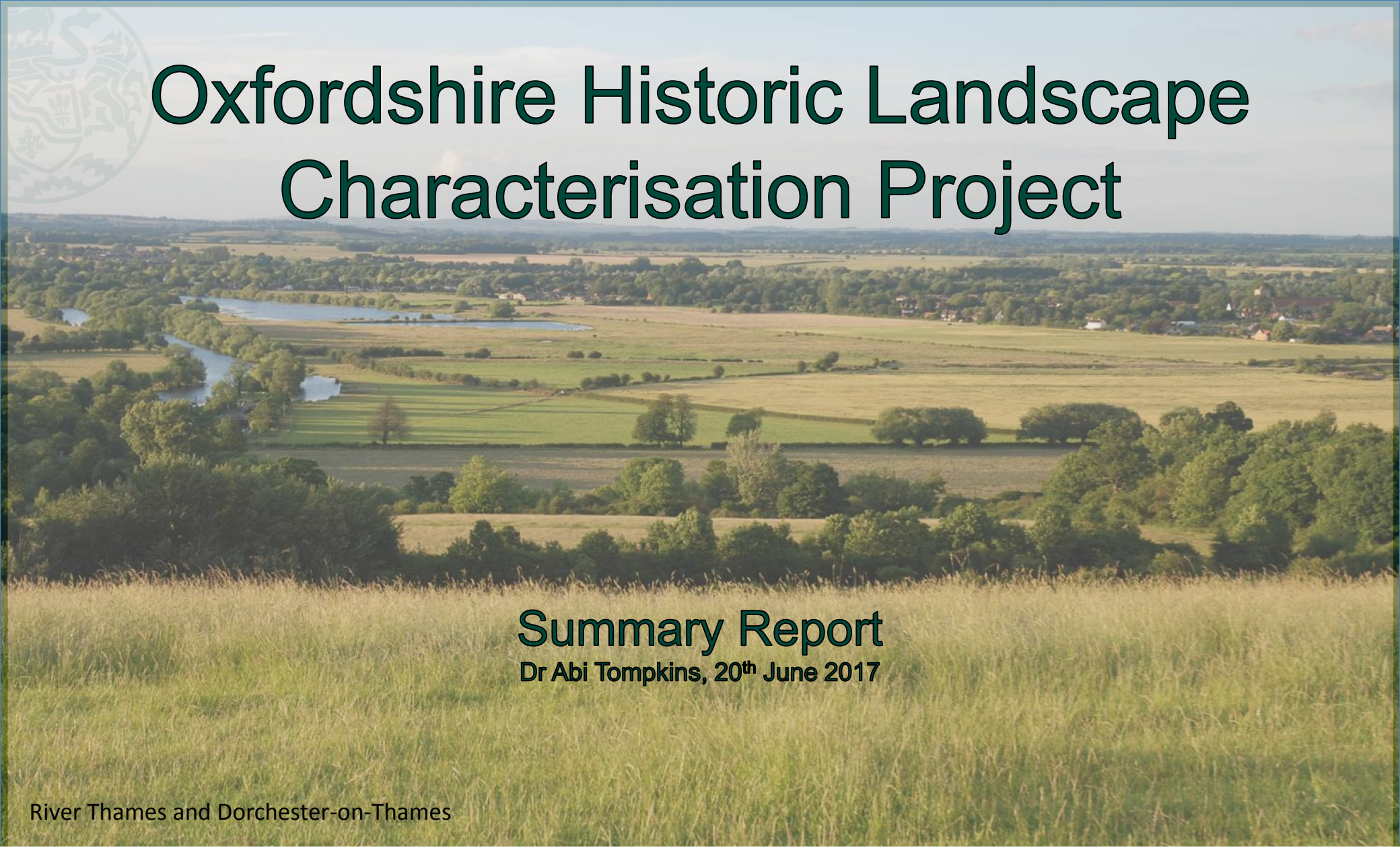
Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project



Summary Report

Dr Abi Tompkins, 20th June 2017

River Thames and Dorchester-on-Thames

Supported by Historic England

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Copyright and Disclaimer

The Oxfordshire HLC dataset was completed in 2016 and any updates will be on a piecemeal and ad hoc basis. It is an interpretive record of the landscape and should not be considered 'set in stone'. It is a broad-brush approach to interpreting the landscape and should be viewed at an appropriate scale. It was created independently of the Historic Environment Record (HER), but should be used in combination with other datasets such as this. For meaningful results, the spatial data must be used in conjunction with the written report (accessible here). This data is Copyright © Oxfordshire County Council and Historic England.

Unless otherwise stated, all photographs have been taken by the author.

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Contents & Foreword

Foreword

by Councillor Yvonne Constance, Oxfordshire County Council

"Oxfordshire's landscape has a deep and rich history; the fields, farms, woods, the downland, and the commons of yesterday have shaped our today and will continue to shape our tomorrow.

The Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project has mapped this historic inheritance across the whole county, providing a valuable tool for better managing the future of our landscape and a wonderful new way for individuals and communities to research their local history.

I would therefore warmly encourage anyone with an interest in Oxfordshire's landscape to have a look at this excellent study. Any feedback very welcome!"

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The Oxfordshire Project:

The HLC project commenced in 2012 and was completed in July 2017. It was funded by Historic England and conducted by the Archaeology Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

Aim - To characterise, digitally map and make available in a web-based format, the historic dimension of the current landscape of Oxfordshire, in order to inform its management, conservation, and understanding at a local, county, regional, and national level.

This report summarises the content of the Full Report and presents a selection of the case studies. The Full Report is available here.

What is Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)?

To better plan for the future an understanding of the past is required. HLC was designed to provide evidence of the time-depth within a landscape to inform our understanding of an area's sensitivity, vulnerability, and capacity for change.

Disused Quarry at Dry Sandford

It is a spatial framework of current historical understanding, through which people can debate the past and better design the future. It recognises that all parts of the landscape – the monumental and the mundane, the 1960s tower block and the Iron Age hillfort – have historic value and contribute to the current landscape in which we live. At its core it is a tool for managing change. However, it is also a tool for exploring the past. Thus, HLC data not only has applications within planning and landscape and heritage management, but also in individual, communal, and academic research.

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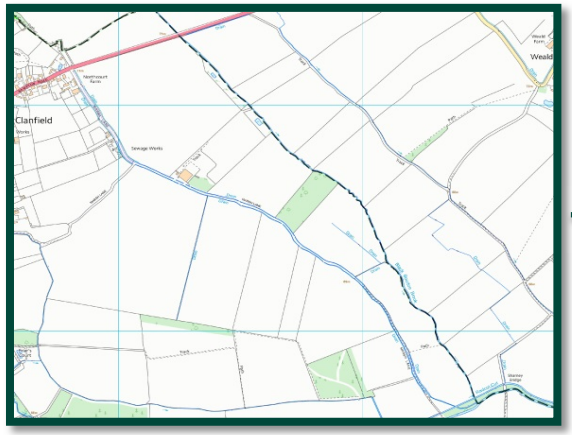
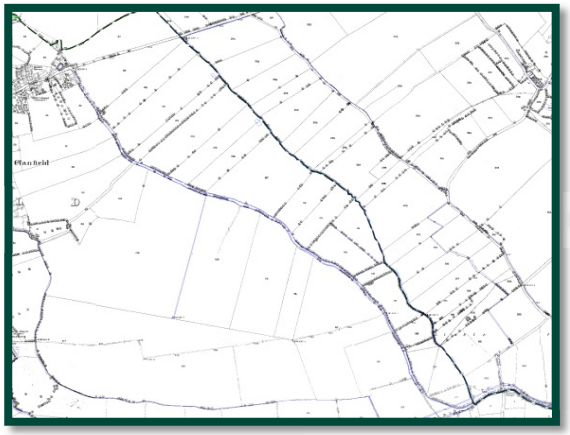
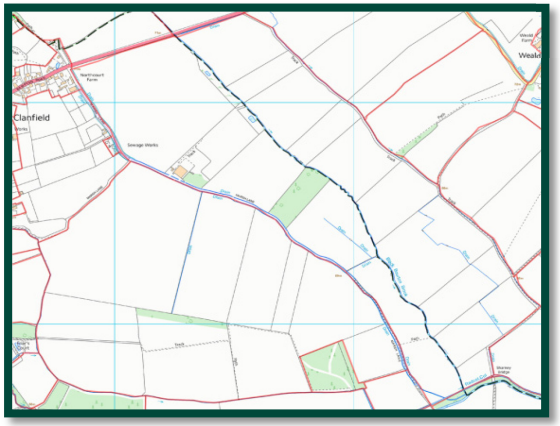
Chapter 2: Methodology

Select an area



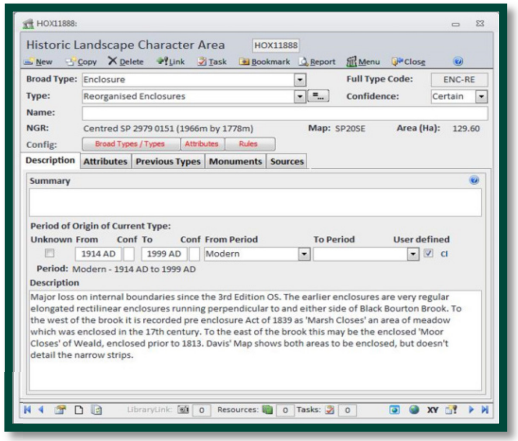
Research the history using historic maps and aerial photographs





