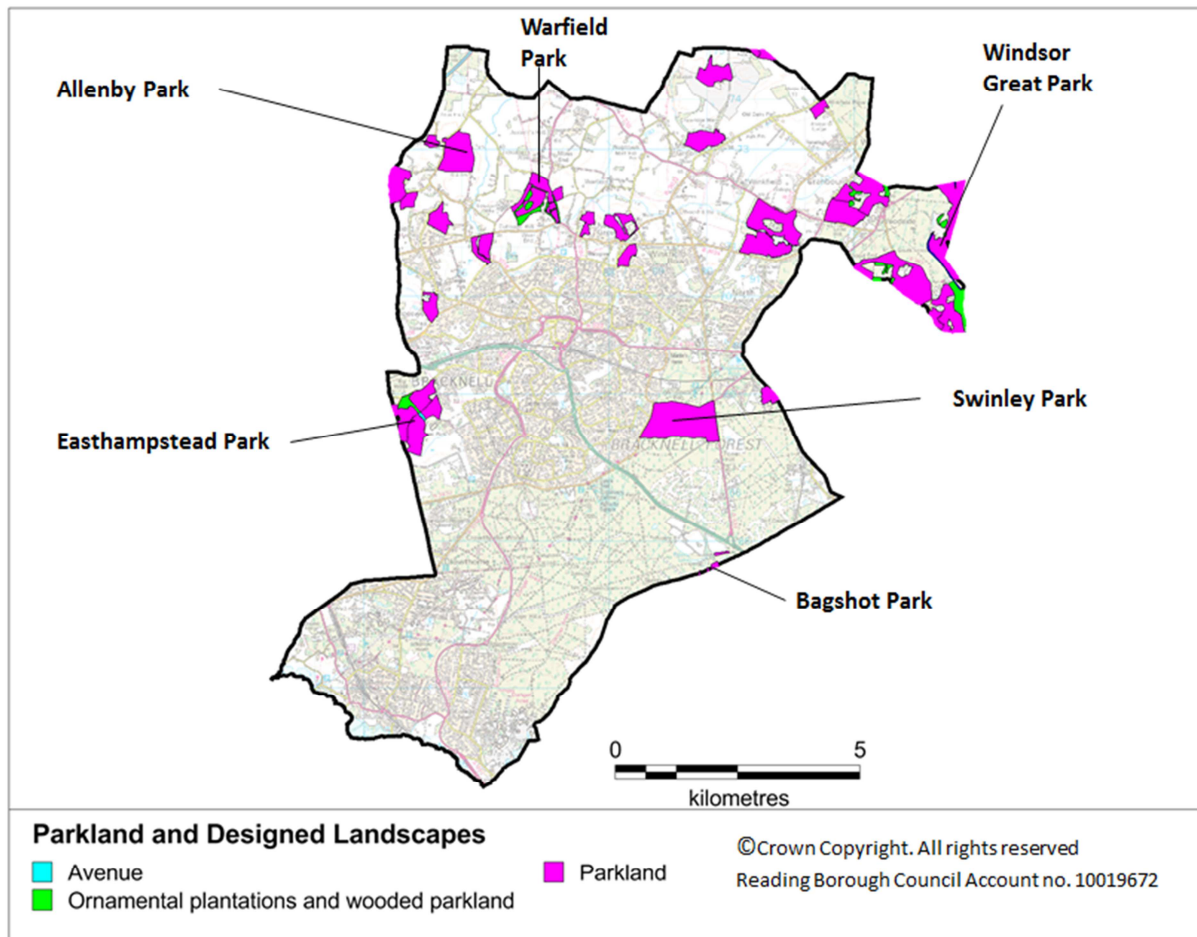
Figure 129. Parkland and designed landscapes in Bracknell Forest

Medieval parkland in the Borough included Easthampstead Park, Swinley Park, parts of Billingbear and Foliejon parks, and small parts of Bagshot Park, Sunninghill Park, and Windsor Great Park. All of these parks have survived, though some have been greatly modified. Most of Foliejon Park is now under the plough, with only a small remnant surviving as parkland. Easthampstead Park has also survived, but is no longer in its original location – it has moved to the northwest.
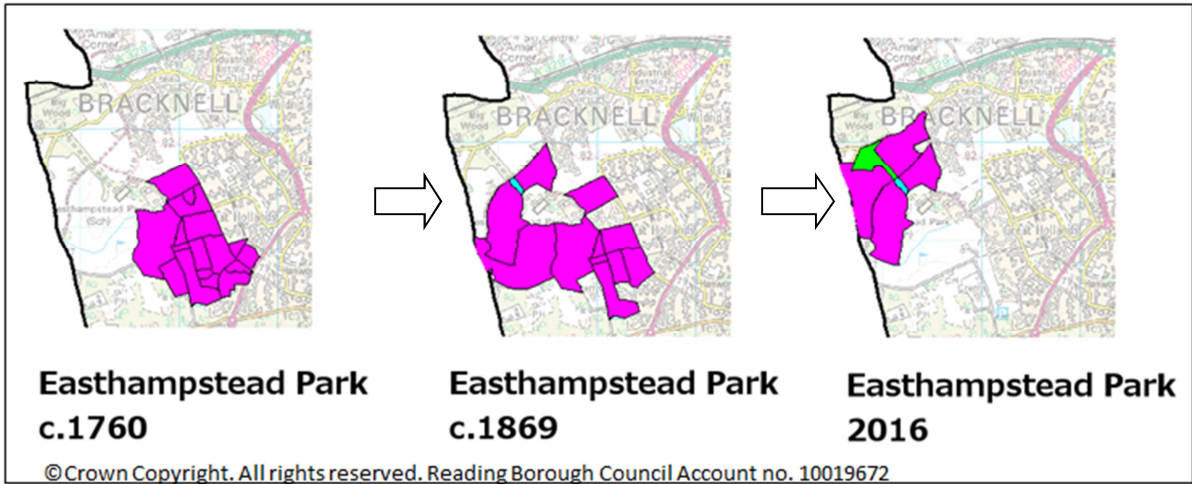
Figure 130. The evolution of Easthampstead Park

Parkland and Designed Landscapes
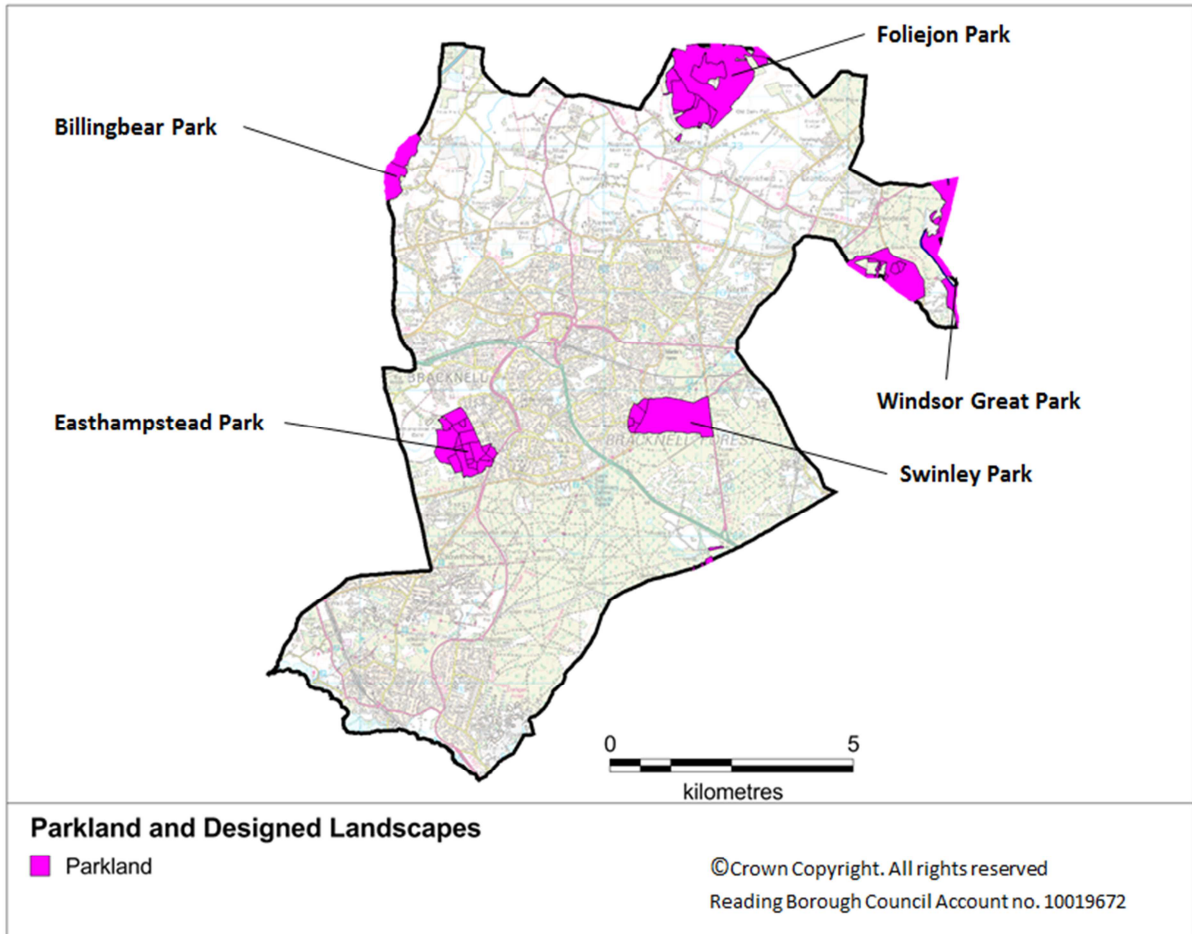
■ Parkland

Figure 131. Parkland in Bracknell Forest in the medieval period
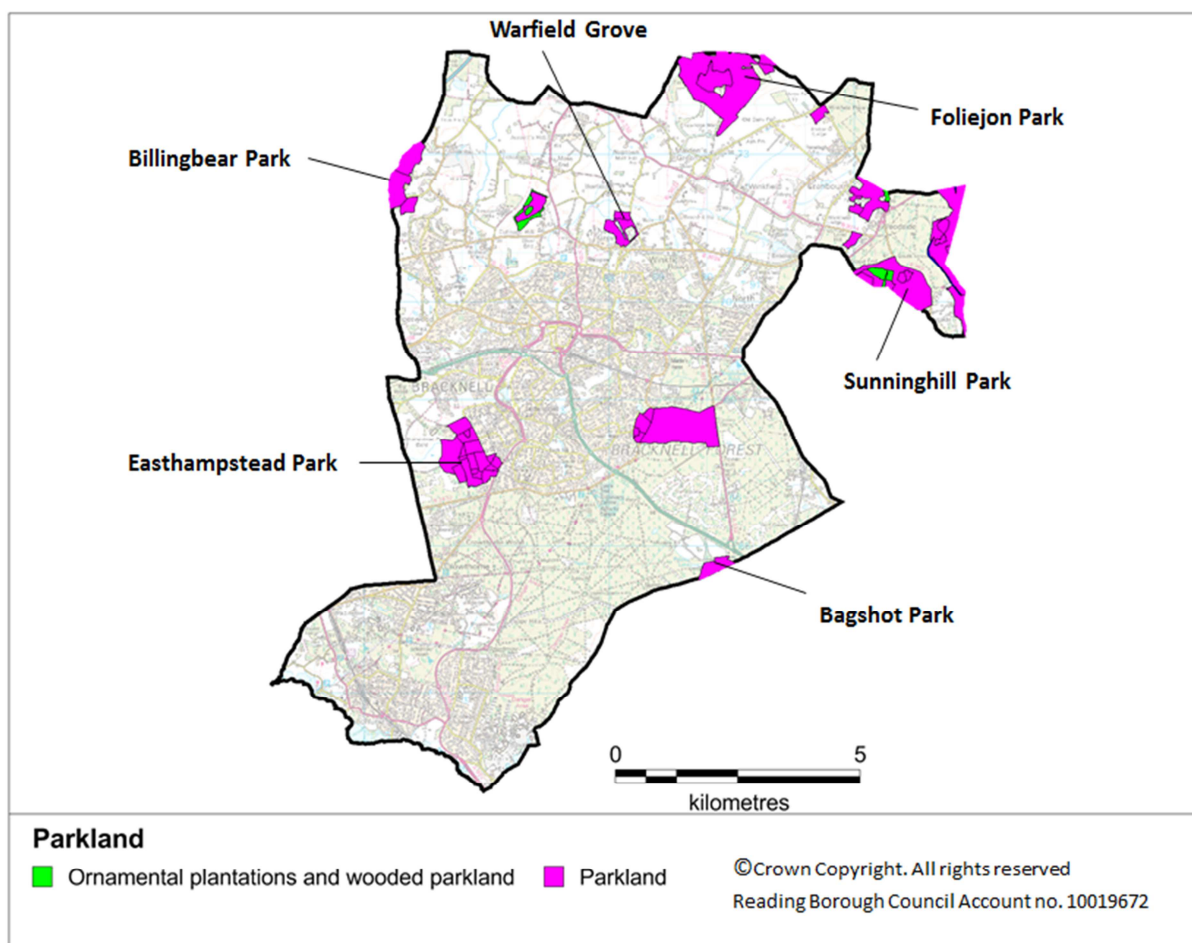
Figure 132. Parkland in Bracknell Forest c.1760

18.3 Wokingham Borough

Wokingham Borough features a great deal of parkland, fairly evenly distributed across the Borough. The largest parkland in the area is Park Place, which was created in 1719; the current house was built in 1870 after a fire. Much of the current parkland probably originated as deer parks in the medieval period (see table below).

Modern park or facility	Medieval deer park	Certainty
Billingbear Park	Billingbear Park	Certain
Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve	Earley Park	Possible
Park Place	Remenham Park	Probable
Ravenswood village settlement (Residential school for disabled	Bigshot Rails	Certain

children)		
Swallowfield Park	Swallowfield Park	Certain
Whistley Park	La Lee Park	Probable
Whiteknights Campus (Reading University)	Whitley Park	Possible
Sports fields west of Sonning village	Sonning Park	Probable
Unknown location in the vicinity of Wokingham	Ashridge Park	N/A
Unknown location in the vicinity of Shinfield	Shinfield Park	N/A
Unknown location in the vicinity of Swallowfield	Sheepridge Park	N/A

Table 12. Modern and medieval parkland in Wokingham Borough

Some of the smaller pieces of parkland have disappeared since the 19th century, along with areas in Lower Earley, Woodley and Wokingham. The former Whiteknights Park is now a Reading University campus and Maiden Erlegh has partly been replaced with modern housing, though a part of the former parkland is now a public park and a nature reserve.
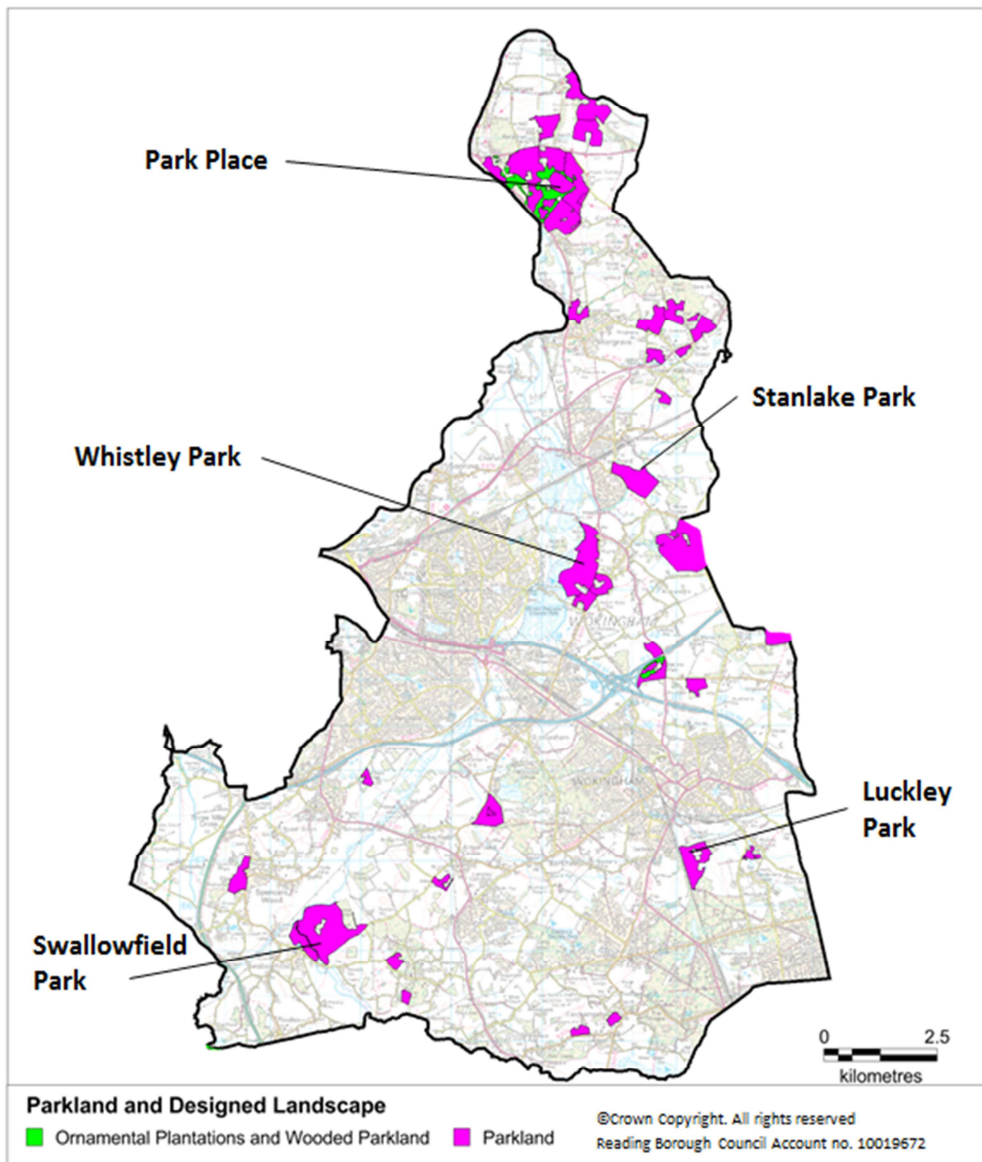
Figure 133. Parkland and designed landscapes in Wokingham Borough
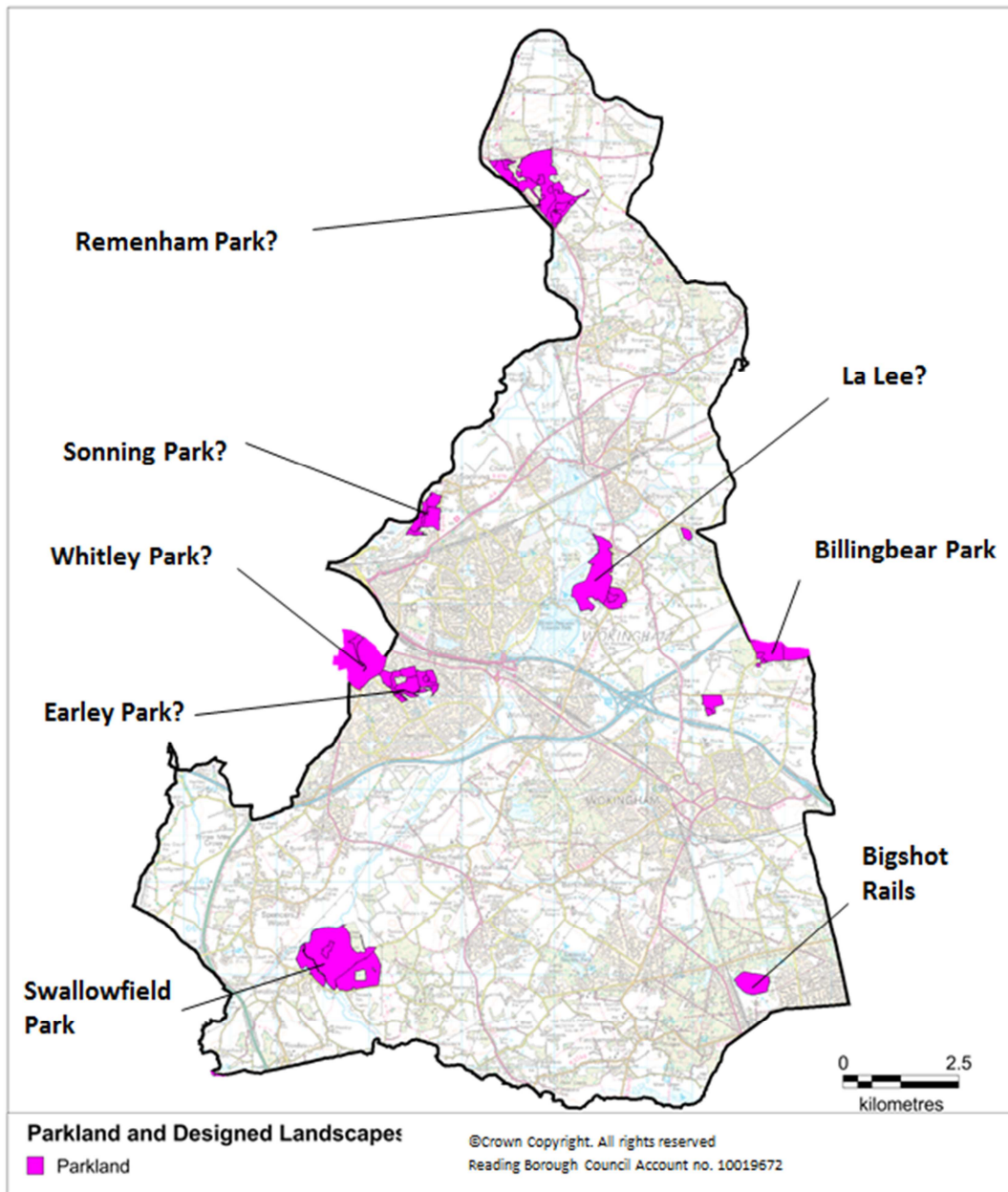
Figure 134. Parkland in Wokingham Borough in the medieval period
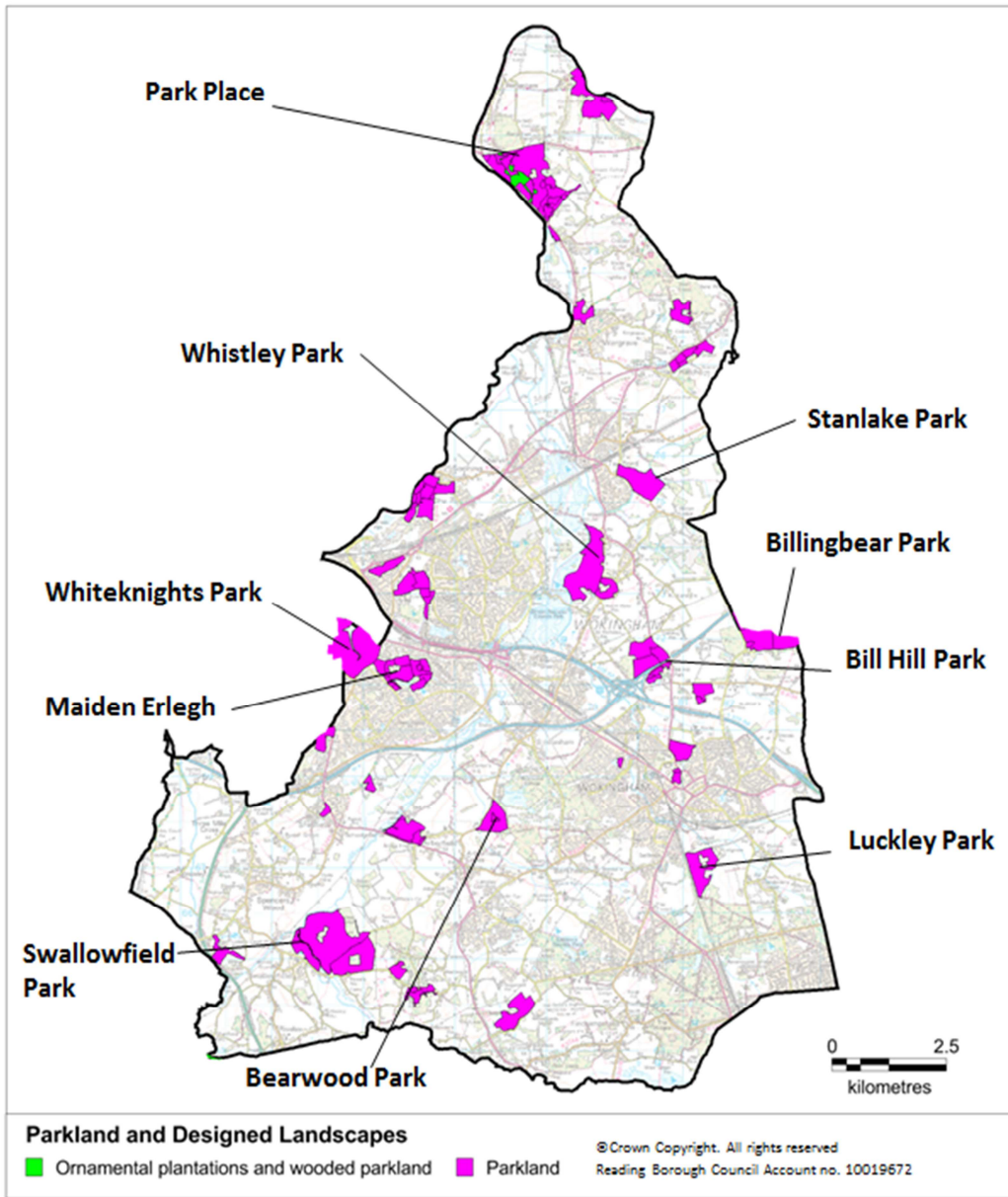
Figure 135. Parkland in Wokingham Borough c.1869

18.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Parkland in Wokingham Borough consists mainly of Windsor Great Park, the Home Park, parkland just to the south of the Great Park, and a concentration of parkland to the west of Maidenhead.
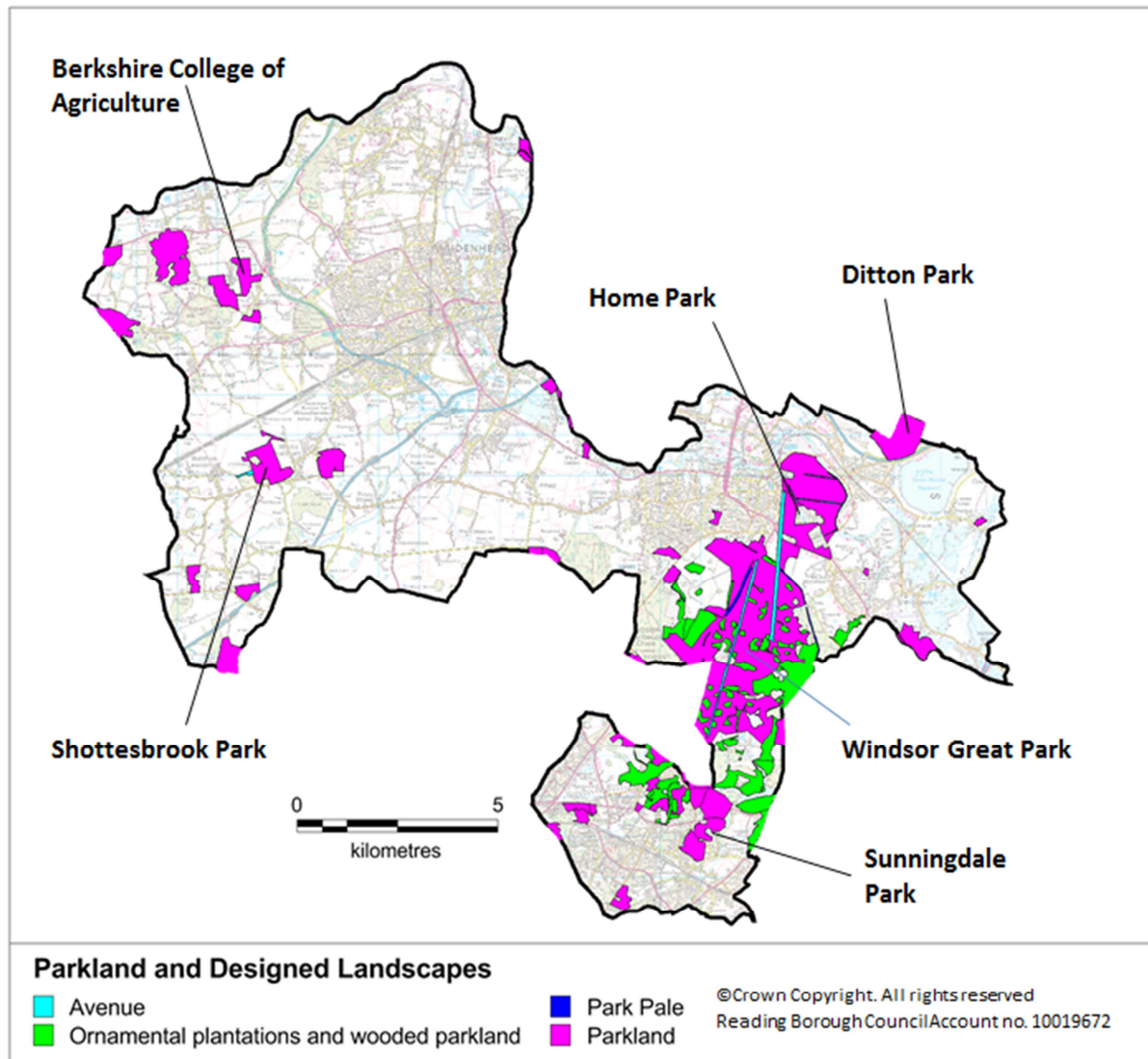
Figure 136. Parkland and designed landscapes in Windsor and Maidenhead

The Home Park is part of Windsor Estate and a private Royal park. It was previously known as "Little Park" (to differentiate it from Windsor Great Park) and originated as a medieval deer park. The parkland west of Maidenhead was largely created in the post-medieval period, with Robinswood the latest addition, created around c.1999 to 2000 on the grounds of the former Grassland Research Institute. It resembles 18th and 19th century parkland, but the site (including the house) is modern. The modern Berkshire College of Agriculture, formerly Hall Place, is surrounded by parkland. The parkland around Waltham Place is probably also post-medieval, but was presumably originally the site of the manor of White Waltham. Shottesbrooke Park was probably much larger in the past, and may have originated as a medieval deer park. There was also a deer park (Puckmere Park) in Bray during the medieval period; however its precise location is unknown.

Most of the parkland immediately to the south of Windsor Great Park was created after the enclosure of the heathland in the 19th century.

Windsor Great Park is crown land and has historically enjoyed close links with the Royal Family. It was originally set aside as a private hunting ground for the King in the 13th century. Many of the current features of the park were created in the 17th and 18th centuries, when the park was extensively landscaped, and not in the medieval period. The northern part of the park is characterised by open green spaces interspersed with small ornamental stands of trees. To the south, east and west is an area of contiguous woodland, some of which is part of the Great Park. The northwest part of the Great Park was a separate deer park in the medieval period – Moat Park. Home Park adjoins the Great Park in the north, but the two parks were separated as late as the 18th century. The Long Walk, a straight path lined with trees leading from Windsor Castle to Snow Hill in the Great Park, was created by Charles II and William of Orange in the 17th century. The path provided the first direct link between the Great Park and Home Park.

Figure 137. The Totem Pole, Windsor Great Park

In English folklore, Windsor Great Park is associated with Herne the Hunter, a mysterious figure who wears antlers on his head and reputedly haunts the park. There are many theories of who, or what, Herne the Hunter is. One theory states that he is the ghost of a real man hanged from an oak in the park for some offence. Other theories claim that he is some kind of spirit, or even a pagan deity. Herne the Hunter was first mentioned by William Shakespeare in 1594.

Sometime a keeper here in Windsor Forest,

Doth all the winter-time, at still midnight,

Walk round about an oak, with great ragg'd horns;

And there he blasts the tree and takes the cattle,

And makes milch-kine yield blood and shakes a chain

In a most hideous and dreadful manner.

You have heard of such a spirit, and well you know

The superstitious idle-headed eld

Receiv'd, and did deliver to our age,

This tale of Herne the Hunter for a truth.

William Shakespeare, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
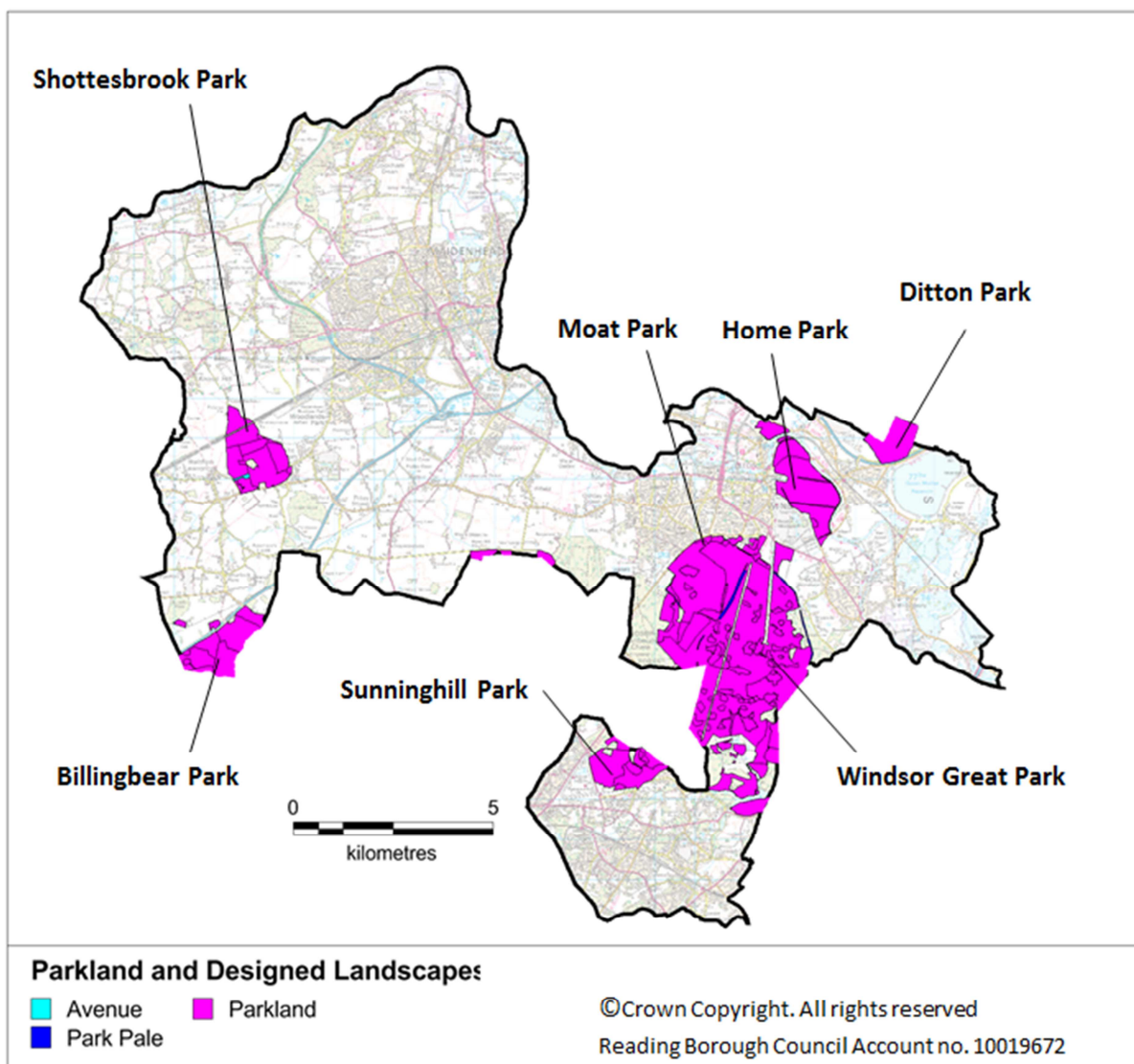
Figure 138. Parkland in Windsor and Maidenhead in the medieval period

Parkland and Designed Landscapes

Avenue (cyan)	Park Pale (dark blue)
Ornamental plantations and wooded parkland (green)	Parkland (magenta)

Labels on map: Temple Park, Hall Place, Home Park, Foliejon Park, Titness Park, Tittenhurst Park
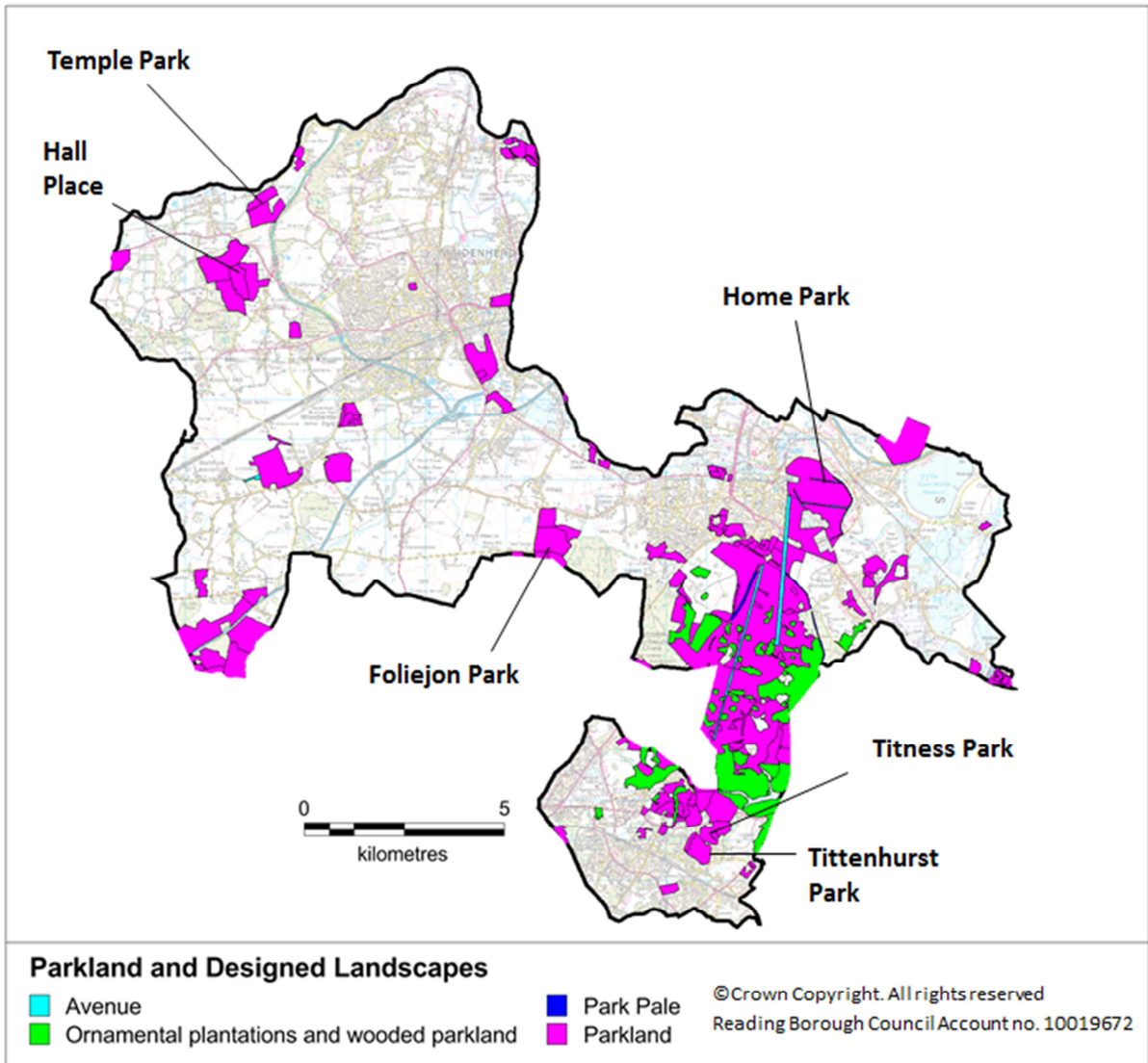
Figure 139. Parkland in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1869

18.5 Slough Borough

The only parkland existing within Slough Borough today is a small part of Ditton Park, a former deer park first mentioned in historical sources in 1335. Wexham Park was a small post-medieval park, probably originating in the 19th century. Wexham Park Hospital – the main NHS hospital in Slough - is now located there. Baylis Memorial Ground, now a modern public park, was originally part of the estate of Baylis House. The house and its surrounding parkland are visible already on Rocque's map of Berkshire (1761), in more or less its present state.
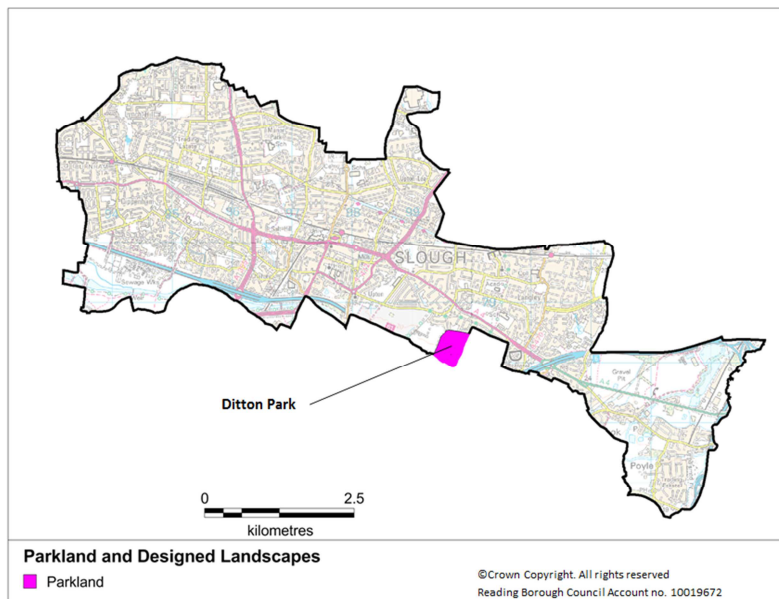
Figure 140. Parkland in Slough Borough
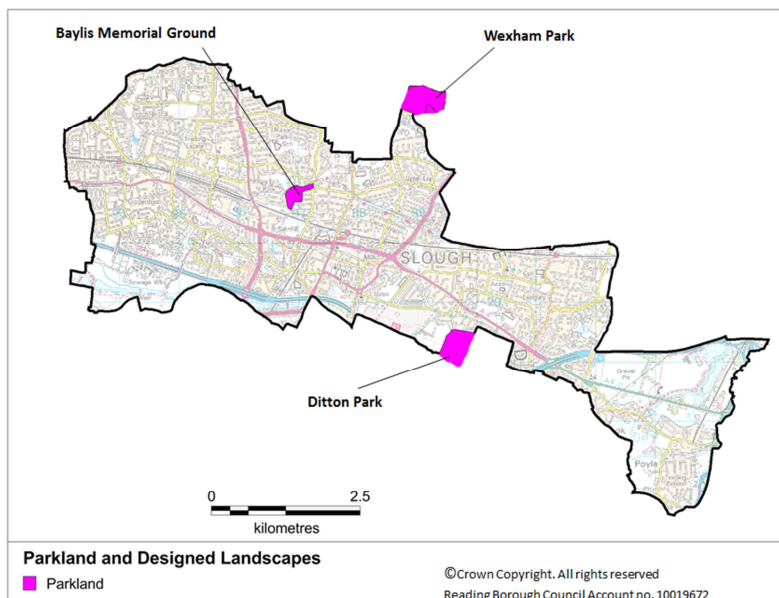
Figure 141. Parkland in Slough c.1869

19.Recreation

The "Recreation" broad type contains features relating to leisure, sport and recreation. Often large-scale intrusive alterations, recreation areas usually originate in the late post-medieval or modern period, and comprise a range of features to adapt the site for recreational use, often removing evidence of previous landscape character.