Group landscape into units (polygons) with shared current and historic characteristics

Assign polygons to a Broad Type and an HLC Type and record attributes in a database



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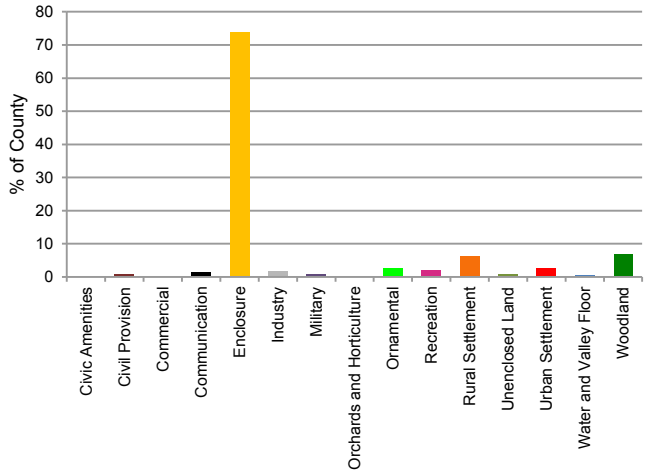
Chapter 2: Methodology

15 Broad Types

- Civic Amenities
- Civil Provision
- Commercial
- Communication
- Enclosure
- Industry
- Military
- Orchards and Horticulture
- Ornamental
- Recreation
- Rural Settlement
- Unenclosed Land
- Urban Settlement
- Water and Valley Floor
- Woodland



In total, 16,102 polygons were defined

109 HLC Types

- Reservoir
- Utilities
- Sewerage Treatment works
- Waste Disposal
- Educational Facility
- Oxford University College
- Health Care Facility
- Religious and Funerary
- Gov Office and Civic Centre
- Immigration Detention Centre
- Police station
- Prison
- Park and Ride
- Bank
- Business Park
- Fish Farm
- Office/Commercial
- Offices
- Shops
- Retail park
- Shopping Centre
- Road Side Service Centre
- Road
- Main Road
- Major Road Junction
- Bridge
- Motorways
- Bike Path/ bridleway
- Ridgeway
- Car Park
- Rail transport sites
- Canals and Locks
- Airfield (Commercial)
- Telecommunications
- Open Field System
- Ancient Enclosure
- Closes
- Crofts
- Ladder Field System
- Squatter Enclosure
- Assarted Enclosure
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Planned Enclosure
- Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure
- Enclosed Reclaimed land
- Reorganised Enclosures
- Paddocks and Stables
- Processing Industry
- Manufacturing
- Mill / Mill Complex
- Energy Industry
- Extractive Works
- Flooded Extractive pits
- Depot
- Industrial Estate
- Scrap Yard
- Timber Yard
- Castle
- Hillfort
- Defence Site
- Military Base
- Military Airfield
- Military Barracks
- Military Shooting Range
- Military Communications
- Allotment
- Orchard
- Vineyard
- Nursery/ Garden Centre
- Urban Garden
- Parkland / Designed Landscape
- Deer Park
- Ornamental water body
- Domestic Garden
- Sports Facilities
- Racing Sports Sites
- Other Leisure facilities
- Community Centre
- Country Park
- Public Park
- Golf Course
- Hunting Site
- Nature Reserve
- Managed Archaeological Site
- Village
- Hamlet
- Rural Dwelling
- Rural Hotel
- Rural Caravan/Chalet/ Camping site
- Country House
- Farmstead
- Unenclosed Green
- Unenclosed Rough Ground
- Historic Urban Core
- City
- Town
- Urban Dwelling
- Urban Hotel
- Public House
- Market
- Urban Caravan and Camp site/ chalet site
- River
- Fresh Water Body
- Water Meadow
- Watercress Beds
- Ancient Woodland
- Secondary Woodland
- Plantation
- Woodland Pasture
- Hanger

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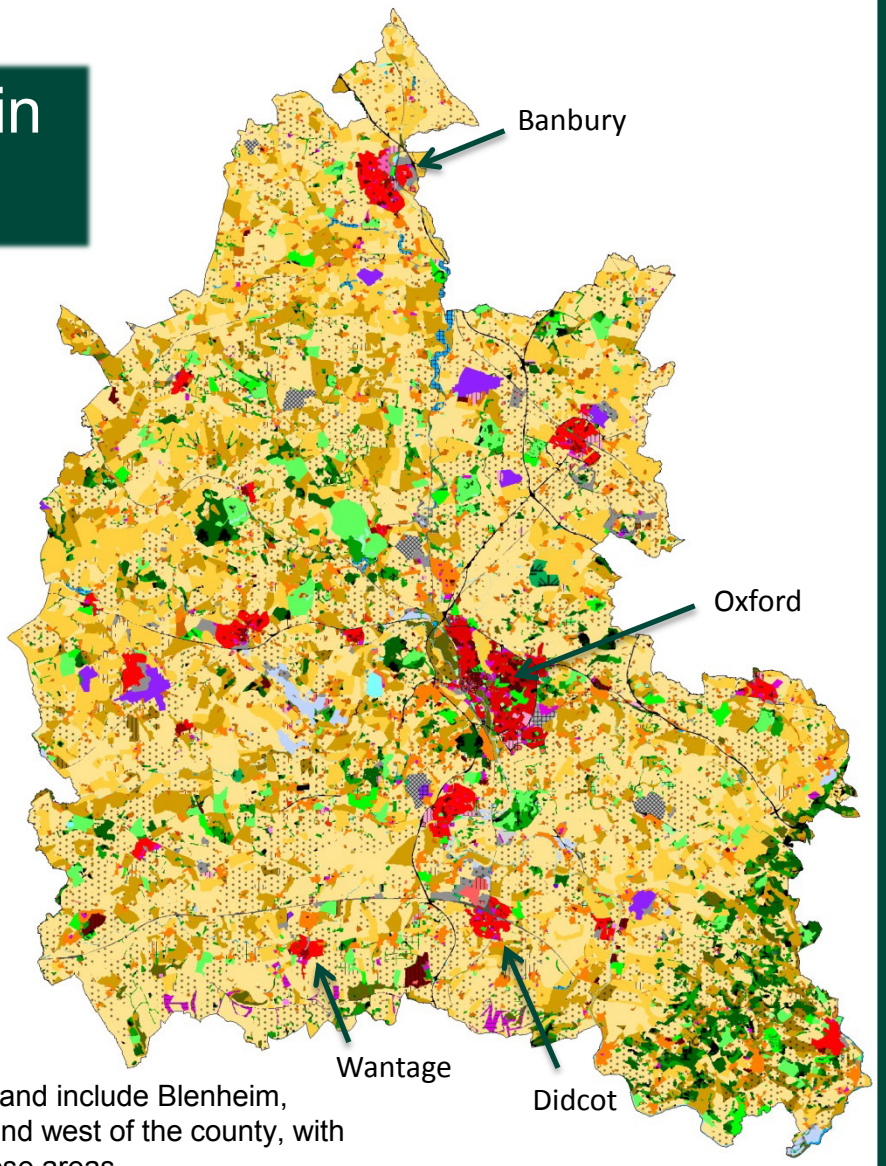
Chapter 3: Today & Yesterday in Oxfordshire's Landscapes

One of the most striking observations is how agricultural Oxfordshire is, with 73.8% of the county characterised by Enclosure Types. These Enclosures are spread throughout the county and are only less common in the heavily wooded area of the Chiltern Hills and within the county's major settlements. Older Enclosure Types – in particular Ancient and Piecemeal – have slight concentrations in the north-west and the south-east of the county, broadly corresponding with the Cotswold and Chiltern Hills, but not confined to the AONBs in these areas. More modern Reorganised and Prairie Enclosures are slightly more common in the south and south-west of the county, in the area of Wantage and Faringdon.

The swathe of Woodland Types identified in the south-east of Oxfordshire is very clear. This relates to the aforementioned Chiltern Hills upland and does coincide largely with the Chiltern Hills AONB. A less obvious, but important area of woodland lies to the north-west of Oxford and represents the remains of the ancient Wychwood Forest.

Scattered across the county are the variously sized towns surrounded by Commercial and Industrial Types. The largest of these towns being Banbury, Bicester, Witney, Didcot, and Abingdon. Larger than all of these and lying at the heart of the county is Oxford itself, at the centre of the Communication network of roads, canals, and railway lines.



Large Ornamental landscapes are a key element of the land to the north-west of Oxford, and include Blenheim, Eynsham Hall, and Cornbury Parks. Of similar size are the Military Airfields in the north and west of the county, with sites like Upper Heyford and Brize Norton contributing significantly to the character of these areas.

Major Extractive sites are typically found beside the Rivers Windrush and Cherwell where they are engaged in the quarrying of river gravels. These quarries represent the largest Industrial sites in the county and when quarrying ceases their conversion to lakes often ensures that these sites continue to play an important role in the character of the area.

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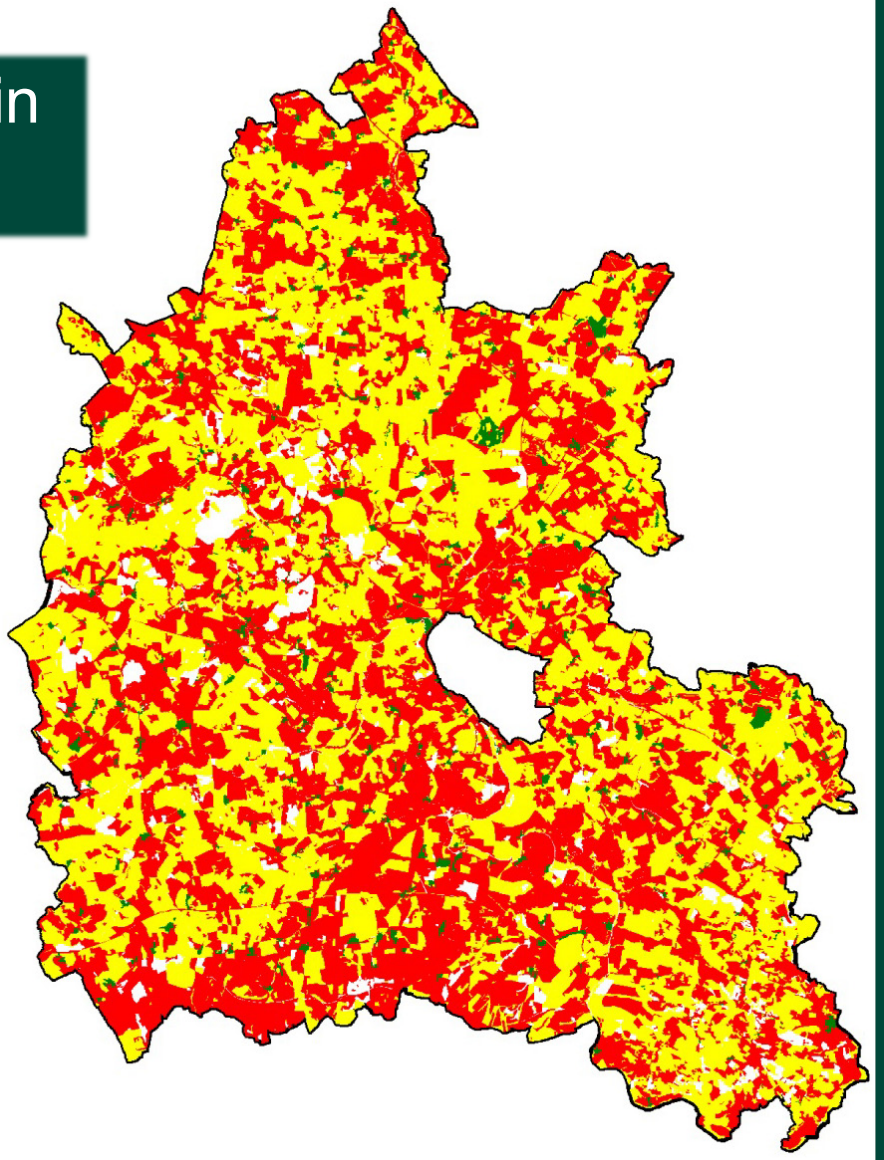
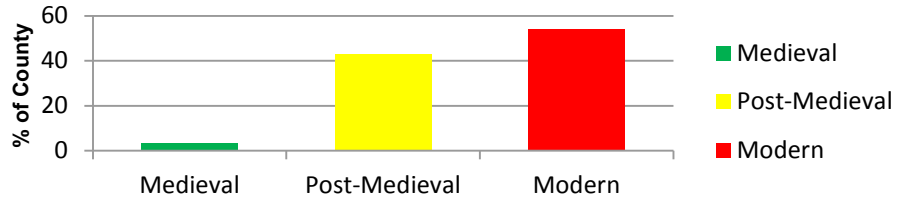
Chapter 3: Today & Yesterday in Oxfordshire's Landscapes

Medieval:
Surviving Medieval features are found throughout Oxfordshire, mainly in the cores of Rural and Urban Settlements. This reflects the use of data from the HER and Listed Building information, which often records a Medieval date of origin for built environments, but which leaves the natural environment under-represented. Looking at the distribution of surviving Medieval Rural Settlements, the sites identified in the south-eastern corner of the county, in the Chiltern Hills, tend to be smaller and slightly fewer in number than elsewhere.

Post-Medieval:
Post-Medieval landscapes are common in Oxfordshire and widespread. They tend to focus in rural areas and comprise mostly Enclosure types. There is a marked lack of Post-Medieval features, however, on the southern edge of the county, on the North Wessex Downs, despite this being a rural area. Other areas lacking these features include: a band running north-west and south-east from Banbury, which probably relates to the reorganisation of the landscape along the M40; a slight ring beyond the limits of the City of Oxford, which may be associated with expansion of commuter settlements in the 20th century; and the area around Didcot.

Modern:
Concentrations of Modern landscape features tend to coincide with the absences observed in the Post-Medieval data – the North Wessex Downs, Didcot, the M40, and an outer ring around Oxford. The line of Modern landscape features along the Downs is shown to extend eastwards, beneath the Chiltern Hills, and suggests different management within the AONBs of the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns – with one comprising many Modern features and one pushing Modern development to its fringes.





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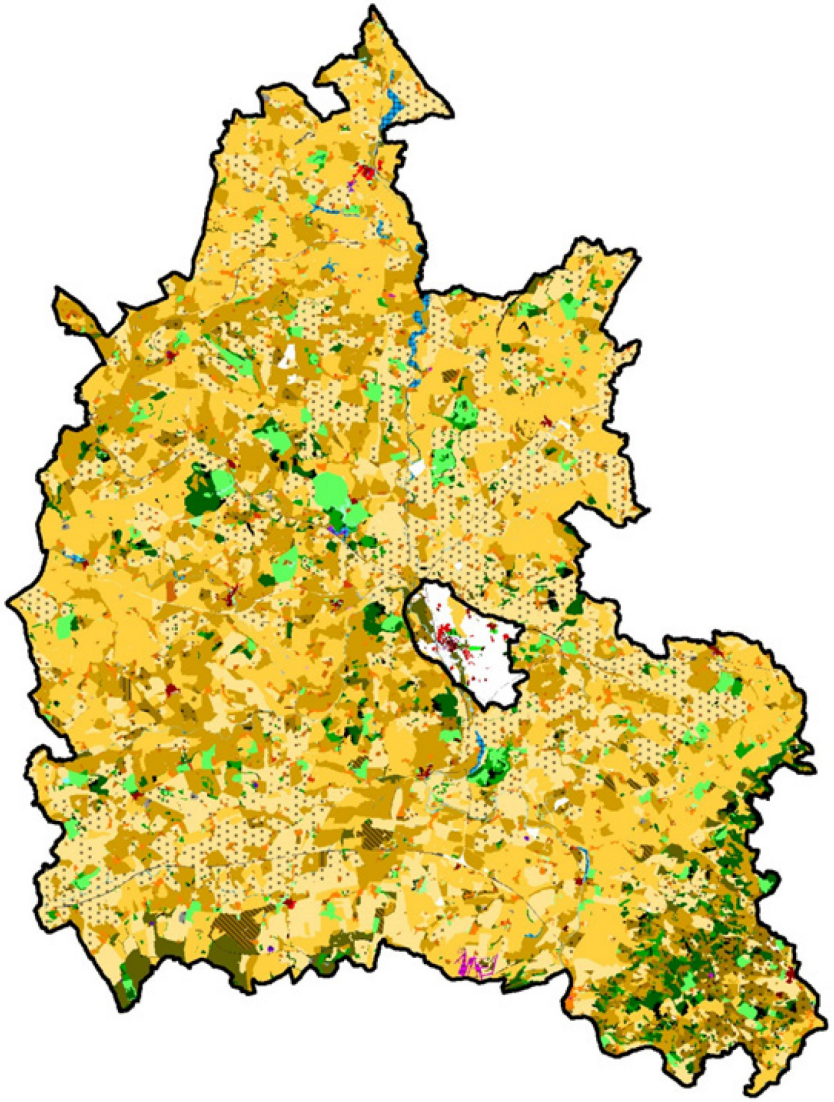
Chapter 3: Today & Yesterday in Oxfordshire's Landscapes

Late 19th Century



By the end of the 19th century, the majority of the county's Open Fields and Unenclosed Land had been enclosed, with some notable exceptions, particularly in the south-eastern corner of the county. Large swathes of the county had either been enclosed anew or seen the reorganisation of earlier fields by Planned Enclosures or on a smaller, more irregular scale. This reorganisation of fields and the amalgamation of smaller fields into larger units involved the removal of many old field boundaries. At this time, Ancient Woodland, particularly Wychwood, had also been eroded and appropriated for agricultural production.

By the close of the 19th century, Oxfordshire was traversed by various railway lines and the urban centres of the county had expanded to meet the demands of a growing population.