Narrow types: Athletics, Equestrian Centre, Golf, Greyhound Racing, Horse Racing, Leisure Centre, Managed Archaeological Site, Open Green Space, Other Leisure (a diverse and miscellaneous type), Playing Fields and Sports Pitches, Public Park, Watersports

Polygons: 471 records in this broad type cover an area of 4217 hectares. 85 areas have Recreation recorded as a previous broad type.

Narrow HLC types	Area / hectares	Narrow HLC types	Area / hectares
Total	4217		
Athletics	12	Managed Archaeological Site	25
Equestrian Centre	273	Open Green Space	266
Golf	1294	Other Leisure	95
Greyhound Racing	2	Playing and sports fields	821
Horse Racing	224	Public Park	1125
Leisure Centre	47	Water Sports	3

Table 13. Recreation in East Berkshire

Equestrian Centres and **Horse Racing -** Features associated with horse riding and other equestrian activities (equestrian training tracks, gallops, polo pitches, racecourses, riding schools, stables), as well as horse racing, are mostly recorded in the HLC in a zone c.5-10 kilometre wide, stretching from Smith's Lawn in Windsor Great Park to Callin's Bridge, Waltham St Lawrence. Berkshire as a whole had a strong association with horse racing, including two well-known historic racecourses (Ascot and Windsor), although other linked landscape areas may be recorded under other broad types such as Enclosed Land due to size and overall character. They typically comprise complexes of buildings and

structures often modern in origin, as it is only in the 20th century and onwards that specific training facilities have been required by developments in the racing industry

Sports Facilities – **Athletics, Golf, Greyhound Racing, Playing and sports fields, Water Sports,** and various **Other Leisure** sports - there are many types of open areas and complexes of buildings used for sports, including football grounds, cricket pitches, a rugby pitch, two bowling clubs, playing fields, tennis court, a running track, and golf courses. Most of these are clearly concentrated to the towns and settlements, with few located in the open countryside. Golf courses are an exception to this rule, since they are all located in the open countryside. The majority of the golf courses are modern, built after the early 1960s and specific landscaped features required for the game.

Sport related facilities that are not played in open fields or areas all use buildings or features that are custom made for the purpose. These include an athletics centre, activity centres, leisure centres, an indoor sports arena, two swimming pools, a jet ski centre, a football stadium, sailing clubs, rowing clubs, and a former lido. With a few exceptions, they have all been built after the early 1960s, and most probably after c.1980. The facilities are often large and take up a lot of space, and are for that reason often located in the periphery of the larger towns, or even outside any settlements.

Leisure centres in the area are however often located in central locations, serving a community of residents and visitors. The sailing clubs in the area are located in former gravel quarries. The three rowing clubs are all located by the River Thames. Two of the clubs – the Leander Club in Remenham (by Henley-on-Thames) and Eton Excelsior Rowing Club were founded in the 19th century, and the third – Reading University Boat Club – has been in its present location since the 1930s. There is currently no lido in East Berkshire, but one - Coley Bathing Place – was located east of Rose Kiln Lane in Reading in the early 20th century. Madejski Stadium was built in 1998 as the home of Reading Football Club.

Parks and parklike areas - Almost 1400 hectares, or about a third of the total area in the Recreation broad type, is recorded as **public parks** and **open green spaces**. A few Country Parks apart, the public parks are largely located in the larger towns and settlements. Some of the largest parks have originated as donations of from wealthy benefactors to the local communities, and some were formerly private parkland. Many of the modern parks have evidently been purposely created as green space provision for larger housing developments. It is also common for modern housing estates to contain **open green spaces** that don't have names, may be small and strangely shaped, or perhaps only consist of a small lawn and some shrubbery; nevertheless, these areas usually fulfil at least some of the same function as public parks, since they are green areas that the public can freely access. There are 15 nature reserves recorded in East Berkshire; most are only a few hectares in size. Englemere Pond Nature Reserve, Ascot is the largest at c.28 hectares, followed by Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve in Sandhurst which occupies c.23 hectares.

Other leisure - a very diverse narrow type, this includes a wide range of facilities and attributes. The only bird sanctuary in the area is located north of Ashenbury Park in Woodley. Wokingham Borough Council has a pavilion (the Margaret Gimblett Pavilion) in Charvil which is available for private functions. There is a modern campsite at Scotlands House in Warfield, and a scout camp at Earleywood in Ascot. Hurst Village Hall used to be a Working Men's Club. Two museums are recorded in the area – the Museum of Berkshire Aviation in Woodley, and the Museum of Rural Life in Reading. The latter is associated with Reading University. There are three marinas in the area,

Windsor Marina and the Racecourse Marina in Windsor, and Bray Marina in Bray. These are all modern, built in the last few decades. Legoland Windsor, founded in 1996, is the only **theme park** in East Berkshire. It is built on the former premises of Windsor Safari Park, which folded in 1992, and its rides and themed exhibits, as well as car parking and newly-built accommodation, form a very visible intrusion into the landscape south-west of the town .

Seven **managed archaeological sites** are recorded in the area, covering a total of 25ha. At least four of those are medieval moated manorial sites. A fifth, Cippenham Moat, has traditionally been identified with a Royal Palace that Henry III reputably built there, however, this too is probably the location of a former medieval manor house

There is a **greyhound schooling track** south of Oak View Farm in Wokingham, despite the fact there are no greyhound racecourses in East Berkshire.
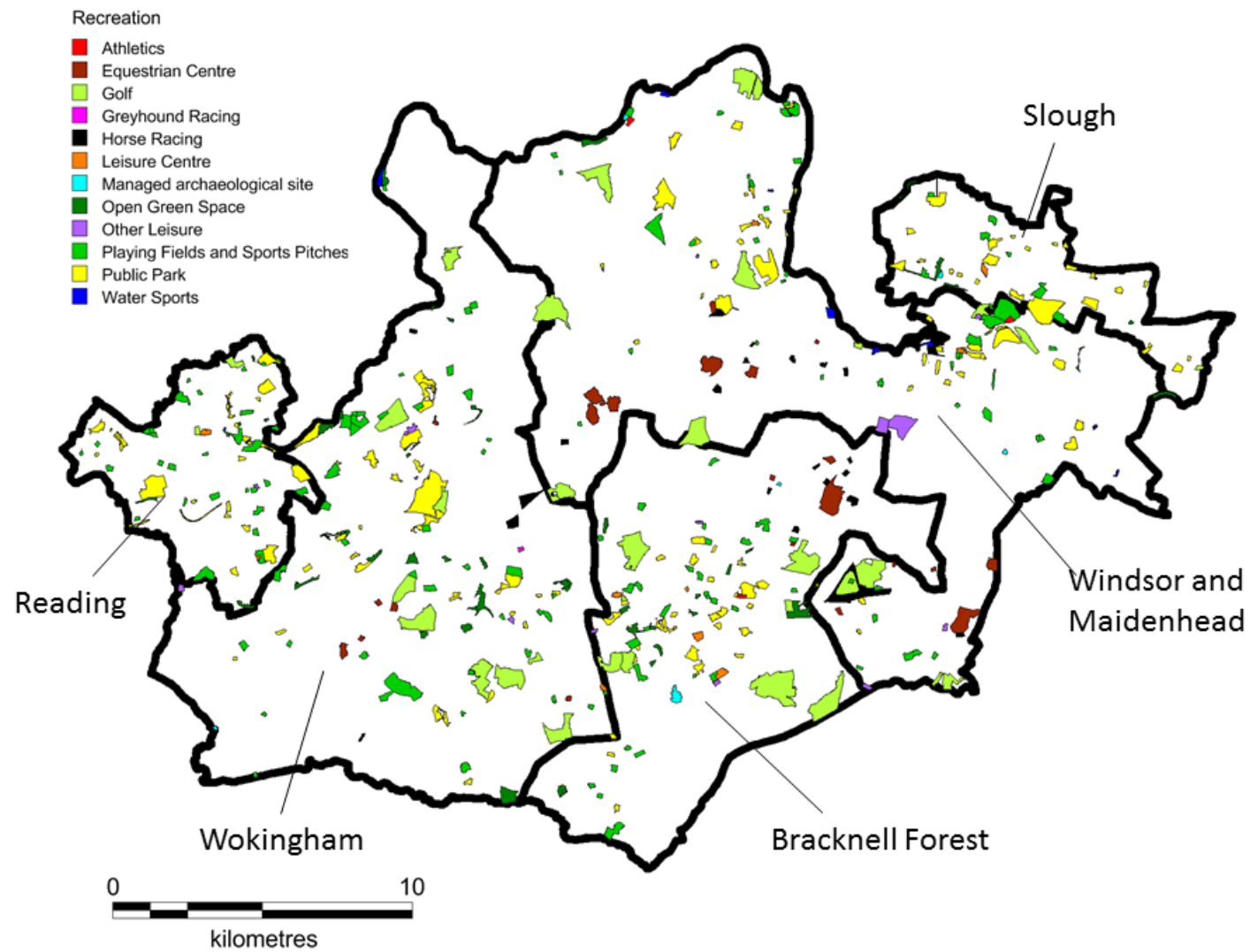
Figure 142. Recreation in East Berkshire
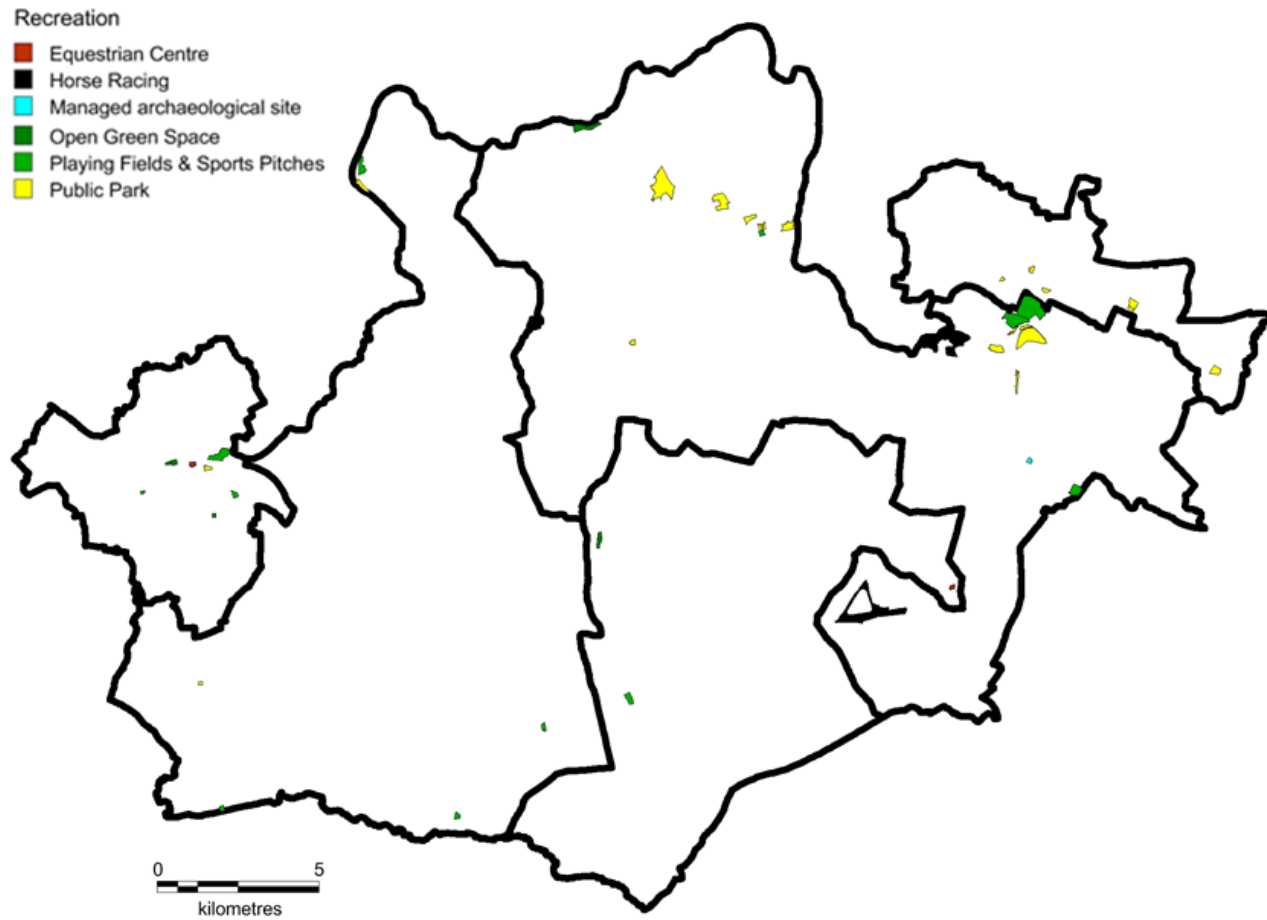
Figure 143. Recreation in East Berkshire c.1869

19.1 Reading Borough

Reading features a number of **public parks** of different sizes, distributed fairly evenly across the town. Perhaps the most interesting park (or parklike feature) in the Borough is the former Coley Branch Line, which was opened in 1908 and closed in 1983; it currently forms a walking path which can be accessed from Reading Link Retail Park. It is currently very overgrown and it is difficult to see any traces of the former railway line.

The largest of the Reading parks is Prospect Park, created in the 19th century, and a public park since 1902. In the centre of the park is a late 18th century Country House. Other prominent parks in Reading Borough include Palmer Park, The Cowsey, McIlroy Park, Arthur Newbury Park and Clayfield Copse Recreation Ground.

Figure 144. The overgrown former Coley Branch Line

Figure 145. Prospect Park

There are also a number of different-sized **playing fields** around the Borough, the two largest being Christchurch Meadows Caversham and Kings Meadow Recreation Ground in central Reading. Clayfield Copse in Caversham – which is adjacent to the public park with the same name - is the only nature reserve - a small piece of woodland which was planted in the 19th century, and previously parkland. It has been a nature reserve since 1991. Madejski Stadium was opened in 1998 and is the home of Reading Football Club. It also houses the Rugby Union club London Irish as tenants. The stadium is named after Reading's chairman Sir John Madejski. There are two modern **leisure centres** in Reading: Rivermead Leisure Complex in Caversham and Academy Sport in south Reading.

Figure 146. Rivermead Leisure Complex

Reading University Boat Club is a rowing club for students of Reading University. The club has been in its current location since the 1930s. The Island Bohemian Bowls Club is a bowls club founded in 1908. It is located on Fry's Island in the middle of the River Thames, and has its own ferry service. The only **golf course** in the Borough - Reading Golf Course - is located at Emmer Green in Caversham. It was constructed in the early part of the 20th century and straddles the Oxfordshire border, with only part of the golf course being within Berkshire. There is also a golf driving range adjacent to the Rivermead Leisure Complex in Caversham.
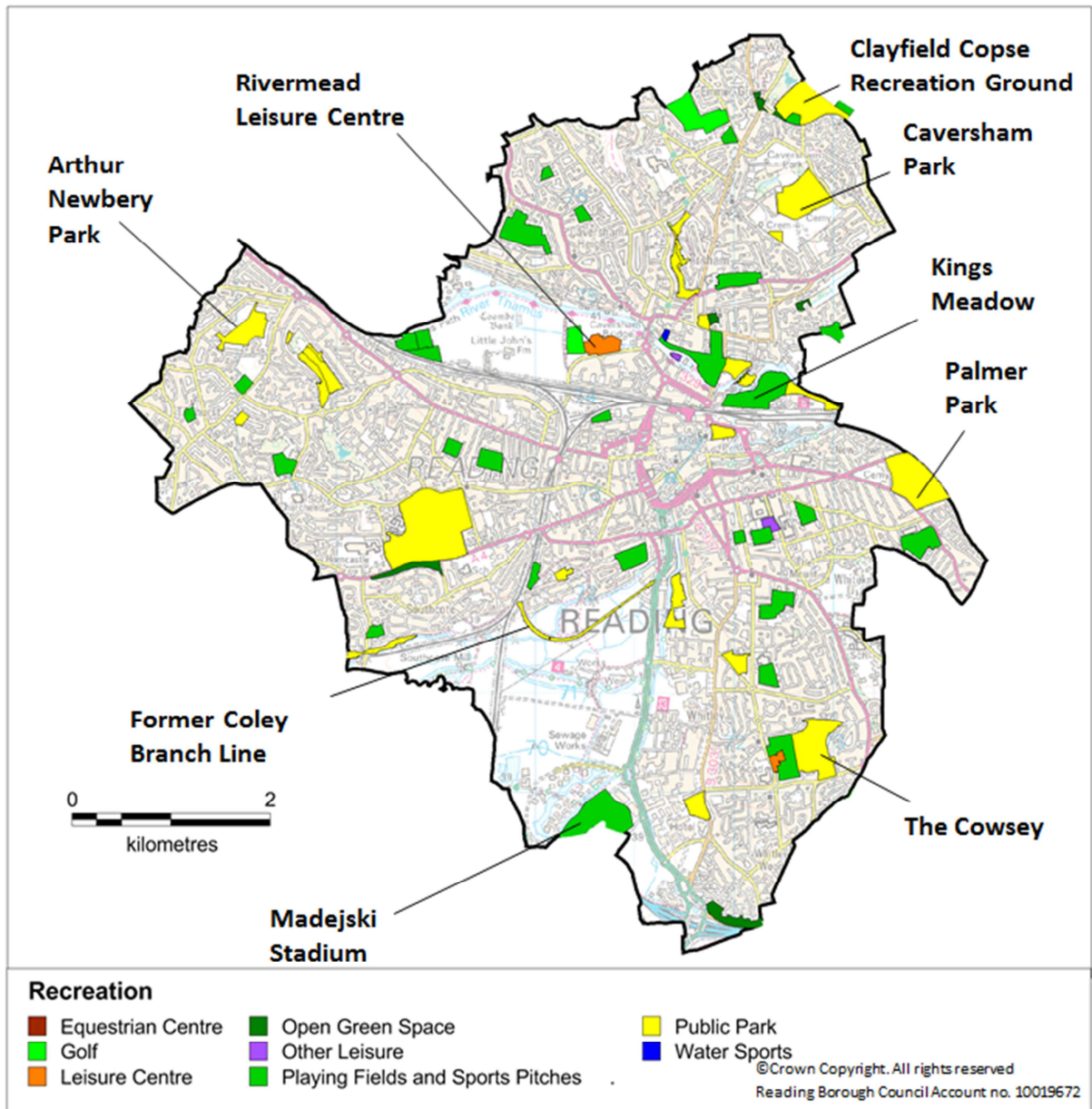
Figure 147. Recreation in Reading Borough

Most of the recreational facilities present in Reading today were created in the 20th century. Of the few facilities present around 1869, only Forbury Gardens and Kings Meadow Recreation Ground still remain. Two parklike areas – probably just undeveloped land – and a small playing field have disappeared, along with the stables by the train station.

Kings Meadow Recreation Ground

Forbury Gardens

READING

READING

0   2
kilometres

Recreation
- Equestrian Centre
- Open Green Space
- Playing Fields and Sports Pitches
- Public Park   .
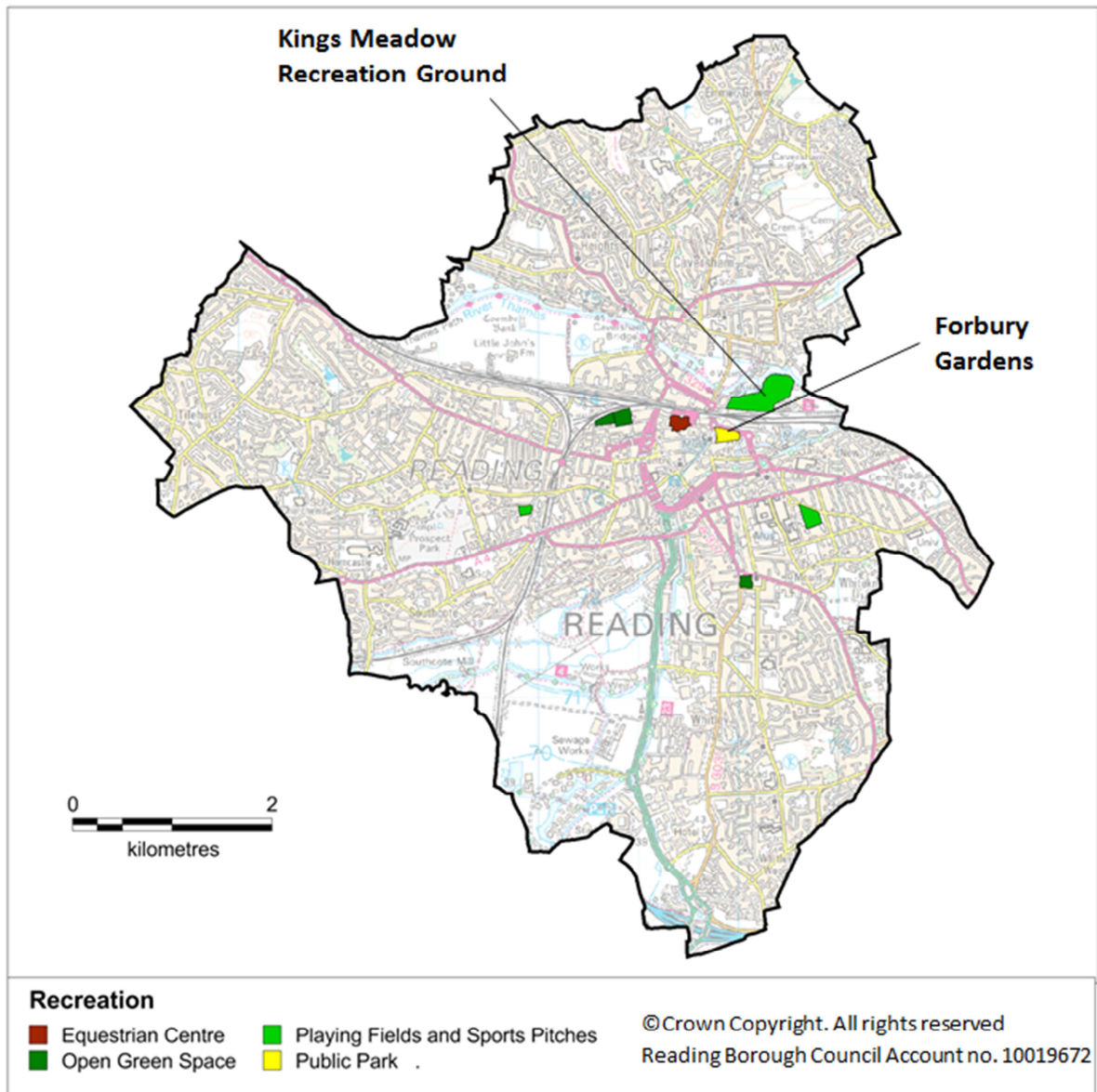
Figure 148. Recreation in Reading Borough c.1869

19.2 Wokingham Borough

The Recreation broad type in the largest settlements in Wokingham Borough – Woodley, Lower Earley and Wokingham – is dominated by **public parks** and **sports fields**. The rest of the borough is dominated by **golf courses**, **sports fields**, and country parks and other **public parks**. Several golf clubs are present around Finchampstead, west of Wokingham, and in the north of the Borough. East Berkshire Golf Course in Finchampstead is the oldest (founded in 1903), followed by Sonning Golf Course (founded in 1914). There is a marked absence of golf courses in the southwest part of the Borough.
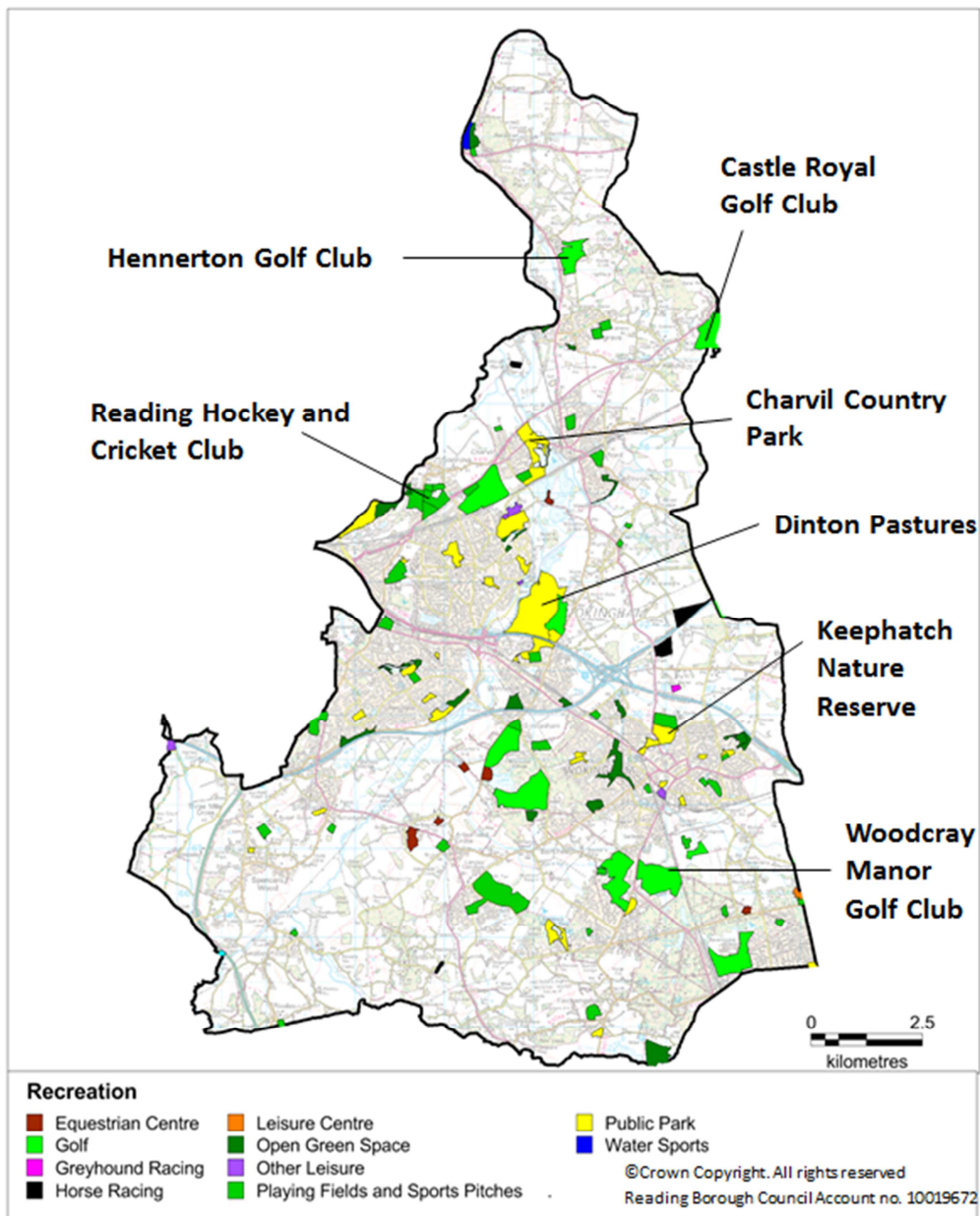
Figure 149. Recreation in Wokingham Borough

Sports fields of different sizes can be found in most parts of the Borough, but are generally found in the larger settlements. There is a concentration of sports fields and other facilities around Reading Hockey and Cricket Club in Woodley. There are three large country parks in Wokingham Borough: California Country Park in Finchampstead, Dinton Pastures Country Park in Hurst, and Charvil Country Park. California Country Park was originally an amusement park called "California in England", which was built in 1931. Dinton Pastures Country Park and Charvil Country Park are both located in the flood plain of the River Loddon. Dinton Pastures is the largest public park in the Borough, occupying around 103 hectares of land.
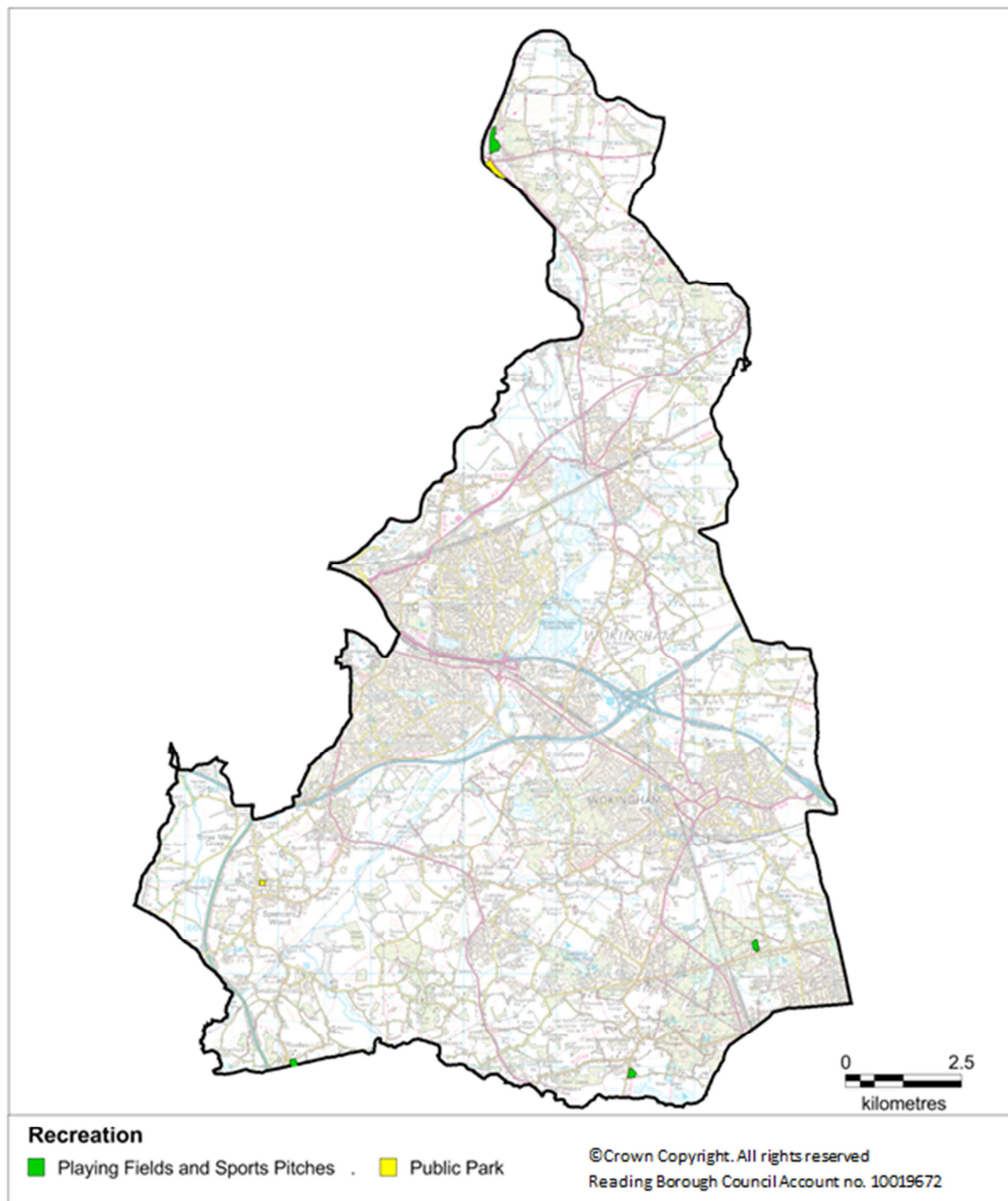
Figure 150. Recreation in Wokingham Borough c.1869

There are four nature reserves in the Borough. Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve is a Local Nature Reserve located at Maiden Erlegh Lake in Lower Earley in former parkland. Ali's Pond Local Nature Reserve in Sonning is a Local Nature Reserve located by the River Thames which was created in 1997. Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve in Sandhurst was established in 1993 by the River Blackwater in an area formerly extensively used for gravel extraction. Keephatch Park Nature Reserve consists of nine hectares of woodland and is located on the outskirts of Wokingham. Aldermoors Nature Reserve in Woodley is located adjacent to Ashenbury Park and is a small piece of woodland consisting of alder trees. A bird sanctuary is also located adjacent to Ashenbury Park.

In the mid-19th century, there was a cricket pitch in Remenham, one west of Wokingham, and one at Finchampstead. In addition to that, there was a small public park at Spencers Wood and probably a public park in Remenham. Only the public park at Spencers Wood still survives today.

19.3 Bracknell Forest

There are clear patterns in where different recreational facilities are located in Bracknell Forest. Facilities associated with **equestrian** sport (stables, polo pitches, training tracks, riding schools) are concentrated around Winkfield northeast of Bracknell. Playing fields predominate around Crowthorne and Sandhurst. **Playing fields**, **public parks**, and other **open green areas** dominate Bracknell itself. **Golf courses** are found northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest of Bracknell. There are also three **leisure centres** in urban Bracknell: The Point Leisure Centre in central Bracknell, and Bracknell Leisure Centre and Coral Reef Leisure Centre in the south.
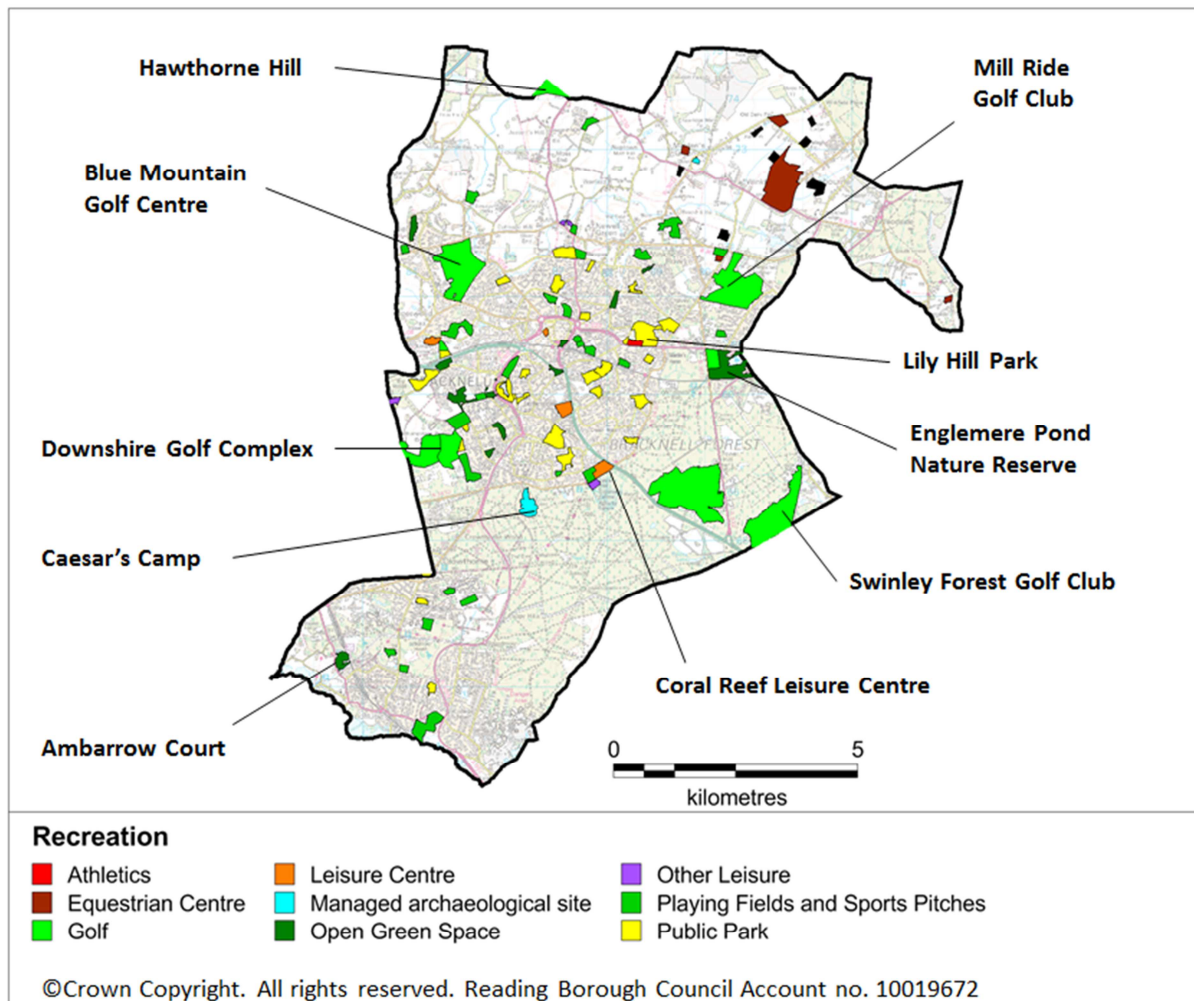
Figure 151. Recreation in Bracknell Forest

Caesar's Camp is a **managed archaeological site** just south of Bracknell. Caesar's Camp is an antiquarian name which was applied to this Iron Age hillfort in the mistaken belief that it was a Roman camp left by Julius Caesar after his campaign of 55-54BC. Also present within the area of the hillfort is a sub-square redoubt which was created for military exercise purposes in 1792.

There are three nature reserves recorded in the area. Englemere Pond Nature Reserve is a wooded area which includes Englemere Pond, a probably natural pond. Ambarrow Court Nature Reserve a Local Nature Reserve located in Little Sandhurst between the A321 and the Reading to Guildford railway line. Northerams Nature Reserve is a small wooded area west of Mill Pond in Bracknell.

In the mid-19th century, very few recreational facilities were present in Bracknell. A small parklike area in Binfield, stables north of Buckhurst Park in the east of the Borough and a cricket pitch at Easthampstead are recorded in c.1869. The small parklike area is still undeveloped and the stables are still extant. The former cricket pitch is now part of Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium.
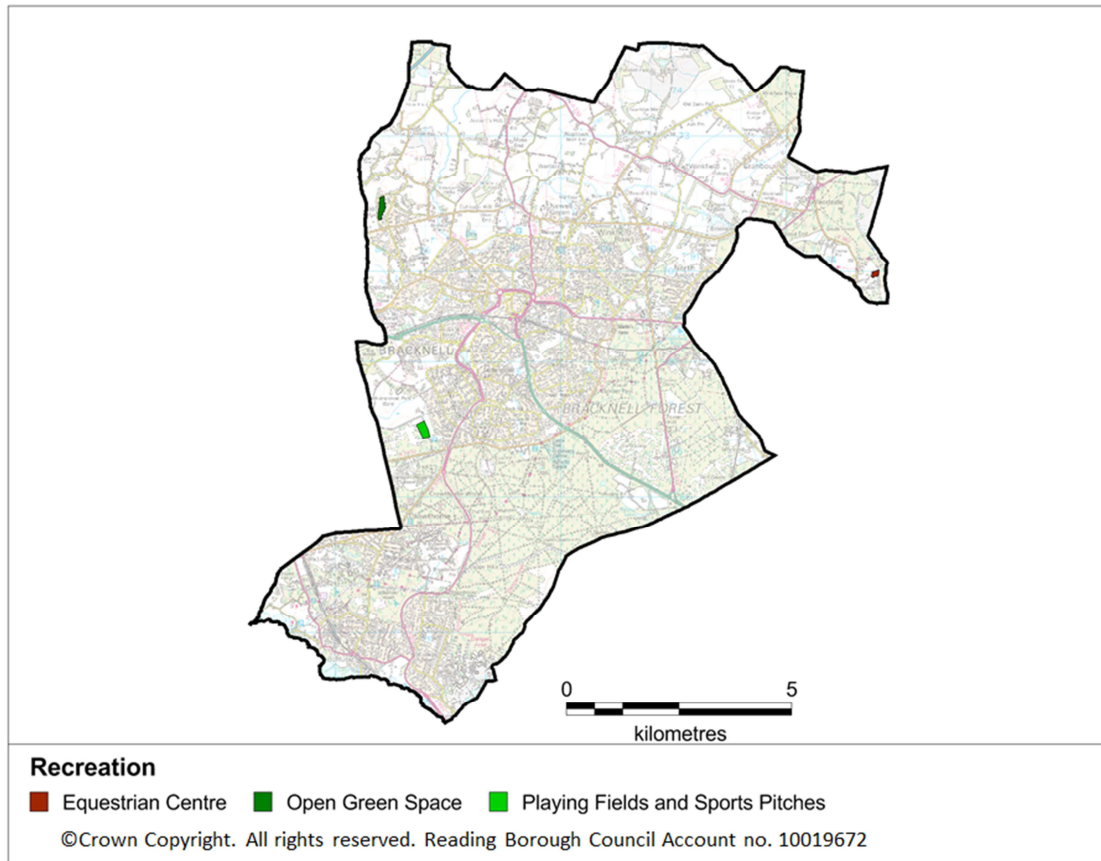
Figure 152. Recreation in Bracknell Forest c.1869

19.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Facilities associated with equestrian sport can be found to the south and southwest of Maidenhead and south and southwest of Windsor, but are absent in other parts of the Borough. **Playing fields** are mostly found outside of this "equestrian area". Extensive playing fields are associated with Eton College; in popular imagination, they are known for the alleged but probably apocryphal quote by the Duke of Wellington to the effect that "the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton".
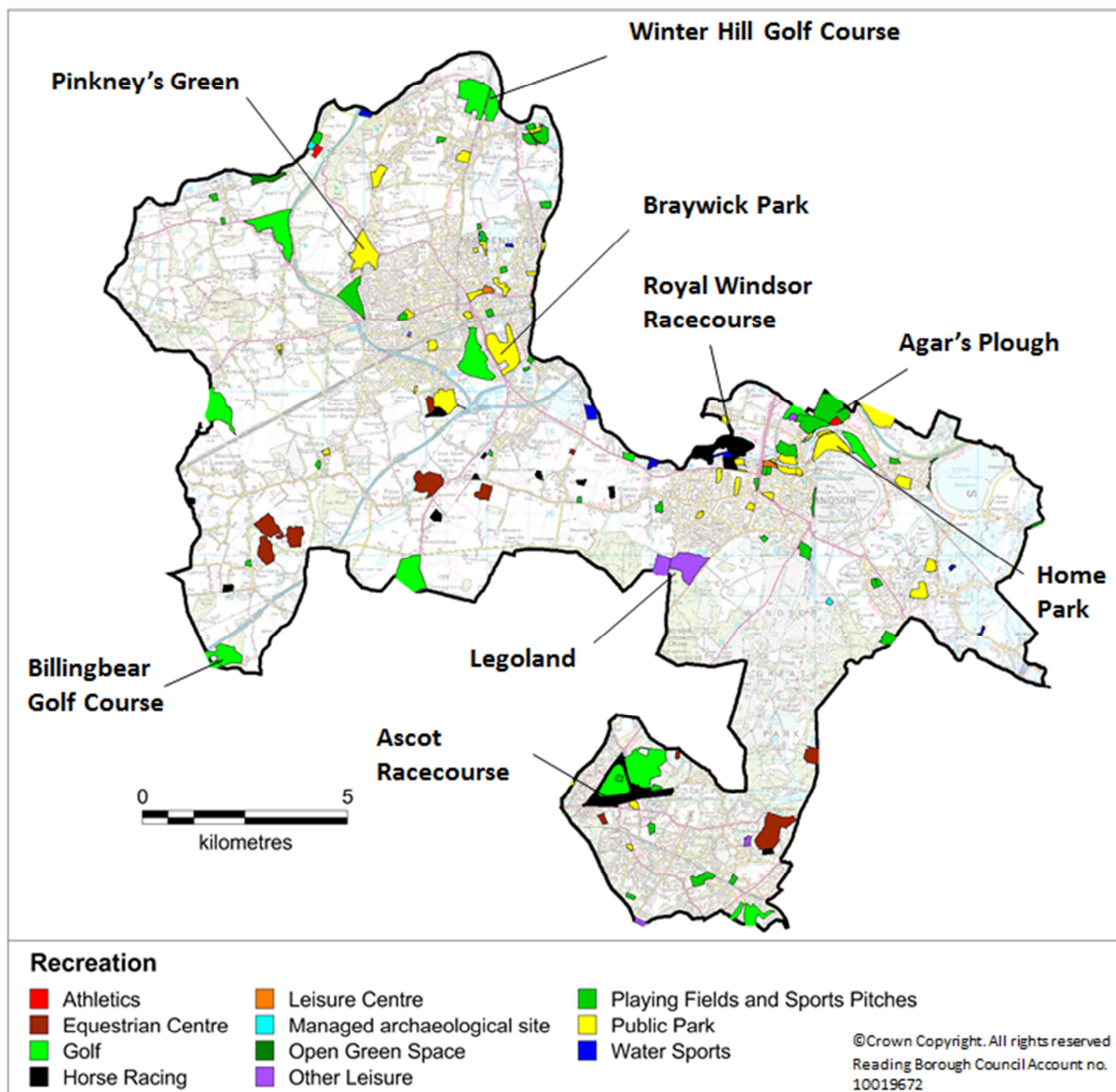
Figure 153. Recreation in Windsor and Maidenhead

There are two race courses for **horse racing** in Windsor and Maidenhead – the only two in East Berkshire. Windsor Racecourse was founded in 1866 by John Frail, Benjamin Disraeli's former election campaign manager. Ascot Racecourse is one of the leading racecourses in the United Kingdom, founded by Queen Anne in 1711. The first permanent buildings were however not built until 1794. Ascot Heath was enclosed by an Act of Parliament in 1813, which ensured that the location would be kept and used as a racecourse in the future.

Legoland Windsor is a **theme park** located outside of Windsor. The park is themed around the Lego toy system. It opened in 1996 on the grounds of the former Windsor Safari Park, which was founded in 1969 and folded in 1992. There are six **leisure centres** in the Borough: Braywick Park, Furze Platt, Cox Green Leisure Centre and Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead, Charters Leisure Centre in Sunningdale, and Windsor Leisure Centre.
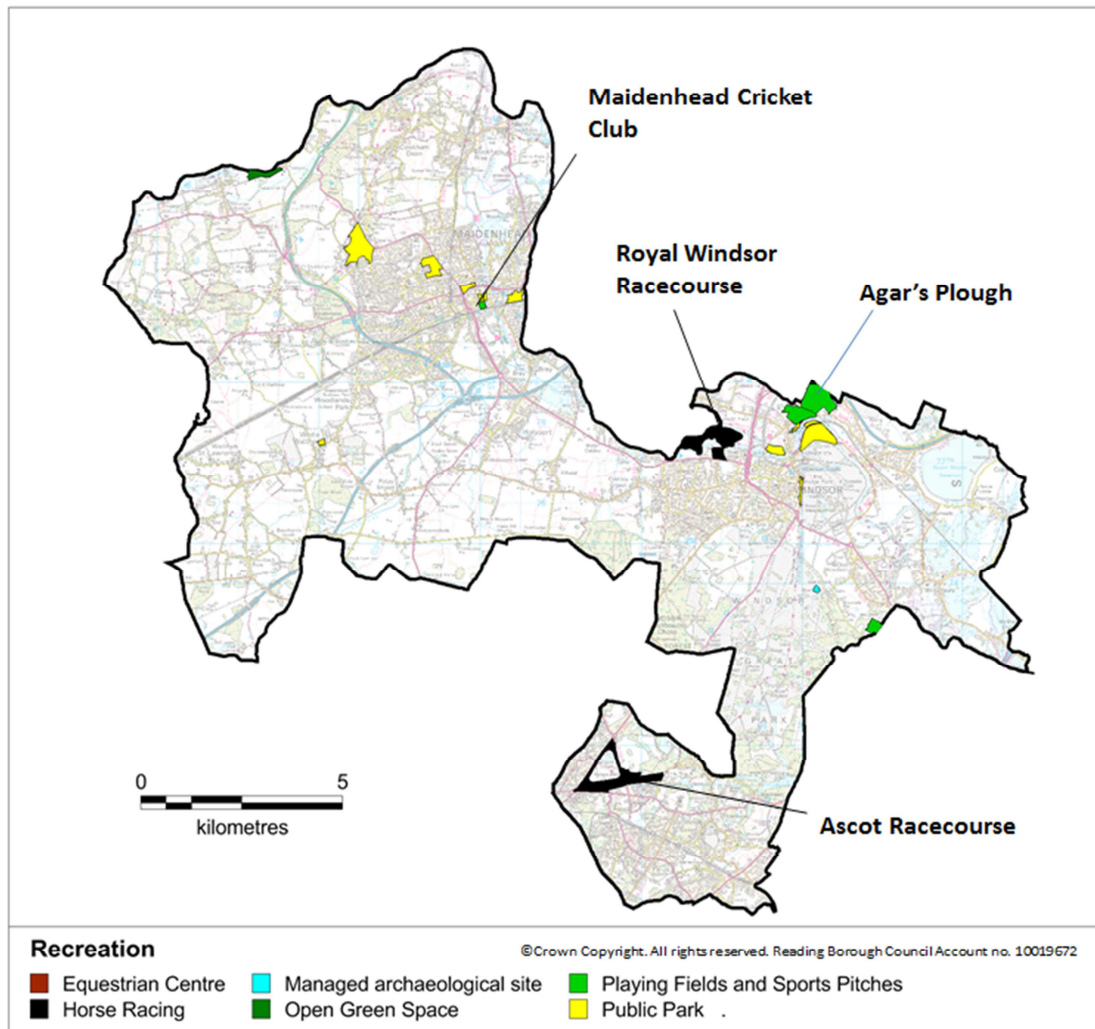
Figure 154. Recreation in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1869

In Windsor and Maidenhead, more of the recreational facilities that existed in the mid-19th century have survived than in other parts of East Berkshire. Most of the recreational facilities in Windsor and Maidenhead today were created in the 20th century, but most of what existed c.1869 still survives today. Several public parks in Maidenhead have disappeared, and the former Maidenhead Cricket Club is now used as a football ground and bowling green. Ascot Racecourse, the Royal Windsor racecourse, the Home Park, and the playing fields associated with Eton College have however survived.

19.5 Slough Borough

The Recreation broad type in Slough Borough mostly comprises **public parks** and **playing fields**. The largest public park is Upton Court Park, which covers around 68 hectares of land – though a large part of the park is in Windsor and Maidenhead. Herschel Park is the oldest park, founded in 1842. Baylis Memorial Gardens commemorate the dead of World War II; Baylis House and formal gardens are however present already on Rocque's map of Berkshire (1761), in more or less its present state. Salt Hill Park was gifted to Slough in 1907 by James Elliman Junior, a benefactor of the town. There is also a public park around Poyle House, which is a remnant of earlier (probably Victorian) parkland. Other parks in Slough however originate after the early 1960s.

Playing fields recorded in Slough are all located in the centre and west of the town. Lascelles playing fields, opened in 1930 and named for the Lascelles family, are the largest playing fields in Slough.
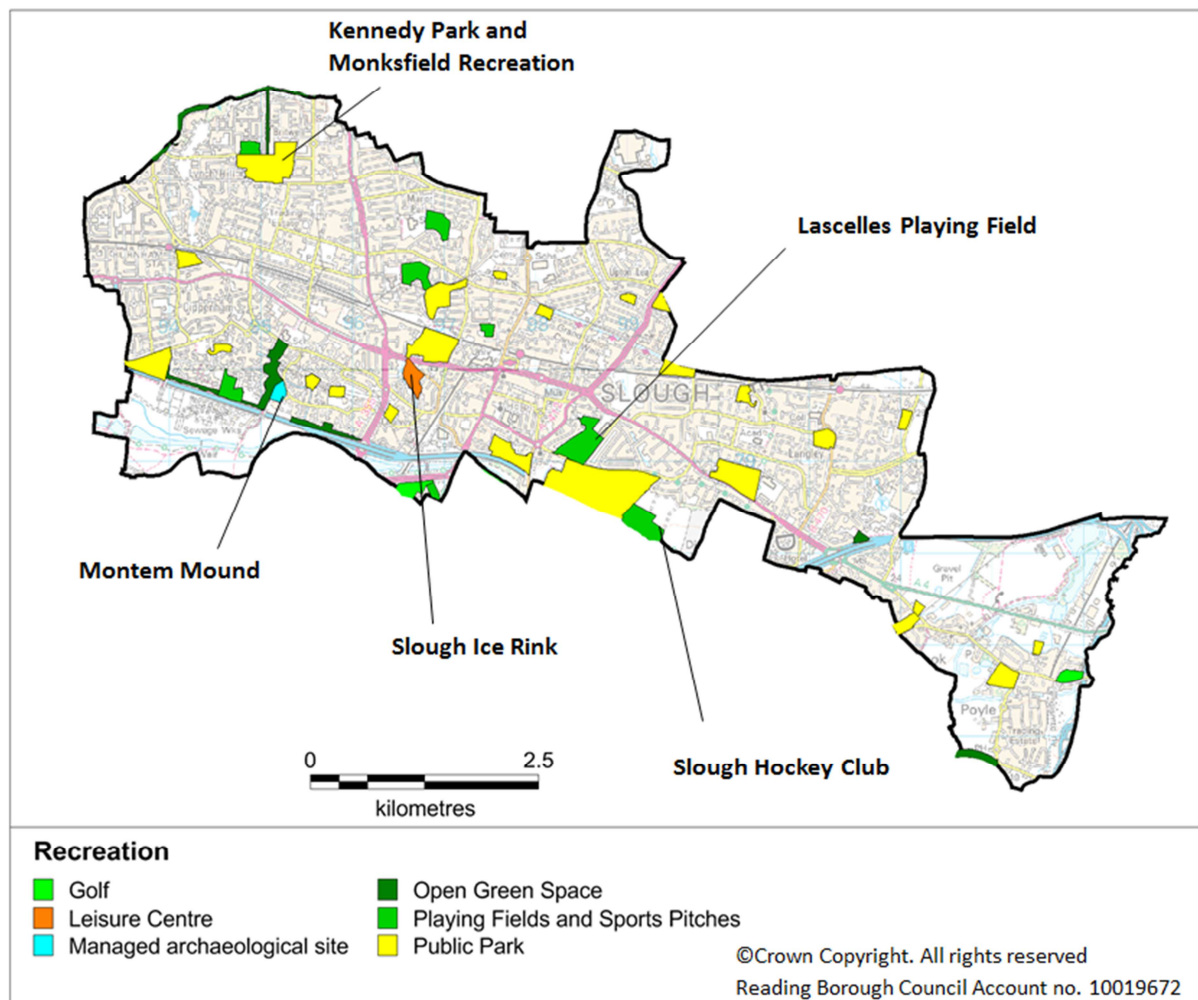
Figure 155. Recreation in Slough Borough

Slough Ice Rink is a modern facility located south of Salt Hill Park, with **Montem Leisure Centre** alongside. There are two more leisure centres in Slough: Langley Leisure Centre in Langley and Herschel Sports Centre in central Slough. **Cippenham Moat** is a **managed archaeological site**. It has traditionally been identified as a Royal Palace that Henry III reputably built here. However, this is more likely to have been the location of a medieval manor house.

The recorded recreational facilities in Slough Borough in the mid-19th century consisted of three public parks in Slough (now central Slough), one public park in Langley and one in Poyle, around Poyle house. Only the park in Poyle and one of the parks in central Slough (Herschel Park) survive today.

Recreation
☐ Public Park .

©Crown Copyright. All rights reserved
Reading Borough Council Account no. 10019672
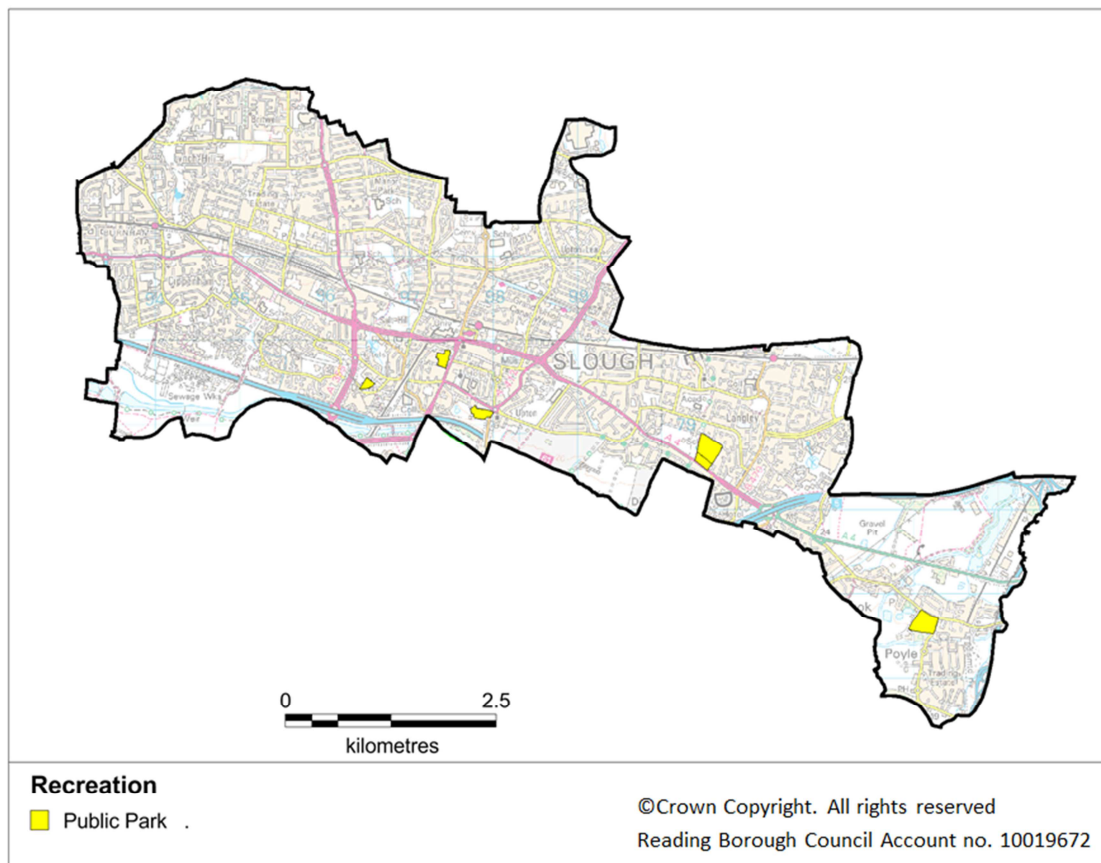
Figure 156. Recreation in Slough Borough c.1869

20.Rural Settlement

The "Rural Settlement" broad type refers to different types of settlement in rural areas, including farm houses and farmsteads. Areas in this broad type vary greatly in terms of character and origin, including, as they do, rural villages of early medieval origin, often growing up around a church or manor, later planned settlement and more discrete areas of building complexes associated with very large country houses. Time slice study shows many rural villages have become subsumed into suburbs of larger towns, as population growth pushes residential development outwards from town centres.

Narrow Types: Common Edge Settlement, Country House, Estate village, Farmstead, *Grange, Manor Farm, Rows, Village, Palace, Smallholding, Lodges and large houses *(*recorded as previous type only)*

Polygons: 707 polygons are recorded under this broad type covering a total area of 3225ha

	Area / hectares
Total	3225
Common Edge Settlement	124
Country House	329
Estate village	7
Farm or farmstead	1329
Lodges and large houses	9
Manor farm	50
Palace	10
Rows	388
Smallholding	12
Village	967

Table 14. Areas of Rural Settlement in East Berkshire

Common Edge Settlement - Common edge settlements are located along the edge of an open area, which is usually common land. The HLC records limited areas of this narrow type: Littlewick Green, Woolley Green, Knowl Hill village, Maiden's Green, and the settlements bordering Pinkney's Green and Great Lea Common. Wraysbury could possibly also be classed as a common edge settlement, though it does not appear that the village has been formed at the edge of common land. A few settlements of this kind have been lost to development in Slough, Tilehurst, south Reading, Lower Earley, Winnersh and Caversham.

Country House - Country houses are very large houses located in the countryside and are usually surrounded by ornamental parkland and their associated ancillary buildings and structures, resulting in very specific character easily observed both in historic mapping and in the current landscape. Country houses were mostly built in the 18th and 19th centuries, although they sometimes had a medieval predecessor – usually a manor house. Country houses are located in most parts of East Berkshire.

Estate village - An estate village is a village which is associated with a larger estate. Usually they are designed, constructed and owned by this estate. The Village in Windsor Great Park is the only one estate village in East Berkshire. It is owned by the Crown Estate and was constructed in the mid-20th century.

Farms and farmsteads - There are many farms in East Berkshire, and they are distributed fairly evenly across the landscape, although a few concentrations can be seen, for instance west of Maiden's Green in Bracknell Forest or north of Wokingham. The history of many farms in East Berkshire can be traced back to at least the 18th century, although both arable and large animal farming has a centuries-long tradition in the county. Those farms that have been in existence for any length of time will usually have altered beyond recognition due to the fast pace of change in farming techniques, industrialisation and commercialisation of the sector, and increase in land values; however alongside modern buildings and structures there are often older farmhouses and barns, and occasionally some association with market gardens and orchards. Locations vary from within areas of established settlement such as villages to more isolated rural landscapes surrounded by fields.

Grange - A grange is a farmstead associated with a monastic institution. No current HLC areas have grange as their current type, although two are recorded as previous types, at Bisham Abbey and Southlea, Datchet, both originating in the medieval period.

Manor Farm - A manor farm is a farmstead which is associated with a manor, i.e. directly owned and controlled by the manor. There are only six farms recorded as manor farms in the HLC. A number of farms in East Berkshire have names implying that they are manor farms, but they have neither the particular character or age and association, often originating in the 19th century.

Rows - Rows are rural settlements or parts of settlements that are organised in a linear fashion with houses or dwellings along a road. In East Berkshire, concentrations of rows can be found in certain areas, e.g. south of Maidenhead and north of Bracknell. They vary from modern houses built for easy access to major roads, to older collections of houses perhaps housing workers or craftsmen away from settlement centres.

Smallholding - A smallholding is a dwelling or set of dwellings with agricultural land attached to it where farming is practiced. It is similar to a farmstead but operates on a much smaller scale. There are only five areas of smallholdings registered in the HLC today, with another 14 areas with smallholding noted as a previous type.

Village - this broad type comprises rural settlements consisting of clusters of houses, other buildings and services. In East Berkshire, the larger villages were historically located in the north part of the area. They usually have a point of focus which for those with medieval origins will often be a manor or church, and visible in plan-form. Location also often relates to communication routes such as road and river, and where associated with a crossing point, a village may have developed into a town during the medieval period.

Figure 157. Cookham Village

Palace - there is only one recorded palace in current East Berkshire: Windsor Castle. Windsor Castle has been a Royal residence since the Norman period. Before that, there was a Royal Palace at Old Windsor. Despite being located within the town of Windsor, it is recorded in this narrow type (and the rural settlement broad type) due to its visible attributes such as extensive grounds and associated ancillary buildings. Another known palace is The Palace of the Bishops of Salisbury, which was located in Sonning in the Middle Ages.

Lodges and large houses - this category refers to large freestanding houses that are too small to be considered Country Houses. These are usually associated with substantial gardens or small pieces of parkland. These kinds of houses can be found primarily in the west part of the area – in Wokingham Borough in particular.

Rural Settlement

- Common Edge Settlement
- Country House
- Estate village
- Farm or Farmstead
- Lodges and large houses
- Manor farm
- Palace
- Rows
- Smallholding
- Village

Urban Settlement

- Residential

Slough

Reading

Windsor and Maidenhead

Wokingham

Bracknell Forest

0   5

kilometres
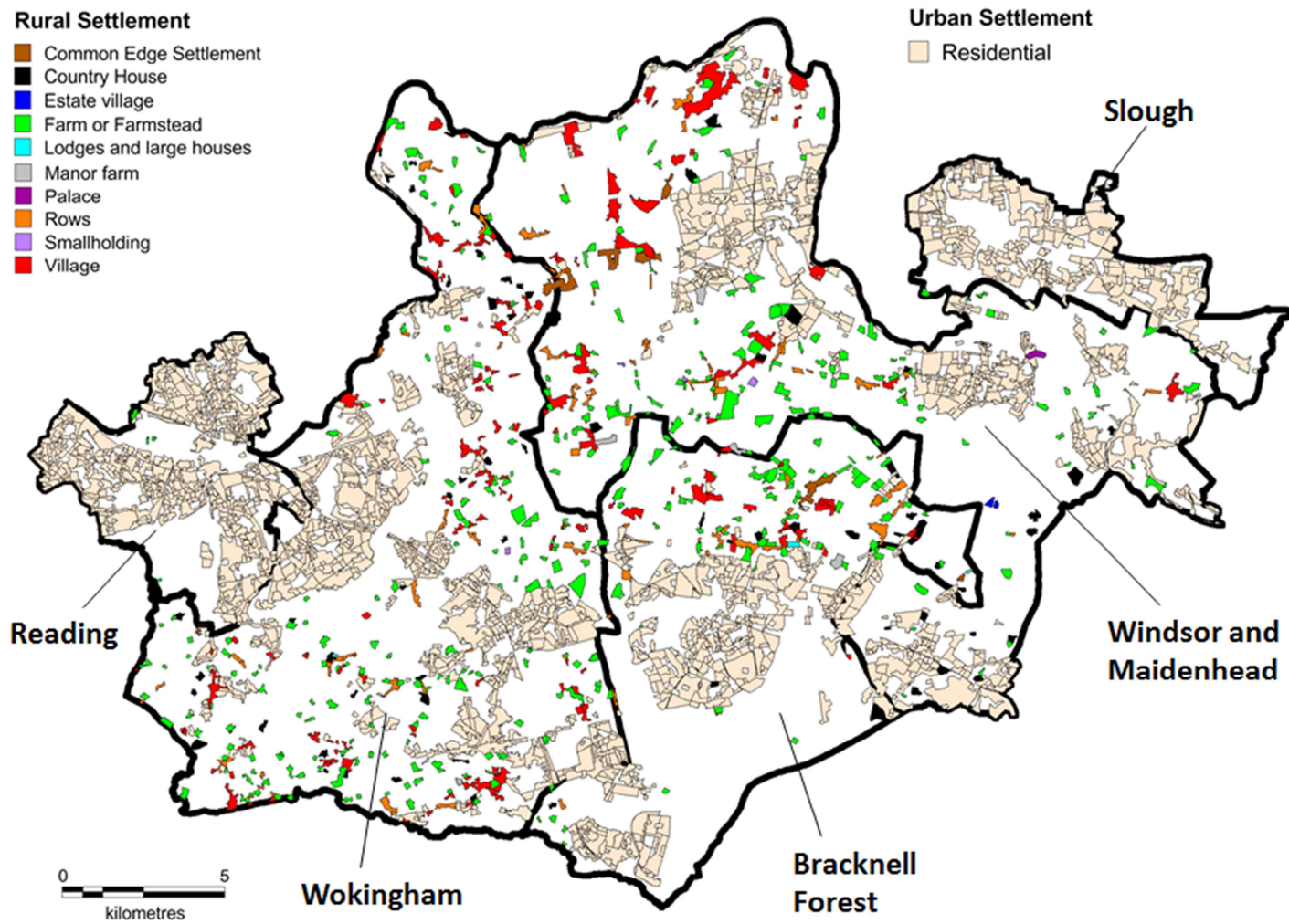
Figure 158. Rural settlement (alongside urban residential areas) in East Berkshire

209
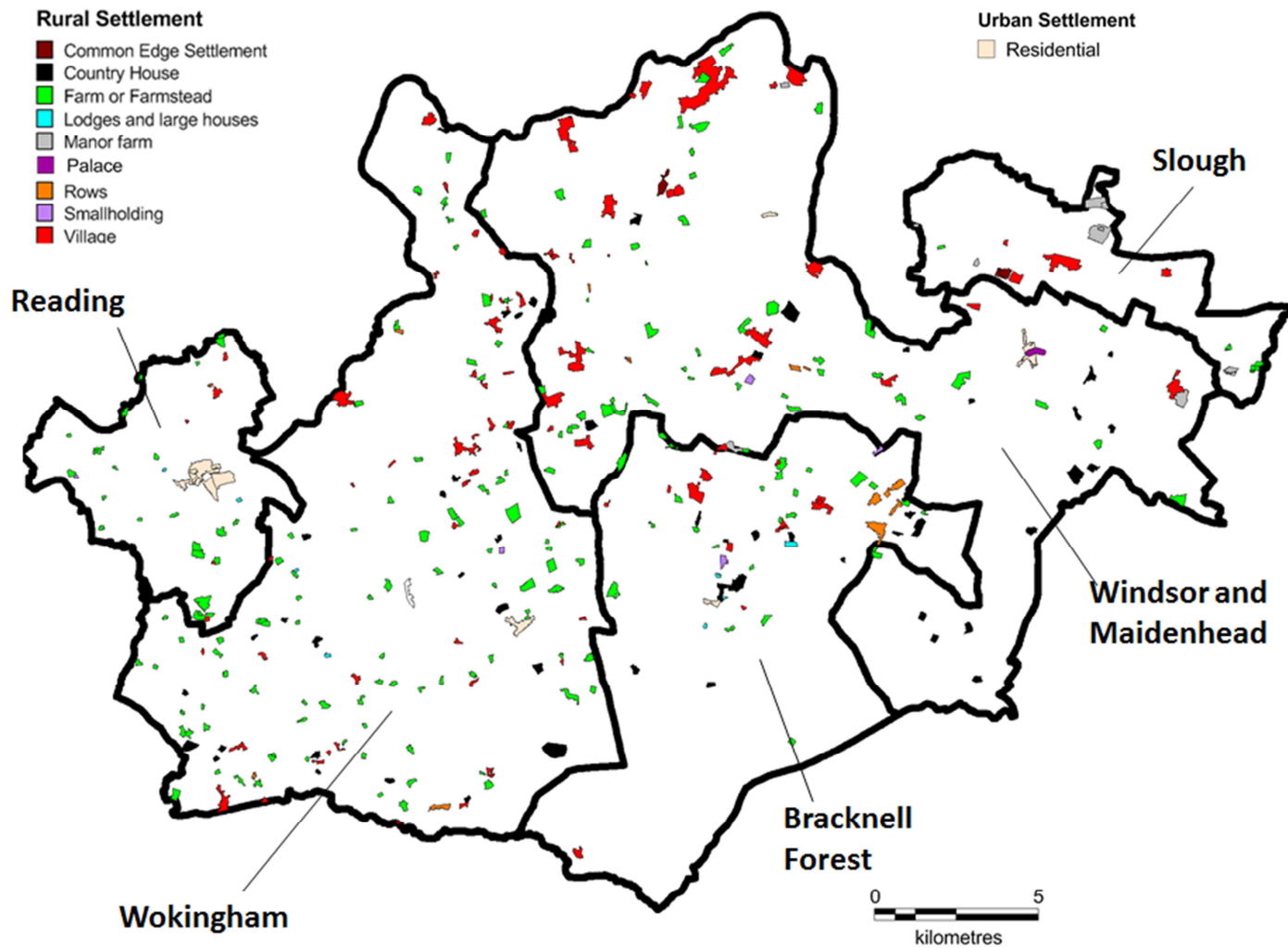
Figure 159. Rural settlement (alongside residential areas) in East Berkshire c.1760

20.1 Reading Borough

Reading Borough is predominantly an urban conurbation. However, the floodplains of the River Thames and the River Kennet form areas of more rural character within the Borough. The floodplains occupy a substantial area, but they are mostly empty of settlement, largely due to their tendency to flood. Chazey Court Farm and associated houses, Little John's Farm, and few houses at Smallmead Road in the south are the only examples of rural settlement in the area.
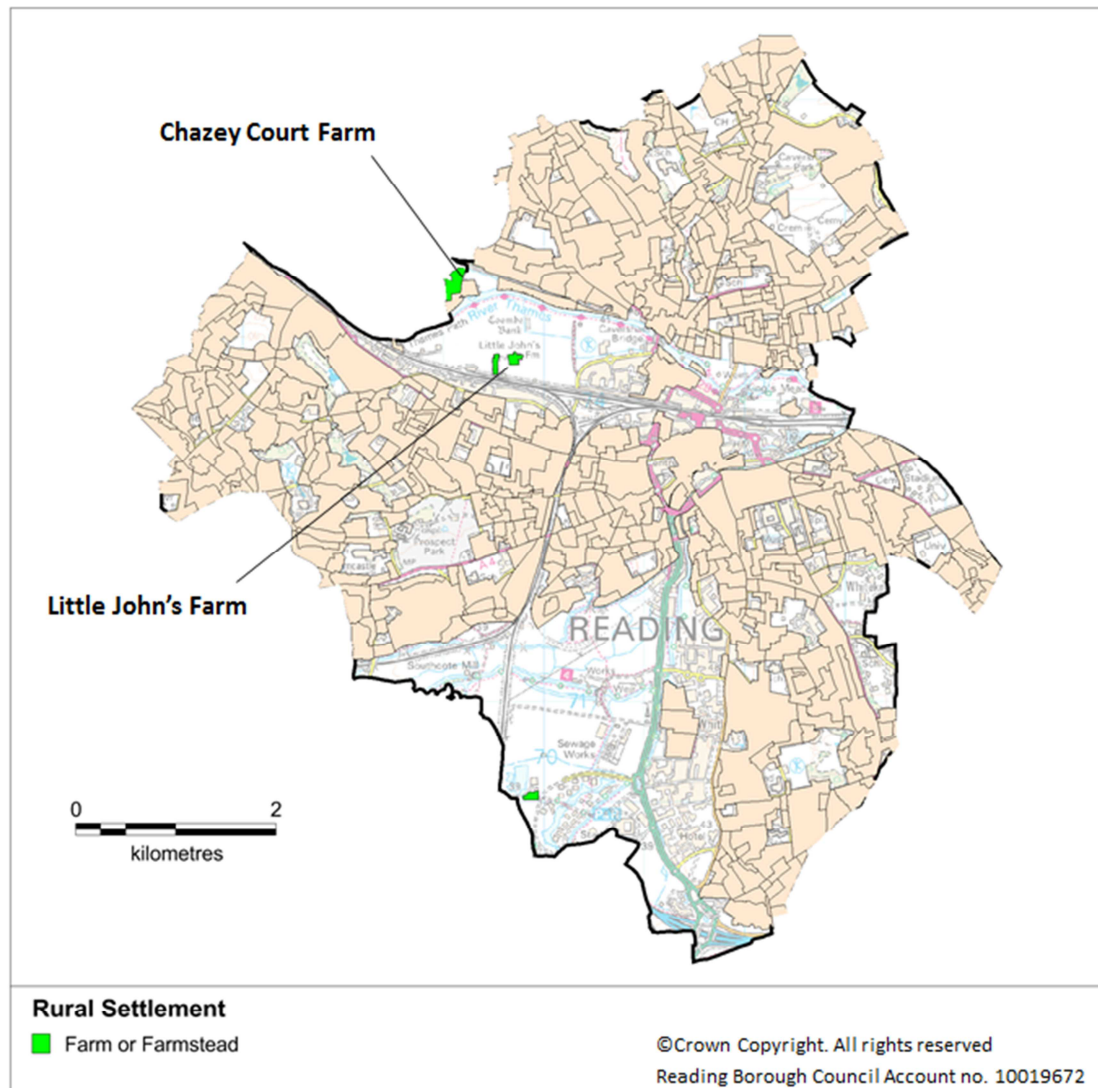
Figure 160. Rural settlement in Reading Borough

Chazey Court Farm is present on John Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761. The farm is recorded on the HER as established in the post-medieval period, and has a barn dating to 1611,but could be much older in origin. Little John's Farm was built in the 19th century. The houses at Smallmead Road are also visible on John Rocque's map.
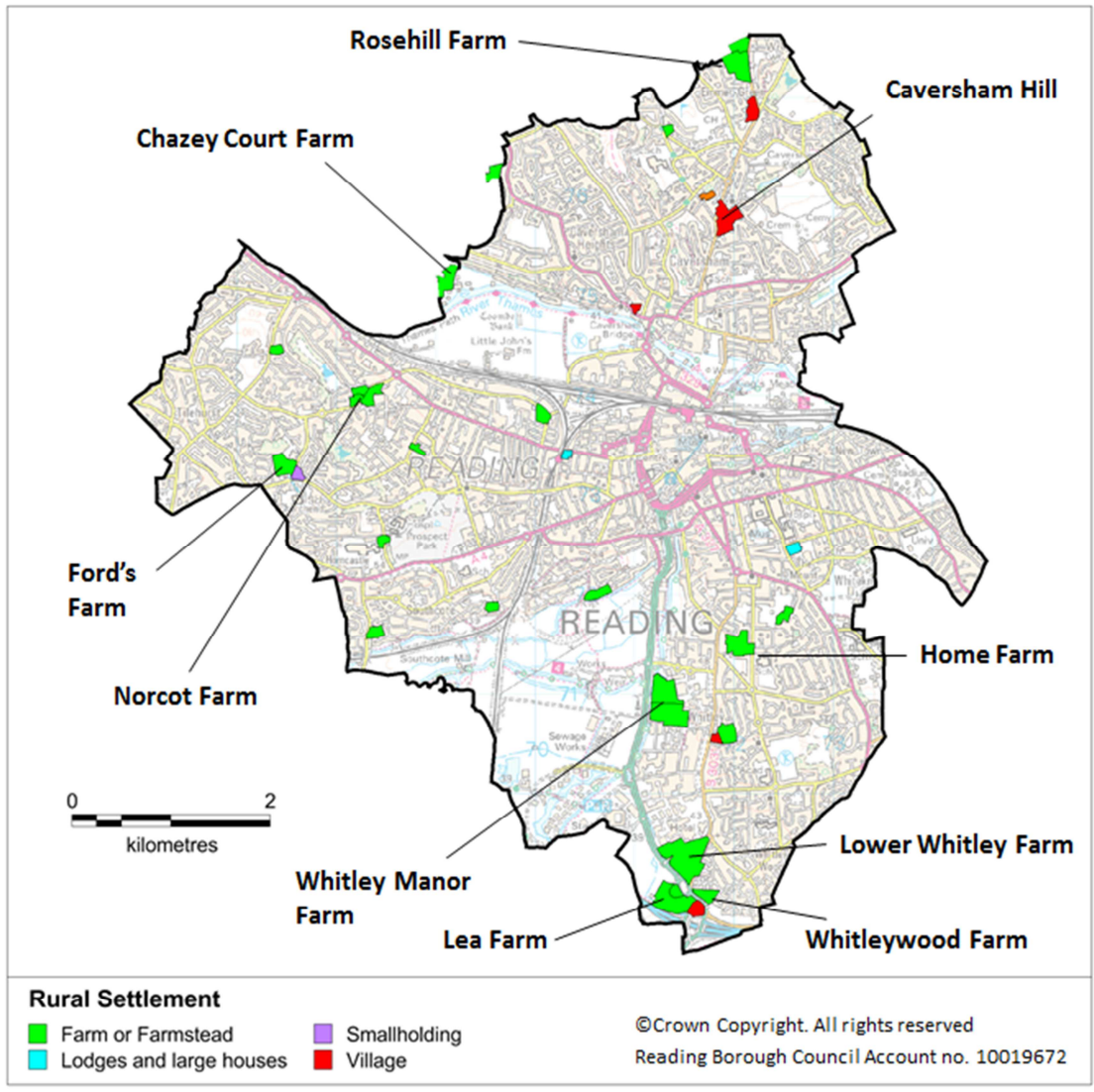
Figure 161. Rural settlement in Reading Borough c.1760

The situation in the mid-18th century was much different from today. Reading was then only a little larger than a medieval town, and was surrounded by farms and fields. To the north the hamlet of Caversham Hill later merged with the settlement cores of Upper Caversham and Lower Caversham, to form Caversham as we know it today.

20.2 Bracknell Forest

Rural settlement in Bracknell Forest is mainly concentrated north of urban Bracknell. South of Bracknell, there are a few scattered farms, and a few more are located west of Sandhurst. The settlement pattern in the north part of the Borough is difficult to describe. At first glance, the settlements may appear to cover a large proportion of the area. This impression is not incorrect, but it is not the whole picture. The farms and settlements may occupy a large area, but the reason for that is that the settlements are quite spread out and has a low density of actual houses. Many of the settlements almost join up to form complex networks. This pattern appears to be the product of several centuries of slow incremental growth, where new farms and houses would tend to be built at the outskirts of the existing settlements and at the same time along the main roads.
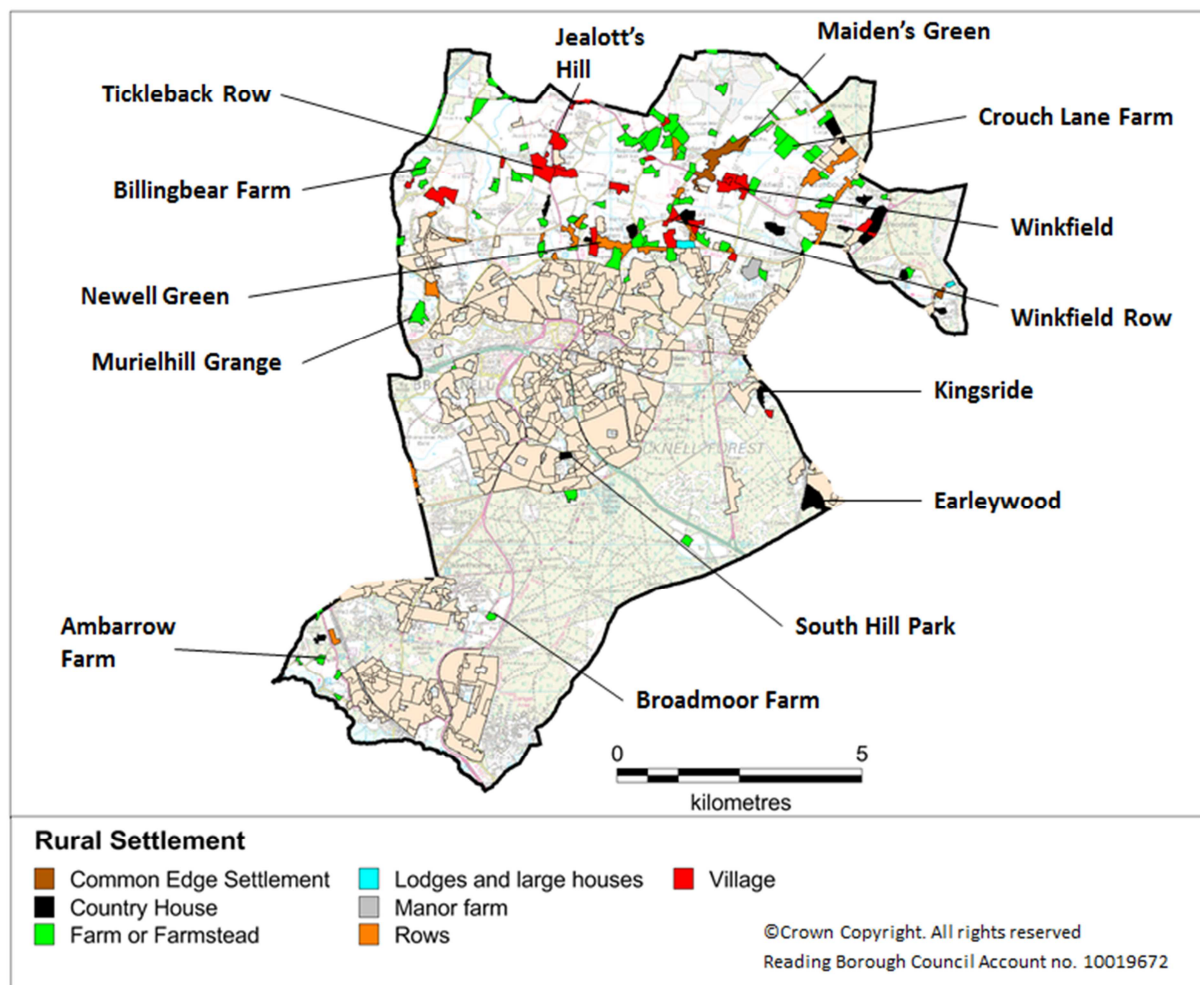
Figure 162. Rural settlement in Bracknell Forest

In the 18th century, before modern Bracknell was built and before the enclosure of the heathland, the pattern of rural settlements in the Borough was surprisingly similar to today; however the rural settlements that existed in the area that was to become modern Bracknell have mostly disappeared. Scattered around the historic settlement of Bracknell, there were a few farmhouses and country houses; on the heath, there would however have been very little in terms of settlement of any kind. The area north of Bracknell appears to have experienced slow incremental growth for several centuries. However, many of the settlements existing in the area today were there already in the

mid-18th century. Many may have originated in the medieval period or even earlier. The area west of Sandhurst, in the Blackwater valley, was relatively undeveloped in the 18th century. Most of the farms and houses there were probably only built after the mid-19th century, after the establishment of Crowthorne.
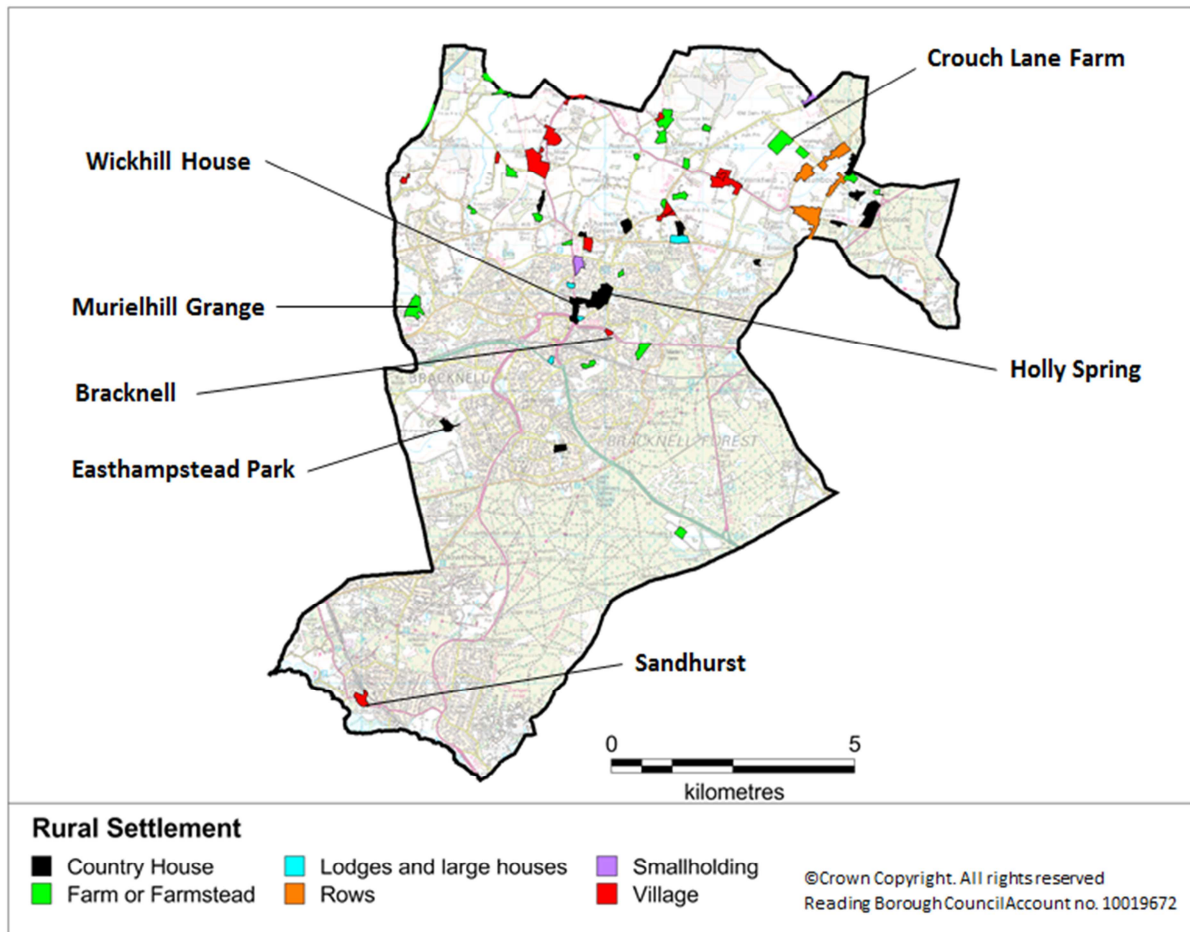
Figure 163. Rural settlement in Bracknell Forest c.1760

20.3 Wokingham Borough

Rural settlements in Wokingham Borough follows a dispersed pattern across the borough, with the pattern south of Wokingham and Lower Earley being one of scattered farms and small settlements. The same is true of the area just to the north of Wokingham. North of Wargrave, there are only a few small hamlets and farms. However in the area stretching from Wargrave in the north to just south of modern-day Twyford, the settlement pattern is subtly different. Some of the villages in this area, Wargrave and Sonning in particular, are quite large for the Borough and other historic settlements are spread out in a different pattern, with the settlements around Crazies Hill, Cockpole Green and Holly Cross thinly distributed along the roads in the area.
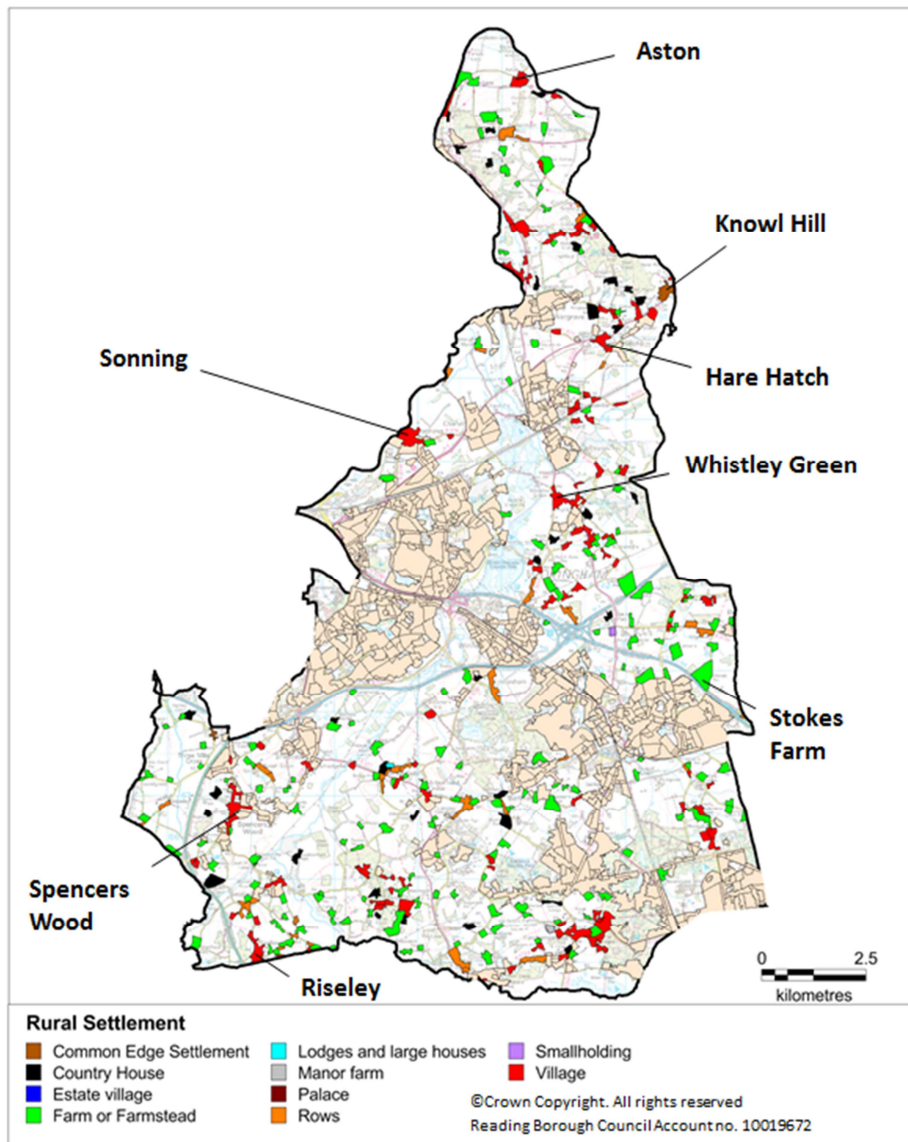
Figure 164. Rural settlement in Wokingham Borough

In the 18th century, the area south of Sonning and Whistley Green were dominated by scattered farms and small settlements, in a similar pattern to today, although the earlier settlements were much smaller. Large parts of the area are now urban settlements – Woodley, Lower Earley, Wokingham, Finchampstead etc. Wargrave and Twyford have also increased in size many times.