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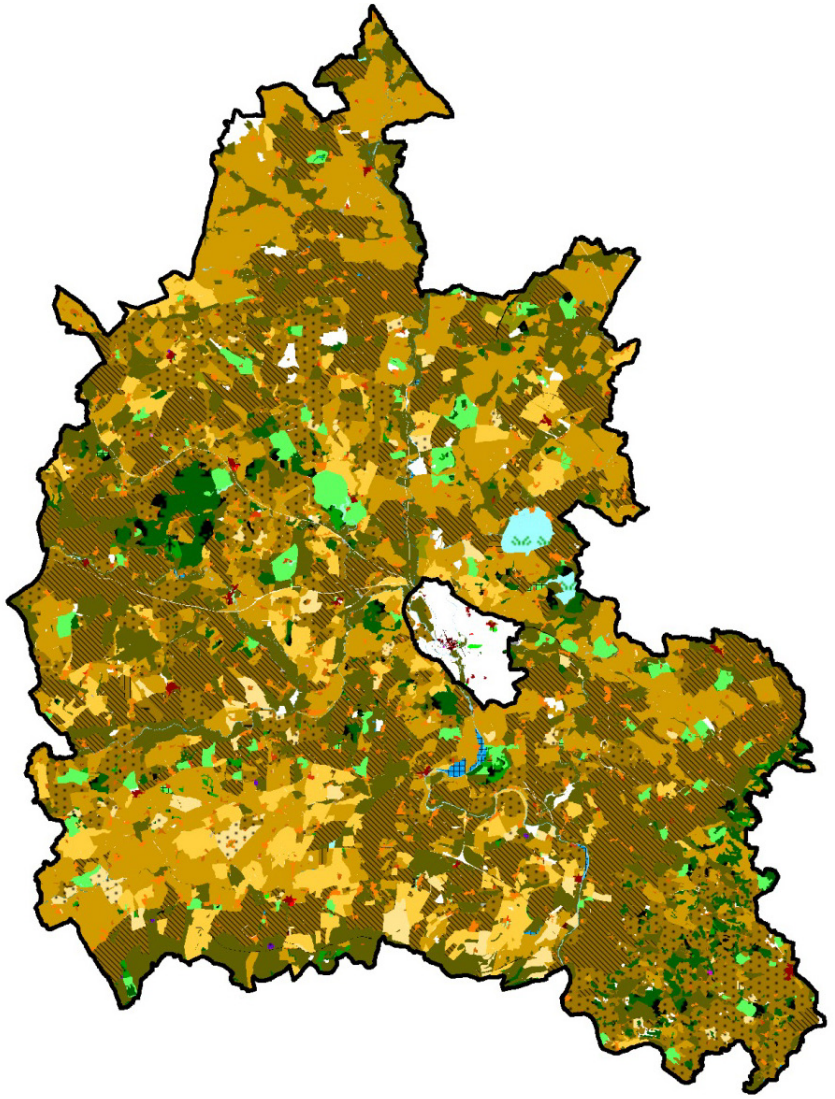
Chapter 3: Today & Yesterday in Oxfordshire's Landscapes

Late 18th Century



With the Davis and Rocque Maps covering the whole county of Oxfordshire, it was possible to assign character to most of the landscape in 1797.

Enclosures are the most common Type, but large areas of the county still comprised Unenclosed Land. Ancient Woodland is found in two clusters – the Chilterns and to the north-west of the county in what was formerly Wychwood Forest – and is surrounded by concentrations of Assarted Enclosures, suggesting the earlier extent of these woods. A number of Parks are also found across the county by this time – Eynsham Park, for example.

Large areas of Open Fields still existed in 1797, for example beneath the scarps of the Chilterns and the North Wessex Downs, but across the county enclosure of these fields and of open ground had started to occur. In the main this was in a piecemeal fashion, for example surrounding Banbury, but some Planned Enclosure had occurred by this time, particularly in the south-west of the county.

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Chapter 4: Our Changing County

HLC Type	Area 1881 (ha)	Area 2010 (ha)	% Gain or Loss
Ancient Woodland	7747.8	7524.8	-2.9
Orchard	506.3	156.9	-69.0
Rural Settlement	5297.0	10584.2	99.8
Urban Settlement	122.4	4124.6	3268.6

Declining Critically (>-50%)
Types Include: Open Field System, Closes, Orchard, Unenclosed Rough Ground, Ancient Enclosure, Crofts, Mill/Mill Complex, Planned Enclosure, Urban Dwelling, and Piecemeal Enclosure.

Increasingly Rapidly (>50%)
Types Include: Military Airfield, Business Park, Golf Course, Plantations, Educational Facilities, Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosures

These types tend to relate to modern road and air infrastructure, industry, agricultural changes, and increasing interest in recreational facilities. Agricultural changes tend to comprise the amalgamation of smaller field units into larger fields suitable for modern farming techniques, but also include the conversion of land into paddocks. This goes hand in hand with an increase in land used for recreational and sporting activities.

Stable (<5% change)
Types Include: Ancient Woodland, Canals and Locks, Historic Urban Core, Country House, Castle

The conversion of Canals from industrial to recreational uses may have influenced their survival in the modern period. Modern legislation which protects historic buildings and sites along with particular environments may have had a role in the preservation of types like Castles ,the Ridgeway, and Ancient Woodland.

With the exception of Mills and Urban Dwellings, all those types which are critically declining are non-built environments. Ancient Enclosures, Crofts, Orchards, and Piecemeal Enclosures have historically been located close to centres of occupation and are, therefore, particularly vulnerable to the expansion of both rural and urban settlements. Often these types originated in the Medieval or early Post-Medieval period and were influential in the development of the character of an area. Open Fields, Unenclosed Rough Ground, Closes, and Planned Enclosures were often further from settlements and their loss is likely to relate more to changes in agricultural regimes and the growth of recreational sites. Unenclosed Rough Ground can be amongst the oldest elements in the county and their rapid removal is of significant importance. The loss of farming land and open ground to developments also has a high impact on the environment and biodiversity.

Chapter 5: Historically Significant Landscapes

At its core, Historic Landscape Characterisation is value neutral, allowing it to be used as an evidence base for various applications. One such application, however, could be to use HLC data alongside other information to assign value to landscapes. To demonstrate how this might be achieved, historic significance values were suggested for each HLC type identified in Oxfordshire. These values should only be used to consider the historic significance of a landscape and as part of an initial examination.

Significance	Criteria	Weighted Score
Occurrence	How rare or commonplace is an HLC type?	0 (Low) to 6 (High)
Trajectory of Change	Is an HLC Type decreasing or increasing?	1 to 7
Biodiversity Potential	What is an HLC type's potential for biodiversity?	1 to 5
Archaeological Potential	What is an HLC type's potential for preserved archaeological or historic building remains?	1 to 6
Period of Origin	What period does an HLC type tend to date to?	1 to 6
Historical Value	How well does an HLC type link people to the past?	1 to 6
Aesthetic Value	How attractive or inspiring is an HLC Type?	1 to 3
Communal Value	How important is an HLC Type to a community?	1 to 3

Data collected during the creation of the HLC

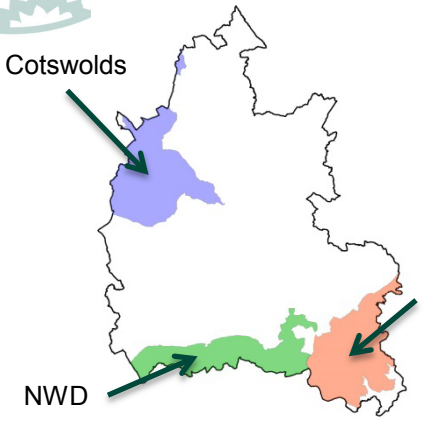
Data collected from a public survey using the Conservation Principles*

Perhaps not surprisingly, the landscape types where the highest historic significance has been assigned, using the criteria outline above, relate to archaeological sites – Hillforts, Castles, Managed Archaeological Sites, and the Ridgeway. It also includes the one remaining part of Oxfordshire where individual open field strips still influence the character of the current landscape (near Chimney). Conversely, those types assigned the lowest value are modern features in the landscape – Industrial Estates and Business Parks, Energy and Waste Facilities, and Motorways.

Arguably, these historic significance values are of more use in the middle of the spectrum. Such types include: Mills, Farmsteads, Educational Facilities, Public Parks, and Allotments. The historic value placed on these landscape types, both by the HLC derived values of occurrence, period origin etc.. and by the public survey of Conservation Principles, could be a useful consideration in the management of these landscapes, highlighting their significance for preserving and enhancing historic character across the county.

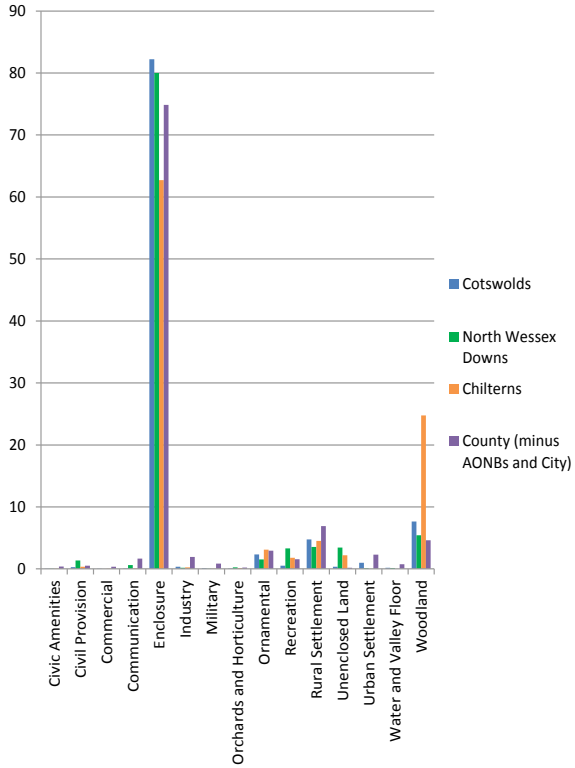
* For information about the Conservation Principles, see English Heritage. 2008. Conservation Principles. Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the Historic Environment.