The origins of many of the villages still in existence are in the medieval period, with a belt of villages and hamlets running from Aston in the north of the borough, on the banks of the Thames next to a ferry crossing, south through Hare Hatch and Whistley Green, to Arborfield Cross at the junction of several routeways, and Riseley at the south of the borough.
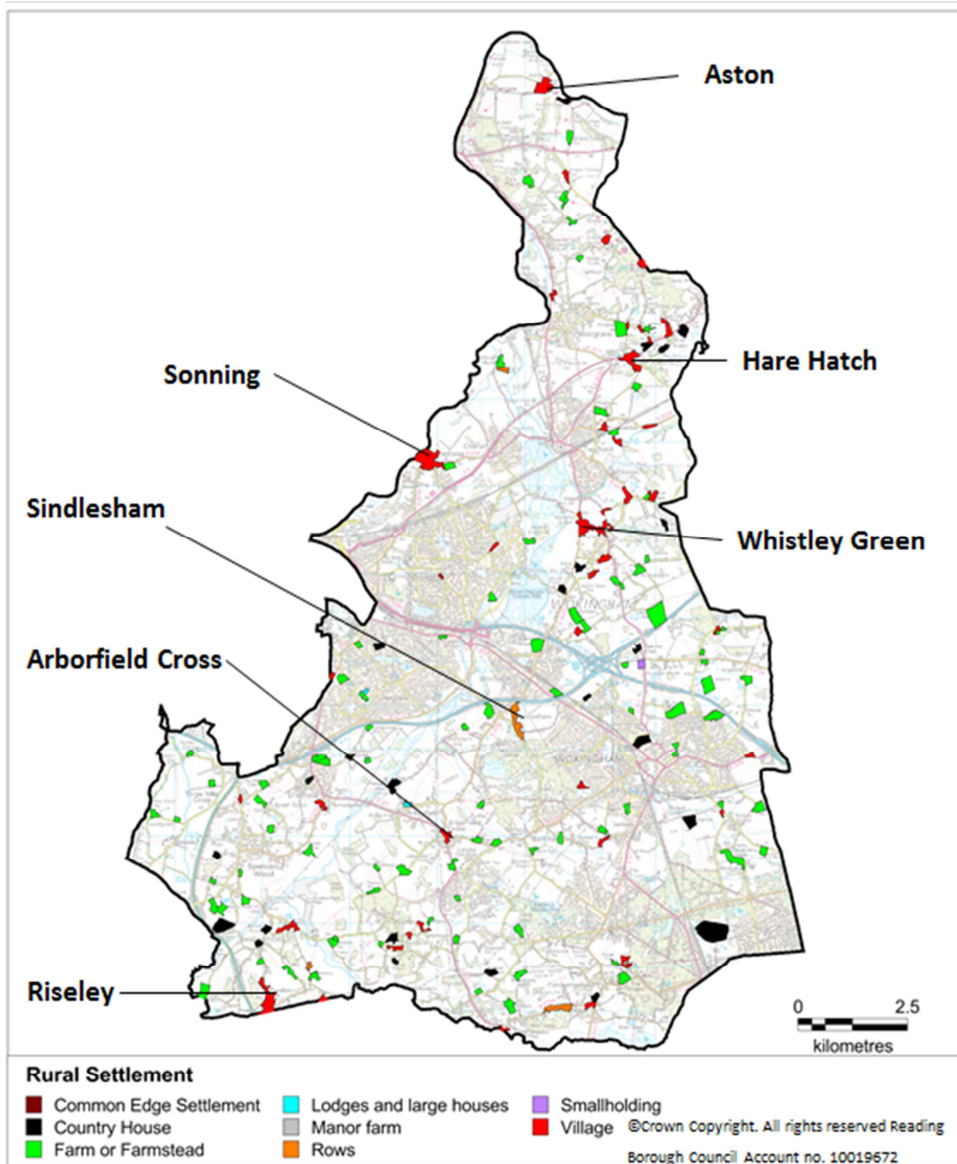
Figure 165. Rural settlement in Wokingham c.1760

20.4 Windsor and Maidenhead

Windsor and Maidenhead can roughly be divided into three parts, in terms of the character and distribution of its rural settlement.
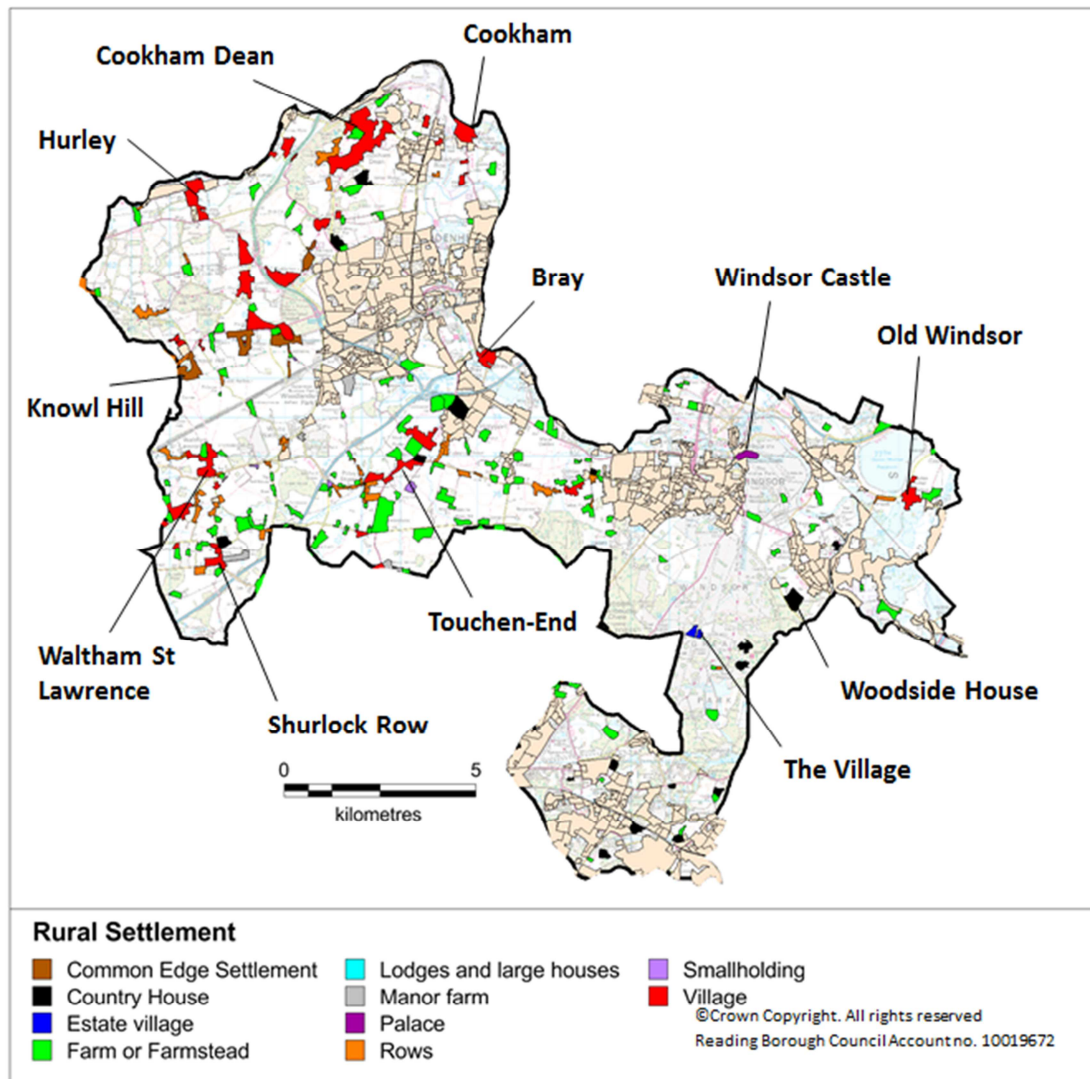
Figure 166. Rural settlement in Windsor and Maidenhead

In the area south and east of Maidenhead, the HLC records little rural settlement; those areas identified are located to the east of Windsor: Old Windsor, Datchet and Wraysbury. The reason for that is straightforward – that the area south of Windsor is mostly occupied by Windsor Forest and Windsor Great Park. South of the Great Park, are the dispersed settlements of Sunninghill, Sunningdale and Ascot.

In the area south of Maidenhead, there settlements are located largely along the main roads and are almost joined-up. This is a continuation of the patterns seen in Bracknell Forest, and appears to exist for the same reasons: incremental growth over a long period of time, with new houses built at the outskirts of existing settlements, along the main roads.

West and north of Maidenhead, the pattern is one of larger more concentrated settlements, with little in between.

In the last few hundred years, there has been a lot of "infill" development, resulting in many settlements almost joining up with each other. Another important development is the explosive growth of the larger towns and settlements (Maidenhead, Windsor, Sunninghill/Sunningdale/Ascot), resulting in the disappearance of some farms and settlements. Apart from that, the character of the rural settlements appears to have changed little; the time-slice map showing rural settlement in the medieval period again shows a similar network of villages albeit in their original extents.
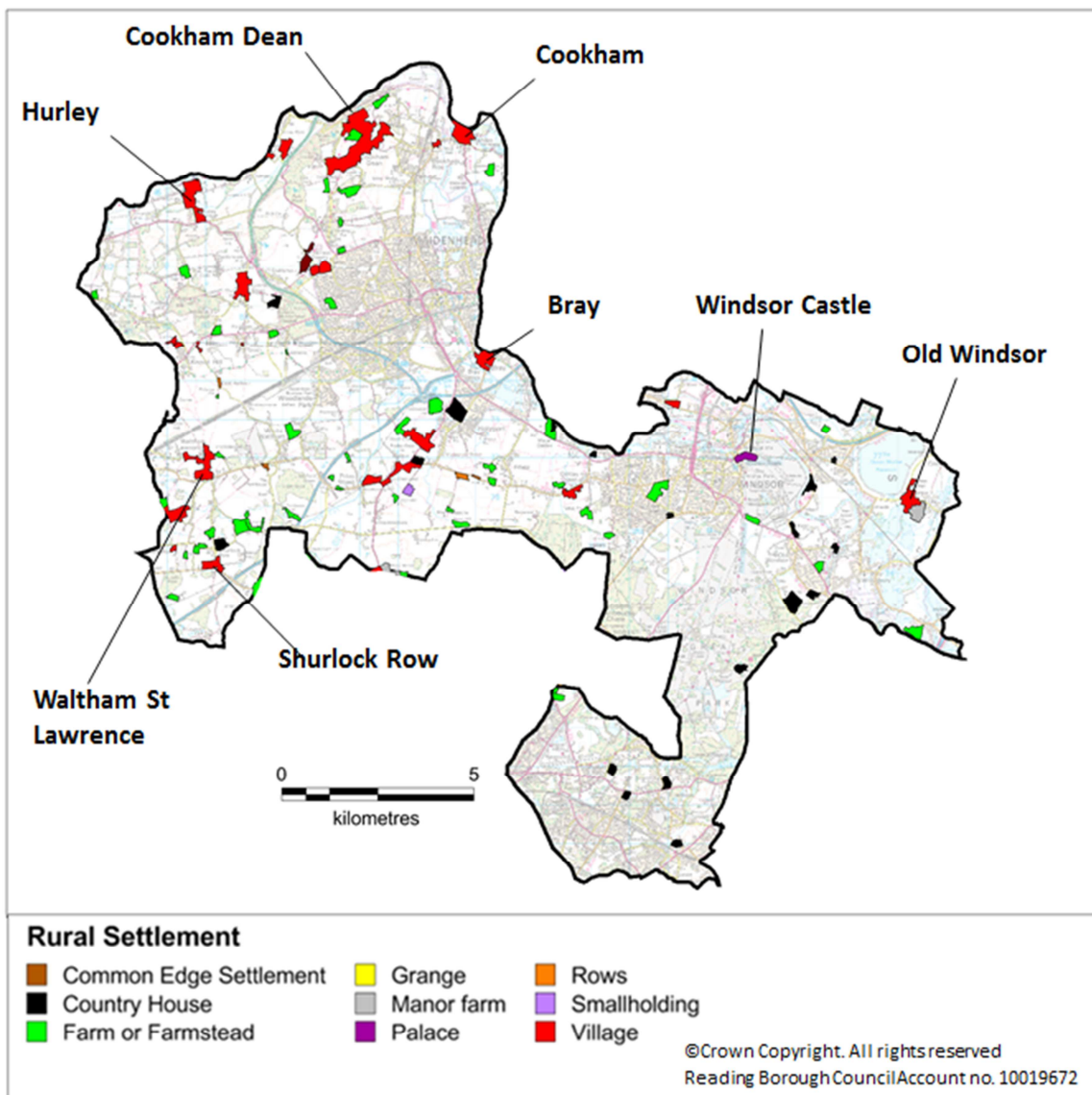
Figure 167. Rural settlement in Windsor and Maidenhead c.1760

20.5 Slough Borough

There are no truly rural settlements within Slough Borough, with the exception of Manor Farm, Dorney, in the south-west corner of the borough. The farm is visible on John Roque's map of 1760, alongside a number of smaller villages and hamlets in the borough: Chalvey, Salt Hill, Slough, Langley. Traces of these settlements still survive in the landscape today although they are not necessarily the dominant landscape character type.
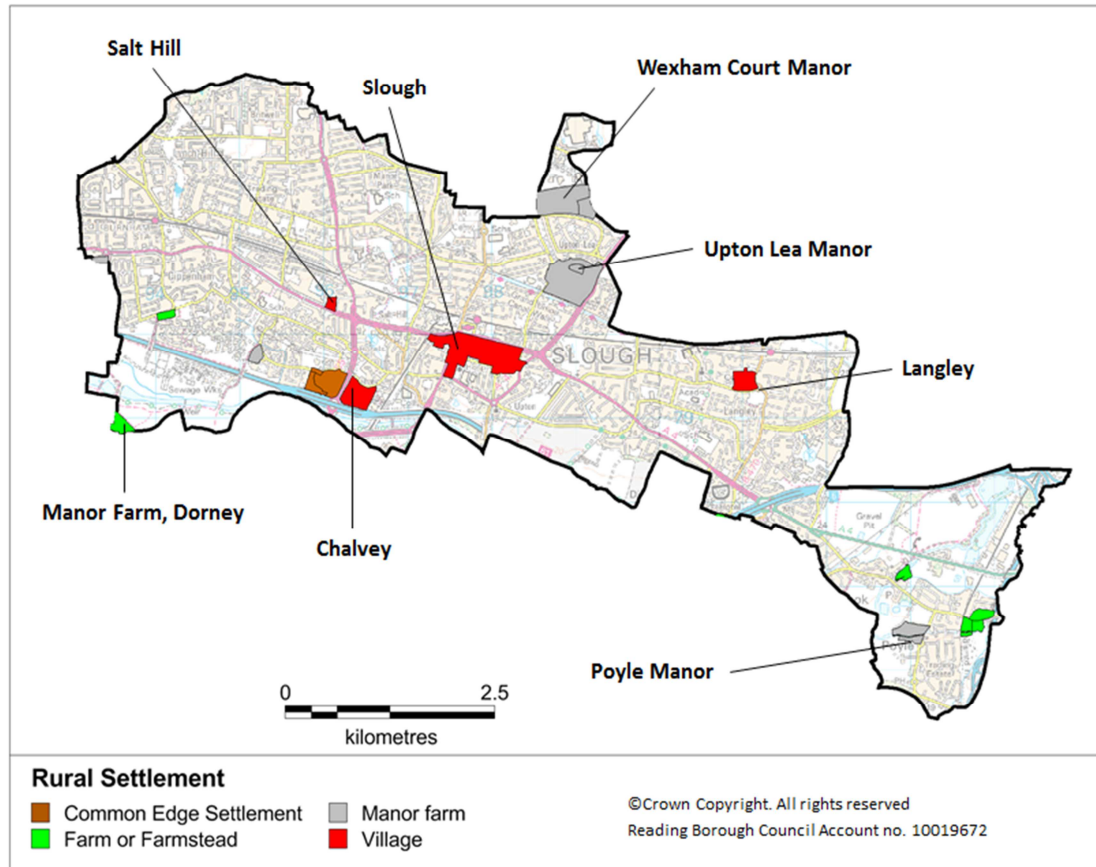
Figure 168. Rural settlement in Slough c.1760

21. Unimproved Land

Unimproved land is land that has not been substantially modified or improved; although it may be used for other purposes such as recreation, its dominant character is still of open, undivided land often with irregular ground cover, in areas less favourable for intensive agriculture. Current unimproved land is distributed fairly evenly across East Berkshire, though there is little unimproved land in the towns

Narrow types: Heathland, Marsh, Pasture / Grassland and Scrubland.

Polygons: 66 areas of unimproved land are recorded in the HLC, comprising a total area of 770 hectares. Unsurprisingly given the nature of this broad type, more than 1450 HLC areas record unimproved land as a previous type

	Area / hectares
Total	**770**
Heathland	**128**
Marsh	**92**
Pasture / Grassland	**352**
Scrubland	**199**

Table 15. Unimproved land in East Berkshire

Most of the unimproved land that once existed in East Berkshire has now disappeared, mainly due to enclosure and development. Modern development (especially for housing) was a major factor in the 20th century; prior to the 20th century, enclosure, the process whereby common land, unimproved land, and open fields were redistributed into individual ownership was the major influence. Any rights of common or over the waste (i.e. unimproved land) were abolished. This also meant the end of strip farming – a practice dating back to at least the medieval period. Before 1700, enclosure was achieved by informal means or by formal but local agreements. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries formal agreements were preferred, in particular enclosure by Act of Parliament. Enclosure through Act of Parliament proceeded through the promotion of a private Bill through parliament; after the Bill had been passed, it had the force of law.
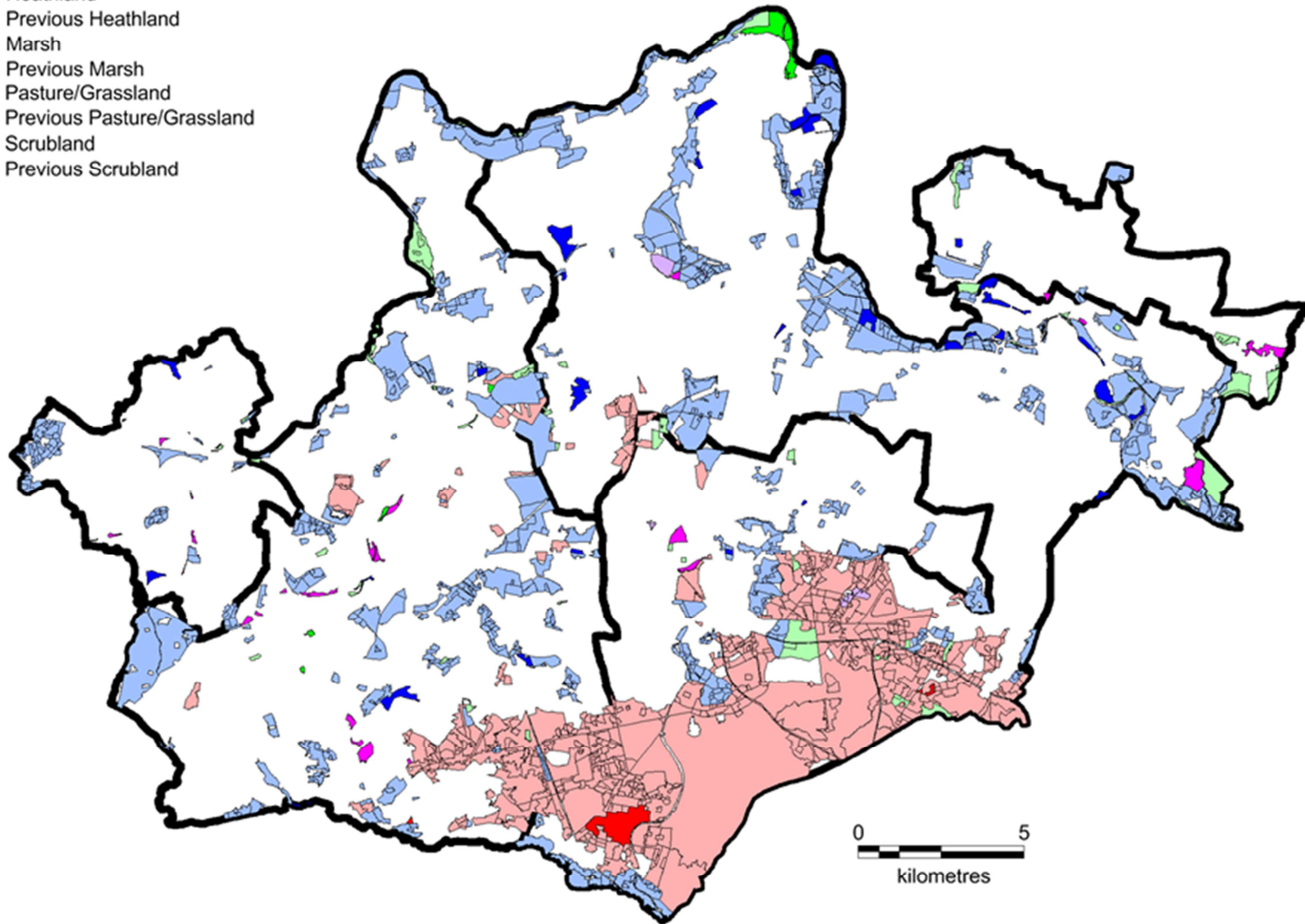
Figure 169. Current and previous unimproved land in East Berkshire

Heathland

Heathland is an ecological habitat type which is characterised by low-growing woody vegetation. There may also be some marshy areas and some trees growing on the heath. The soils are naturally free-draining and acidic and very poor in plant nutrients, and therefore unsuitable for agriculture. Heathland is largely man-made, created mainly through economic overexploitation for rough pasture and logging, and historically, heathland has been of marginal economic importance.

A large part of East Berkshire was taken up by heathland in the past. In particular, a very large contiguous area around Bracknell was originally heath. This is just a small part of a much larger area of heathland which covered parts of Surrey, Hampshire, and Berkshire as late as the 19th century; however very little of this historic heathland has been preserved in East Berkshire. Only three areas are recorded in the HLC database relating to current heathland, comprising 128 hectares. 587 individual areas, comprising 6985 hectares, are recorded to originally have been heathland in East Berkshire, meaning a mere 1.8% of what was originally present has survived. The heathland survived up until the 19th century, when almost all of it was enclosed. Today, the former heathland is used in a variety of ways, in particular as woodland, for residential housing and for recreational purposes.

2646 hectares have been converted to woodland, mostly grown for commercial purposes. 2269 hectares is now taken up by residential areas, including Sandhurst, the southeast part of Bracknell, Crowthorne, Ascot, North Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale. 687 hectares is used for recreational purposes (i.e. golf courses, public parks, leisure centres etc.).

It is also worth mentioning that three important (but very different) institutions founded in the 19th century are located on former heathland – The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Wellington College and Broadmoor Hospital – their foundation resulting primarily from the poor agricultural quality, and therefore low value, of the land. Perceptions of a place clearly influence the direction of material change (or, in these examples, lack of change); some heathland areas in East Berkshire are now subject to protection in the planning system as the only remaining undeveloped land around towns.

Marsh

Marshes are areas that are waterlogged at all times. Large marshy areas are usually associated with rivers or other watercourses. Many of the small islands in the Thames, known as eyots, originally consisted of waterlogged, marshy areas, but most are now overgrown with woodland. In other places, low lying and poorly drained areas are often marshy. Marsh is also associated with heathland – since heathland is associated with free-draining soils, the water tends to accumulate in nearby areas that are not as well drained, and these become waterlogged and marshy as a consequence.

There are only six areas recorded in the HLC database that relate to current marshes, totalling 92 hectares. Of those, the only one of any substantial size is Cock Marsh by Cookham, which extends over 79 hectares. The other areas are all less than five hectares, one of which is a small Thames eyot (i.e. island). Originally, another 85 individual areas comprising 613.5 hectares were marsh. 40 of

those are now covered in woodland. Most of the woodland has probably been planted, but the woodland is likely to have grown up spontaneously in some cases, in particular on the eyots. Another 20 areas are now part of rural or urban settlements. The remaining areas are used in a variety of ways – for instance as paddocks and other fields, for waste disposal, and as artificial lakes.

Figure 170. Cock Marsh

Pasture / Grassland

This narrow type refers to unenclosed areas where the vegetation is dominated by grassland, regularly manured by stock. In the past, most of these areas were probably used for pasture, and many were originally common land. Unimproved grassland can often be found close to rivers and watercourses, in some cases probably because the land would periodically flood and could not be used for growing crops.

Currently, unimproved grassland is mainly present in Windsor and Maidenhead and in Wokingham Borough. 33 individual areas have been recorded, comprising 352 hectares. In the past, the geographic distribution was more evenly spread around East Berkshire, with another 803 individual areas comprising 6740 hectares recorded as previous unimproved pasture / grassland. 1572 hectares of those have been converted agricultural fields, and are currently used for growing crops. 1967 hectares are now part of rural or urban residential areas, and another 547 hectares are used for recreation. 868 hectares remain as grassland in one form or another, either extensively drained or significantly improved in other ways, or as paddocks. Perceptions of areas clearly change as demonstrated by the protection often afforded to grassland areas in the planning system now.

Figure 171. Marsh Meadow, near Cookham

Scrubland

Scrubland is uncultivated land characterised by vegetation dominated by shrubs or bushes of woody plants. It may thus be quite similar in appearance to heathland, although heathland always exist on self-draining, poor soils, whereas scrubland doesn't necessarily imply anything about the nature of the underlying soil. It is not a defined ecological habitat in the same way as heathland.

There are 26 separate areas and 199 hectares of scrubland recorded in East Berkshire, and only four former areas of scrub, totalling 12.5 hectares. In East Berkshire, scrubland in practice denotes a state of dereliction or abandonment of the land, often associated with redevelopment. Typically, such areas have been cut off by a housing development, a road or a railway line, and exist as isolated "islands", making productive use of the areas impractical or impossible. The subsequent abandonment of the area creates scrubland through the natural, unmanaged, growth of vegetation.

21.1 Reading Borough

Hemdean Bottom in Caversham and the former Small Mead by the Sewage Works in south Reading, (both meadows) are the only two surviving remnants of unimproved pasture / grassland within Reading Borough. Originally, Kentwood Common and Tilehurst Common were probably unimproved grassland. These were located in present-day Tilehurst in the west of Reading. A few areas close to the River Thames may also originally have been unimproved grassland, and Coley Park may also have been grassland before it was converted to Parkland. A few areas of former marsh were located in Caversham, in the north of the Borough, and some small areas of modern scrubland can be found scattered around Reading. Reading Borough never contained any heathland.
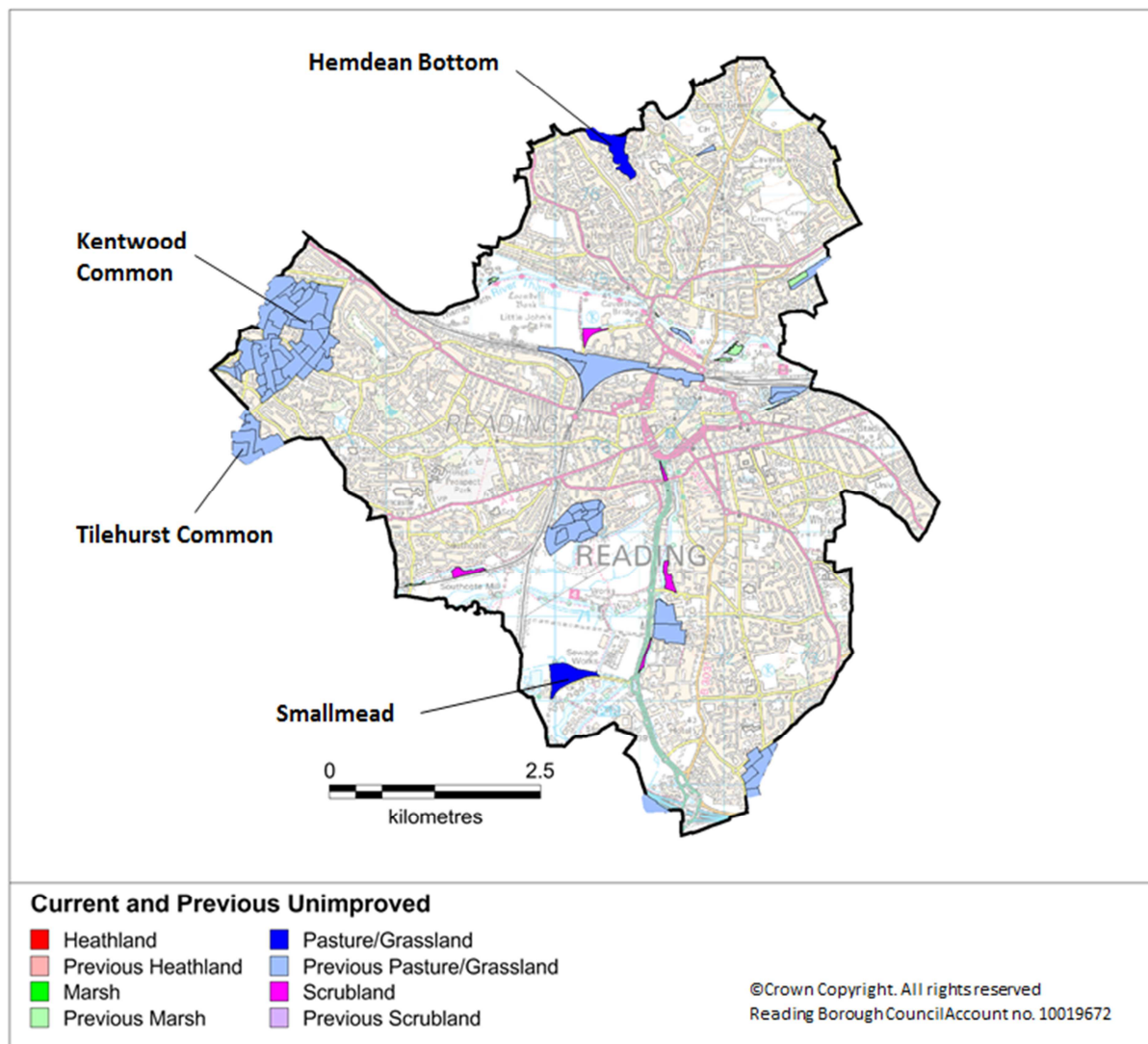
Figure 172. Current and previous unimproved land in Reading Borough

21.2 Wokingham

Very little now remains of the once extensive areas of unimproved land in the Borough. Only a single area of pasture / grassland remains, and modern scrubland along the edges of Lower Earley and Woodley. Previously, the southeast corner of the Borough was dominated by heathland, areas of unimproved grassland were widely distributed around the Borough, and areas of marsh were associated with the River Thames, River Loddon, and other watercourses. The marshes have all been drained or converted to other uses, including Warfield Marsh and Borough Marsh, the two largest former marshes in the Borough. Former heathland likewise has been enclosed and converted to other uses, especially for housing.
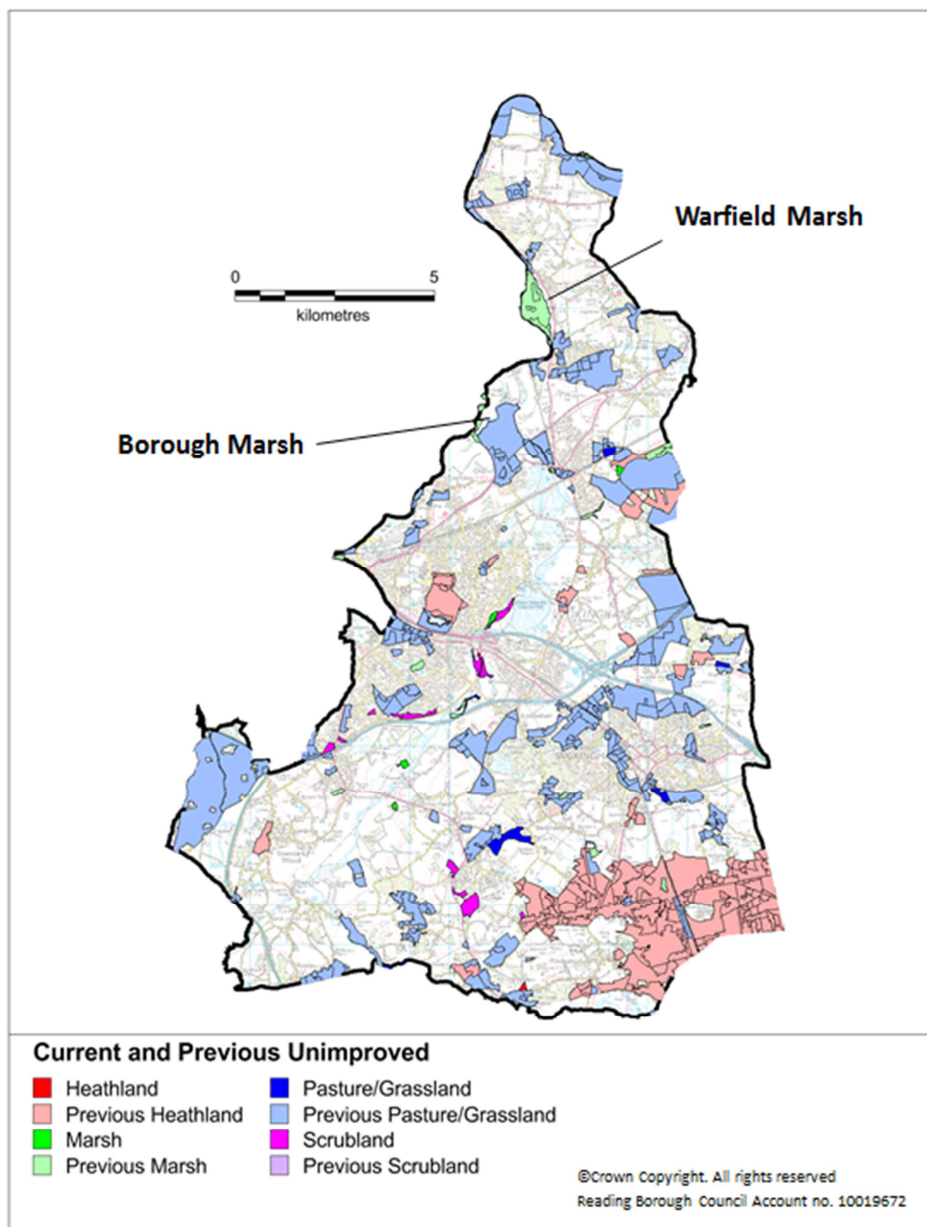
Figure 173. Current and previous unimproved land in Wokingham Borough.

21.3 Bracknell Forest

The south part of Bracknell Forest was originally completely dominated by heathland. Only Wildmoor Heath, by Crowthorne, today remains as heathland, with the rest having been converted to commercial woodland (Bracknell Forest), occupied by the settlements of Crowthorne, Sandhurst, North Ascot and Bracknell, or used for other purposes. Large areas of unimproved pasture / grassland could previously be found just to the north of the heathland, and along the Blackwater River, none of which is still in existence, having been largely replaced by modern housing. No marshland now exists within Bracknell Forest. Formerly, the largest area of marsh in the area was Whitmoor Bog, now an area of commercial forestry. A few areas of modern scrubland exist in the east part of Bracknell Forest.
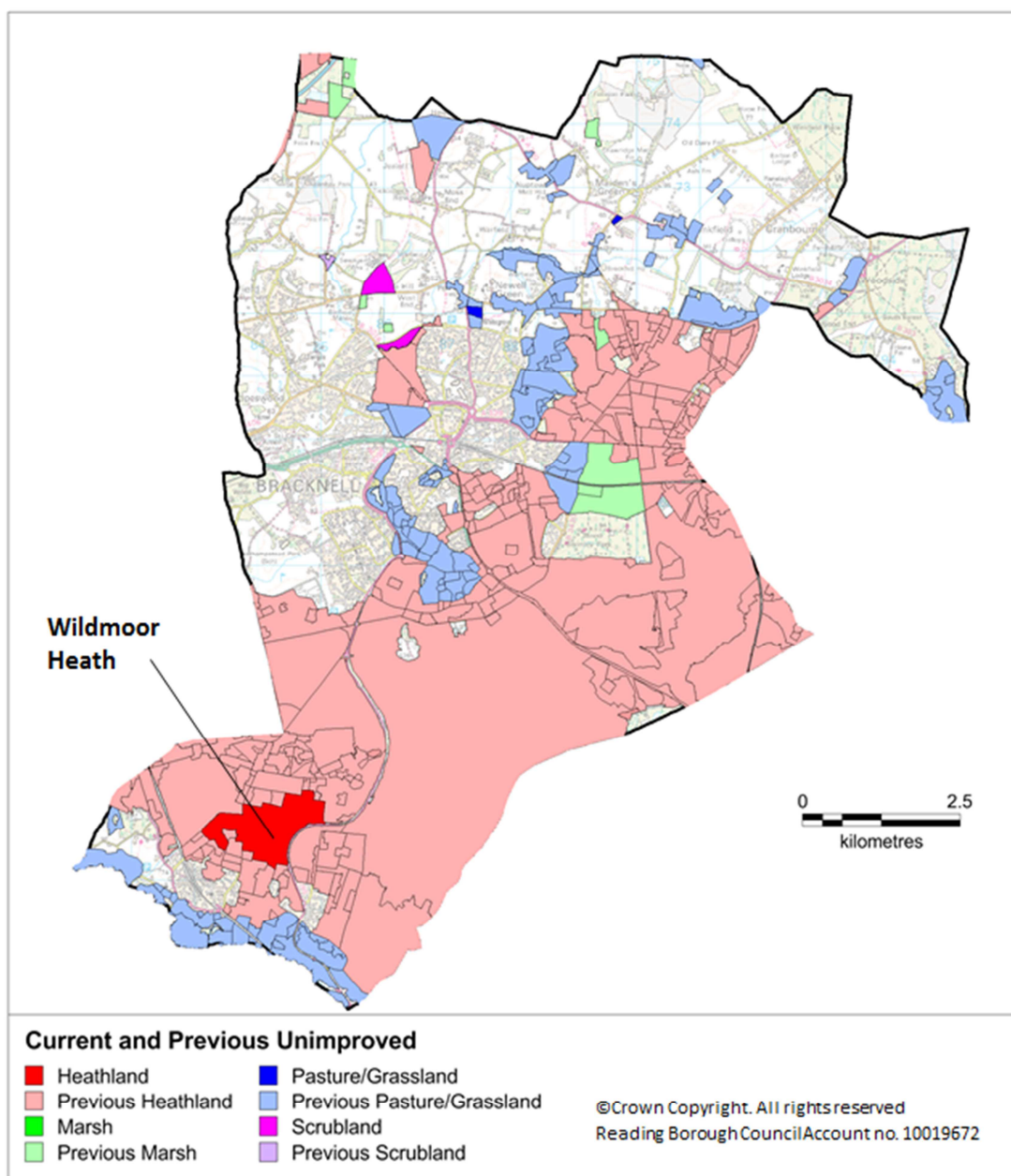
Figure 174. Current and previous unimproved land in Bracknell Forest.

21.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Unimproved land within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is currently dominated by pasture / grassland, most of which is located close to the River Thames. Only a fraction has survived from the extensive unimproved grassland that originally existed; as well as that associated with the River Thames, notably Maidenhead Thicket, which now is covered in woodland, is shown as grassland or rough pasture on the earliest maps. The extent of the Thicket was also much larger than today. Cock Marsh, the only large marsh in East Berkshire which seems to have survived unaltered to present day, is located in the north part of the area, north of Cookham Rise. The current-day settlements of Ascot, Sunningdale and Sunninghill are built on former heathland.
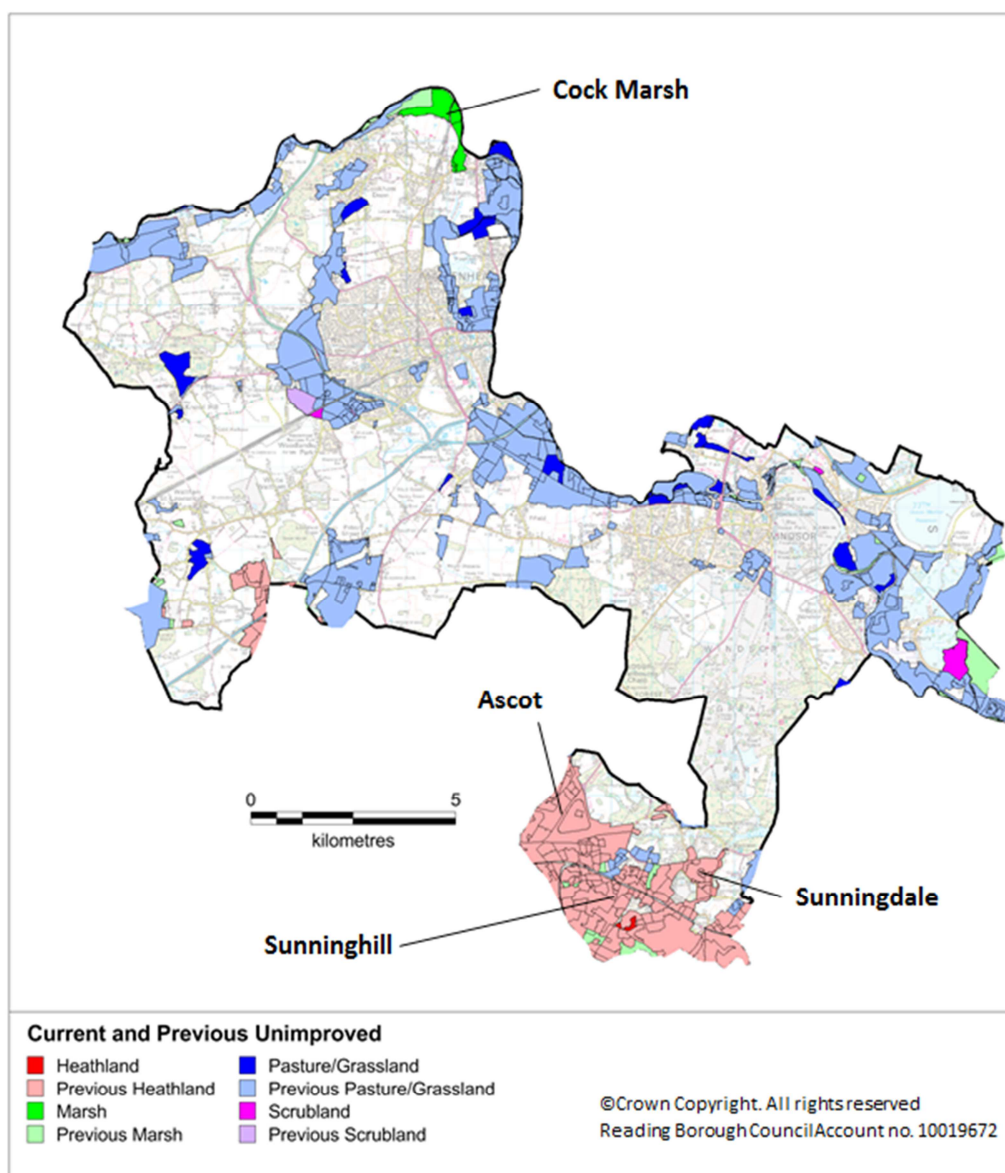
Figure 175. Current and previous unimproved land in Windsor and Maidenhead

21.5 Slough

There is a relatively large area of modern scrubland located in Colnbrook in the east. It is currently unused land, but associated with modern depots and industrial areas. Cippenham Green survives in the west of the Borough. Apart from those two areas, no other examples of unimproved land survive within the Borough of Slough. Large parts of Colnbrook were in the past occupied by marshy ground, and areas close to the River Thames and at Lynch Hill in the west were occupied by grassland or marshy ground.
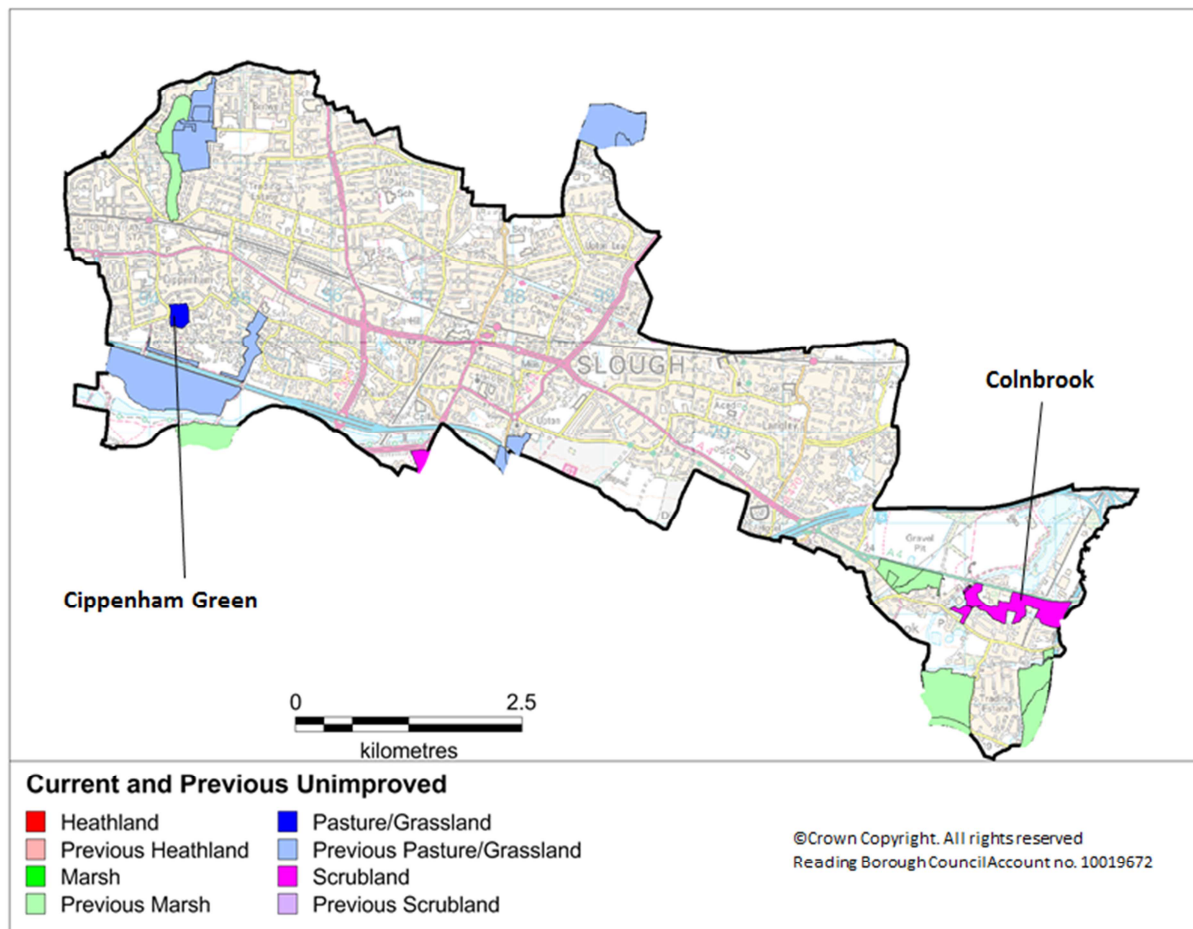
Figure 176. Current and previous unimproved land in Slough Borough

22.Urban Settlement

The Urban Settlement broad type comprises areas with large numbers of houses and dwellings as the principal characteristic, and is associated with urban settlement areas. The current East Berkshire area contains a number of major and smaller towns, often originating as medieval settlements, and most of which continue to grow in terms of housing numbers and infrastructure.

Narrow Types: *Back Yards, Bungalows, Detached Houses, Flats, Historic Settlement Core, Mixed Housing, Park Homes and Caravan Parks, Semi-detached Houses, Terraced Housing, Town Housing, Villas *(*recorded as previous types only)*

Polygons: 2326 individual areas have been recorded in this broad type, comprising a total of 13,133 hectares.

	Area / hectares
Total	13,133
Bungalows	113
Detached houses	4804
Flats	916
Historic settlement core	434
Mixed housing	446
Park Homes and Caravan Parks	135
Semi-detached houses	2865
Terraced housing	2391
Town houses	7
Villas	1022

Table 16. Urban Settlement areas in East Berkshire

Until the 19th century, East Berkshire had a largely rural character, with the exceptions being Reading and a few smaller market towns. Since the 18th century, the area used for residential purposes has

grown considerably. 19th century growth was significant in relation to the size of the original late medieval settlements; this was however in turn dwarfed by the 20th century expansion, in particular in the post-Second World War period. Each period of growth is marked by specific planned elements, and often architectural detail, substantially affecting the character of the area. Towns in East Berkshire tend to focus on main communications routes such as west-east road and rail, the main river valleys and hinterlands such as the immediate vicinity of the Thames and its crossings, and areas of natural resources exploited for industry and commerce.

Detached and semi-detached houses - Detached houses are free-standing houses that are not joined to another on any side; semi-detached houses are joined to another house on one wall only. The design of detached and semi-detached houses varies a great deal; both types can often be found in the same areas, though usually one dominates.

Flats - Flats are self-contained living spaces that form part of a larger building. These can be part of larger custom-built blocks of flats, though many modern blocks of flats have been converted from other uses.

Terraced houses - Terraced houses are built in a row, attached to and adjoining one another. Areas of terraced houses, often built in grid-iron patterns, were very common in the Victorian and Edwardian periods. Typically, the length of the row is the same as the length of the street. A number of towns in the East Berkshire have extensive areas of extant terraced housing from this time period. Other areas of terraced housing were constructed in the post-Second World War period (c.1945 – 1970), in large estates, many consisting almost entirely of identical terraced houses. These houses are often organised in rows of a certain length (usually four to five terraced houses), but the rows can be much longer.

Figure 177. Modern terraced houses in Slough, with Slough Trading Estate in the background

Villas - Villas are detached houses, only much larger in size than the typical detached house. They are never part of housing estates consisting of identical houses, but are always uniquely designed.

Typically set back from the street, surrounded by substantial gardens, they are named individually on historic maps and tend to be found in more rural locations, at the edge of towns and settlements. There is also a substantial concentration of villas east of Bracknell around Ascot, Sunningdale and Sunninghill, again in an area of less dense population.

Bungalows - Bungalows are residential single-storey houses, an unusual type of housing for East Berkshire. Areas dominated by bungalows often consist of identical houses, but this is not always the case. All of the bungalows in East Berkshire originate in the 20th century, the majority built after the Second World War.

Town Houses - are houses typical of historic town centres. Typically, these are two to three storeys tall and attached to, and adjoining, other houses. In this respect, they are similar to terraced houses. However, the ground floor of a typical town house is often occupied by shops or other commercial properties, and the houses are built individually and not planned and constructed as rows. There are also examples of larger freestanding town houses in Reading. Around seven hectares of land in East Berkshire are dominated by town houses, or 30 hectares if the historic town centres of Eton and Wokingham are included.

Figure 178. Historic townhouses in Reading town centre

Park Homes and Caravan Parks - Park homes and caravan parks are dedicated areas for static caravans, touring caravans, or park homes. Park homes are prefabricated buildings occupied as permanent homes. These usually consist of static caravans resting on a built-up foundation. There are 32 caravan parks and park home areas in East Berkshire, covering an area of 134 hectares. Most of those are either static caravan parks or park homes. Caravan parks and park home areas tend to be found at the edge of towns and settlements and in isolated rural locations.

Mixed Housing - Areas of mixed housing are areas where a number of different types of residential houses can be found, but without a single dominant type. These are typically highly complex areas,

often found in or close to the centre of old towns and settlements. The complexity is usually the effect of small incremental changes that have accumulated over time rather than any form of strategic town planning. 375 hectares of land have a "mixed residential" character, or 581 hectares if the historic settlement cores with mixed residential character are included (see below).

Historic settlement cores – a historic settlement core is the original extent of an historic settlement, and is typically, but not always, found in the current centre of a settlement. The character of these areas varies, but is usually quite complex. From this location the settlement expanded over time, often growing concentrically outwards. Historic settlement cores usually still retain some aspects of their historic character, although what does survive varies a great deal. Some areas retain large numbers of historic houses, but in others perhaps only part of the road network has survived

Backyards - Backyards, as the term suggests, are yards or gardens at the back of houses. There are no current areas in East Berkshire recorded as backyards. Backyards as a former type represent the redevelopment of already developed areas, making them more densely packed with housing. Most of this redevelopment has taken place in the last few decades.

Figure 179. Urban settlement in East Berkshire

Urban Settlement

- Bungalows
- Detached houses
- Flats
- Historic settlement core
- Mixed housing
- Park Homes and Caravan Parks
- Semi-detached houses
- Terraced housing
- Town houses
- Villas

0   5
kilometres

234

Age of Extant Housing

- Present by 1761
- c.1762 to 1814
- c.1815 to 1870
- c.1871 to 1899
- c.1900 to 1939
- c.1940 to 1962
- c.1963 to 2016

Windsor and Maidenhead

Slough

Wokingham

Reading

Bracknell Forest

0   10
kilometres
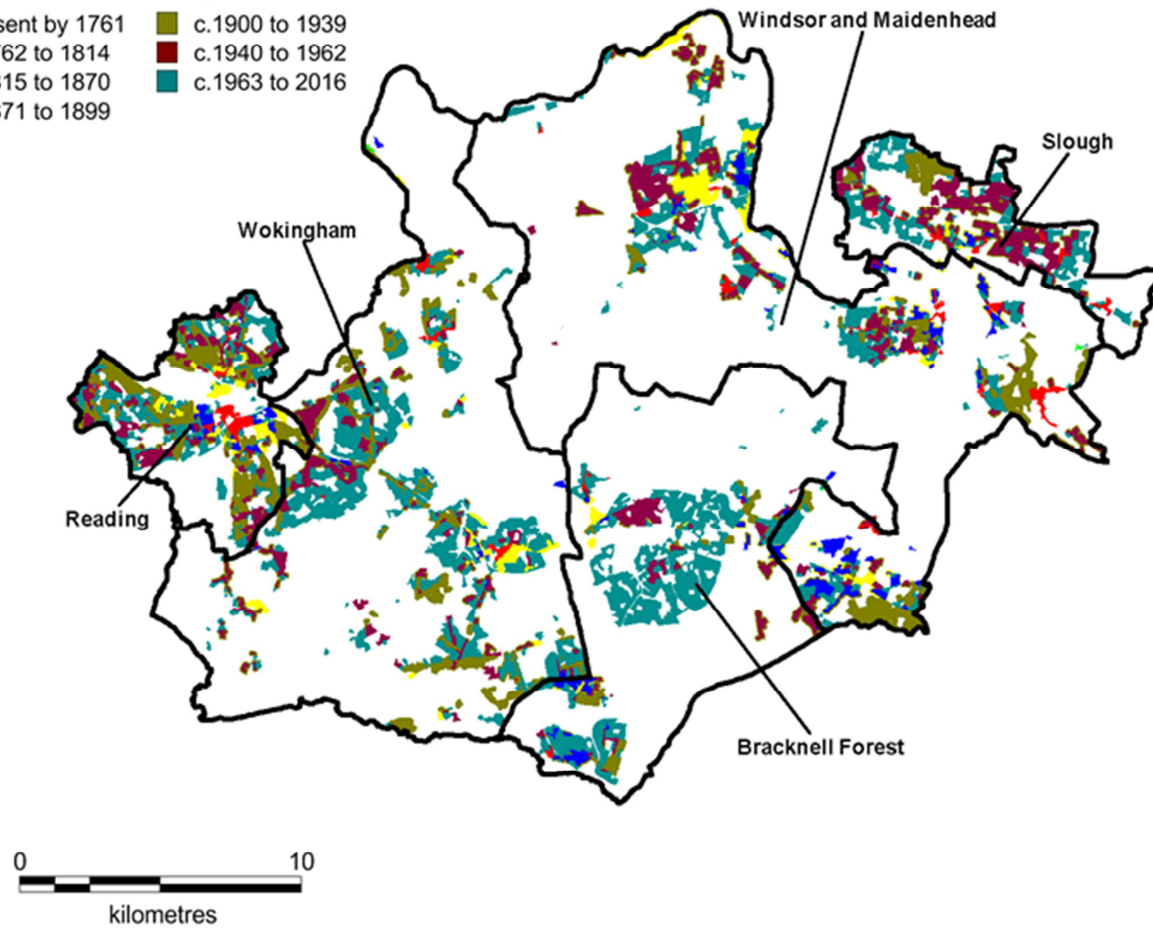
Figure 180. Age of the extant housing in East Berkshire

22.1 Reading Borough

Reading, a town of known Saxon origin is the largest town in East Berkshire, and is located by the River Kennet and the River Thames. When discussing the nature of urban settlement in Reading, and the evolution of the town, it may be useful to divide the town into two parts; Reading proper on the one hand and Caversham on the other. Historically, the River Thames formed the northern boundary of the Borough (as well as of Berkshire). Caversham, the part of Reading which is located north of the Thames, was originally part of Oxfordshire and only became part of Reading in 1911.
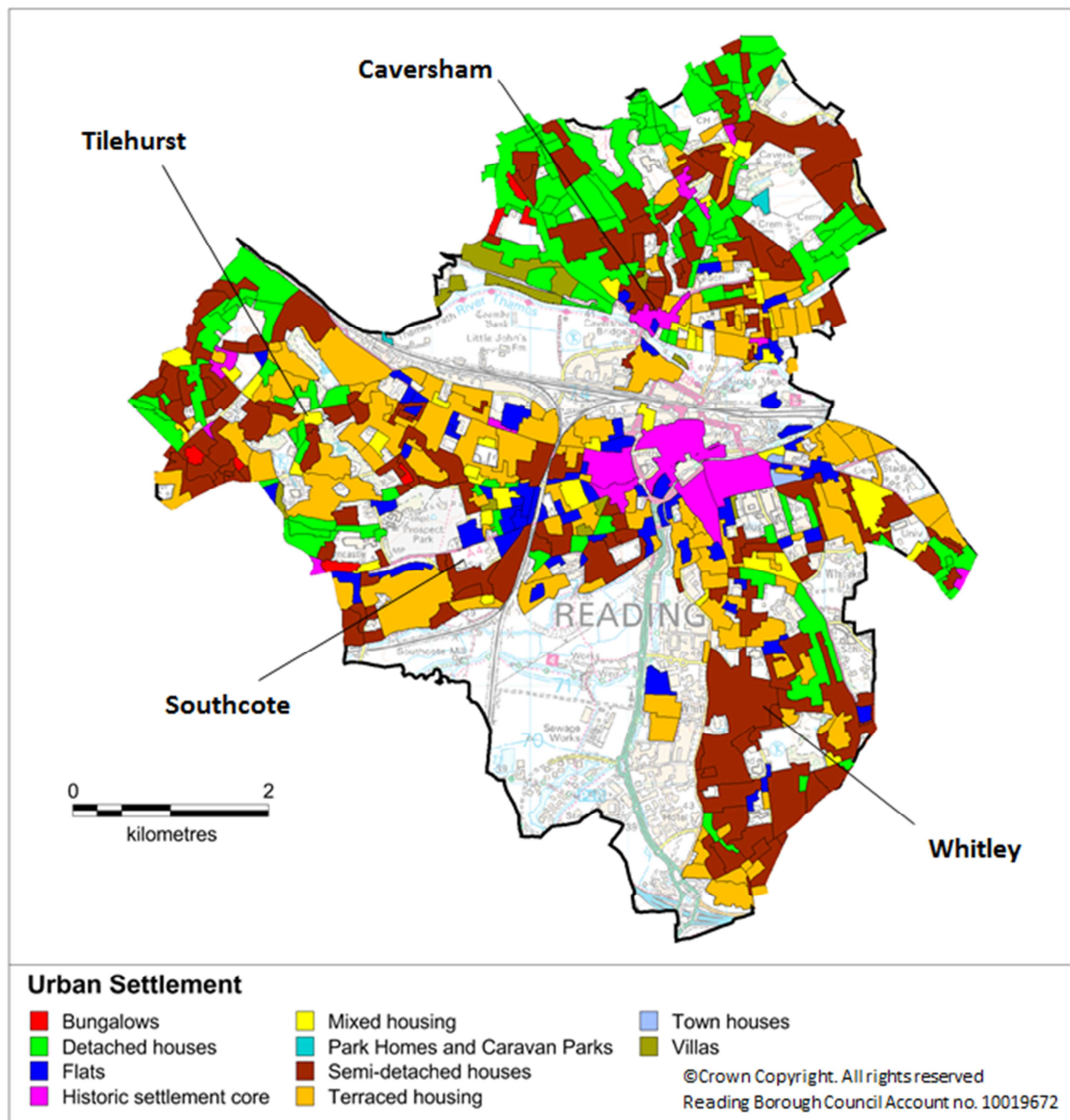
Figure 181. Urban settlement in Reading Borough

The historic town centre of Reading is well-defined, with the network of roads and streets in this area being laid out in the medieval period. However, the surviving historic houses are mainly of mid-19th century origins. The earliest part of Reading was located around St Mary's Butts, which is where

two main roads meet – the road from Oxford to Winchester and the road from London to Bath. These roads originated in the Saxon period.

From this historic core, the town started to expand in the 19th century towards the east, south and west. It reached an extent similar to currently before the Second World War. Large parts of west Reading (Tilehurst and Southcote) and south Reading (Whitley) were however only developed in the post-war period.

Figure 182. 19th century detached houses in Reading town centre

The south of Reading is dominated by large housing estates consisting mainly of semi-detached houses. The extreme west part of Reading is dominated by detached houses. The rest of Reading, apart from Caversham and the historic town centre, is principally characterised by terraced housing. Large areas of terraced housing, especially in the west of Reading around Oxford Road, were built in the 19th century and laid out in grid-iron patterns. There are also large areas of semi-detached houses, and many smaller areas of modern blocks of flats, in this part of Reading.

Caversham was originally two separate villages – Upper Caversham (in the west) and Lower Caversham (in the east), and these remained separated until the late 19th century. Upper Caversham has a well-defined historic core, with many surviving historic buildings still visible. From this historic core, the village started to expand in the late 19th century. The south part of Caversham was developed before the Second World War. Most of the north part was only developed after 1963.

The southeast part of Caversham is dominated by terraced housing, with some of the streets close to the River Thames organised in typical Victorian grid iron patterns. A small area of villas is located

in the southwest part of Caversham. Most of Caversham is however characterised by a mix of detached houses and semi-detached houses, with the areas of detached houses dominating.
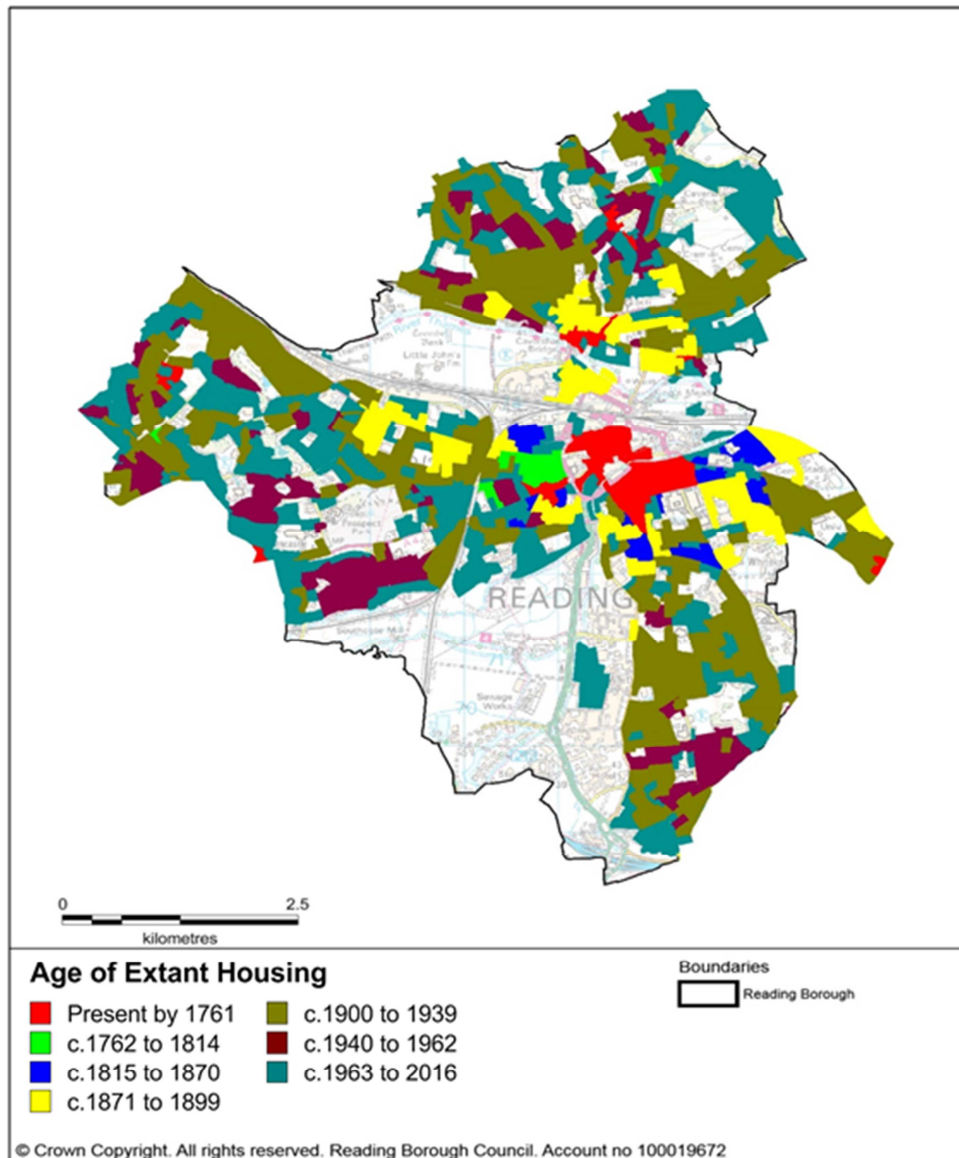
Figure 183. Age of the extant housing in Reading

22.2 Bracknell Forest

There are three main settlements in Bracknell Forest: Bracknell, Sandhurst, and the south part of Crowthorne, a large part of which was built in the 19th century on enclosed former heathland, while the rest was built incrementally in the 20th century. Crowthorne is home to Wellington College (built 1856-59) and Broadmoor hospital (founded 1863); however the village was established after the creation of these institutions, and after Crowthorne railway station was opened in 1860. The south part of Crowthorne is dominated by areas of detached houses, except the area just west of Broadmoor hospital, which is dominated by semi-detached houses.
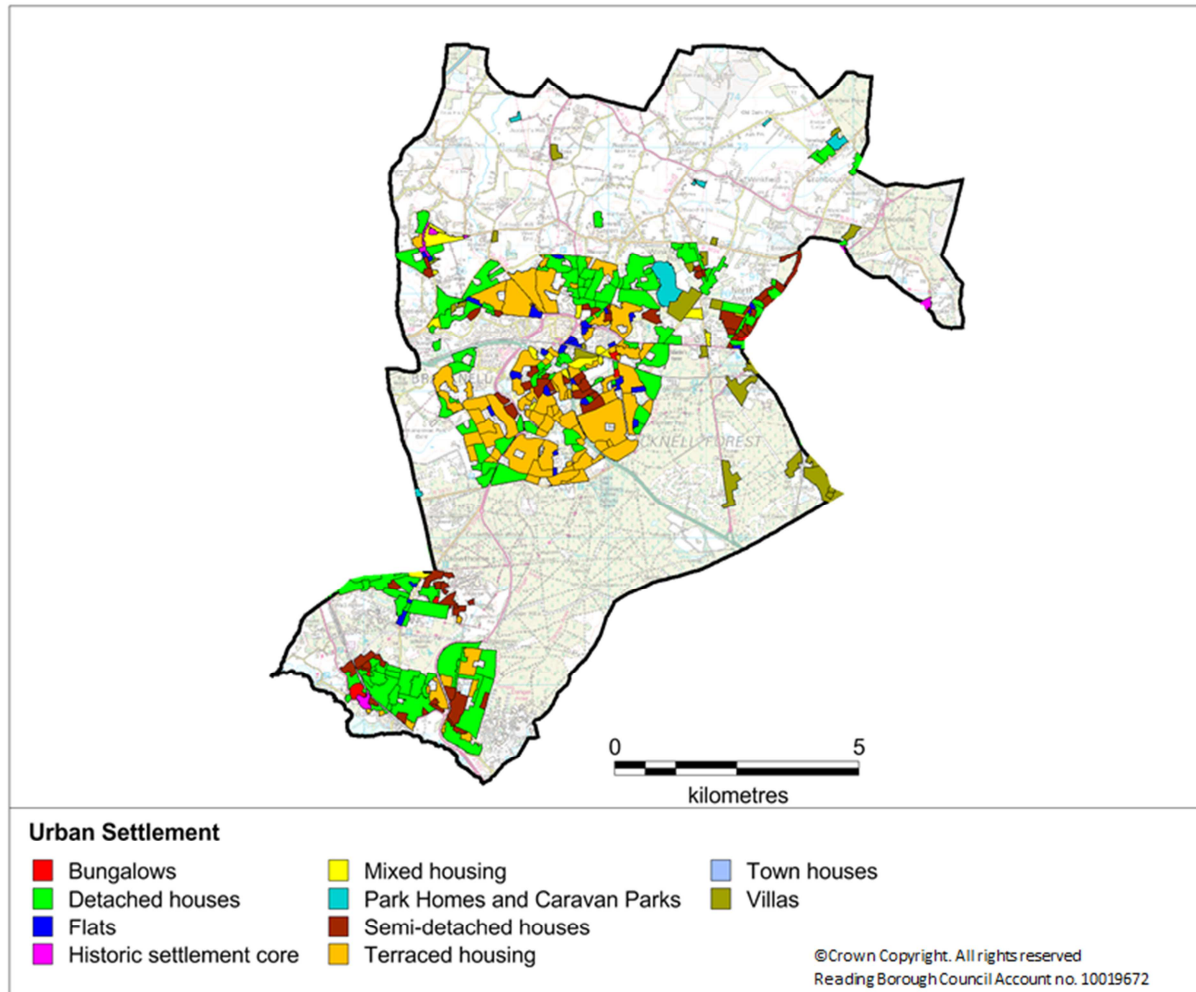
Figure 184. Urban settlement in Bracknell Forest

Sandhurst is situated in the south of Bracknell Forest, by the Blackwater River and developed as a small village on the edge of the heath. Most of the current settlement was built on former heathland in the 19th and 20th century after the land was enclosed. The current town started to grow up after the establishment of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1812, and was built on enclosed former heathland in the 19th and 20th century. Modern Sandhurst is characterised by large estates consisting mostly of detached houses, but also by terraced and semi-detached houses.

Bracknell was originally a village with medieval origins – however this is hardly reflected at all in the modern character of the town, as it was designated a New Town in 1949. However, the original

village centre survived until the 1970s, when it was completely demolished and replaced with a modern town centre. The modern town is characterised by large estates consisting of terraced houses, and areas of detached houses in the periphery. It is entirely built after the Second World War, mostly in the 1960s and 1970s. The southeast part of the town is built on former heathland. The 'new town' also incorporates the historic village centre of Easthampstead.
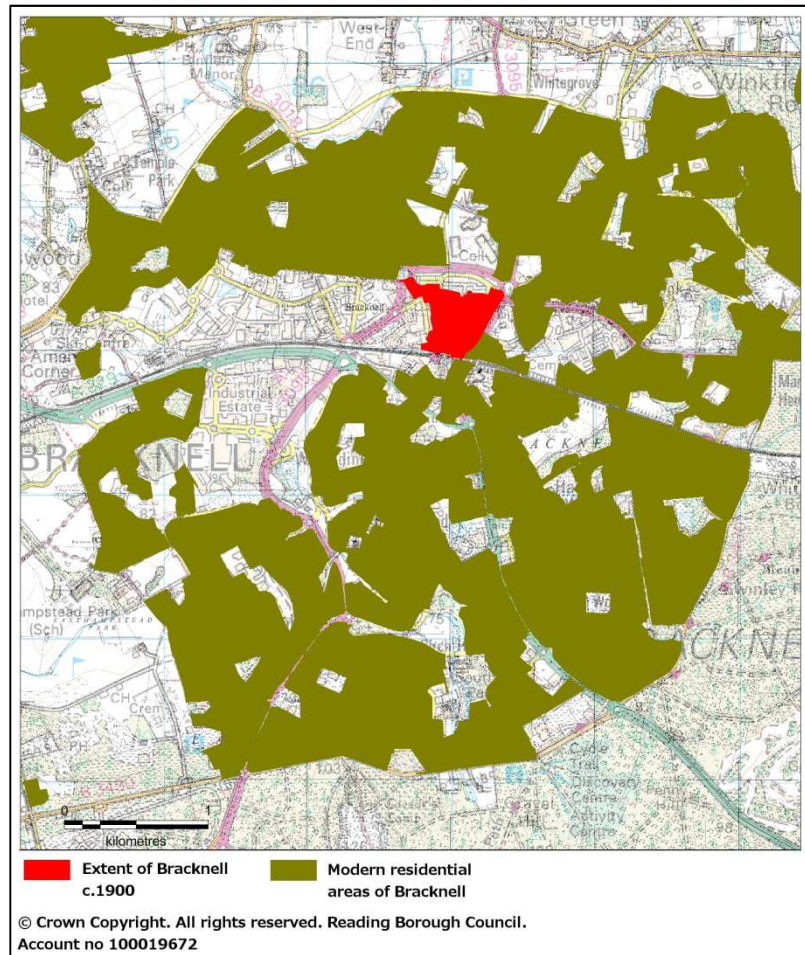
Figure 185. The location of the historic village of Bracknell, now under the modern town centre

To the northeast of Bracknell is North Ascot. This is an area of Ascot which is located in Bracknell Forest, to the west of Ascot Racecourse, and is characterised by areas of detached houses and areas of semi-detached houses. The settlement was originally built in the 19th century on enclosed former heathland, when it consisted of areas of thinly dispersed detached houses. The currently existing housing was however almost entirely built in the 20th century.

Age of Extant Housing

🟥 Present by 1761	🟫 c.1900 to 1939
🟩 c.1762 to 1814	🟥 c.1940 to 1962
🟦 c.1815 to 1870	🟩 c.1963 to 2016
🟨 c.1871 to 1899	

Boundaries
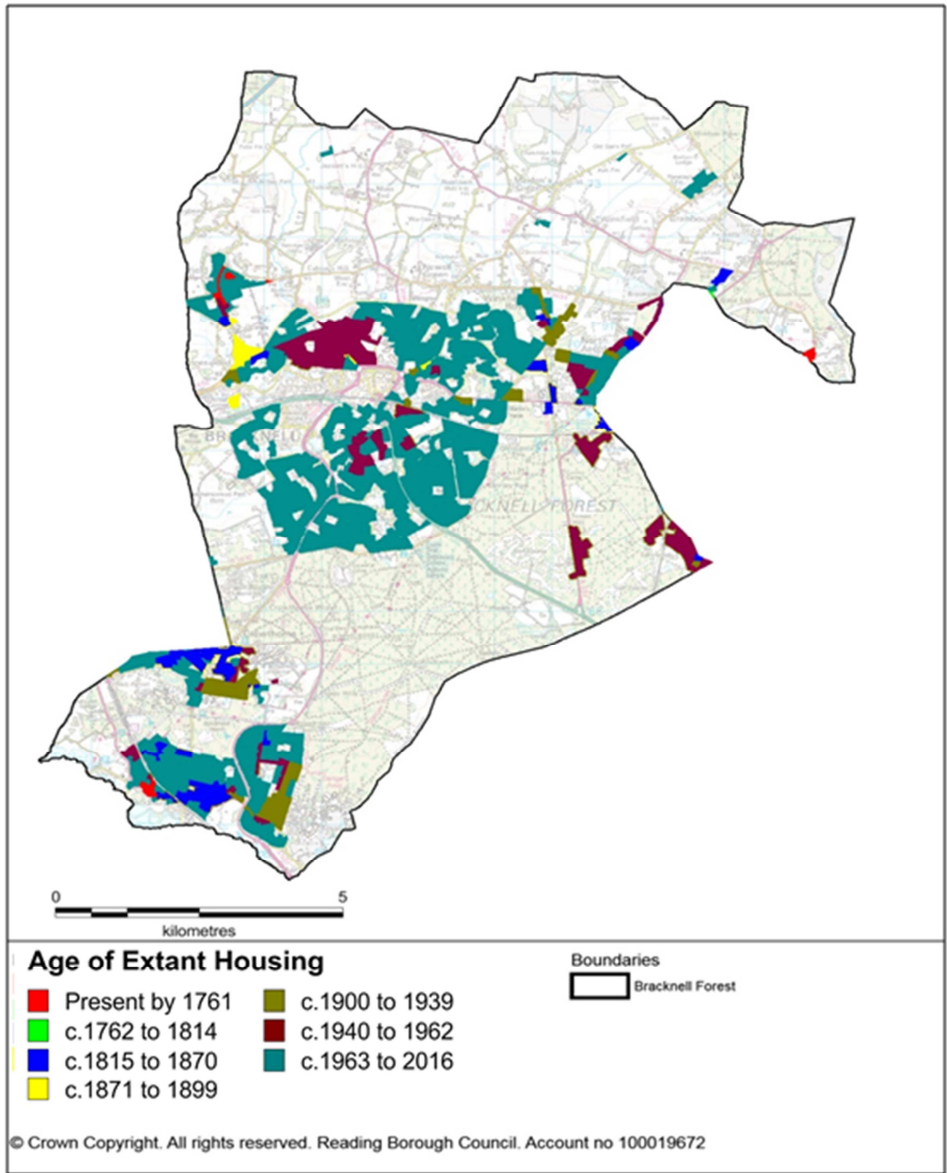
☐ Bracknell Forest

Figure 186. Age of the extant residential housing in Bracknell Forest

22.3 The Borough of Wokingham

Urban settlement in the Borough of Wokingham is dominated by detached houses. There are also many areas of semi-detached and terraced houses in the Borough, especially close to the town and village centres. Most of the extant housing stock was created in the 20th century, particularly in the post-Second World War period.
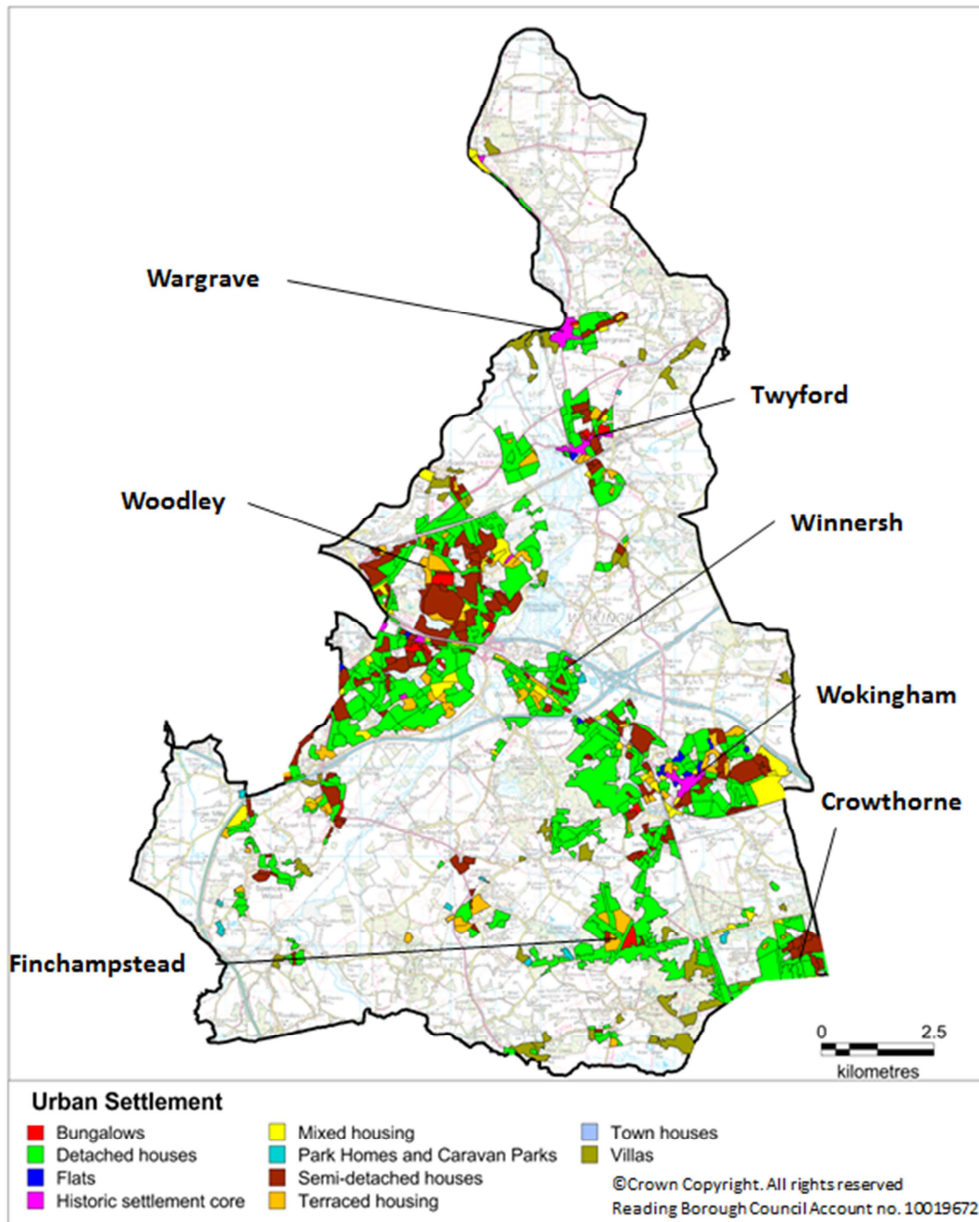
Figure 187. Urban settlement in Wokingham

The main urban centres in the Borough are Wokingham, Woodley, Lower Earley, Finchampstead and the north part of Crowthorne, and there are also a number of smaller settlements containing large amounts of residential areas, including Wargrave, Charvil, Twyford, and Winnersh. Of those, the only settlements of any antiquity are Wokingham, Wargrave and Twyford. Lower Earley, Winnersh and Woodley are suburbs of Reading though not part of Reading Borough.