Chapter 6: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)



This case study compares and contrasts the distribution of HLC Types across the three AONBs which lie within Oxfordshire: the Cotswold Hills, the Chilterns Hills, and the North Wessex Downs (NWD). Using information about how these landscapes have changed relative to the rest of the county. it aims to assess the effect of legislative protection on the historic landscape.

Distribution of Types



As is the case in the rest of the county, the three AONBs are dominated by Enclosures. The area covered by Enclosures in the Cotswolds and the North Wessex Downs, however, is higher than that in the County. This suggests a high prevalence of this type in these AONBs. In the Chilterns, Enclosures cover only 62.7% of the AONB, much less than in the other AONBs or the county. This is likely to be due to the high percentage of the AONB covered by Woodland – 24.75%. This Woodland sweeps in a distinct band from North-East to South-West across the AONB and represents the densest concentration of woods in Oxfordshire.

Whilst far less common, Woodland remains the second most common Broad Type in the Cotswolds and the NWD. However, Rural Settlement covers a greater percentage of the rest of the county than Woodland. Indeed, Rural Settlement is less common in the AONBs than in the rest of the county, suggesting a lower population density in these areas. Unenclosed Land is almost exclusively found in the NWDs and Chilterns (other examples are recorded within Oxford City, but are not considered here). Ornamental landscapes are slightly more common in the Chilterns than elsewhere and Recreation Types are most frequent in the NWD. Combined, this information suggests that the AONBs are areas of lower population density, characterised by agricultural, open, or wooded landscapes, some of which have been used historically by country houses and parks and are used today for recreational purposes.

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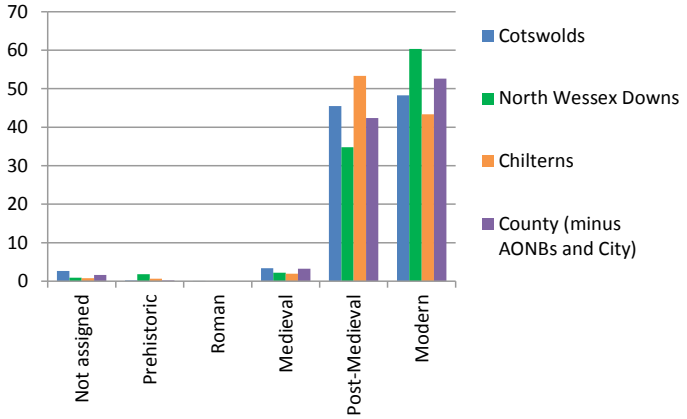
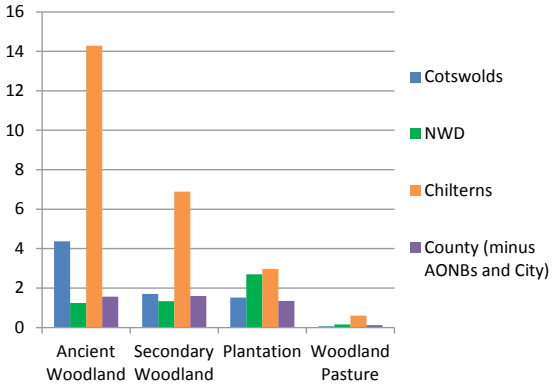
Chapter 6: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)

Period of Current Landscape



Across all three AONBs and the rest of Oxfordshire, Modern and Post-Medieval landscapes are most common. However, variability is apparent. The Chilterns landscape most commonly dates to the Post-Medieval period, whereas Modern landscapes dominate elsewhere. This would suggest that there has been a lower level of change in the 20th and 21st century in the Chilterns compared to elsewhere. Post-Medieval landscapes are also more common in the Cotswolds than they are elsewhere in the county. Interestingly, the NWDs has the highest proportion of landscapes attributed to the Modern period, even more than the county in general. This implies that there has been a high level of change here in the last 117 years and stands in direct contrast to the Chilterns. Modern features in the NWDs tend to be large Amalgamated Enclosures which enclosed former downland either side of the Ridgeway. Medieval landscapes survive in all AONBs and elsewhere in the county and it appears that there is no greater survivability in the AONBs. On the other hand, Prehistoric landscapes only survive in the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns and relate directly to the areas of downland which still exist in these areas.

Change in the Landscape



Woodland

Woodland is a dominant characteristic in the Chilterns, where it accounts for almost 25% of the AONB. All Woodland Types are more common in the Chilterns and the Cotswolds AONBs than in the rest of the county. Conversely, only Plantations are more common in the NWDs and Woodland tends to be rarer in this AONB than elsewhere in Oxfordshire.

	Cotswolds	NWD	Chilterns	County
Ancient Woodland	0.0	-0.4	-2.5	-4.4
Secondary Woodland	66.6	22.2	50.7	68.8
Plantation	288.8	205.2	652.4	103.8
Woodland Pasture	∞	∞	23.6	-44.2

The amount of land characterised as Ancient Woodland has remained broadly stable within the AONBs, but there has been some loss outside the AONBs. Conversely, there has been a bigger increase in Secondary Woodland in the rest of the county than in the AONBs, particularly in the NWDs where the natural expansion of woodland has only been slight. The largest gain in Plantations has been in the Chilterns AONB and, in general, the growth of this type has been greatest within the AONBs. Finally, whilst Woodland Pasture has increased in the AONBs, it has become less common outside of these protected areas.

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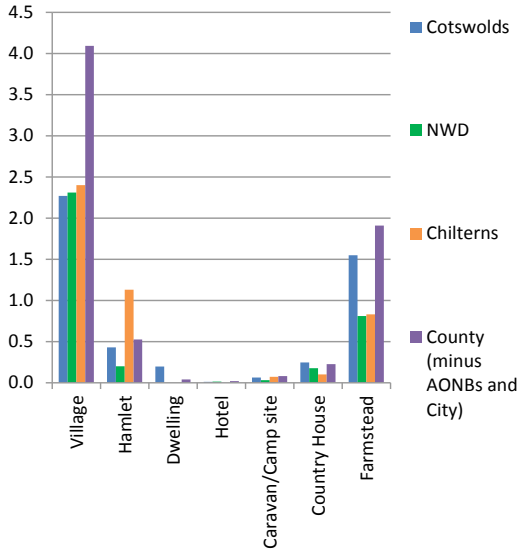
Chapter 6: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)

Rural Settlement

Villages are far less common in the AONBs than in the rest of the county, implying a lower population density in the former. This holds true even when Hamlets, which are far more frequently found in the Chilterns than in any other part of Oxfordshire, are considered. Farmsteads are also more common elsewhere in the county, but their occurrence is also quite high in the Cotswolds. Despite the prevalence of Ornamental Landscapes in the AONBs, Country Houses are consistently found throughout Oxfordshire; this may suggest that the grounds associated with these houses tend to be larger in the AONBs than elsewhere.

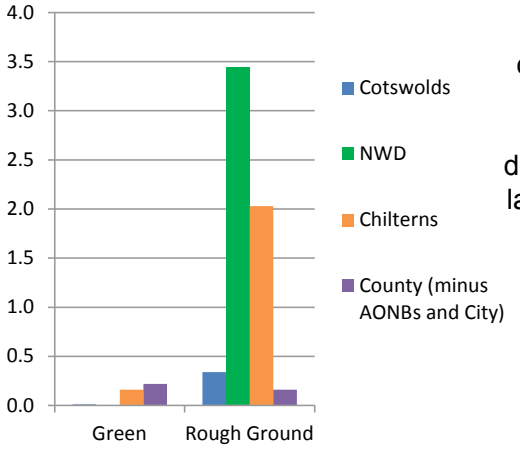


	Cotswolds	NWD	Chilterns	County
Village	74.1	71.3	166.4	109.5
Hamlet	7.9	70.5	120.1	58.7
Dwelling	20.7			71.5
Hotel	0.0	0.0		143.7
Caravan/Camp site	∞	∞	∞	∞
Country House	15.0	14.0	90.1	-6.0
Farmstead	32.0	23.9	55.3	40.9

Throughout Oxfordshire, with the exception of Country Houses in the county, Rural Settlement Types have seen significant levels of growth since the late 19th century. The greatest change has occurred in the Chilterns AONB, which has seen the biggest increase in Villages, Hamlets, Country Houses, and Farmsteads. In general, the Cotswolds and the NWDs have experienced a lower level of growth than elsewhere. In all three AONBs, however, Country Houses have become more common, which is in contrast to elsewhere in the county where land characterised as such has decreased.

Unenclosed Land

Rough Ground is more commonly found in the three AONBs than in the wider county. It is a particularly dominant characteristic of the landscapes of the NWDs and the Chilterns. Smaller amounts of Rough Ground are found in the Cotswolds. In contrast, Greens have been recorded more frequently outside of the AONBs.



	Cotswolds	NWD	Chilterns	County
Green	0.0		0.0	-17.2
Marsh				-100.0
Rough Ground	-32.5	-73.3	-33.6	-78.7

Since the late 19th century, Marsh Types have been wholly removed from Oxfordshire. Marshland does still exist in the county, but is now typically managed as Nature Reserves – for example, Otmoor. Rough Ground has decreased throughout the county, with the highest rate of loss outside of the AONBs. Whilst lower than in the rest of the county, the rate of loss in the NWDs has been quite high and is much higher than in the Chilterns. Despite this, Rough Ground remains a common type in this AONB. Land characterised as Green has remained stable in the Cotswolds and the Chilterns, but has experienced some loss in the rest of the county.