Wokingham is a market town with medieval origins which originally was very small, only consisting of a few streets. It remained very small until the late 19th century but between the 1870s and 1897, the town expanded in size many times. The town has recently, from 1963 until today, experienced a second similarly rapid expansion.

Wargrave is a large village with medieval origins located in the north of the Borough, by the River Thames. It has a well preserved historic core and from this, the village has expanded, starting in the early 20th century.

Twyford is a village with medieval origins located by the River Loddon on the medieval road to London via Maidenhead. Just to the east of Woodley, the River Loddon separates into two separate branches, and originally, two fords across the separate branches of the river were located at Twyford (Twyford means two fords), but these are now bridged. The village has expanded rapidly in the post-Second World War period. Wokingham, Wargrave and Twyford all had railway stations built in the 1830s and 1840s, an important factor in facilitating their rapid growth.

The settlements of Woodley, Lower Earley, Charvil, and Finchampstead were all created in the early 20th century, and have all been greatly expanded since. This is also largely true of the part of Crowthorne which is in the Borough of Wokingham. A small part of it was however created in the 19th century. Finchampstead was built along the roads criss-crossing the southern part of the Borough. Since these roads were originally rides through the heathland, the settlement retains part of the historic landscape character in its very structure. Finchampstead and Crowthorne were both established on former heathland enclosed in the 19th century.

Age of Extant Housing

- 🟥 Present by 1761
- 🟩 c.1762 to 1814
- 🟦 c.1815 to 1870
- 🟨 c.1871 to 1899
- 🫒 c.1900 to 1939
- 🟫 c.1940 to 1962
- 🟦 c.1963 to 2016
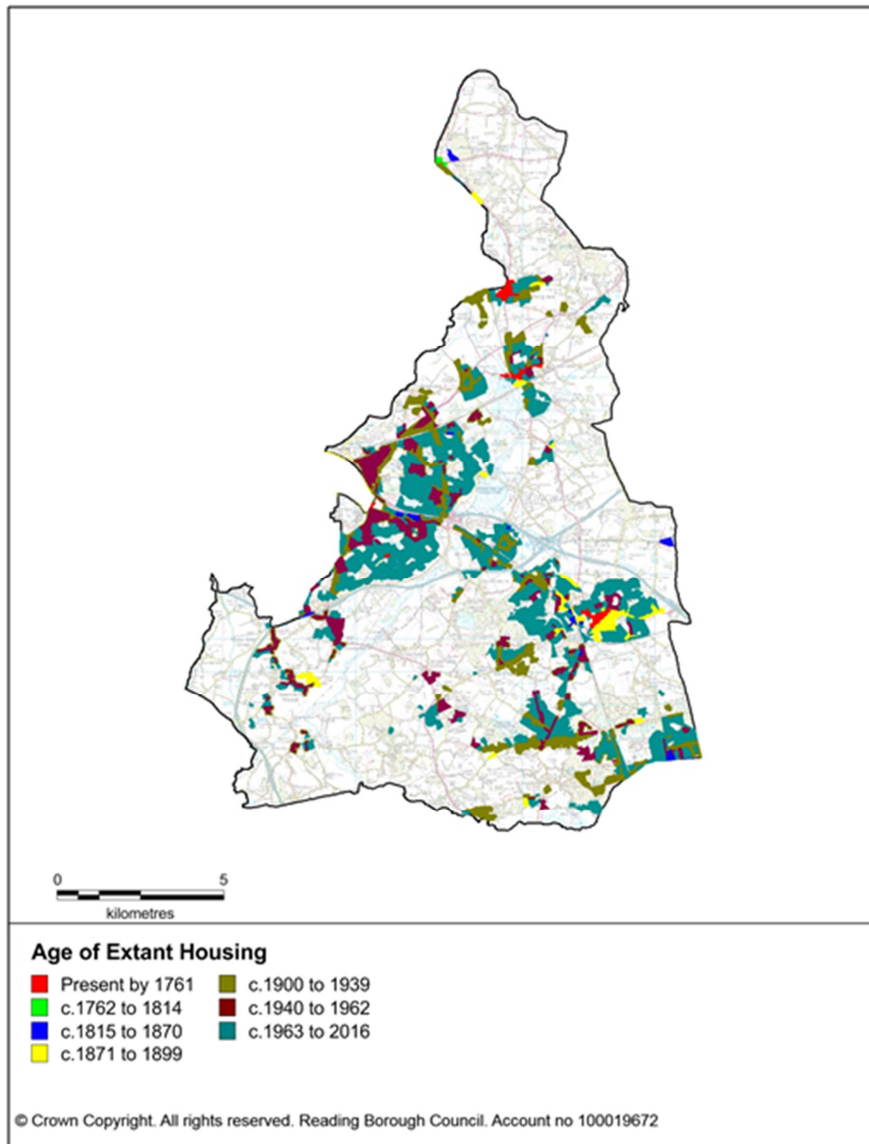
Figure 188. Age of the extant housing in Wokingham Borough

22.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

The main urban settlements in the Borough are Maidenhead, Windsor and the area around Ascot, Sunningdale and Sunninghill. Maidenhead is a town with medieval origins. It is located just after the medieval road from London to Reading crosses the River Thames, and was initially a settlement along this road (where the High Street is now located). The crossing over the Thames at Maidenhead was only bridged in 1280. Before that, it would have been necessary to take a ferry across or choose a different route from London.
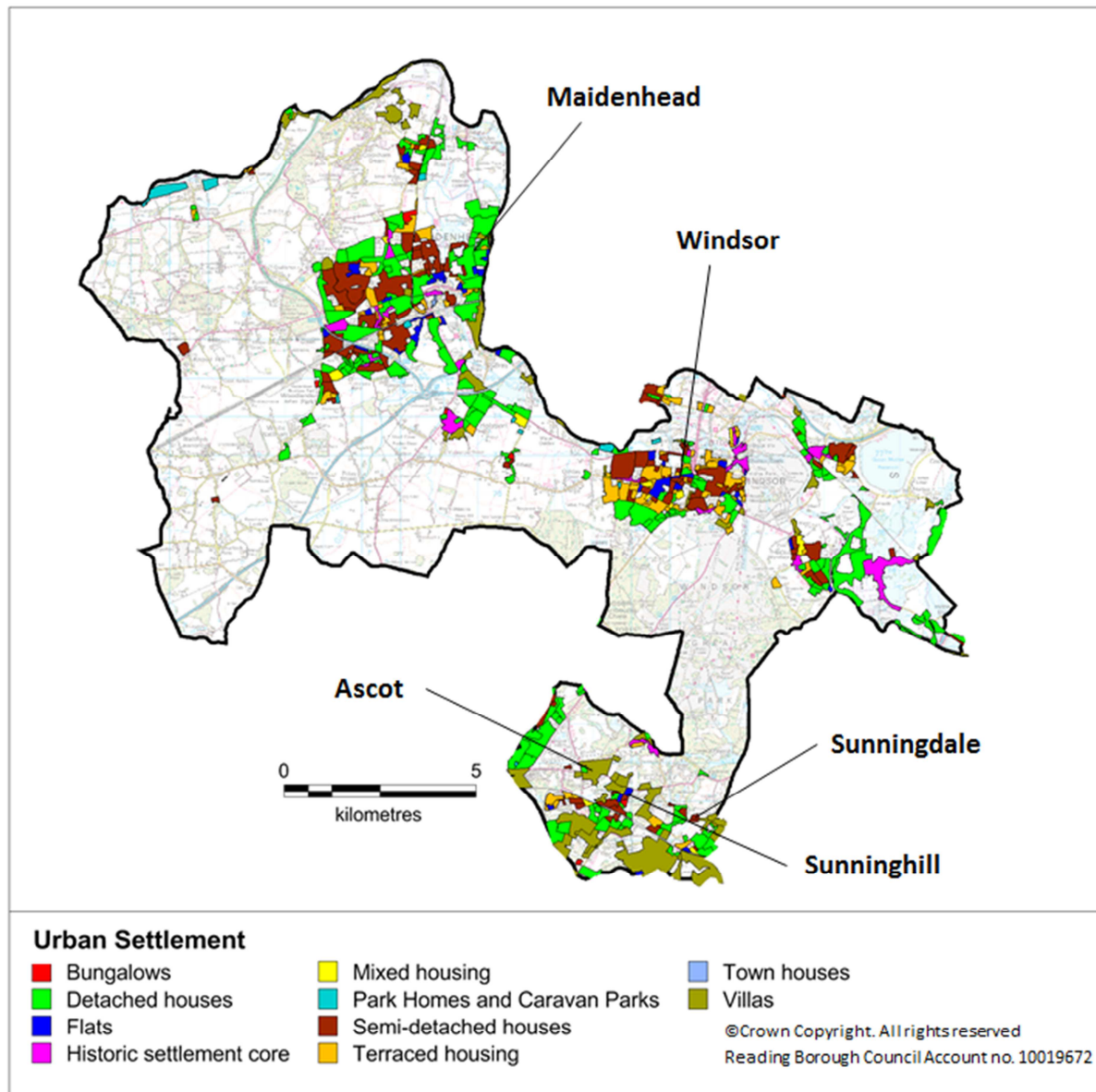
Figure 189. Urban settlement in Windsor and Maidenhead

Maidenhead High Street is the original location of the town. The High Street partially retains its historic character, but it is surrounded by a modern town centre built in the post-Second World War period. East of the town centre, the area along the River Thames is characterised by detached houses and villas, many built in the 19th century. The areas west of the town centre are complex mixes of detached houses, semi-detached houses, flats and terraced houses. Areas of detached and

areas of semi-detached housing dominate however, with a large area immediately to the west of the town centre built in the late 19th century, and the rest built in the 20th century, mostly after the Second World War.

Windsor, also known as New Windsor, is located in the east part of the Borough, by the River Thames. The most important factor shaping the history and character of Windsor is the Royal connection – Windsor Castle is home to the Royal family and has been a royal residence since the early 12th century. Before that, a Saxon Royal Palace was located in nearby Old Windsor. Windsor Castle was built shortly after the Norman Conquest and was in all likelihood originally a motte and bailey castle constructed of wood. A few streets in the immediate vicinity of Windsor Castle originated in the medieval period, and probably developed according to a planned layout. The character of this area is well preserved with many surviving historic buildings. The town of Windsor only consisted of this area from the medieval period until the early 19th century.

Figure 190. Central Windsor

The historic core apart, most of modern Windsor was created in the 19th century and the 20th century. When it started expanding in the 19th century, the Thames obstructed any growth to the north, and expansion to the east was impossible without encroaching on Home Park. To the south, the town could only expand to a limited degree before it reached the northern limits of the Great Park, and so Windsor expanded to west, in a series of successive steps. To paint a simplified picture, the easternmost part of Windsor was developed in the 19th century, the middle part was developed between c.1900 and 1962, and the westernmost part of Windsor was built after 1962. Modern Windsor is dominated by areas of terraced houses and areas of semi-detached houses in particular, whilst areas of detached houses can be found in the south of the town, and some smaller areas comprising blocks of flats are concentrated in the middle part of Windsor. The small town of Eton was historically a separate place to Windsor, but can today be seen as an extension of Windsor to the north of the Thames. It stretches from the River Thames bridge to Eton College campuses in the north, and comprises mostly of historic town houses.

The settlements of Ascot, Sunningdale and Sunninghill are located in the southeast part of the Borough, east of Bracknell, and are characterised by thinly dispersed, almost semi-rural areas of villas and large houses, associated with smaller town centres, and some more concentrated residential areas. These settlements were built in the 19th and 20th century. Ascot and Sunningdale are built on enclosed former heathland, but Sunninghill is built on former farmland. The proximity to Ascot Racecourse and the Great Park, a direct railway line to London (completed in 1856), and low land prices would have made these locations attractive to build large houses on in the 19th century.
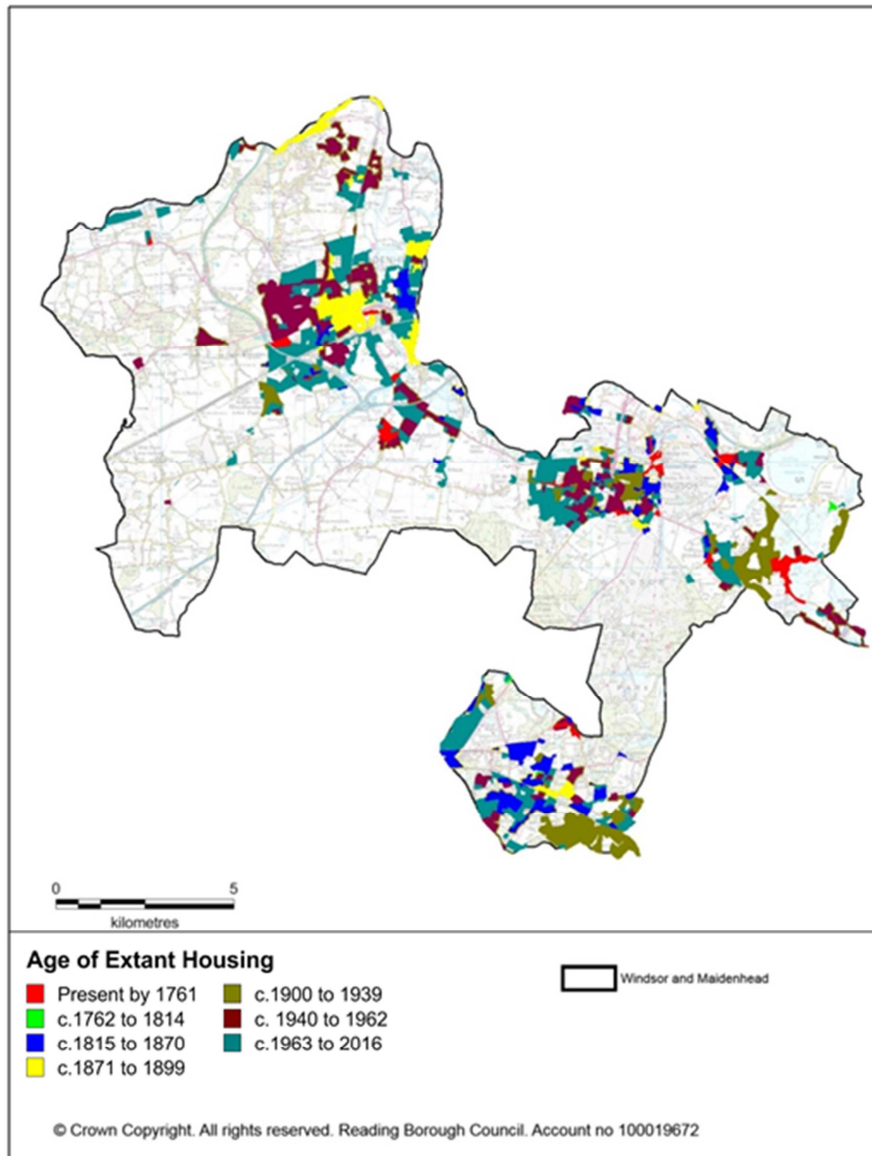

Figure 191. Age of the extant residential housing in Windsor and Maidenhead

22.5 Slough

Slough is a large town in the northeast part of East Berkshire, and was part of Buckinghamshire until 1974, when it was transferred to Berkshire. Slough was originally a collection of hamlets and small villages along the medieval road between Reading and London via Twyford and Maidenhead. Counting from the east, these settlements were Colnbrook, Horsemoor, Green Langley, Langley Marish, Upton, Slough, Chalvey Green, Salt Hill, and Cippenham.
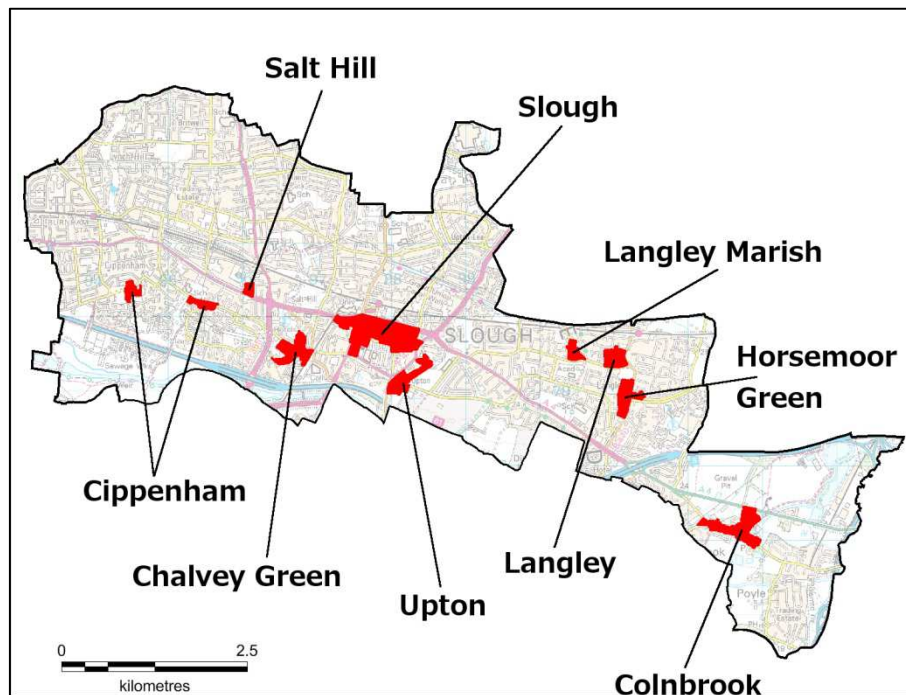
Figure 192. Former settlements in Slough Borough

There are today no traces left of Salt Hill; in this location, there is now a public park (Salt Hill Park). The former village of Slough is now the modern town centre of Slough, but has changed beyond all recognition and no traces remain of the original village. Langley has also disappeared. In its location is East Berkshire College (a modern sixth form college), Langley Memorial Ground (a public park), and modern housing estates. The general outlines of the former settlements of Upton, Chalvey Green and Horsemoor Green can still be traced, though the extant housing is modern. Cippenham is in a better state of preservation, with several historic buildings surviving. A number of historic buildings also survive in Langley Marish, associated with the Church. Colnbrook has survived intact, and largely retains its historic character as a village even though it is part of the modern Slough Borough.

The town of Slough developed after the construction of the Great Western railway which was built through Slough in 1838 (though the train station was not built until 1840). There are several areas of surviving mid-to-late 19th century architecture in the town centre. Most of the residential areas in Slough were however built after the establishment of Slough Trading Estate.

The Trading Estate was first established in 1918 as a repair depot for army transport vehicles, though it was not completed before the end of the war. It was converted to an Industrial Estate in 1926.

Today, the Trading Estate is the largest privately owned industrial estate in Europe, and it dominates the west part of Slough.
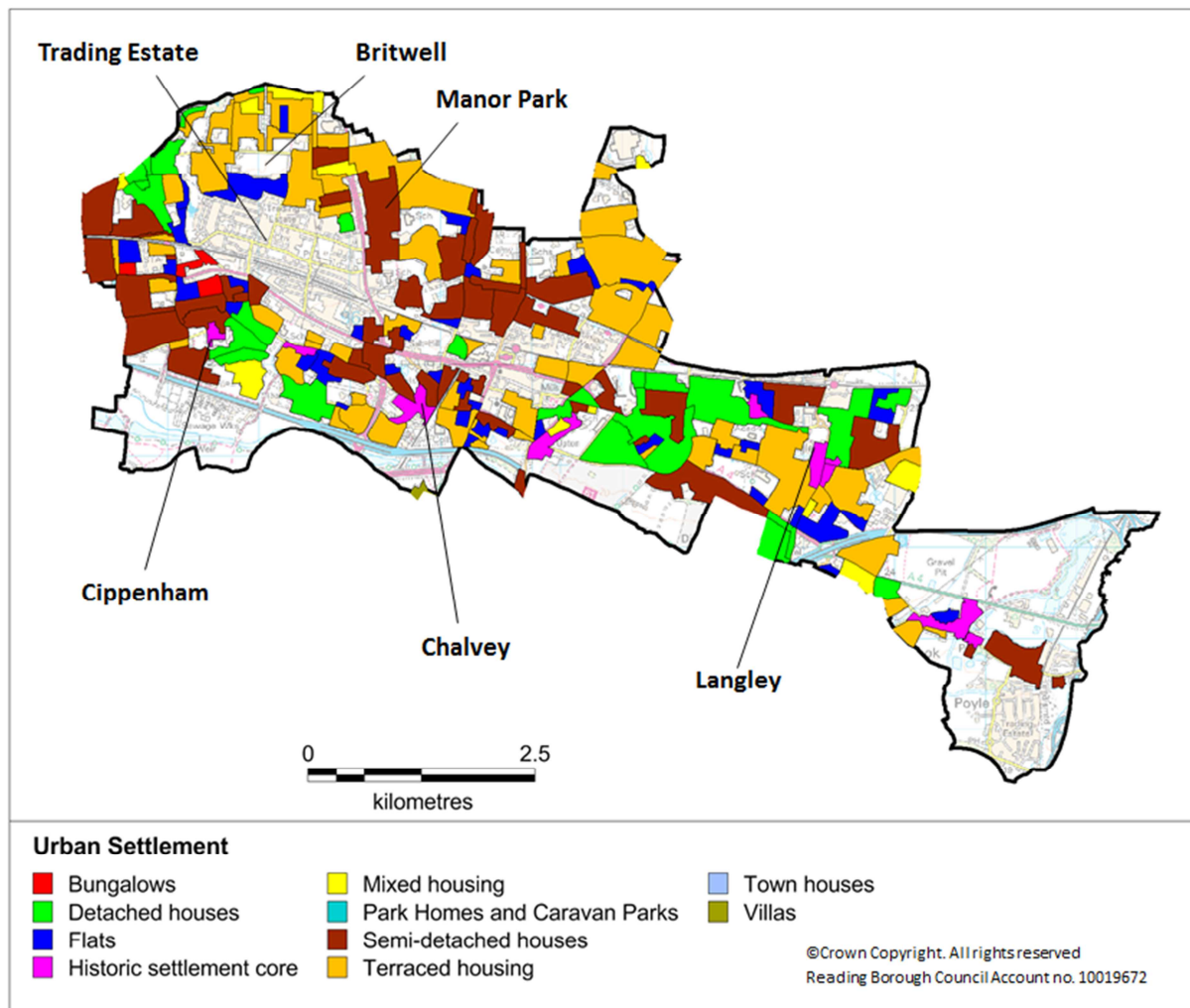
Figure 193. Urban settlement in Slough Borough

Urban settlement in Slough is varied. In the west, residential housing surrounds the Trading Estate. Just to the north of the industrial estate is Britwell, a large 1960s housing estate consisting of terraces. Northeast of the Trading Estate is Manor Park, a large area built in the 1930s which consists of semi-detached and terraced houses. The roads in this part of Slough are organised in grid iron patterns. West and south of the industrial estate, at Cippenham, the housing stock is dominated by semi-detached houses. South of the Trading Estate, between Cippenham and Chalvey Green, large modern housing estates have been built in the last few decades. These estates consist of detached houses, terraced houses, and flats to varying degrees. To the east of the town centre are large areas of detached houses. Further east again, at Langley, the housing stock is characterised by large estates of terraced houses. There are also smaller areas of flats scattered around Slough. Most of those are low-rise blocks of flats, but there are also high-rise flats in Langley.
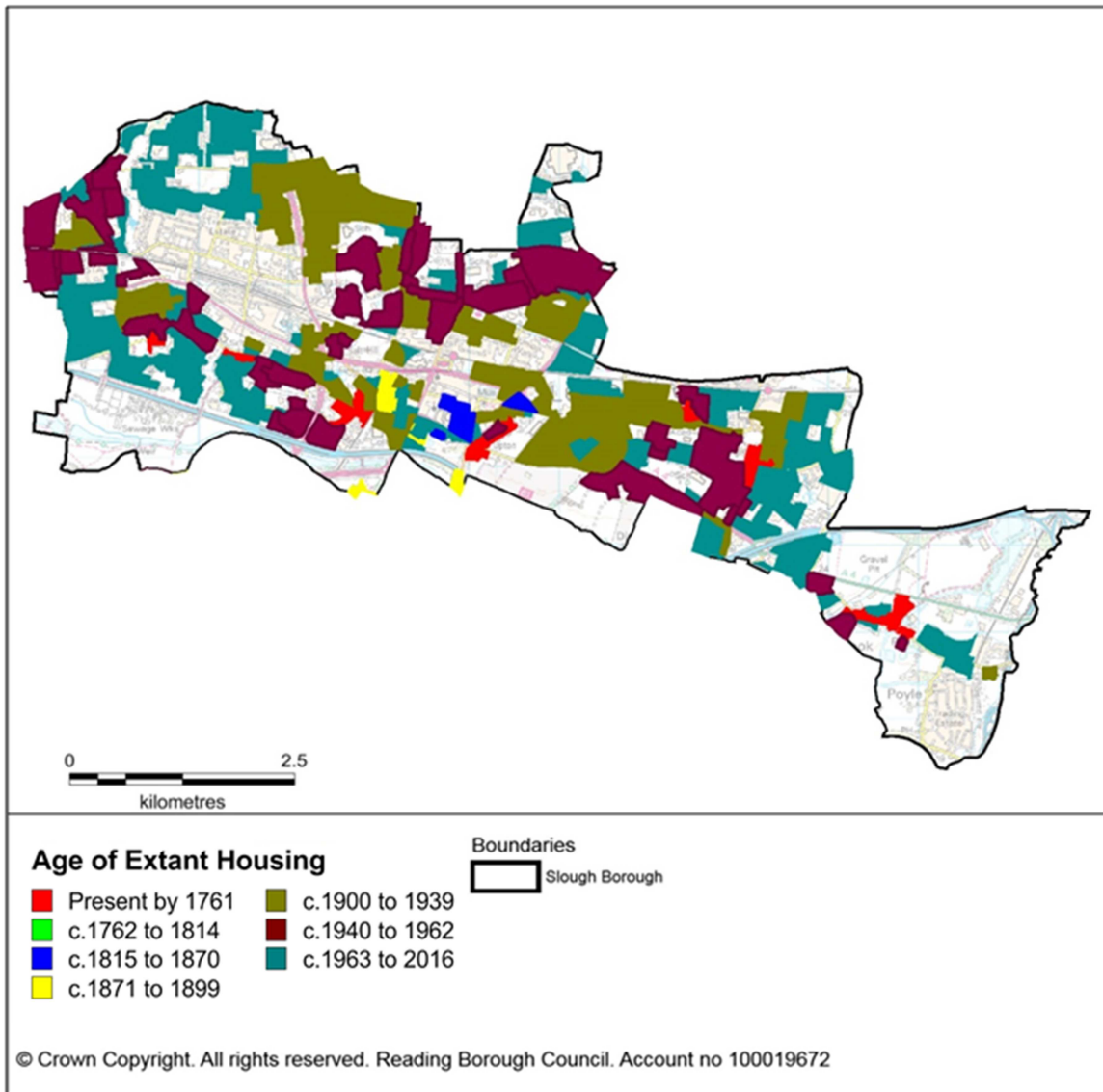
Figure 194. Age of the extant housing in Slough Borough

23. Valley Floor and Water Management

The "Valley Floor and Water Management" broad type contains features relating to rivers, water courses, and water management.

Narrow Types: River, Artificial River, River Valley Floor, Lake, Artificial Lake, Balancing Pond, Fish Pond, Mill Stream, Pond, Natural Springs, Pumping Station, Reservoir, Water Intake, Water Separator, *Watercress Beds *(*recorded as previous type only*).

Polygons: 483 individual areas have been recorded, comprising a total of 1802 hectares. A large proportion of the extant features (c.78% of the total area) have natural origins (rivers and river valley floors), the rest are artificial and man-made. Large-scale land drainage, storage, piped distribution and most other types of water management are relatively recent phenomena, emerging in the post-medieval period and especially in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Before that, only some ponds in the area are likely to have been artificial or to any extent modified by humans.

	Area (hectares)
Total	1802
Artificial lakes	497
Artificial rivers	57
Balancing ponds	4
Fish ponds	50
Mill Stream	7
Ponds	199
Natural springs	2
Pumping stations	18
Reservoirs	278
Rivers	568
Water Intake	3
Water Separator	1
River Valley Floor	119

Table 17. Valley Floor and Water Management in East Berkshire

Rivers

There are five major rivers in East Berkshire – the Thames, the River Loddon, the River Blackwater, the River Kennet, and the Colne Brook. There are also a number of minor brooks and streams,

including St Patrick's Stream (backwater to the River Thames), Hennerton Backwater (backwater to the River Thames), Holy Brook (branches off the River Kennet by the village of Theale before eventually rejoining it in central Reading), and Foudry Brook (a tributary to the River Kennet). The Cut, a partially artificial river, is also a significant tributary of the Thames.

The Thames is the largest of the East Berkshire rivers. It is the longest river entirely within England, and the second longest river in the UK. The Thames forms the northern boundary of East Berkshire, except at Caversham and at Slough. In the Anglo-Saxon period, the Thames was the northern border of the Kingdom of Wessex to the Kingdom of Mercia.

Figure 195. "Boating on the Thames" by James Lavery

River Valley Floor

The river valley floor is literally the base of a river valley, often a flood plain. Historically, these areas tend to have been used for pasture due to their fertile nature. The river floors of several of the rivers in the area are clearly visible on aerial photographs. These include the River Kennet, the River Loddon, the Blackwater River, and parts of the Emmbrook. The river valley floor of the River Thames is often less distinct.

Artificial Rivers

The Cut is, as the name indicates, a partly artificial water channel. It is a tributary of the Thames. In Warfield and Binfield parishes it mostly seems to be a natural watercourse. It was constructed in the late 18th century or early 1800s, and represents the partial re-routing of an earlier river. The river

starts at Ascot Place to the north of North Ascot, and runs through the parishes of Winkfield, Warfield and Binfield, until it meets the River Thames at Bray- a distance of over 22km.

The Jubilee River was constructed in the late 1990s and completed in 2002, therefore named for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The river was built to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding events affecting Maidenhead, Windsor, Eton and the area around these towns, and was made to look and function like a natural river. Poyle Channel is a short water channel linking the Wraysbury River with the Colne Brook. It was probably originally a natural water channel which was re-routed in the late 18th or early 19th century.

Artificial Lakes

There are a number of artificial lakes in East Berkshire, many of which are today used for recreation and water sports. Most artificial lakes in the area are former gravel quarries converted to lakes as part of a restoration plan; the concentration of lakes created in this way around the village of Wraysbury, in the east part of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Some artificial lakes are however ornamental lakes associated with 18th and 19th century landscaping, e.g. Maiden Earlegh Lake in Earley, South Lake in Woodley and Virginia Water, which was constructed around 1750 in the south part of Windsor Great Park. The eastern parts of the lake are in Surrey.

Figure 196. Virginia Water, seen from the east side of the lake

 Ponds

A pond is a body of standing water which can be either natural or artificial. Ponds are usually smaller than lakes, and by some definition, more shallow; they often have soft reeded edges with specific characteristic vegetation. The existing ponds in East Berkshire are almost all artificial, usually either ornamental or associated with 18th or 19th century landscaping, or former gravel pits. Those that were formerly gravel pits are strongly associated with the rivers in the area. There are also **fish ponds** and **balancing ponds** – balancing ponds are used to temporarily store floodwater.

Reservoirs

Reservoirs are bodies of water used to store water for domestic or industrial use, and are therefore parts of the water supply system. Most of the existing reservoirs in the area are small, only serving the needs of the immediately surrounding area – usually one of the larger towns in East Berkshire. The Queen Mother Reservoir, built in 1976, is an exception, being very large at c. 475 hectares, and is a public water supply reservoir for London. The reservoir is home to Datchet sailing club and other forms of recreation. Reservoirs typically retain their man-made appearance, with hard landscaping and associated features such as access chambers, sluices and flow-control measures.

Mill Streams

A mill stream, or leat, is a stream used to drive a water mill. These could be natural water channels that have been diverted or altered, or they could be wholly artificial channels. The three mill streams that have been recorded in the East Berkshire HLC – Clewer Mill Stream, Lulle Brook Mill Stream, and Cuckoo Weir Stream - all appear to have originated as natural water channels.

Other water related features

The only current area of **natural springs** in East Berkshire is Sunninghill Wells in Sunninghill. The location of two covered natural springs and conduits are recorded on 19th century maps in North Ascot, and there is an area of "Wells" marked on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map (1870s) at Cricket Hill, Finchampstead village. There is a **water separator** (a type of water filter) located by the Sikh temple in Slough. Large **water intakes** are located in Datchet and at Hythe End (close to Wraysbury). These take water from the river Thames and pump it into the reservoirs in the area. There are currently six extant **pumping stations** in the area (sewage pumping stations not included). Two historic pumping stations have disappeared – one in Tilehurst in Reading, and one in Wokingham. The pumping stations in East Berkshire, both extant and historic, are associated either with drainage or with the piped distribution of domestic drinking water. **Watercress beds** are areas used for growing watercress and are typically sited on chalk streams due to the plants' requirement for alkali-rich water. No areas are currently recorded as watercress beds, but two areas in Slough have watercress beds recorded as a previous type.
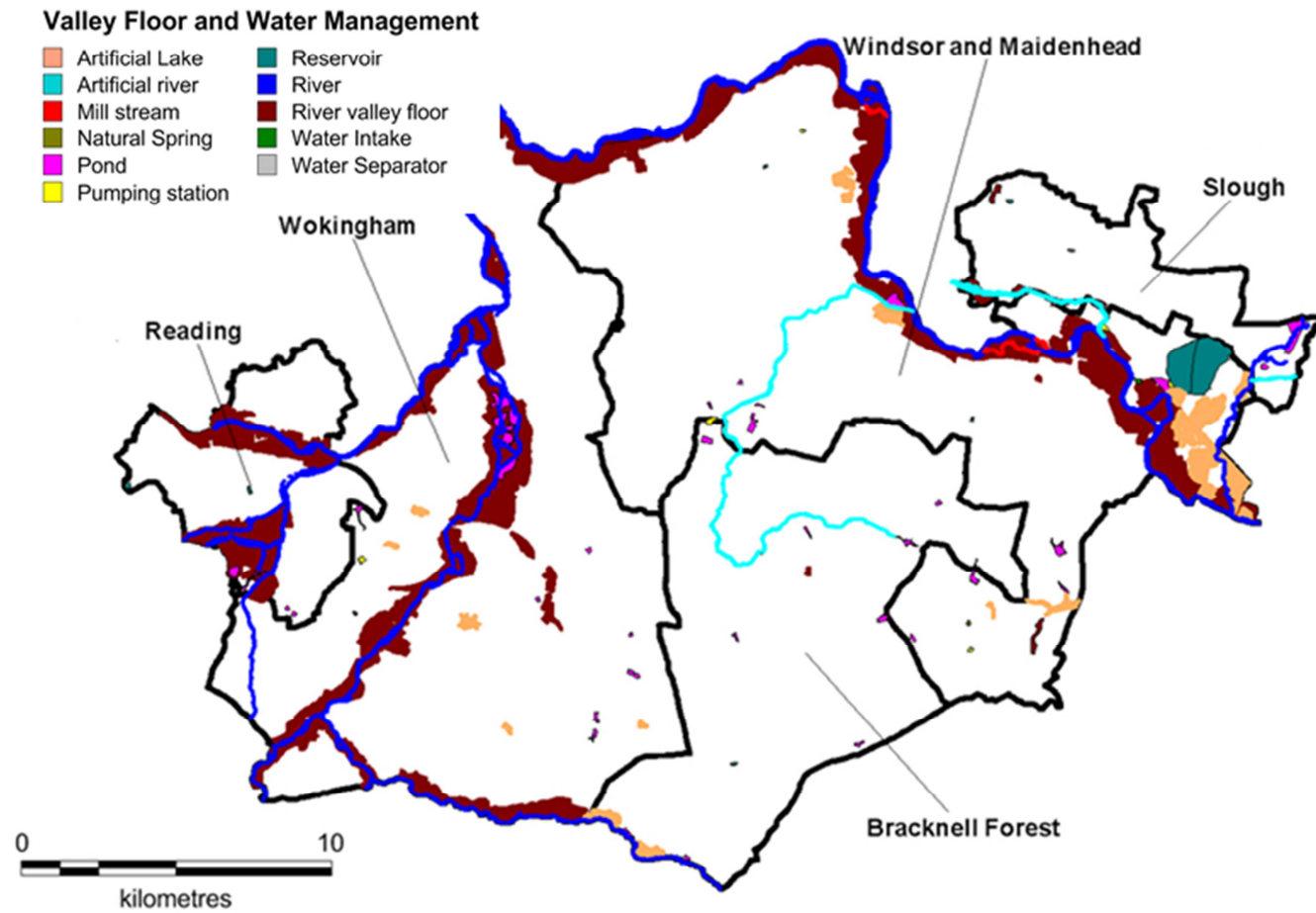
Figure 197. Valley Floor and Water Management in East Berkshire

River Valley Floor and Water Management

- Former Watercress Beds
- Former springs
- Former Reservoir
- Former Pumping Station
- Former Pond
- Former Lake

Windsor and Maidenhead

Slough

Wokingham

Reading

Bracknell Forest
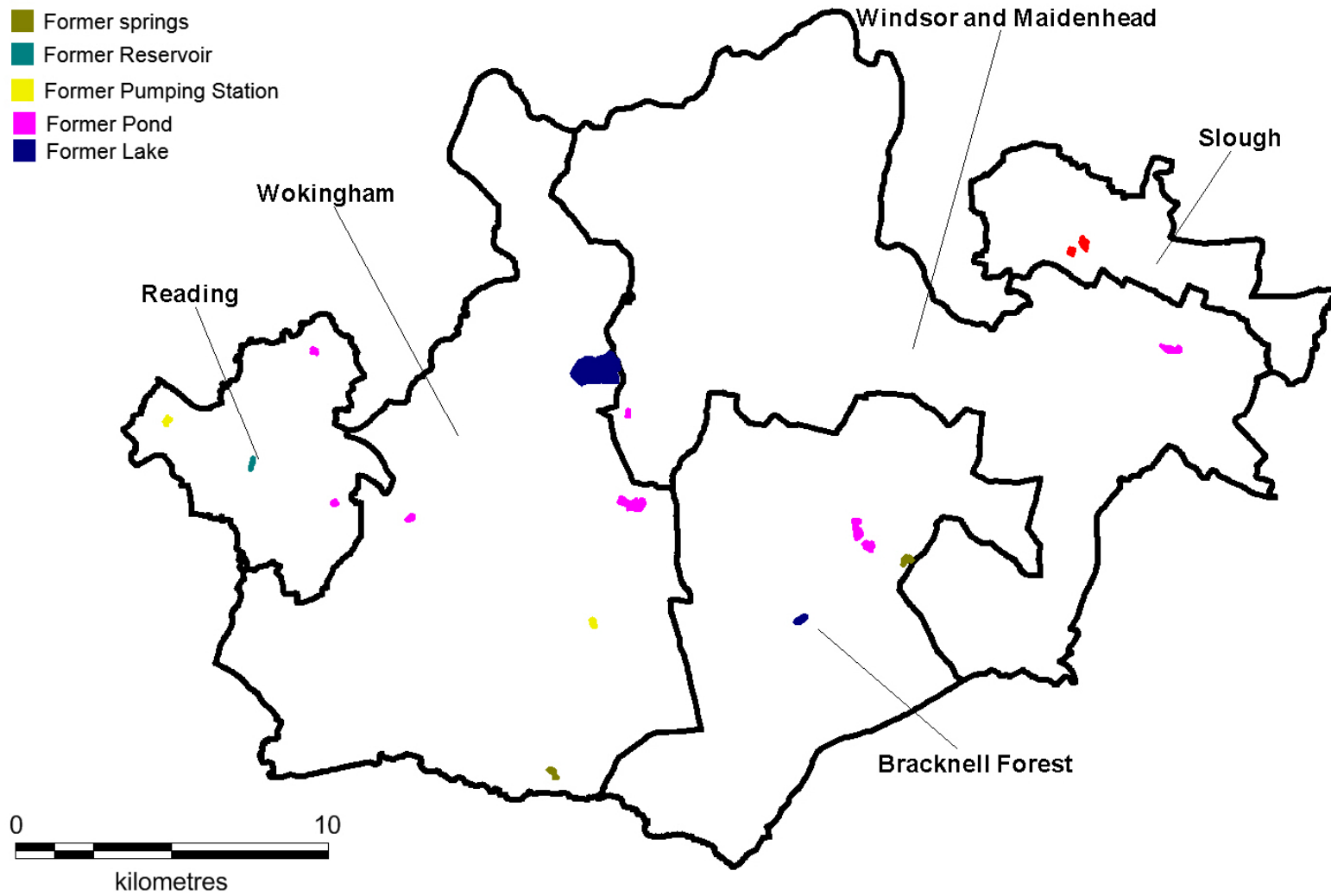
0   10
kilometres

Figure 198. Former features relating to water and water management

23.1 Reading Borough

A number of watercourses and rivers come together in the borough, with the River Thames flows roughly west to east, physically separating Caversham in the north from the rest of Reading in the south. The River Kennet flows roughly southwest to northeast before joining the Thames southeast of Caversham. Both rivers are surrounded by fairly large areas of low-lying grassland, evidently floodplains, with the floodplain of the River Kennet in the south part of the area being particularly large. Apart from the Kennet, two smaller watercourses flow through that area – Holy Brook and Foudry Brook. Holy Brook branches off from the River Kennet at Theale in West Berkshire before re-joining it in Reading town centre, close to the confluence of the Kennet and the Thames. Foudry Brook rises close to the village of Baughurst in Hampshire, and flows into the Kennet just to the west of Whitley in the south part of Reading Borough.
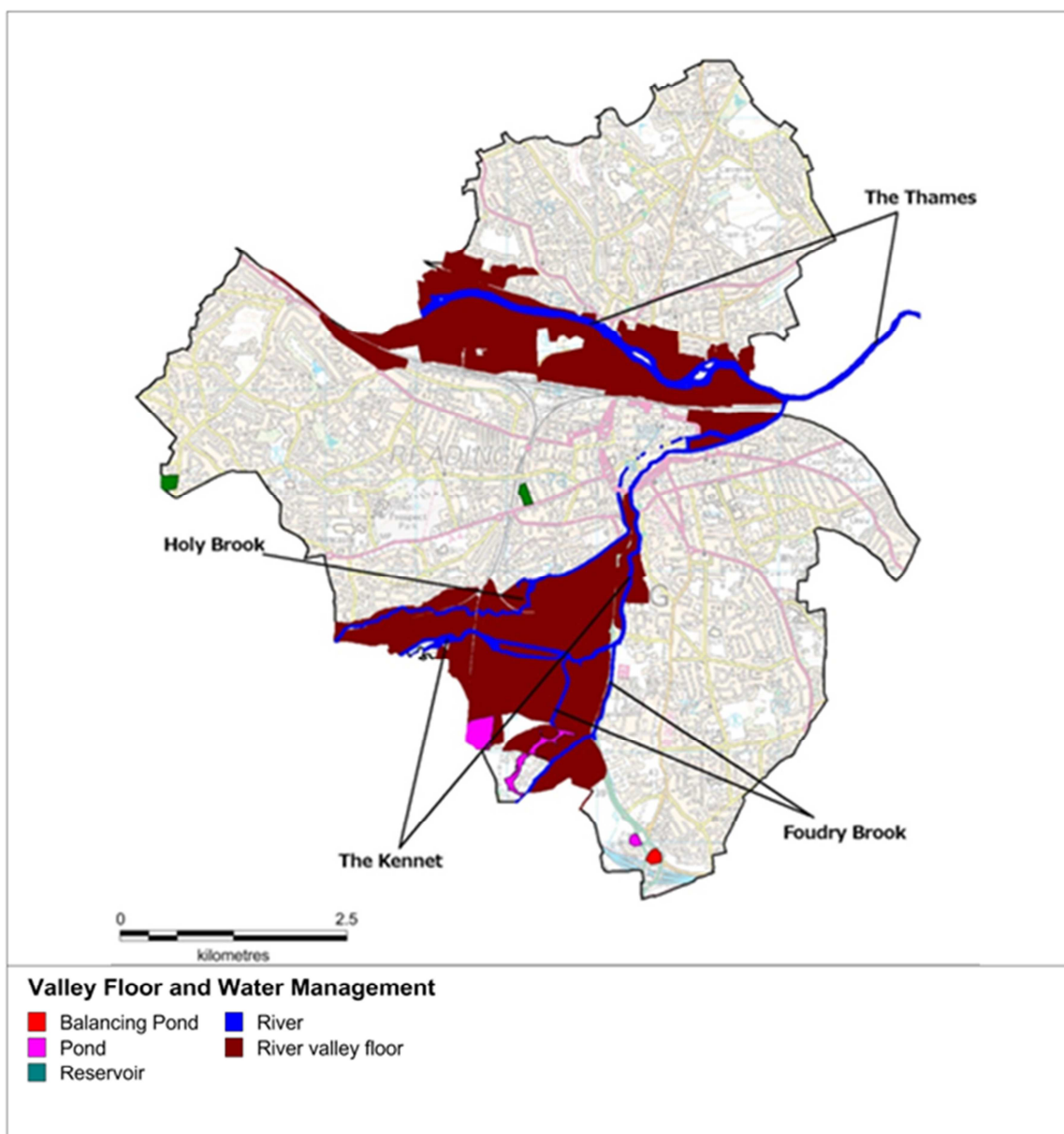
Figure 199. Valley Floor and Water Management in Reading Borough

Figure 200. The River Kennet floodplain, south of Reading

There are a number of modern ponds located in the south of the Borough; two located by a large roundabout immediately north of Junction 11 of the M4, at least one of which is a balancing pond. Green Park Lake is a series of ponds connected to Foudry Brook, and located in the Green Park business park. Their function appears to be ornamental – to give the estate a more park-like feel. Another modern pond, located at Smallmead Road, may have originally been a quarry pit. Two small ponds have been lost. One was located at Emmer Green and is associated with the historical settlement in that location; the other was located close to the current Whiteknights campus of Reading University.
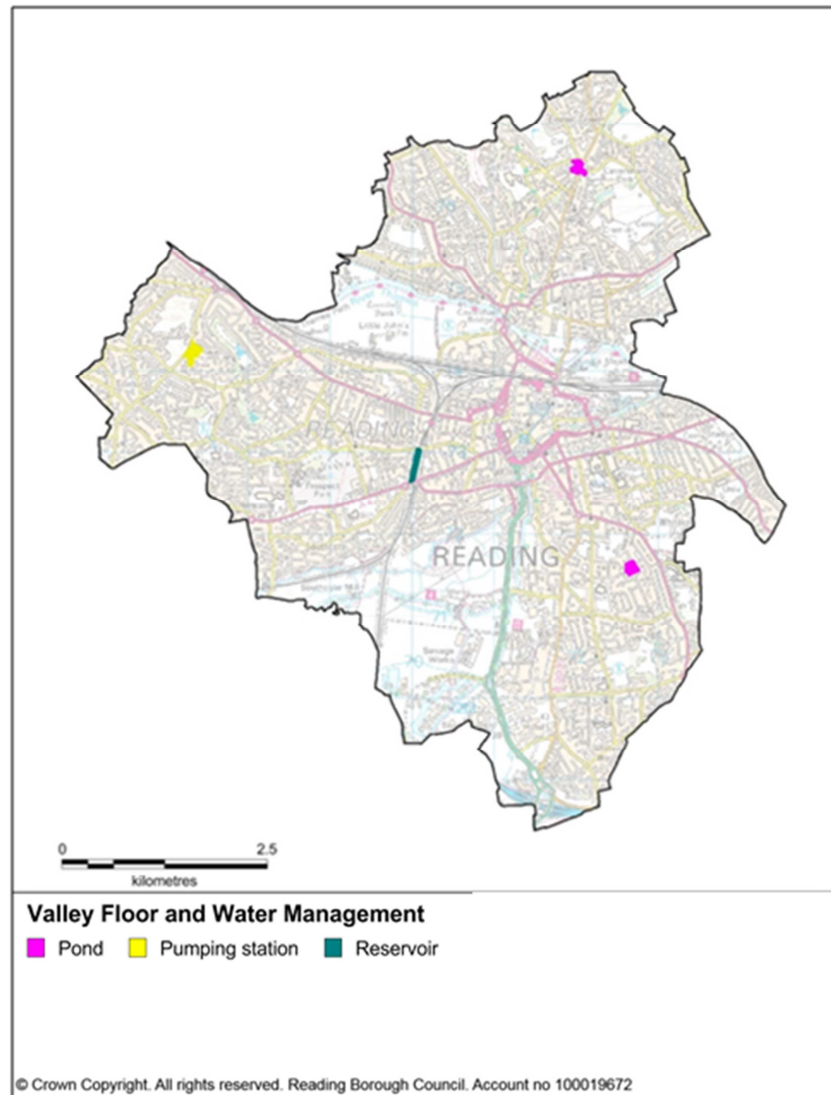
Figure 201. Previous Valley Floor and Water Management in Reading Borough

Two small covered water reservoirs are located in the west part of Reading. One is at Park Lane in Tilehurst in the far west, with half of the reservoir located in West Berkshire. It features a prominent water tower, which dominates the streetscape in this largely residential area, and was created in the early part of the 20th century. The other reservoir was built in the 19th century and is located to the north of Bath Road and just east of the Reading to Basingstoke railway line, together with a pumping station. In the late 19th century, another water reservoir was built very close to the Bath Road reservoir, but on the other side of the railway line. This is no longer in use and has been replaced by modern blocks of flats. A pumping station, built in the early 20th century, was previously located at Kentwood Hill in Tilehurst, an area now characterised by detached houses.