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Chapter 7: Modelling Capacity for Urban Development

This case study was chosen due to the increasing pressure these landscapes are facing from development and urban growth. It is hoped that HLC data can provide another tool for better managing this growth (please note, this proposes an HLC Type based methodology and is not site specific).

93,560 – 106,560 homes needed between 2011 and 2031*

Step 1 Scenario:

Large-scale urban expansion on the fringes of existing major settlements in Oxfordshire. The scenario includes: housing, commercial sites, educational, religious, and health facilities, and supporting infrastructure.

Five individual scenarios are imagined, each relating to a different major settlement in Oxfordshire. The settlements considered were: Oxford, Banbury, Chipping Norton, Wallingford, and Wantage.

Potential Impacts of large-scale urban development:

Many potential impacts of urban development will affect the historic landscape whilst others will have little or no effect. Impacts have been categorised as Economic, Social, or Environmental. Social impacts include:

Category	Potential Impacts of Urban Development
Social (Communal and Historic)	Increase in homes
	Investment in Civic Amenities – utilities, waste, sewage
	Increase in health, education, and civil facilities
	Increase in some leisure facilities – leisure centres and gyms, in particular
	Increase in hospitality facilities – restaurants and bars etc.
	Loss of other Leisure Facilities, particularly those covering large areas
	Loss of communal open spaces such as greens, recreation grounds, and land used for communal activities like fetes
	Loss of sites with perceived communal value
	Loss of / damage to historic landmarks or buildings
	Loss of sites with perceived historic value
	Damage to archaeological remains
	Loss of agricultural way of living and local produce
	Degradation of community cores by large-scale retail outlets refocusing economic activity to fringes
	Increase in house prices, pricing out local families
	Development of commuter settlements with a lack of sense of community
	Loss of settlement boundaries through sprawl, decreasing sense of communal identity
	Congestion

All impacts were considered, but only those relating to the historic landscape fed into analyses.

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*Oxford Strategic Housing Market Assessment Report, prepared by G L Hearn Limited, March 2014.

Chapter 7: Modelling Capacity for Urban Development

Step 2 Assessing Capacity of the Historic Landscape:
Having identified a range of impacts that may result from large-scale urban development, the capacity of HLC Types to absorb impacts which specifically relate to the historic landscape was assessed. These capacities were then assigned a weighted score which ranged between -0.5 (lowest) to -4 (highest).

Step 3 Assessing Historic Significance of HLC Types:

Significance	Criteria	Weighted Score
Occurrence	How rare or commonplace is an HLC type?	0 (Low) to 6 (High)
Trajectory of Change	Is an HLC Type decreasing or increasing?	1 to 7
Biodiversity Potential	What is an HLC type's potential for biodiversity?	1 to 5
Archaeological Potential	What is an HLC type's potential for preserved archaeological or historic building remains?	1 to 6
Period of Origin	What period does an HLC type tend to date to?	1 to 6
Historical Value	How well does an HLC type link people to the past?	1 to 6
Aesthetic Value	How attractive or inspiring is an HLC Type?	1 to 3
Communal Value	How important is an HLC Type to a community?	1 to 3

Step 4 Results and mapping:

Capacity x Historic Significance = sensitivity of an HLC Type to Urban Development

HLC Type in Urban Fringe	Capacity for Urban Development Value	Historic Significance Value	Sensitivity to Urban Development Value	Sensitivity to Urban Development Rating	Sensitivity to Urban Development Category
Civic Amenities - Reservoir	-7	14.0	-98	Low-Medium	2
Civil Provision - Educational Facility	-14	17.8	-249.2	Medium	3
Civil Provision - Religious and Funerary	-20	26.0	-520	High	5
Communication -Canals and Locks	-15.5	26.0	-403	Medium-High	4
Communication - Motorways	-5	9.0	-45	Low	1
Ancient Enclosure	-17	30.6	-520.2	High	5
Enclosure - Paddocks and Stables	-12.5	14.8	-185	Medium	3
Industry -Extractive Works	-6	9.0	-54	Low	1

Capacity	Threat	Weighted Score
Effect on Legibility and Readability of Time Depth How likely is the scenario to change the ability to read or see a landscape's history?	Loss of historic settlement boundaries through expansion Removal of hedgerows defining historic fields Removal of historic lanes and replacement with new roads Loss of Ancient Woodland or historic Enclosure types due to development Loss of sites with perceived historical value	-1 to -4
Impact on Archaeological Remains How likely is the scenario to disturb known or predicted archaeological remains?	Removal of / damage to archaeological remains through development	-1 to -4
Impact on Historic Built Structures How likely is the scenario to disturb historic built structures?	Loss of / damage to historic landmarks or buildings through redevelopment	-1 to -4
Change in Landscape Character How likely is the scenario to affect how the historic landscape contributes to the overall landscape?	Removal or loss of landscapes characteristic of an area Removal or loss of historic landscapes which are now rare in an area Removal or loss of ancient landscapes	-1 to -4
Effect on Semi-Natural Components How likely is the scenario to disturb historically significant ecosystems or landforms?	Loss of / damage to biodiversity Loss of Ancient Woodland through deforestation Loss of Rough Ground through development Loss of old hedgerows through development or landscape reorganisation Disruption to widespread historic ecosystems	-0.5 to -2
Effect on Amenity How likely is the scenario to affect amenity activity?	Pollution Loss of places of communal importance Reduction in landscape diversity Loss of Aesthetically and Environmentally important places Change of public access routes	-0.5 to -2

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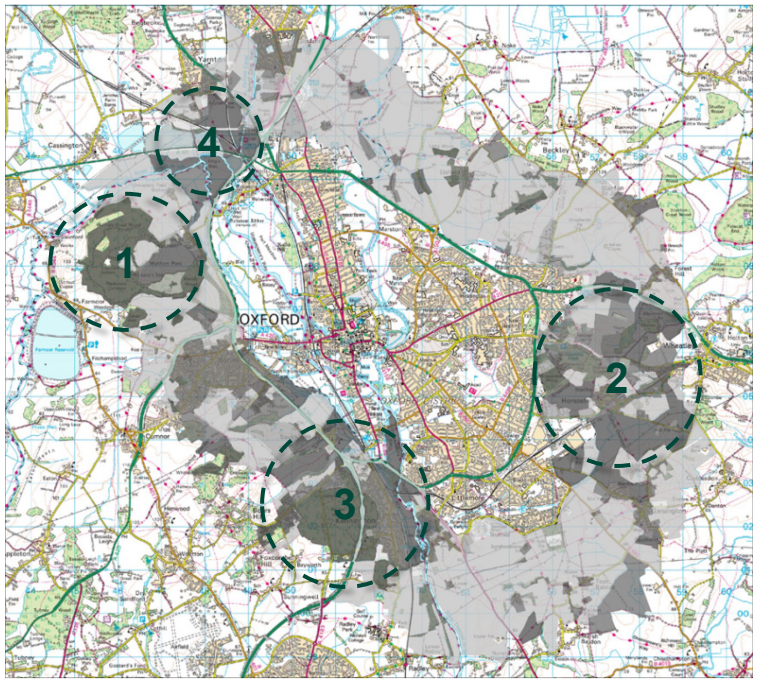
Chapter 7: Modelling Capacity for Urban Development

Oxford



Sensitivity to Urban Development Category

- 1 (Low)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (High)

In the two kilometre buffer around Oxford there are broadly four areas of high sensitivity to urban development: Wytham (1) and Shotover Hills (2) and, Bagley Wood (3), and the unenclosed Rough Ground beside the River Thames as it flows into the north-western edge of Oxford District (4).

The land at Wytham Hill comprises large areas of Ancient Woodland (Wytham Great Wood, Marley Wood, Oaken Holt and Bean Wood), Parkland/Designed Landscapes (Wytham Park), a Country House (Wytham Abbey), a Village (Wytham), and some Piecemeal Enclosures around Tilbury Farm. Many of these types typically date to the Medieval or Post-Medieval period, and the former is certainly the case here at Wytham, ensuring historic legibility. Furthermore, with little modern interventions, these types frequently have high potential for archaeological or historic building remains. In addition, Parkland, Ancient Woods, and Villages all have high Aesthetic and Communal Value. At Shotover Hill there is greater diversity of HLC Types and therefore of sensitivity to urban development. The areas of high sensitivity relate to the Parkland of the 18th Century Shotover Park, Ancient Woodland at Brasenose Wood, 19th Century Piecemeal Enclosures and Woodland Pasture on Thorn Hill and stretching south towards Blenheim, and the Hamlet of Littleworth. As at Wytham Hill, the preservation of older parts of the landscape means there is higher archaeological potential and historic legibility in these areas. Similarly, the occurrence of Ancient Woodland and Parkland landscapes means that this area has high Aesthetic and Communal Value. The third area of high sensitivity, Bagley Wood, is almost entirely fixed on this Ancient Woodland, with the addition of the Hamlet of Boars Hill to the west. This, by virtue of being Ancient woodland, scores highly for Aesthetic and Communal value. However, it should be used to illustrate the limitations of this methodology as Bagley Wood is privately owned and access is controlled. Its Communal Value, therefore, is unlikely to be high. Moving on to the final area of high sensitivity, the open ground either side of the River Thames in the area of Wolvercote, different but equally sensitive HLC types predominate. Here it is the Rough Ground beside the river which would be particularly sensitive to urban development. This land, before the construction of the Oxford bypass, was the northern extent of Port Meadow, a large expanse of open meadow having common rights mentioned in the Domesday Book that are still maintained today. This landscape has high Communal Value and is frequented by walkers, naturalists, people using the river for recreation, and many other groups. As a riverine landscape it has high biodiversity potential and is aesthetically pleasing.