Figure 202. The Park Lane water tower and reservoir, Tilehurst

23.2 Bracknell Forest

Water management-related features recorded in the HLC in Bracknell Forest consist of ponds, artificial lakes, a pumping station, reservoirs, and an artificial watercourse. The reservoirs are located at the edge of Crowthorne village and were created in the mid-19th century. Of the ponds, only one (Englemere Pond) has likely natural origins, and the rest are artificial creations. There are two fishponds in the area, one located at Ascot Place and associated with late 18th century landscaping; the other (Rapley Lake) was created in the 19th century. A balancing pond located north of Harvest Ride is associated with modern housing. A modern pond and associated pumping station is located in the Great Hazes Wood, both clearly parts of a larger land drainage system. A former mill pond is also recorded as such in Bracknell.
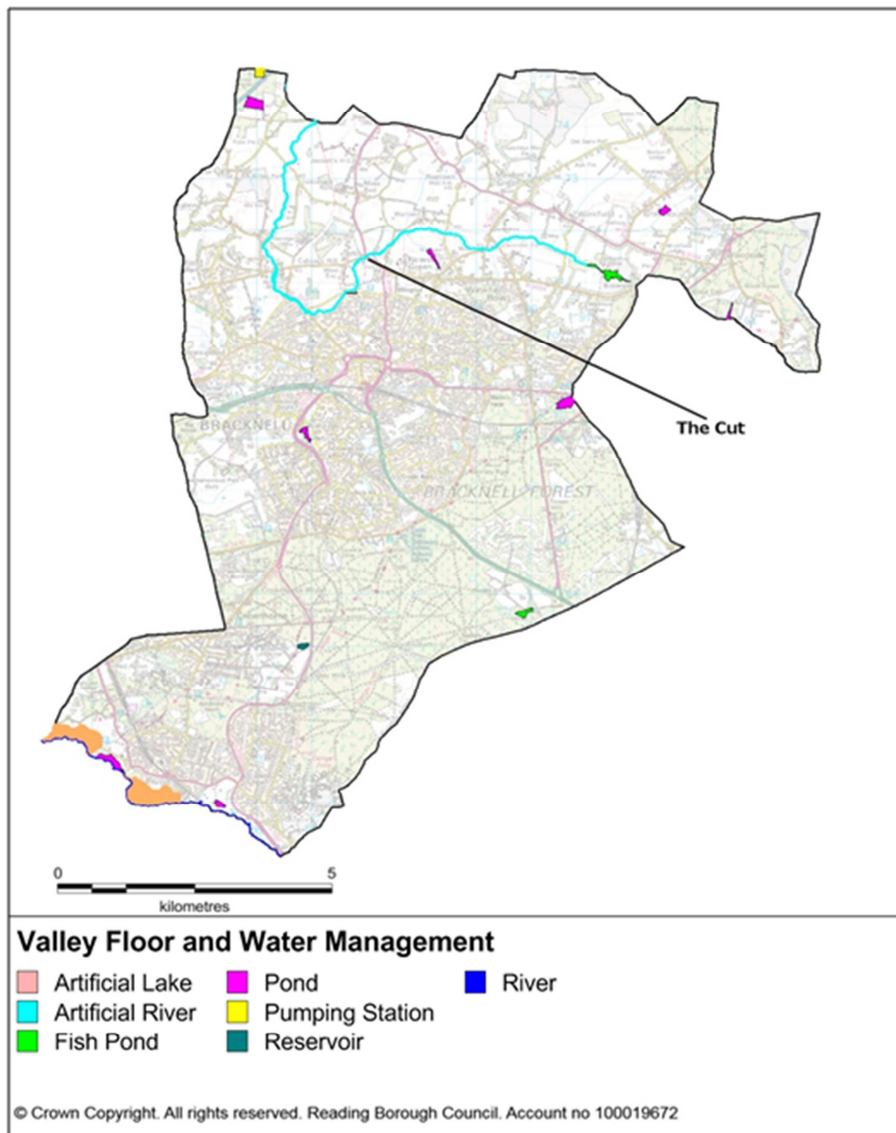
Figure 203. Valley Floor and Water Management in Bracknell Forest

The artificial lakes in Bracknell Forest are located by the Blackwater River and are former gravel quarries; two smaller ponds also located nearby are possibly former gravel quarries.

The Cut is the name of a modern river, which represents the partial rerouting of an earlier watercourse and was created in the late 18th or early 19th century. Originally, it started at Englemere Pond, but the modern starting point is the fishpond at Ascot Place. From there, the river runs roughly east to west until it turns north at Binfield village before leaving the Bracknell Forest area. The lower stretch of the river, from Ascot Place to the Great Hazes Wood, is more or less identical to on John Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761. The river beyond the Great Hazes has however clearly been straightened and rerouted.

Some water related features have disappeared since the 18th and 19th centuries. A natural spring and covered conduit where the current Fernbank Road now is in North Ascot seems to have disappeared already in the 19th century. Harmans Water – a small lake – was located in the southeast part of the modern town of Bracknell. Most of the lake was drained and planted with woodland in the 19th

century, but a small part survived until recently. The name "Harmans Water" survives as the name of a modern housing estate. The "Five Ponds" were located on heathland at Chavey Down, close to Winkfield Row but were drained and planted with woodland in the 19th century.
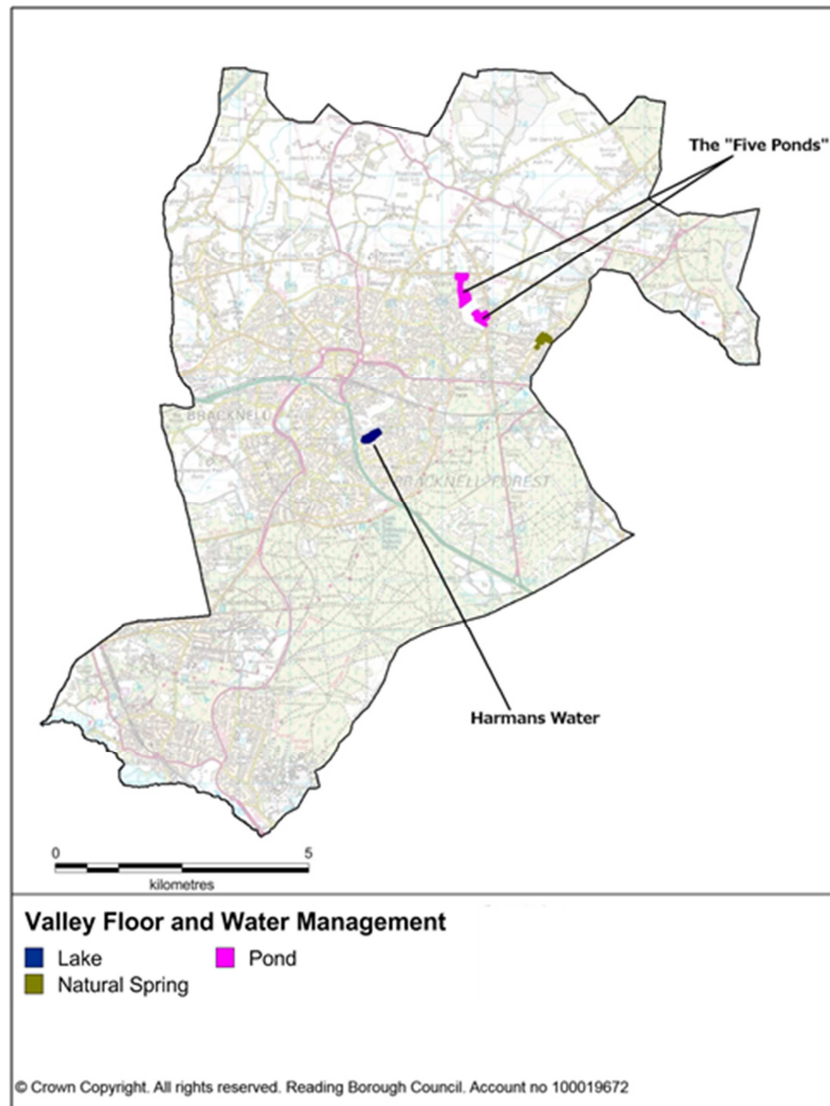

Figure 204. Previous Valley Floor and Water Management in Bracknell Forest

23.3 The Borough of Wokingham

Three major rivers flow through the Borough of Wokingham - the Thames, the Loddon and the Blackwater. The River Thames forms the northern boundary of the Borough, and the River Loddon is a tributary of the Thames. It runs from the southwest corner of the Borough to the northeast, turning to the north at Woodley until it flows into the Thames near Wargrave. The River Blackwater is a tributary of the Loddon and in some places, forms the southern boundary of the Borough. The river flows from Sandhurst towards the east, until it takes a turn to the northwest and finally flows into the River Loddon at Swallowfield. There are also two smaller watercourses in the Borough – The Emmbrook, which flows through the town of Wokingham, and the Foudry Brook running from the south to the north in the southwest corner of the Borough.
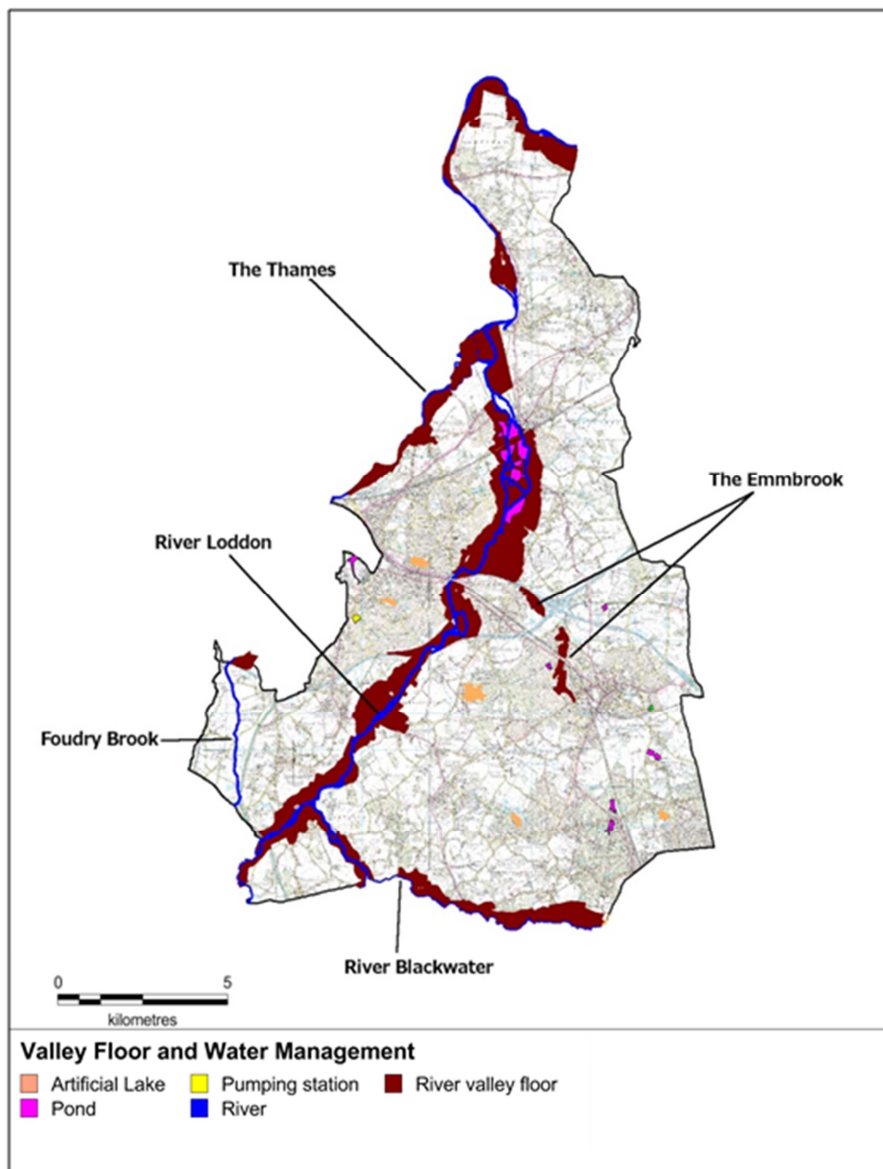

Figure 205. Valley Floor and Water Management features in Wokingham Borough

Apart from the rivers, water related features recorded in this broad type in the Borough of Wokingham consist mostly of artificial lakes and ponds. There is also a modern pumping station in Lower Earley. A number of ponds are located by the River Loddon between Wokingham and

Twyford; these appear to be former gravel quarries. Whiteknights Lake at Whiteknights university campus in Reading is an ornamental pond, which appears to have been created as part of post-medieval landscaping. Windmill Pond in Wokingham is located by, or very near to, a former windmill which is clearly visible on John Rocque's map of Berkshire from 1761. There are also a few ponds located south of Wokingham, at Gardener's Green and at Finchampstead. These are parts of larger land drainage schemes, as are Longmore Lake, also in Finchampstead, and Heath Lake in Finchampstead. Two small artificial lakes located by the Loddon are former gravel pits. The remaining artificial lakes are ornamental in nature.
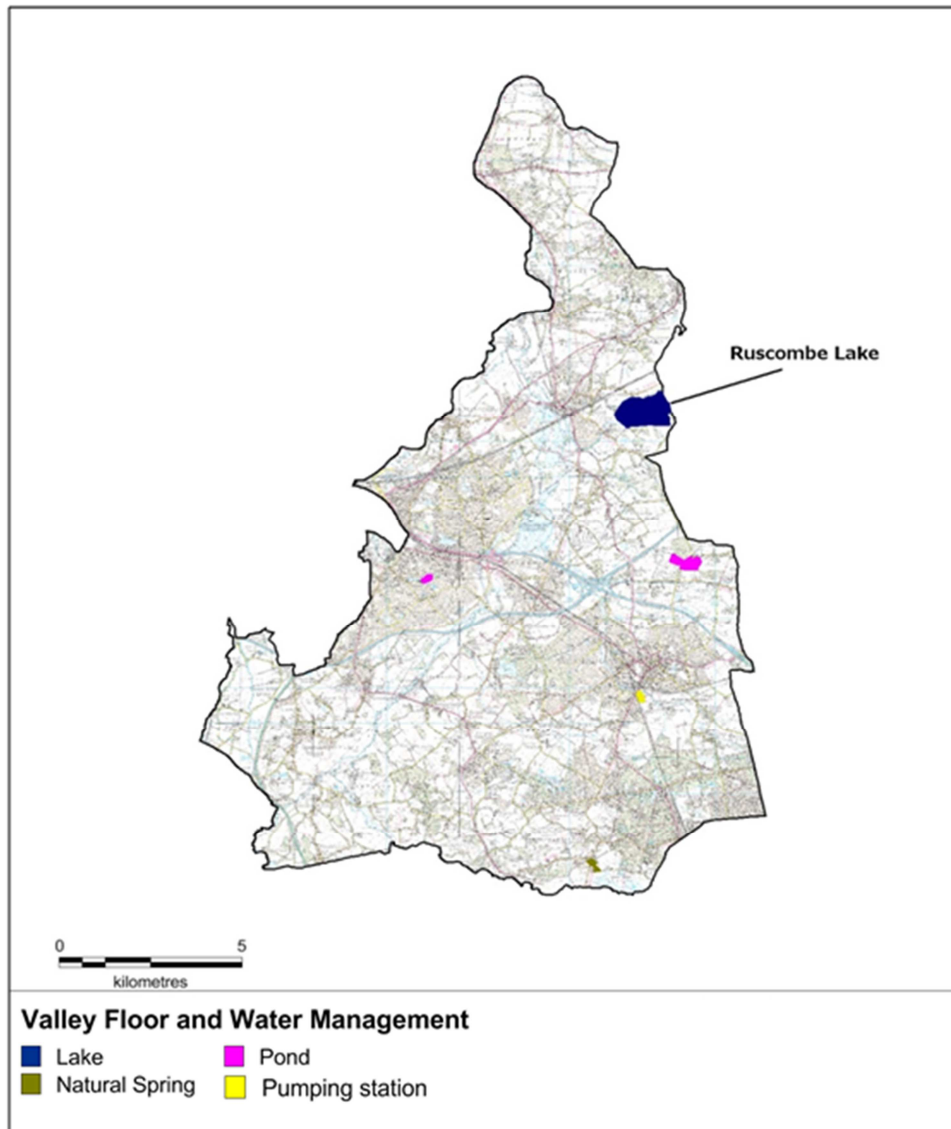
Figure 206. Previous Valley Floor and Water Management in Wokingham Borough

Some water management features have disappeared or shrunk since the 18th and 19th century. An area of wells at Cricket Hill in Finchampstead village is now covered with residential housing. Ruscombe Lake was reputedly a lake in the middle ages, but it now only survives as a field name. There used to be a pumping station in the town of Wokingham which was built in the late 19th century; a modern superstore is now located there. A pond located in the aptly named "Pond

264

Wood", just to the north of Ashridge Wood in Hurst Parish has shrunk considerably. Likewise, Maiden Erlegh Lake in Lower Earley was originally at least a third larger than today.

23.4 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

The River Thames, The Cut, Colne Brook and parts of the Jubilee River are the most important watercourses in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and most of the water management features in the Borough are directly associated with the River Thames, which forms the northern boundary of the Borough, except just to the south of Slough. The Cut runs from just south of the Great Wood northeast towards Bray Wick, where it turns to the southeast for a short stretch before flowing into the River Thames at Bray Lock.
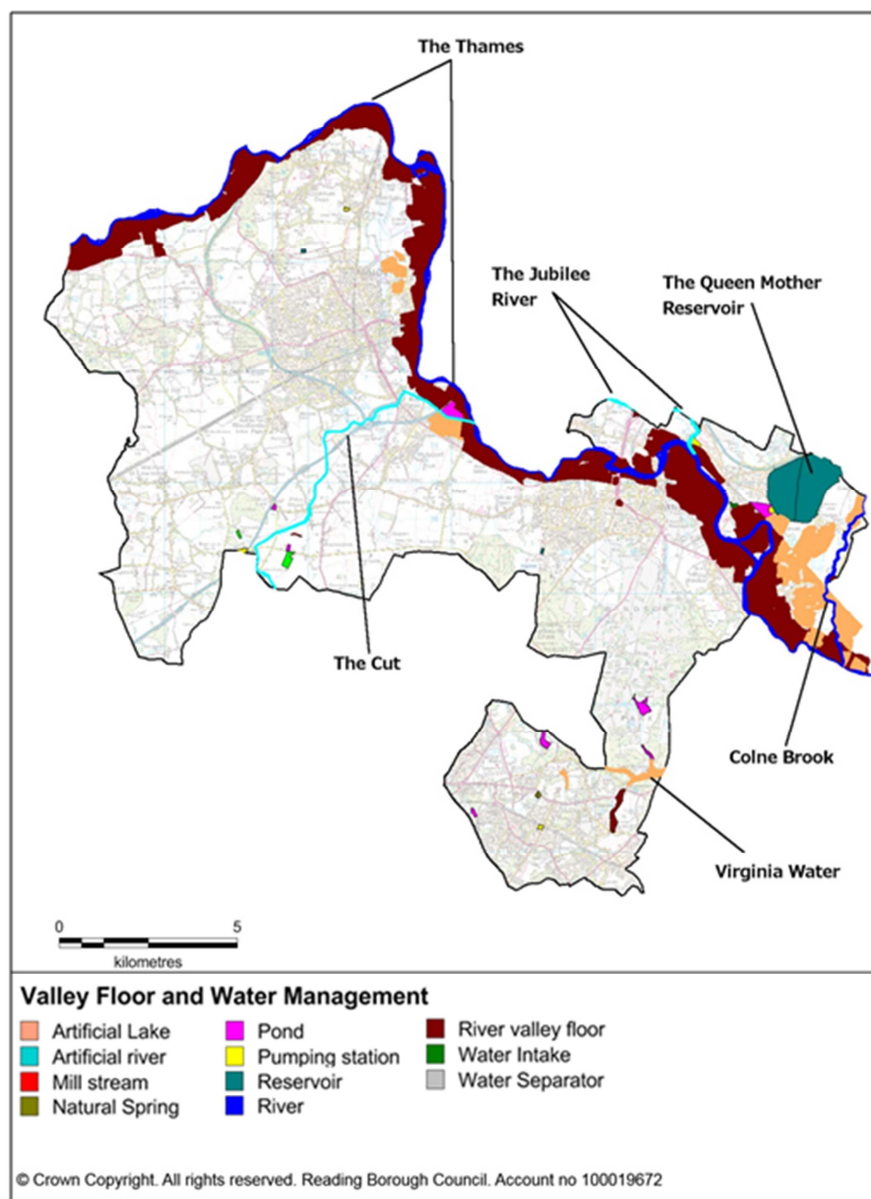

Figure 207. Valley Floor and Water Management in Windsor and Maidenhead

Colne Brook is a tributary of the River Thames, and a distributary of the River Colne (i.e. a branch that that has split off from the main channel). It runs north to south in the northeast part of the Borough before flowing into the Thames at Wraysbury. Significant re-routing of the river may have taken place in the late 18th or early 19th century. The Jubilee River, an artificial water river which was completed in 2002, takes its water from the River Thames just upstream of Boulter's Lock in Maidenhead. The river then runs roughly parallel to the River Thames until it re-joins it at Windsor. Only a small part of the river is within the Borough.

The area around Wraysbury is dominated by artificial lakes and reservoirs, the most impressive of which is the **Queen Mother Reservoir**. Artificial lakes are also present at Bray Wick and north of Maidenhead, formed from restored worked gravel pits. A few ponds – including fish ponds – are associated with The Cut, and are likely to be part of a larger land drainage scheme. Virginia Water, an ornamental lake in Windsor Great Park, was created around 1750, and though the lake itself is artificial, the streams feeding it are natural. Another large ornamental water feature in the Great Park is the Great Meadow Pond, an ornamental feature originally known as the Great Lake. Another large ornamental pond, the Great Pond, is located close-by in Sunninghill Park.
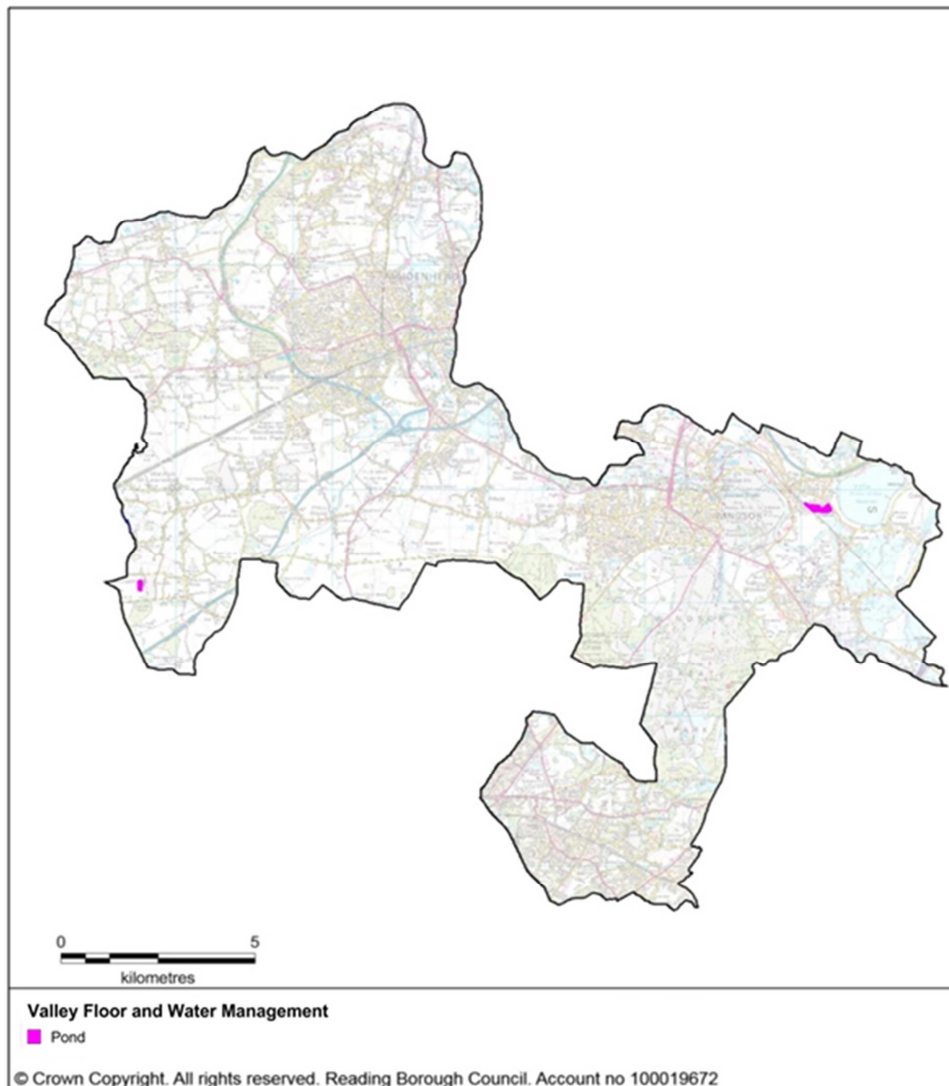
Figure 208. Previous Valley Floor and Water Management in Windsor and Maidenhead

23.5 Slough Borough

Three major watercourses run through Slough Borough – the artificial Jubilee River, the Colne Brook, and the Poyle Channel. The Jubilee River runs roughly from east to west close to the current sewage works, in an area of the borough was probably originally waterlogged and/or marshy. The Colne Brook runs approximately north to south through the village of Colnbrook in the east, and the Poyle Channel runs roughly east to west, through Poyle industrial estate. A smaller watercourse runs from the north to the south at Lynch Hill, and there is also a 20th century water reservoir close to there. A few artificial ponds and lakes are associated with Colne Brook, most of which are used for angling. A couple of areas of watercress beds in the Salt Hill area, originally supplying watercress to the London markets, have now disappeared.

Figure 209. Valley Floor and Water Management in Slough Borough

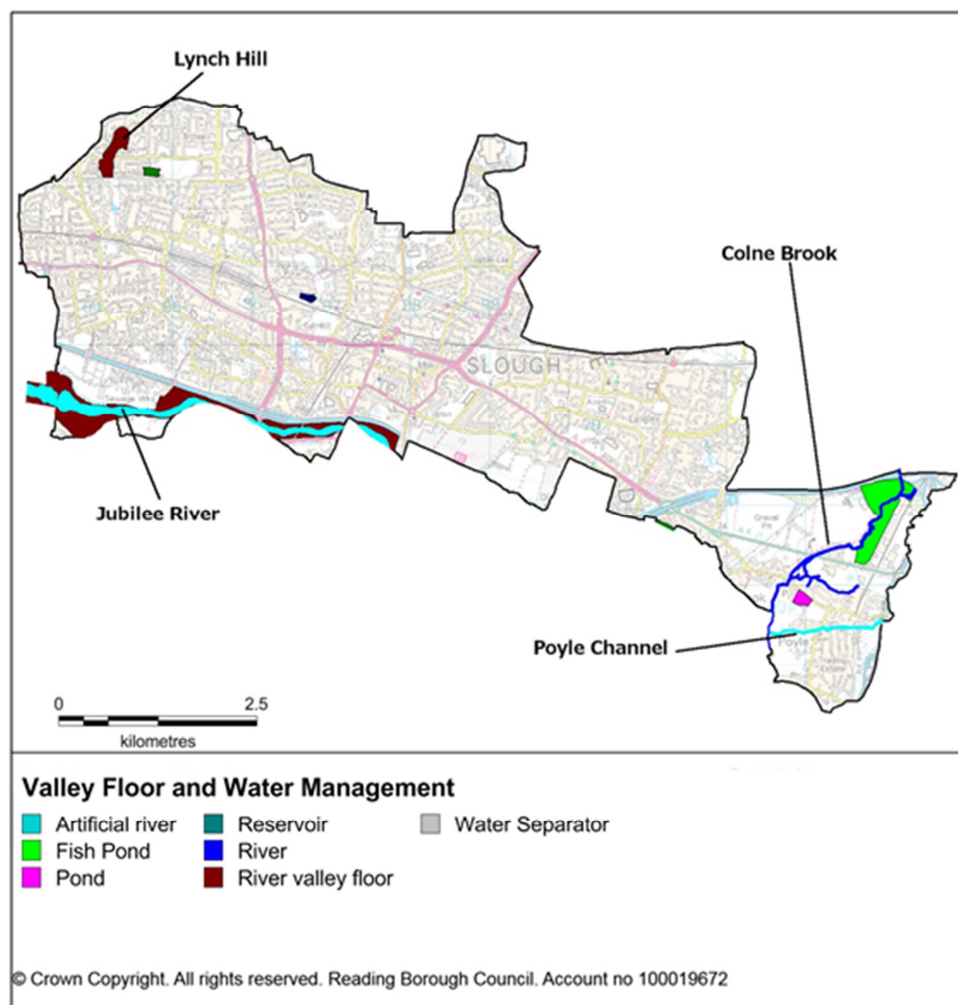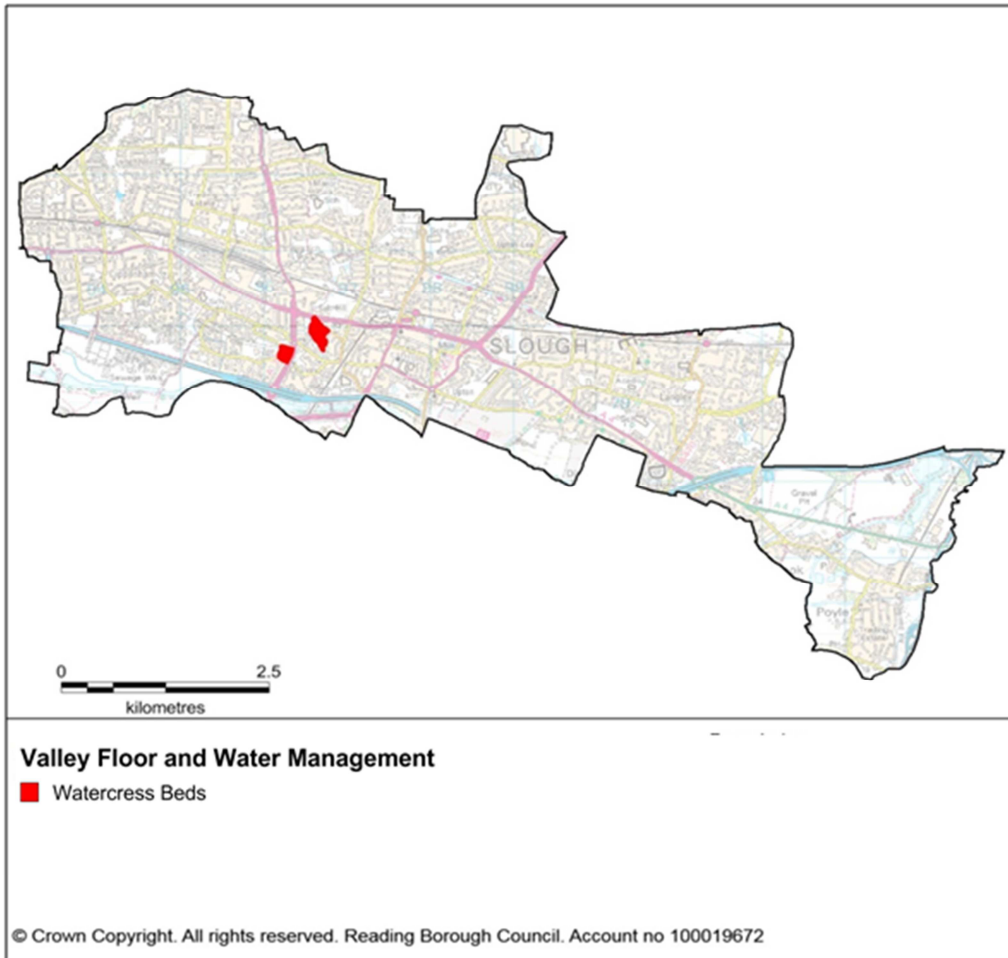**Valley Floor and Water Management**
■ Watercress Beds

Figure 210. Previous Valley Floor and Water Management in Slough Borough

24.Woodland

The Woodland broad type comprises all areas characterised by tree cover in East Berkshire, from ancient (pre-17th century woodland recorded as such in Natural England's Ancient Woodland Inventory) to areas of modern plantation. Woodland areas may be associated with various other broad types such as enclosed land (where planted for agricultural use), recreation and parkland.

Narrow Types: Ancient Woodland, Ancient Replanted Woodland, *Coppiced Woodland, Planted Woodland, Secondary Woodland *(*recorded as previous type only)*

Polygons: There are currently 6476 hectares of woodland in East Berkshire recorded in the HLC, (792 polygons) most of which has been planted in the 19th and 20th centuries.

	Area
Total	**6476ha**
Ancient Woodland	**1231ha**
Ancient Replanted Woodland	**570ha**
Planted Woodland	**4183ha**
Secondary Woodland	**492ha**

Table 18. Current woodland in East Berkshire

Ancient Woodland

Ancient Woodland is tightly defined as woodland believed to have been in existence at the beginning of the 17th century, and is recorded by Natural England as such in its Ancient Woodland Inventory. The Inventory notes that ancient woodland "is identified using presence or absence of woods from old maps, information about the wood's name, shape, internal boundaries, location relative to other features, ground survey and aerial photography"; it formed a primary source for HLC records and associated polygons within the Woodland broad type. It is usually afforded special protection in planning terms through the NPPF and local planning policy. The HLC notes 262 polygons with this narrow type, comprising a total area of 1231 hectares. These areas are often associated with visible woodland management features recorded on the HER; they are also characterised by broadleaf species in irregular distribution and spacing.

Ancient Replanted Woodland

This narrow type comprises ancient woodland within which the original natural trees have been deliberately replanted with other trees and which often retains ancient woodland features such as undisturbed soil and similar bio-diversity. Ancient replanted woodland is included on Natural England's Inventory and the HLC has noted 69 polygons with this current narrow type, covering an area of 570 hectares. Replanting often introduced other species, usually conifers, and may have filled naturally occurring gaps or been intended to improve appearance.

Planted Woodland

This narrow type comprises woodland that is known to have been deliberately planted. Most of the existing woodland in East Berkshire was planted after 1700, and especially in the 19th century, usually either for timber or for large-scale landscaping. There are many pieces of planted woodland that only consist of a few hectares, and these are often planted on previous agricultural land. Most of the planted woodland, including some very large plantations, has however been planted on previous heathland. 379 polygons are recorded in the HLC as planted woodland, with a total area of 4183 hectares, accounting for the vast majority of areas recorded under the woodland broad type. Typically comprising coniferous trees and often a single species, those dating from the mid-20th century to be planted in rows or regular patterns, making them very distinctive and visible from aerial photography and other sources

Secondary Woodland

This narrow type defines woodland that has developed spontaneously, ie without deliberate planting. In East Berkshire this includes in particular woodland that has grown up on marshy ground or on marshy eyots (islands) in the Thames, or other marginal land.

Coppiced Woodland

Coppiced woodland is woodland that has been managed by repeatedly cutting down young tree stems to near ground level. This traditional method of woodland management was common from the medieval period onwards, and is now rarely seen on a large scale. Woodland that appears to repeatedly have changed shape or size between different cartographic surveys may have been coppiced. As a narrow type it is only recorded as a previous type in the East Berkshire HLC, where it features in only eight records.
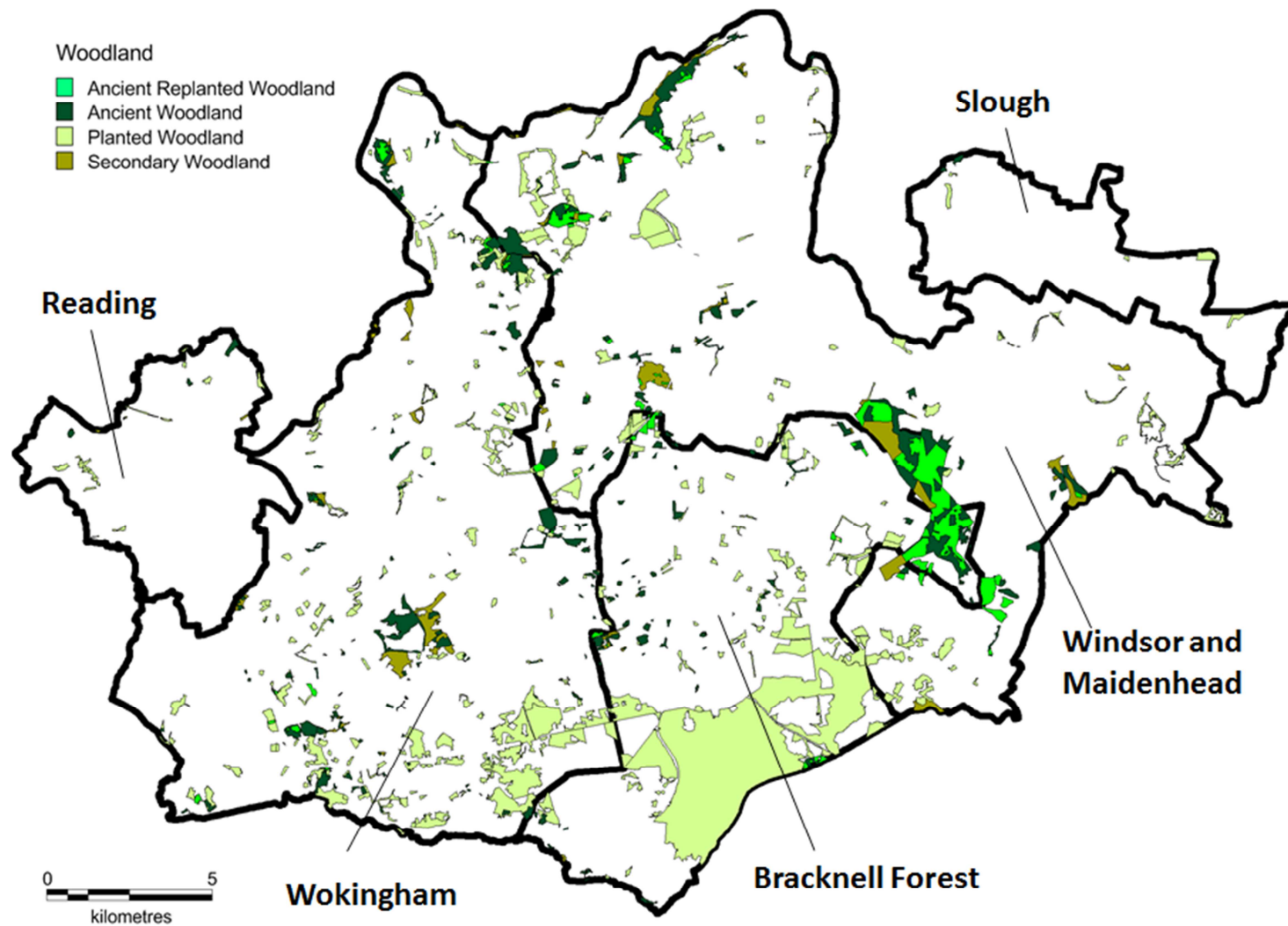
Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- Ancient Woodland
- Planted Woodland
- Secondary Woodland

Reading

Slough

Windsor and Maidenhead

Wokingham

Bracknell Forest

0 ———— 5
kilometres

Figure 211. Current Woodland in East Berkshire

Analysis of John Rocque's map of 1761 suggests there were 2512 hectares of woodland in East Berkshire of which 69%, or 1739 hectares, now survive. Showing HLC polygons for current ancient woodland alongside those with this as a previous type, gives an estimate of woodland extent in about 1600, suggesting a focus on the area between Wokingham and Bracknell, with a swathe on the high ridge overlooking the Thames to the north-west of Maidenhead, and of course an extensive area from which Windsor Great Park was created in the 13th century.

Current and Previous Ancient Woodland

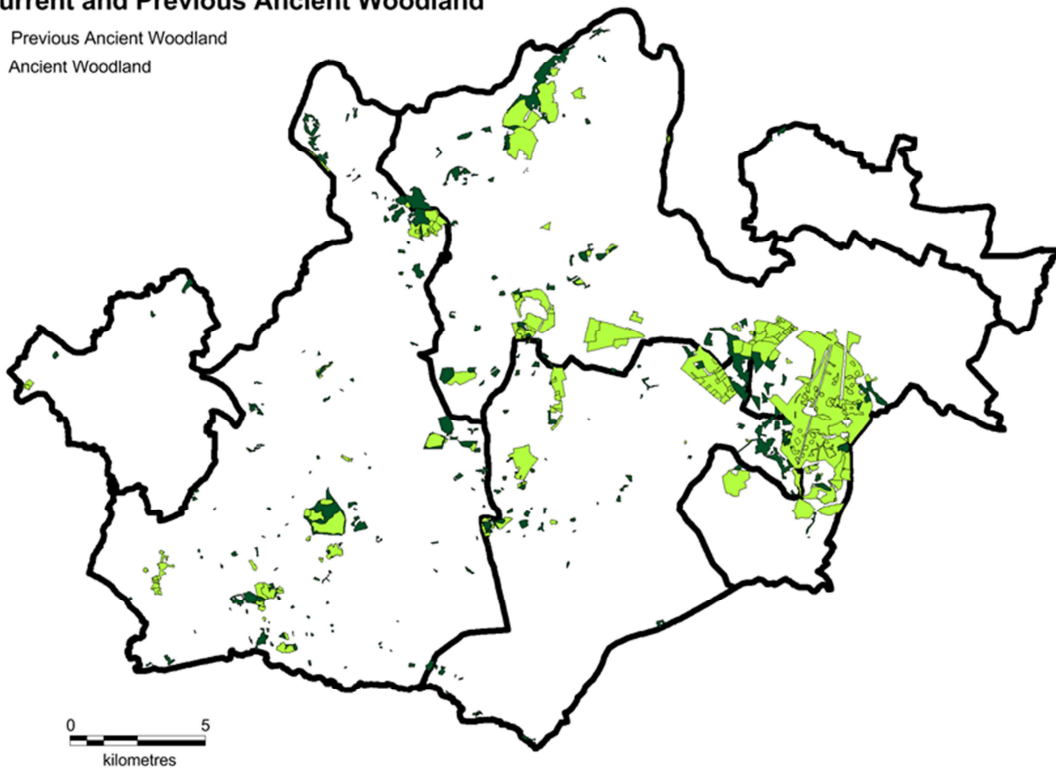☐ Previous Ancient Woodland
■ Ancient Woodland

Figure 212. Probable woodland in 1600 – (current and previous ancient woodland combined)

24.1 Reading Borough

The Woodland broad type is very limited in Reading Borough, a picture probably mirrored in previous centuries. A piece of woodland by the former workhouse, called Workhouse Copse, has disappeared since the 19th century, but no other woodland is recorded in the HLC as having disappeared since the 18th century.

Existing woodland mostly comprises small copses planted in the 19th and 20th centuries. Beech Wood in Caversham is an exception, since this piece of woodland is known to have bene in existence in 1600. There is also a small piece of woodland that has spontaneously grown up around the Berrybrook River in Caversham.
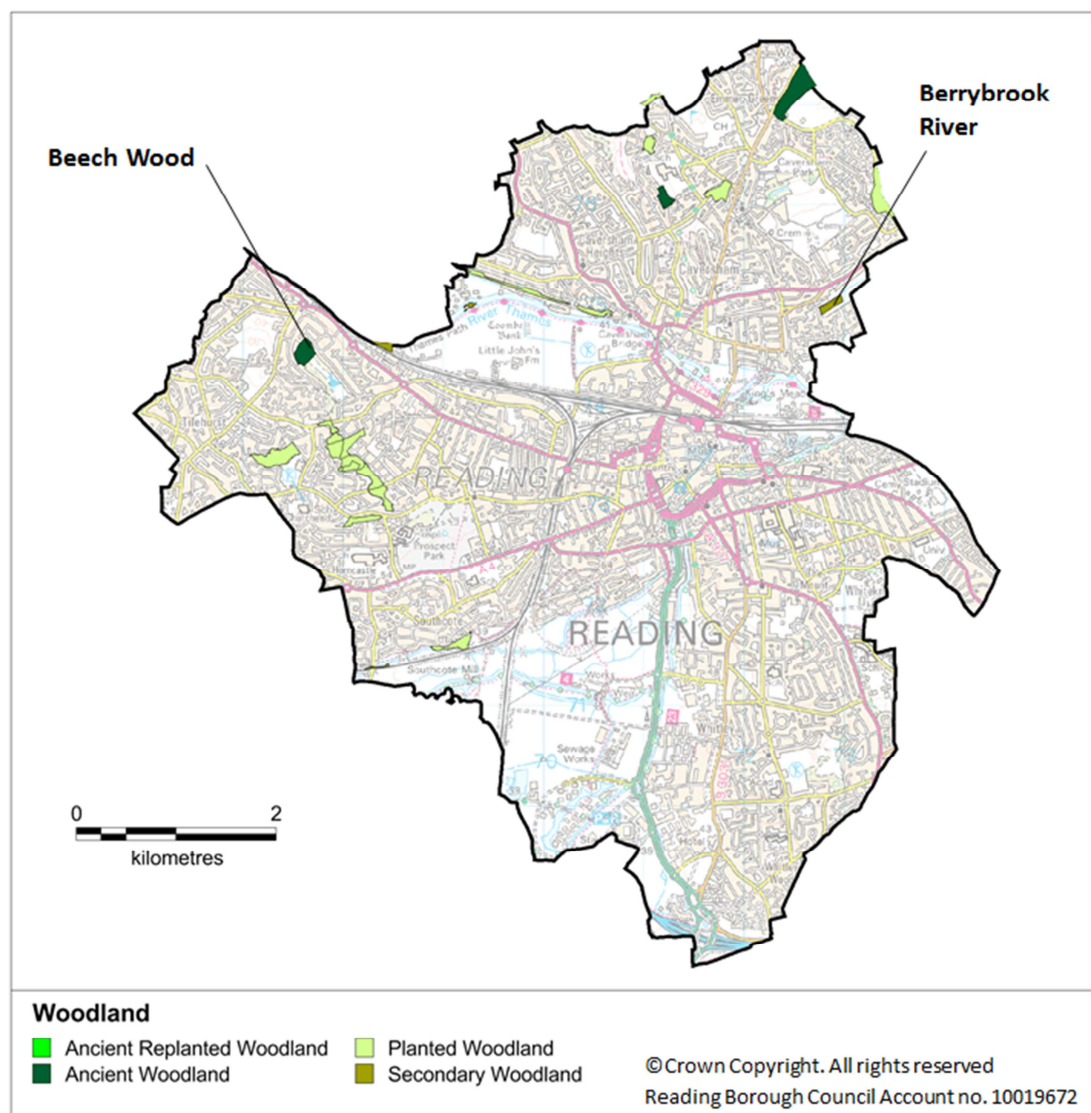

Figure 213. Current Woodland in Reading Borough

24.2 Wokingham

The pattern of extant woodland in Wokingham Borough is quite dispersed, and consists of many smaller copses and as well as large more coherent pieces of woodland. Most of it was planted in the 19th and 20th centuries, and reflects both cropping for timber and ornamenting of the landscape.

Significant concentrations of woodland can be found northeast of Wargrave at Lindenhill, west of Wokingham, and to the south and southwest of Wokingham. The woodland just to the south of Wokingham, by Finchampstead and Crowthorne, was originally heathland and was planted in the 19th century after the heathland was enclosed.
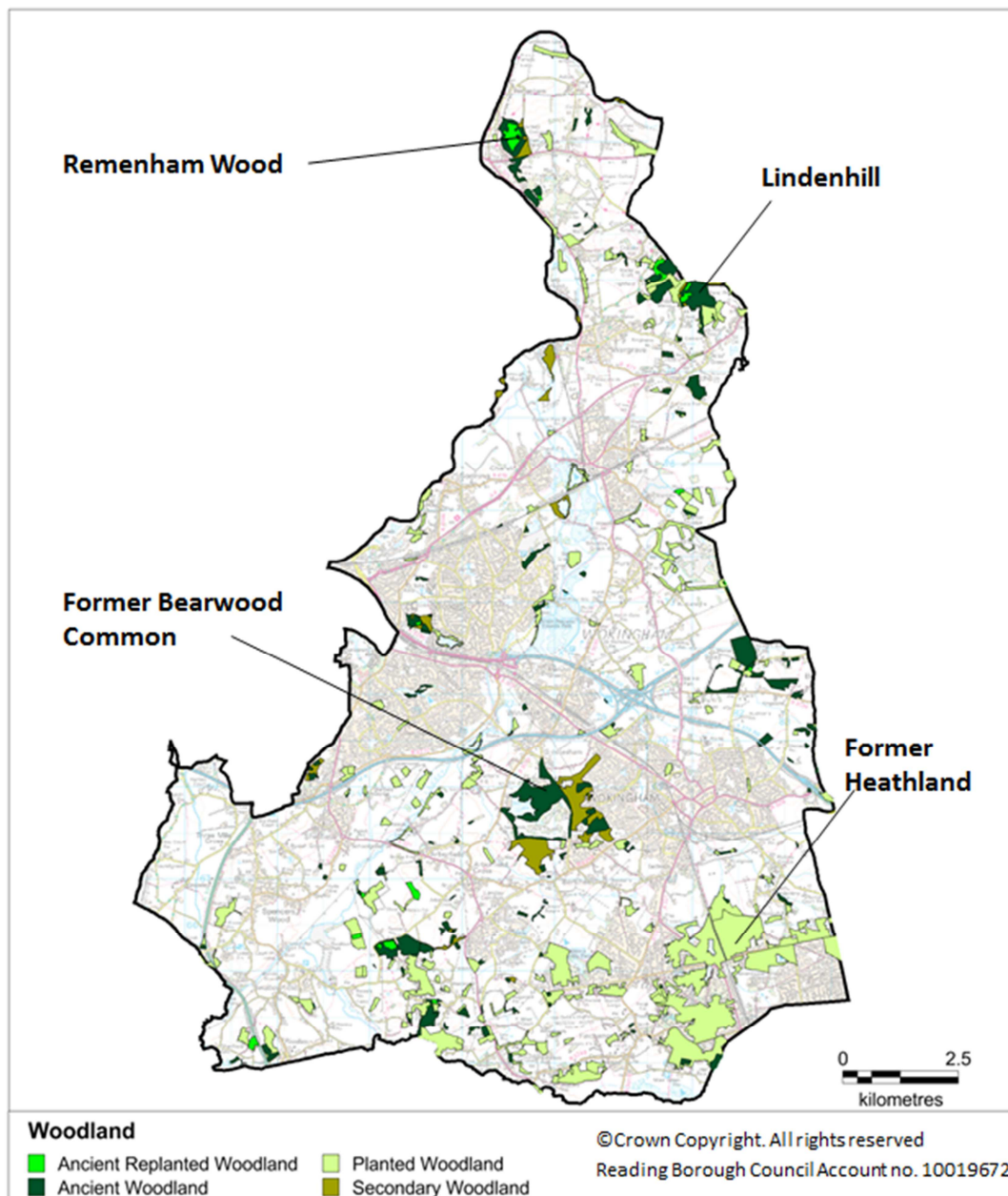
Figure 214. Current extent of woodland in Wokingham Borough

The woodland just to the west of Wokingham was originally part of Bearwood Common and probably originated in the medieval period or earlier. The woodland northeast of Wokingham, at Lindenhill, appears to have changed shape several times over the years. Most of the extant woodland around Linden Hill was planted relatively recently, in the 19th and 20th centuries. There is however a core of much older woodland still which also extends into Windsor and Maidenhead.

Figure 215. Probable woodland areas in the medieval period in Wokingham Borough

24.3 Bracknell Forest

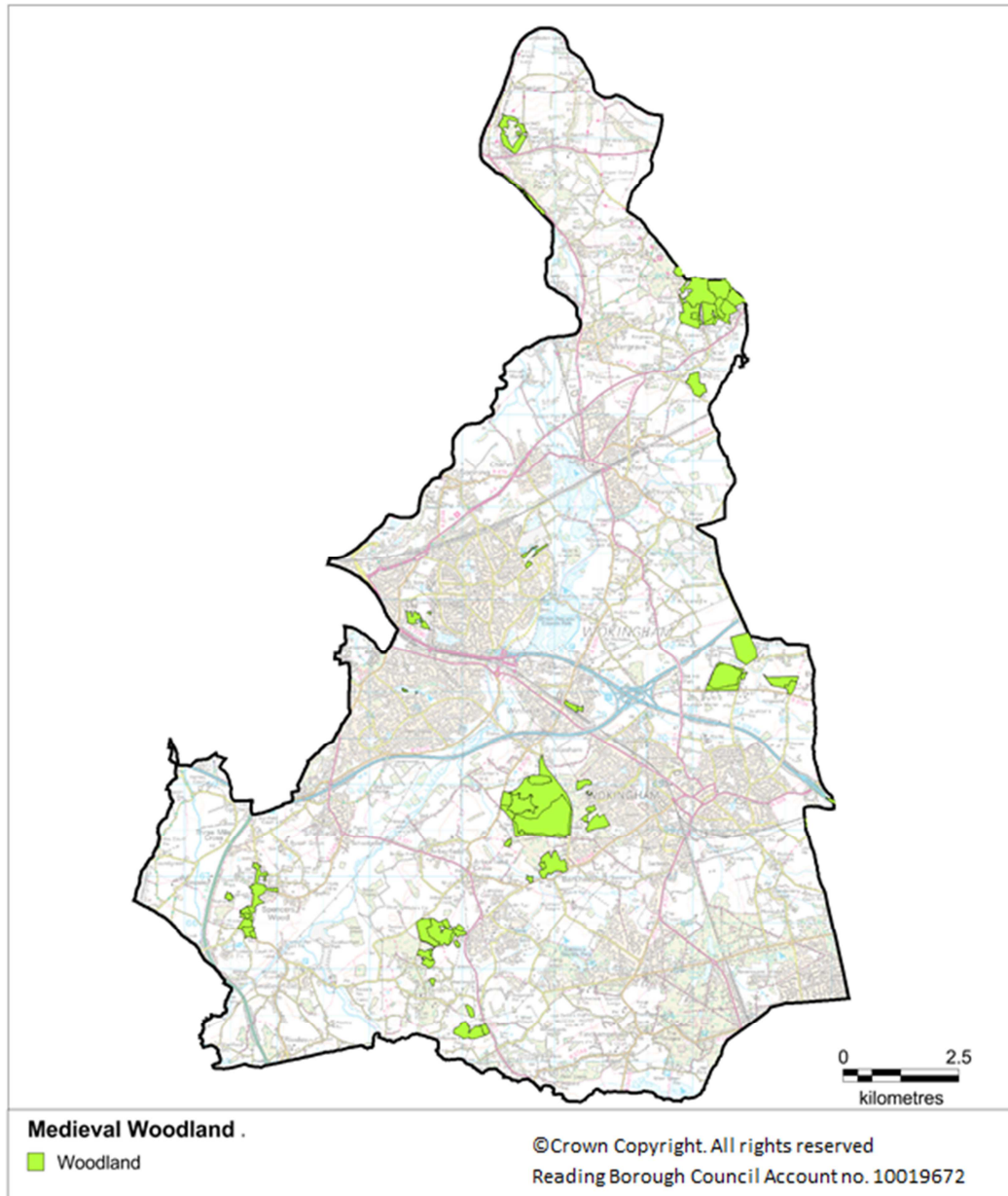Woodland in the borough comprises areas in Bracknell Forest, parts of Windsor Forest, and smaller copses in and around the town of Bracknell. Windsor Forest as an entity is of medieval or earlier date; an extensive area land forming part of the king's hunting grounds.

Some ancient woodland, including Binfield Wood and Hazelwood, was enclosed in the 19th century and is now under the plough or used for other purposes. The remaining extant woodland was mostly planted in the 19th and 20th centuries.
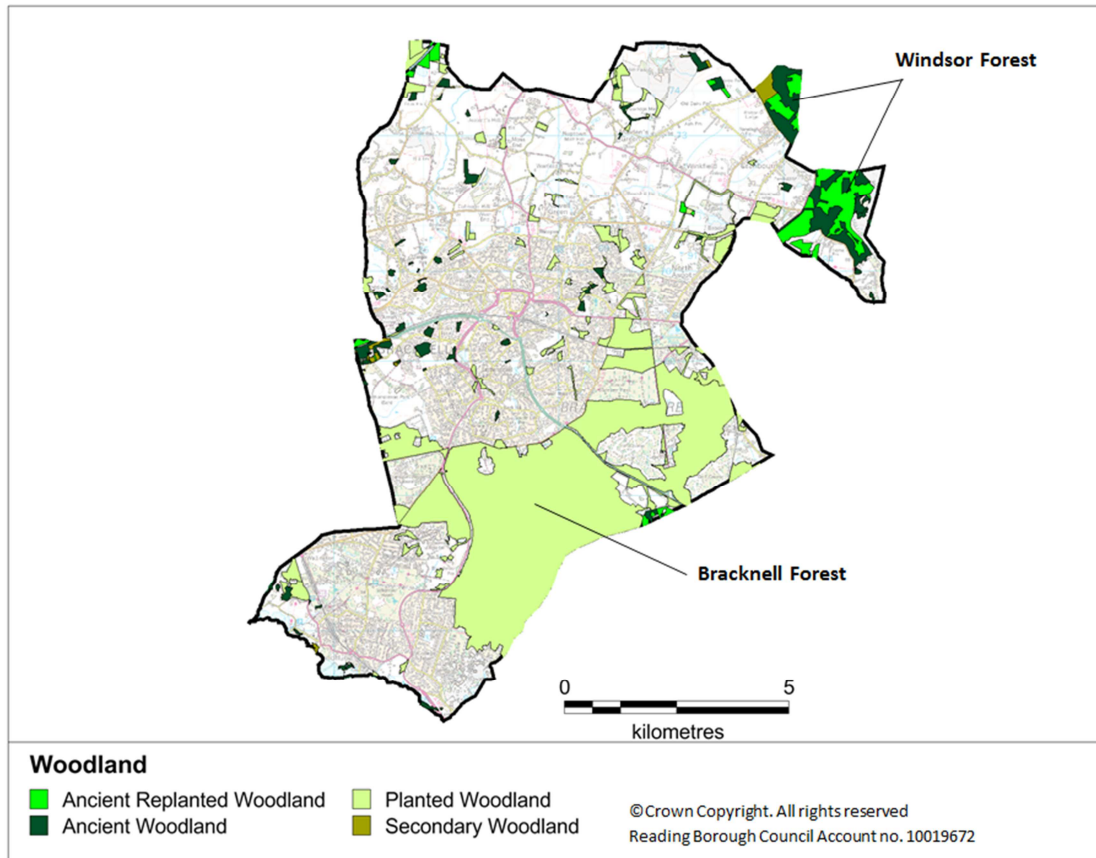

Figure 216. Current woodland in Bracknell Forest

Bracknell Forest, which occupies most of the area directly south and southeast of Bracknell, is a commercially grown pine forest, planted in the 19th century on newly enclosed heathland.
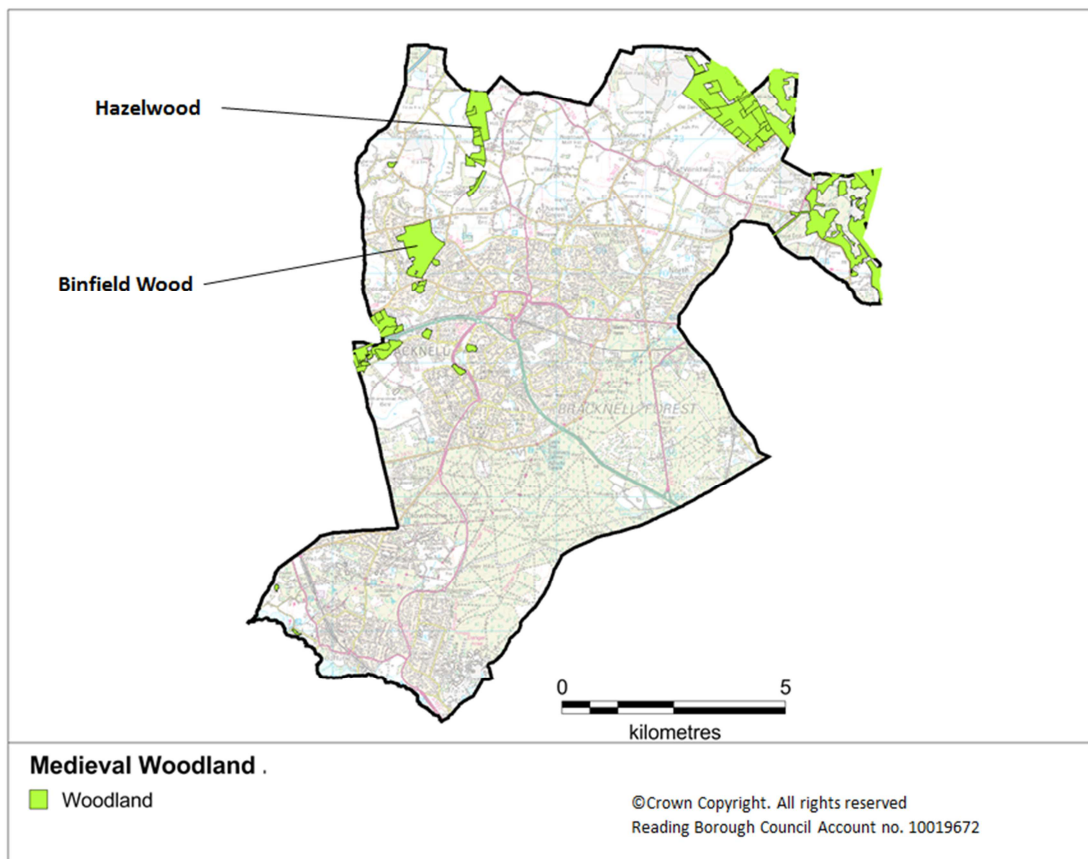
Figure 217. Probable woodland areas in the medieval period in Bracknell Forest

24.4 Windsor and Maidenhead

Extant woodland within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead consists of a mix of woodland planted in the 19th and 20th centuries and Ancient Woodland. The woodland is concentrated in particular west, northwest and southwest of Maidenhead. Smaller copses are scattered around the Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale area, and Windsor Forest is located southwest of Windsor. The surviving Ancient Woodland within the Borough includes Ashley Hill Forest, The Great Wood, a coherent stretch of woodland west of Cookham Dean known variously as Quarry Wood, The Hockett, Park Wood and Bradnam Wood, and areas within and around Windsor Forest.
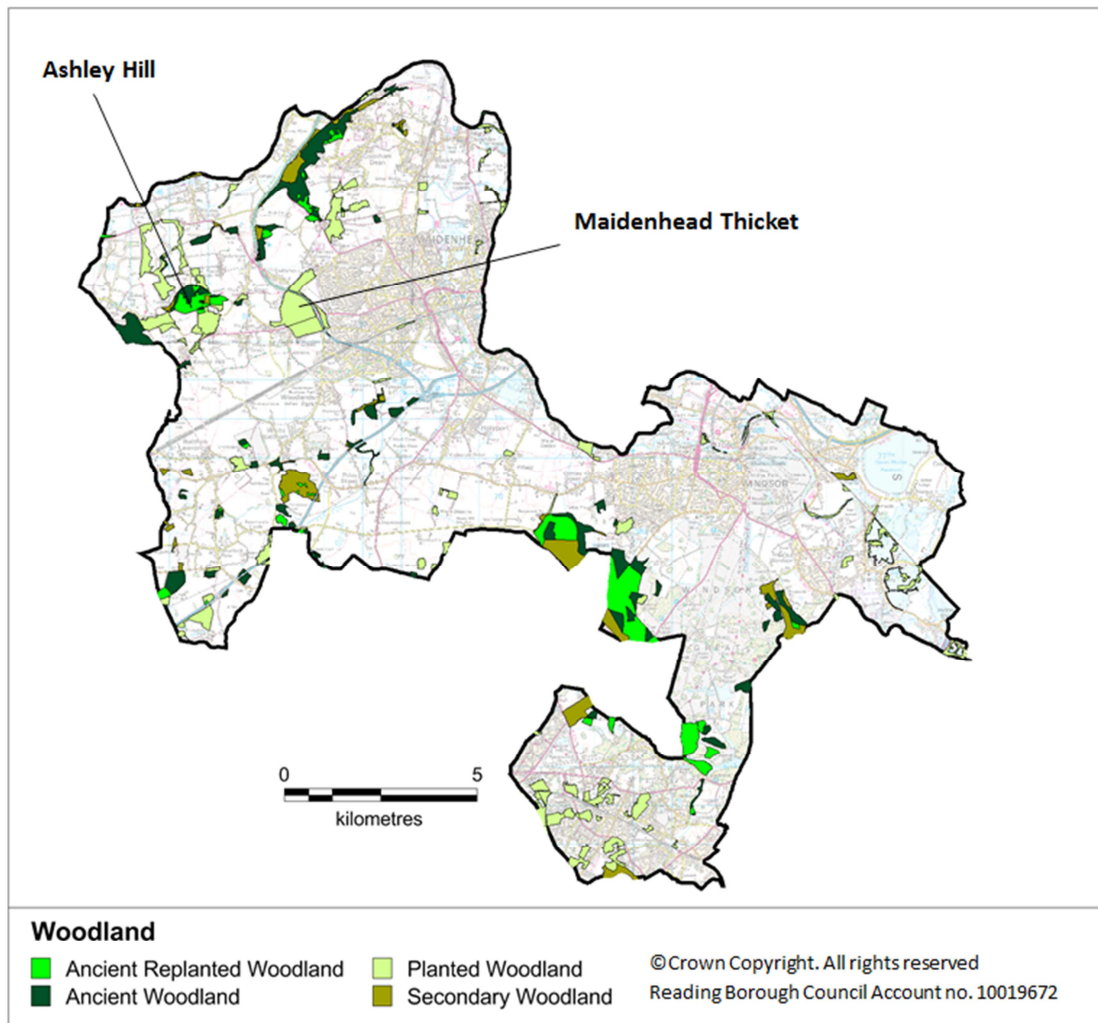
Figure 218. Current extent of woodland in Windsor and Maidenhead
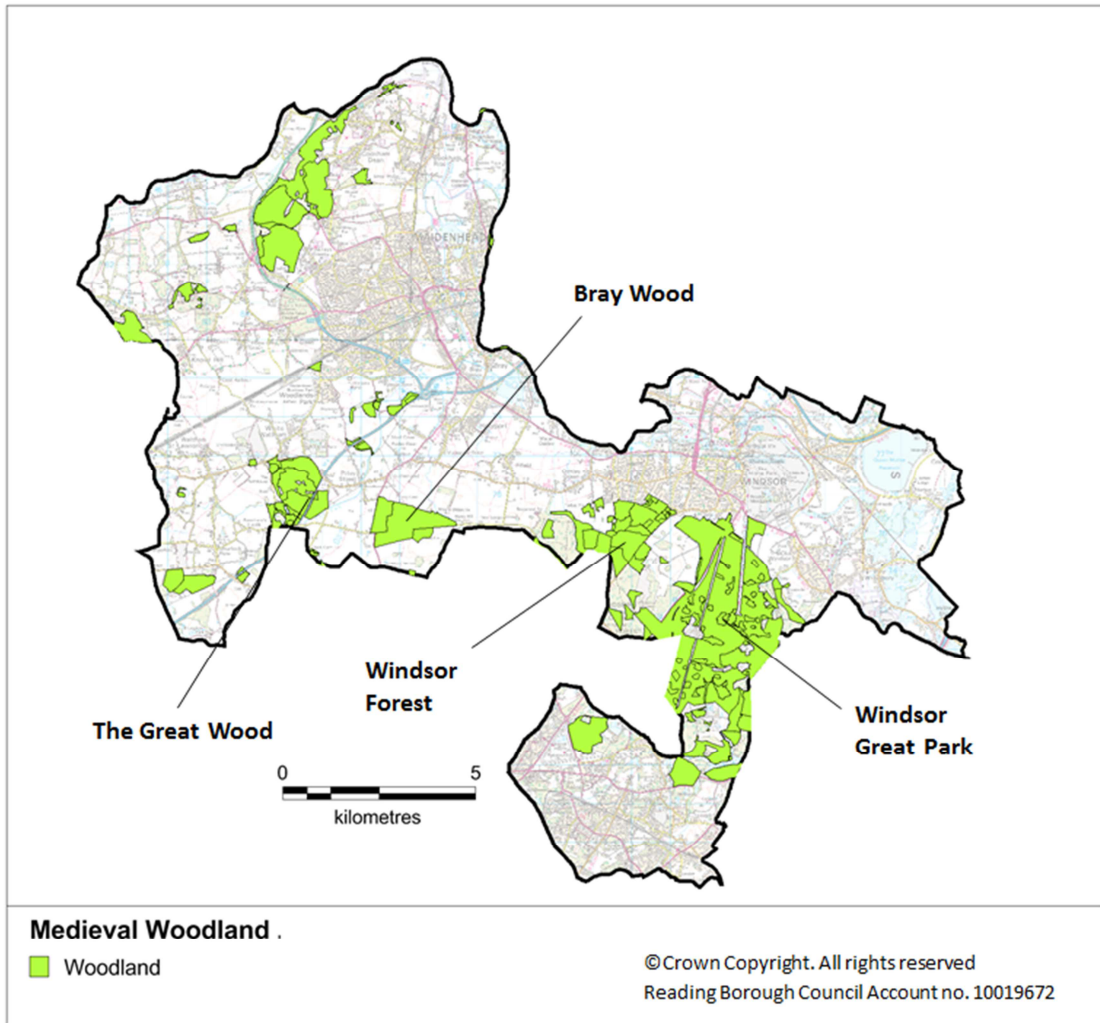
Figure 219. Probable medieval woodland areas in Windsor and Maidenhead

24.5 Slough Borough

As with Reading Borough woodland in the Borough of Slough is limited and probably has never been a prolific landscape type. The extant woodland consists of a few small copses distributed across the Borough. Most of the woodland is of 20th century origins. Two small copses in the west of the borough, Cocksherd Wood and a further small area at Britwell Lodge, are recorded in the Natural England Inventory as Ancient Woodland, with Cocksherd Wood being named on John Roque's map of 1761. There has been no loss of woodland in the Borough since the 18th century.
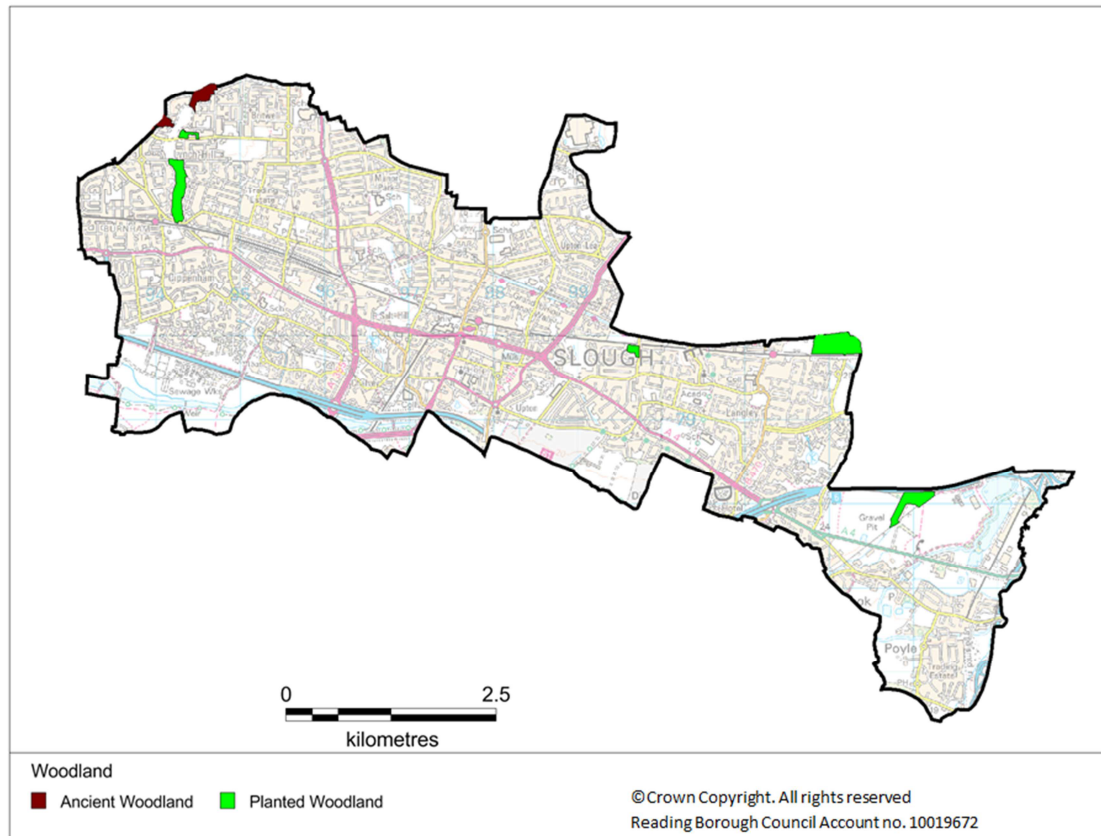
Figure 220. Current extent of woodland in Slough Borough

Appendix 1

References and bibliography

The following lists sources quoted in the report, as well as additional sources relevant to understanding the archaeology and landscape of East Berkshire.

Astill, Grenville G. (1978) Historic Towns in Berkshire: An Archaeological Appraisal. Berkshire Archaeological Committee Publication number 2. Reading: Berkshire Archaeological Committee

Beckley, Ruth (2007) Colne Valley Park Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. Aylesbury: County Archaeology Service of Buckingham County Council

Bracknell Forest Council (2010) Character Area Assessments Supplementary Planning Document, 2010

Clarke, S (2005) Territorial Organisation, Land Use and Settlement in the Middle Thames Valley: A Study of Continuity and Change from the Late Roman to the Late Anglo-Saxon Period. PhD thesis. Southampton: Southampton University

Cox, C (1997) Grazeley New Settlement, Berkshire. Aerial Photographic Assessment: Archaeology 1997. APS Report 967/20 (unpublished report)

Dils, J. Yates, M. eds. (2012) An Historical Atlas of Berkshire. Reading: Berkshire Record Society

Ford, S. (1987)   East Berkshire Archaeological Survey. Berkshire County Occasional Paper 1. Reading: Department of Highways and Planning

Ford, S. (1997) Loddon Valley (Berkshire) fieldwalking survey. Berkshire Archaeological Journal 75. Reading: Berkshire Archaeological Society

Gelling, M. (1973) The Place Names of Berkshire (Vols 1). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Gates T. (1975) The Middle Thames Valley: An Archaeological Survey of The River Gravels. Reading: Berkshire Archaeological Committee

Kupferman, E. (1986) The Moated Sites of East Berkshire. Poole: Dorset Institute of Higher Education

Land Use Consultants (2003) The Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment. Maidenhead: Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit

Lambrick, G. Robinson, M. Dodd, A. (2009) The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames: The Thames Valley in Late Prehistory First 1500 BC-AD 50. Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph Volume 29. Lancaster: Lancaster

LDA Design (2004) Landscape Character Assessment. Maidenhead: The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Lowerre, A. Lyons, E. Roberts, B K. Wrathmell, S (2015), Atlas of Rural Settlement in England [data-set]. Swindon:English Heritage

Mawer, A. Stenton, F M. (1925) Place Names of Buckinghamshire. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Morigi, T. Schreve, D. White, M. Hey, G. (2011) The Thames through Time: the archaeology of the gravel terraces of the upper and middle Thames. Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph Volume 1 The formation and changing environment of the Thames Valley and early human occupation to 1500 BC. Lancaster: Lancaster

Office for National Statistics (2016): 2011 Census aggregate data. UK Data Service (Edition: June 2016). DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.5257/census/aggregate-2011-1

Rackham, O. (1990) Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape. (2nd Edition) London: Phoenix Press

Roberts, B K. Wrathmell, S (2000), Atlas of Rural Settlement in England. Swindon:English Heritage

Reading Borough Council (2011) Landscape Background Paper: Information to support the Sites and Detailed Policies Document

Slough Borough Council (2008) Local Development Framework

Smith, A. Booth, P. Dodd, A. Robinson, M. Smith, A. (2007) The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames: The Early Historical Period: AD1-1000. Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph Volume 27. Oxford: Oxford University School of Archaeology

The National Trust (1988) Archaeology Survey, The Manor Of Cookham & Maidenhead (unpublished document)

Wessex Archaeology (1999) An Assessment of Aerial Photographic Evidence for Later prehistoric and Roman-British Settlement to the South of Reading (unpublished report)

Wokingham Borough Council (2004) Landscape Character Assessment

Websites:

Environment Agency   http://www.geostore.com/environment-agency/WebStore?xml=environment-agency/xml/ogcDataDownload.xml

MAGIC   http://www.magic.gov.uk/Dataset_Download_Summary.htm

PAS   http://finds.org.uk/database

Old Maps   http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html

Appendix 2

Database structure- fields and pick-lists

Typically for HLC databases established in Exegesis HBSMR, each HLC record has a general screen and a range of five data screens, which use pre-populated picklists and free text fields, and are visible through clickable tabs. The fields visible and routinely used are as follows:

General Screen

Contains the basic information identifiers for each HLC polygon, with an automatically generated unique reference number using standard HER formats eg HRM3509:

Broad Type
A pick list of 15 broad types agreed following pilot study eg Commercial, Unimproved, Rural Settlement

Narrow Type
A specific pick list generated from each broad type, with varying numbers of options. A full list of broad types and their associated narrow types is given at 6.3 in the main report

Full Type Code
A short code automatically generated by use of broad and narrow types. Examples:
(Broad Type = Commercial) and (narrow type = Hotel) gives
Full Type Code: CMC-HOTL

(Broad Type = Valley Floor & Water Management) and (Narrow Type = Reservoir) gives
Full Type Code – WAT-RESRV

Name
A free text field for a unique name to identify polygon, usually referring to location or known/commonly used name of feature
Examples:
HRM1456 Willows Riverside Park, Windsor
HRM627 Allotment gardens, Wexham Court, Slough

Confidence
A pick list referring to the level of confidence in the identification of the broad and narrow types (Certain, Probable, Possible). NB This field was actively used during the creation of records to flag up areas requiring discussion or further research, with the number of "possibles" having decreased accordingly

Location metadata
A set of data auto-generated from the polygon drawn – includes the NGR at the centre, area covered in hectares, OS mapping quarter sheet

Description Screen

Summary

A short free text field to summarise; similar to (and corresponds with in record layout) the summary field on HER monument records

Description

A longer free text field for further detail (again mirrors the structure of HER monument records in HBSMR). It also acts as an ongoing repository for further relevant information

Period of Origin (current type)

Uses picklist of standard HER periods with ability to be over-ridden with "user defined" narrower date ranges. It includes option for "unknown".
NB for reference, HER period fields are applied as follows:

Bronze Age   2500BC to 701BC
Iron Age   800BC to 42AD
Roman   43AD to 409AD
Saxon   410AD to 1065AD
Post Medieval   1066AD to 1539AD
Modern   1901AD to present day

Attributes Screen

Attributes were allocated to each broad type and appear with pick lists. For example:

Broad type – Enclosed Land
Attributes:
Development of fields - organic/planned
Field Morphology - irregular/semi-irregular/regular/sinuous
Size – small/medium/large
Internal boundary type – ditches or drains/fencing/wall/hedges
Other field morphology – coaxial/dogleg/following watercourse/settlement edge

Previous Types Screen

Unlimited records of previous broad and narrow types can be entered, with notes if needed/relevant

Monuments Screen
This function in Exegesis HBSMR automatically creates a list of all recorded monument data within the polygon, to show HER unique reference, name and summary description.
Database includes click-through to full monument records

Sources Screen

The screen generates a list of all sources referred to, in standard HER format with unique reference numbers. The database includes a click-through to the full source records

Appendix 3

Recorded attributes by Broad Type

Broad Types	Recorded Attributes
Civic Amenities	N/A
Civic Provision	N/A
Commercial	N/A
Communications	N/A
Enclosed Land	**Field morphology (Regular, Semi-irregular, Irregular, Sinuous)**
	Other field morphology (Co-axial, Dogleg, Following watercourse, Settlement edge)
	Average size of fields (Large / >15 hectares, Medium / 5-15 hectares, Small / <5 hectares)
	Internal Boundary type (Ditches / Drains, Fencing, Hedges)
	Development of fields (Planned, Organic)
Industrial	**Active / Inactive**
Military	N/A
Orchards and Horticulture	N/A
Parkland and designed landscapes	N/A
Recreation	N/A
Rural Settlement	**Settlement Morphology (Nucleated cluster, Row, Common Edge Settlement)**
	Private or public / social housing (Private, Public / Social housing / Uncertain)
	Homogeneous / Heterogeneous
	Dominant house type (Bungalows, Detached, Flats, Mixed / no dominant house type, Park Homes, Semidetached, Terraces, Town Houses, Large detached houses / villas)
Unimproved land	**Field morphology (Regular, Semi-irregular, Irregular, Sinuous)**
	Average size of fields (Large / >15 hectares, Medium / 5-15 hectares, Small / <5 hectares
Urban Settlement	**Private or public / social housing (Church owned, Private, Public / Social housing / Uncertain)**
	Homogeneous / Heterogeneous in appearance and date

	Dominant house type (Bungalows, Detached, Flats, Mixed / no dominant house type, Park Homes, Semidetached, Terraces, Town Houses, Large detached houses / villas)
	Street Pattern (Post Second World War, Hybrid forms, Interwar and immediate post-Second World War, Late 20th Century to early 21st Century, Late Victorian)
Valley Floor and Water Management	N/A
Woodland	Field morphology (Regular, Semi-irregular, Irregular, Sinuous)
	Average size of fields (Large / >15 hectares, Medium / 5-15 hectares, Small / <5 hectares