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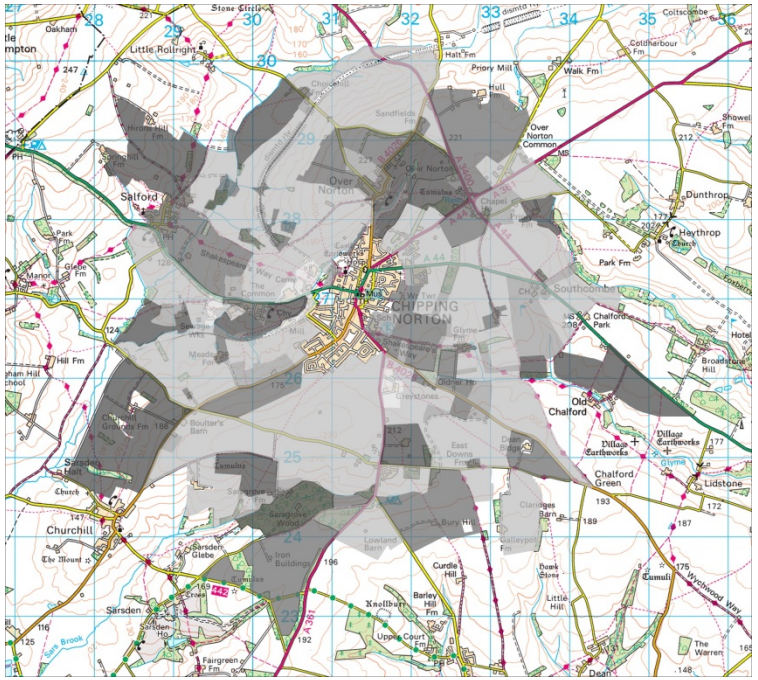
Chapter 7: Modelling Capacity for Urban Development

Chipping Norton*



Areas of High Sensitivity to urban development in the Chipping Norton study area are typically Piecemeal Enclosures. Other sensitive types present are: Parkland/Designed Landscapes, Rough Ground, and Ancient Woodland. As elsewhere, Planned Enclosures are the most common type with Medium-High sensitivity.

Piecemeal Enclosures are typically found away from the town of Chipping Norton, separated from the settlement by large areas of 19th and 20th century Reorganised Enclosures. Two of the largest areas are found around Salford and to the north of Churchill. Both of these areas date to the late 18th or 19th centuries. Two earlier patches of Piecemeal fields have been identified around Priory Farm, north-east of Chipping Norton, and west of the town near Old Chalford. The fields around Priory Farm are particularly important for the historic landscape as they overlie the remains of Cold Norton Priory, a 12th century religious foundation, and Cold Norton Deserted Medieval Village. The fields around Old Chalford preserve dog-legs in their boundaries which may indicate that they were formed by enclosing the medieval open field strips on the edge of the settlement. The age of these fields and their visible traces of medieval landscapes make them important for historic legibility in the area. Their preserved archaeological remains also increase their significance. As in other study areas, the largest single site afforded High sensitivity is a Designed Landscape – Over Norton Park. This park extends down to the brook which forms the north-eastern boundary of Chipping Norton. It has been in the Dawkins' (of Richard Dawkins fame) family since the 1720s. The park's age and aesthetic value make it in an important part of this landscape. The status of the park and associated house along with its age mean that it is likely to have influenced the development of the land surrounding it. The association with such an eminent modern scientist may also add to its perceived Historic Value. An interesting and rarer HLC type afforded a high sensitivity rating and found within this study area is the Rough Ground of Chipping Norton Common to the west of the town. Rough Ground is particularly rare in this part of Oxfordshire and, as such, this remnant of a post-medieval (possibly medieval) landscape is of wider significance. This piece of land has preserved its form from at least the late 19th century, if not the late 18th century. It is worth noting that the paths marked on the 1st Edition OS are still in the same place today, criss-crossing the common. Also traversing the common is a visible medieval trackway. In the late 19th century, the common was briefly used as a golf course. Historically and to this day, this land has been used by the community. The legibility of the medieval and post-medieval landscape at this site is clear, as is its enduring importance for the local people. Finally, there is one piece of Ancient Woodland in the study area, Sarsgrove Wood. The extent of this wood has not changed in the last 130 years and looks very much like the wood shown on Davis' Map in 1797. At the heart of this wood lies the Dower House of Sarsden house, a 17th century manor. The wood itself contributes to the historic character of the area and the addition of a post-medieval house only increases this. With little modern intervention, this wood preserves historic legibility and would likely preserve any archaeological remains.

* The Full Report includes additional analysis, covering Banbury, Wallingford, and Wantage

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Chapter 8: The HLC and Other Historic Environment Data

Can any patterns be observed between the distribution of Archaeological and Historical Data held by the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeology Team and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), and Historic Landscape Character Types?

Heritage Assets*

Broad Type	Count	%
Civic Amenities	45	0.18
Civil Provision	1381	5.58
Commercial	302	1.22
Communication	509	2.06
Enclosure	6643	26.83
Industry	460	1.86
Military	68	0.27
Orchards and Horticulture	83	0.34
Ornamental	774	3.13
Recreation	340	1.37
Rural Settlement	8951	36.15
Unenclosed Land	182	0.73
Urban Settlement	4139	16.71
Water and Valley Floor	265	1.07
Woodland	621	2.51

* Defined by the National Planning Policy Framework as: "A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)." 2012. p. 52.

The majority of Heritage Assets recorded in Oxfordshire are found within settlements – predominantly Rural Settlements. This is likely, in part, to reflect the high frequency of interventions within these types. However, it also likely reflects the long history of occupation on the site of some settlements in Oxfordshire. Unsurprisingly, given their predominance in the county, a large percentage of Heritage Assets have been found within Enclosures. Assets have rarely been recorded on sites used by Civic Amenities and by the Military. The former is likely due to the scarcity of sites of this type in the county. The latter may relate to the date of the military sites, which predates widespread archaeological investigation, the exclusion of some sites from aerial surveys, and the lack of activity on these sites in recent years which would require archaeological work.

Prehistoric Fortified Sites

HLC Type	Count	%
Enclosure - Paddocks and Stables	1	3.03
Piecemeal Enclosure	2	6.06
Planned Enclosure	3	9.09
Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure	8	24.24
Reorganised Enclosures	5	15.15
Military - Hillfort	1	3.03
Orn-Parkland / Designed Landscape	2	6.06
Managed Archaeological Site	6	18.18
Recreation - Golf Course	1	3.03
Woodland - Ancient Woodland	1	3.03
Woodland -Secondary Woodland	3	9.09

In Oxfordshire, prehistoric fortified sites are often identified within Prairie Fields or Amalgamated Enclosures and it is possible that the obstacle these monuments present to farming has affected the size of the field around them. Of course, given the prevalence of this HLC Type, it may just be a factor of their commonality in Oxfordshire. Hillforts, such as Segsbury Camp and Alfred's Castle, are also often Managed Archaeological Sites and are characterised as such. Tadmarton Camp is also on land characterised as Recreational, but it is on part of a Golf Course. As has been mentioned, hill forts in Oxfordshire often lie on land characterised as Woodland, in part this is due to the natural encroachment of trees onto these sites due to their unsuitability for other activities, this is reflected at three hill forts which lie on land characterised as Secondary Woodland. The lack of Settlement character types likely reflects the sort of topography favoured for the location of hill forts, which has not often been favoured for settlement.

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Chapter 8: The HLC and Other Historic Environment Data

Scheduled Monuments (SMs)

Broad Type	Count	%
Civil Provision	6	1.90
Commercial	7	2.22
Communication	7	2.22
Enclosure	158	50.00
Industry	2	0.63
Military	7	2.22
Ornamental	15	4.75
Recreation	16	5.06
Rural Settlement	46	14.56
Unenclosed Land	12	3.80
Urban Settlement	9	2.85
Water and Valley Floor	4	1.27
Woodland	27	8.54

Kings' Men Stone Circle, Rollright Stones

SMs in Oxfordshire are most frequently found on land characterised as Enclosures. Civic Amenity and Horticultural Types do not have any recorded SMs. The second most common landscape type where SMs are recorded is Rural Settlement, with 46 monuments. In contrast, Urban Settlements record only 9 SMs. Woodlands also figure quite highly, with 8.5% of SMs found on land characterised as wood. The high number of SMs on recreational land is partly due to the Recreation HLC Type Managed Archaeological Site, which account for 10 of the 16 SMs recorded on recreational land. Most of the SMs recorded on land characterised as Communication are found on Airfields – 5 of the 7 – and a further 4 are recorded on Military Airfields. In fact a number of airfields are SMs themselves – e.g. RAF Upper Heyford and RAF Bicester.

Comparing Heritage Assets and SMs

SMs more commonly tend to be found within Enclosures than Heritage Assets – 50% of SMs are located within fields compared to just 26.8% of Heritage Assets. Interestingly, SMs are more frequently found within fields which tend to be of an older date than those fields containing Heritage Assets –16.5% in Piecemeal Enclosures, and 24.1% in Planned Enclosures. It is possible that the presence of SMs preserves older fields due to legal protection which hinders modern large-scale and intensive agricultural regimes which often remove field boundaries. Conversely, the intensive farming of Reorganised and Prairie fields is more likely to recover evidence of Heritage Assets.

Heritage Assets are more frequently found within Settlements than SMs – 52.9% compared to 17.4%. This is likely due to the identification of Heritage Assets through development which requires archaeological investigation. In contrast, SMs are often upstanding monuments, which are not only less likely to be identified by development but are also likely to deter development projects.

SMs are more often found within Woodland than Heritage Assets. Again, this is likely due to the different nature of these monuments – with SMs being more easily identified in wooded environments – and lower levels of development and archaeological investigation in these areas which might identify Heritage Assets.

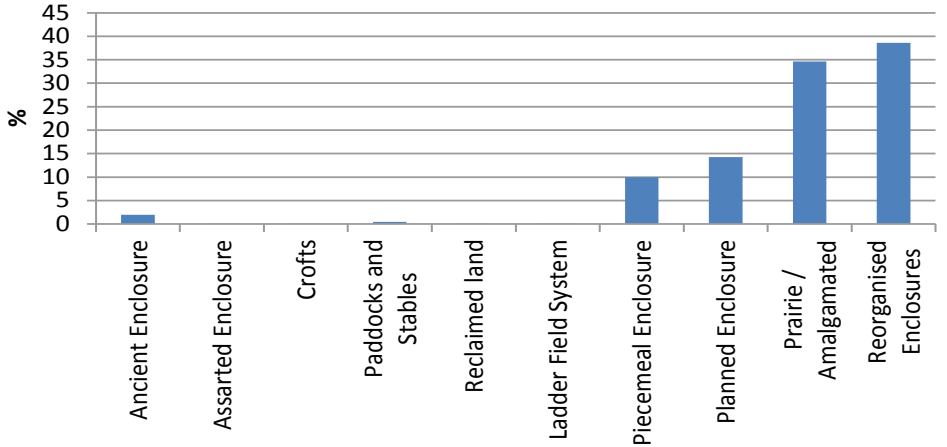
Chapter 8: The HLC and Other Historic Environment Data

PAS Finds

Broad Type	Count	%
Civic Amenities	9	0.05
Civil Provision	40	0.24
Commercial	27	0.16
Communication	57	0.34
Enclosure	15178	90.74
Industry	140	0.84
Military	2	0.01
Orchards and Horticulture	30	0.18
Ornamental	48	0.29
Recreation	70	0.42
Rural Settlement	697	4.17
Unenclosed Land	10	0.06
Urban Settlement	196	1.17
Water and Valley Floor	81	0.48
Woodland	142	0.85

Finds recorded by the PAS show a strong bias towards land characterised as Enclosure – 91% of finds are found within fields, despite fields covering only 74% of the county. Woodland is the second most common landscape type in Oxfordshire, but only 0.9% of PAS finds have been found within woods, reflecting their unsuitability for the detection or observation of artefacts. The same can be said within Settlements, where the percentage of finds is also low. Unsuitability for metal detecting or field walking is not the only reason for low numbers of finds; accessibility to certain landscape types also has an effect. For example, Ornamental Landscapes, often privately owned, cover 2.7% of Oxfordshire but only 0.3% of PAS finds have been recorded on land characterised as such. It seems, therefore, that the distribution of finds relates directly to the type and accessibility of different landscape types.

Analysis shows that the percentage of finds recorded on the PAS from fields often resembles the percentage of the county covered by each Enclosure Type. Piecemeal Enclosures, for example, cover 9.5% of Oxfordshire and account for 10% of PAS finds from within fields. The percentage of finds from Reorganised and Prairie Fields is slightly higher than the coverage of the county by these landscape types, which is likely to reflect the intensity of farming, particularly arable farming, in fields of these types. Such agricultural regimes are likely to bring artefacts to, or close to, the surface, making them easier to see during field walking and easier to detect when metal detecting.



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Chapter 9: Using HLC

The Oxfordshire HLC has a number of applications, including:

- Local and Neighbourhood Plans
- Landscape Architecture
- Landscape Character Assessment
- Historic Environment Action Plans
- Conservation Area Appraisals and Assessments
- Historic Environment Record Enquiries
- Archaeological Development Control Consultations
- Research by Local Societies, Community Groups, and individuals
- Community Engagement

How to access the Oxfordshire HLC

Explore the Map Online

Do you want to know what your village looked like in the late 18th or 19th centuries? Or how the agricultural landscape changed in the 20th century? Then visit our project webpage and click on the link to the online interactive map. You can also find a 'how to use' guide.

Request Data

If you would like to see the complete set of information we hold for a record (or set of records), send in a request to the Historic Environment Record Officer. All requests must include specific geographic references (a shapefile or a grid reference/place name with a search radius).

Browse the Project Archive

All documents produced by the project along with the raw data files (the shapefiles and database) can be downloaded from data.gov.uk and the Archaeology Data Service. Just search their pages for the Oxfordshire HLC.

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Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project

This project, funded by Historic England, maps current and past land use across Oxfordshire.

Archaeology
Historic Environment Record
Landscape characterisation
Planning guidance
Archaeological sites
Archaeological finds
Contact us

What Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is

HLC uses maps to examine the historic and archaeological processes which have influenced the modern landscape.

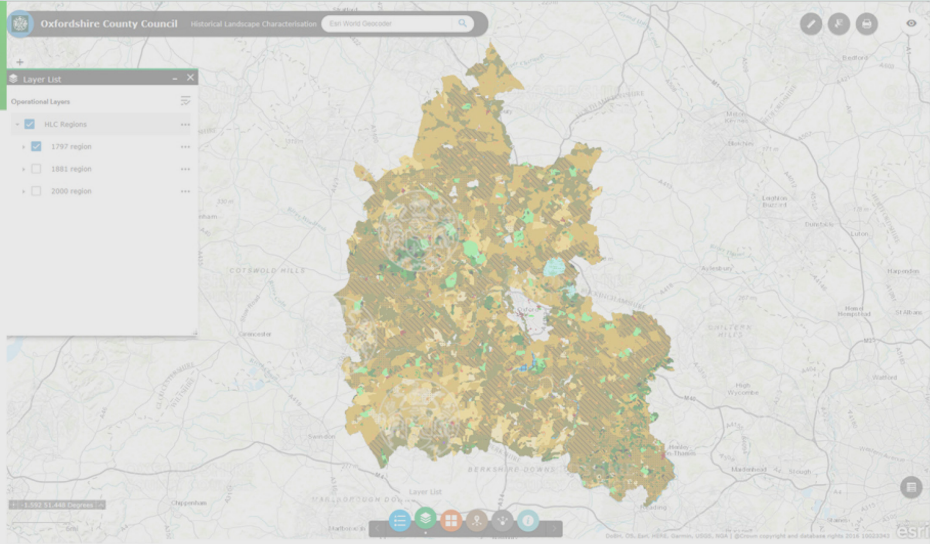
It allows us to identify the specific characteristics of an area or district, so that we can understand what makes that place special or distinct and helping us to make sure it is managed appropriately.

It recognises that all parts of the landscape - from th[illegible] development - have historic value and contribute to the landscape in which we live.

How we can use it

HLC data can be used for:

- the conservation and management of heritage sites and landscapes
- planning applications and development strategy
- landscape management schemes
- academic and local research



Further Information:

Contact us on archaeology@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Take a look at Historic England's information on HLC

Browse other HLC projects on the ADS

UID	Name	Full Type Code
HOX13812		ENC-RE

Broad Type	Type	Confidence
Enclosure	Reorganised Enclosures	Certain

Period: Modern - 1922 AD to 1999 AD

Previous Broad Type	*Previous Type*	*Confidence*
Enclosure	Piecemeal Enclosure	Probable
	Post Medieval - 1540 AD? to 1797 AD	
Enclosure	Piecemeal Enclosure	Probable
	[illegible] to 1876 AD	
Enclosure	Open Field System	Possible
	Medieval - 1066 AD? to 1539 AD?	

Full Description

An area of land immediately west of Bampton along Clanfield Road. In the 20th century a number of internal boundaries were removed and new ones were created in association with the newly built Danford Lodge and adjacent houses. The perimeter of the land, however, is the same as that shown on the 1st Edition OS. These 19th century fields were small and irregular and may have subdivided the much larger field shown here by Davis. However, the irregularity of these fields which is quite distinct from those around them may indicate that these fields have been a unit for some time and that Davis neglected to record them. Certainly, ridge and furrow visible on the LIDAR supports an earlier date for these fields as they appear to lie within one of the 19th century fields quite neatly.

National Grid Reference		Area (Hectares)	9.55
Centred SP 3060 0286 (804m by 243m)	SP30SW		

Attributes

Type	*Value*
Boundary Loss	Major Loss
Period	Modern
Size	small
Degree of Subdivision	Enclosed
Perimeter Morphology	Irregular
Internal morphology	Semi-straight
Ridge and Furrow	Reversed S shape Ridge and Furrow

Sources

Graphic material: Environment Agency. Environment Agency LIDAR Image.
Map: 1797. Davis Map.
Map: Ordnance Survey. 1912-1923. 3rd Edition 6" Map.
Map: Ordnance Survey. 2016. Master Map 1:2500.
Map: Ordnance Survey. c.1881. 1st Edition 6" Map.
Monograph: Victoria County History - Oxfordshire: A history of the county of Oxfordshire.
Photograph: 1999/2000. Aerial Photographs.

Associated Monuments - None