

# Historic Landscape Characterisation Project



E.Rouse

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB with English Heritage



**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

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**E. Rouse**

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
with English Heritage**



AONB Office:  
Castle Street, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PZ.  
Tel: 01725 517417  
[info@historiclandscape.co.uk](mailto:info@historiclandscape.co.uk)  
[www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk)

“ ‘I can see it now’, was a favourite expression of his when relating some incident in his past life. Whenever a sudden light, a kind of smile, came into his eyes, I knew that it was at some ancient memory, a touch of quaintness or humour in some farmer or shepherd he had known in the vanished time – his father, perhaps or Old John, or Mark Dick, or Liddy, or Dan'l Burden, the solemn seeker after buried treasure.” (Hudson 1987: 219)

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Project was carried out between January 2007 and June 2008 by the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership with the support of English Heritage.

The project was undertaken by the HLC Project Officer Emma Rouse BA (Cantab) MA AIFA

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**Contact:**

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
AONB Office  
4 Castle Street  
Cranborne  
Dorset  
BH21 5PZ

Visit the HLC Project Website at [www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk)

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## **Preface**

This report summarises the results from an 18 month study of the historic landscape character of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. This project forms part of a National Programme, developed by English Heritage in the early nineties, which is continually evolving with ongoing development and changes in methodology, technology and application. The projects tend to be carried out in partnership, often at a county or district level scale.

Whilst this project has been underway the European Landscape Convention has come into force in Britain (1<sup>st</sup> March 2007). "It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes", and defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". Historic Landscapes are clearly very significant elements in this definition of landscapes, where human perceptions and human interactions with nature are so important. The Convention also brings with it obligations towards the protection, management, and planning of all landscapes, urban as well as rural. Sub regional projects, such as Historic Landscape Characterisation, relating to the cultural, historic and heritage aspects of landscapes clearly help to implement the objectives of the Convention in a tangible way.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is an archaeological method used to define and map the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape. The aim of the project is to characterise the distinctive, historic dimension of today's environment and will allow the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to better conserve and enhance the historic, archaeological and cultural features within their distinctive landscape setting.

## **Acknowledgements**

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The AONB would like to acknowledge the advice and assistance provided by Graham Fairclough, Peter Herring and other members of the English Heritage Characterisation Team.

The project drew upon methods and ideas from a wide range of previous Historic Landscape Characterisation projects and those still in progress. Particular mention must be made to the Dorset HLC, Hampshire HLC and the North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC. Thanks go to Mellissa Conway, and Duncan Coe of the West Berkshire Archaeological Service.

The project was supported by a steering group drawn from the AONB, English Heritage, and relevant County Archaeologist. Thanks go to Claire Pinder, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council; Helena Cave Penney, Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council and David Hopkins, County Archaeologist, Hampshire County Council.

Special thanks to members of the AONB team for their guidance and help.

## Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AP	Aerial Photographs
CCWWD	Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs
EH	English Heritage
ID No.	Unique identity Number
GIS	Geographical Information System
Ha.	Hectares
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
Km	Kilometres
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NWD	North Wessex Downs
OS	Ordnance Survey
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SSSI	Special Site of Scientific Interest
WB	West Berkshire

## CONTENTS

Preface.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	ii
Abbreviations.....	iii
SECTION 1: Introduction.....	1
SECTION 2: Background to Historic Landscape Characterisation.....	7
SECTION 3: Introducing the Landscape of the CCWWD AONB.....	13
SECTION 4: Methodology.....	25
SECTION 5: Historic Landscape Type Descriptions.....	57
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 1 Enclosed Land.....	73
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 2 Open Land.....	169
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 3 Woodland.....	199
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 4 Water Association.....	213
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 5 Settlement.....	233
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 6 Designed & Ornamental..	267
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 7 Recreation.....	285
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 8 Industry.....	311
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 9 Inland Communication...	335
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 10 Military.....	349
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 11 Civic.....	363
Historic Landscape Type Description: Type 12 Archaeology.....	375
SECTION 6: Overview of the Historic Landscape Character of the AONB.....	393
SECTION 7: Comparing the HLC with other Spatial Datasets.....	409
SECTION 8: Conclusion.....	425
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	429

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of the CCWWD AONB.....	5
Figure 2: HLC Projects in southeast and southwest region.....	10
Figure 3: Geology of the AONB.....	16
Figure 4: Topography in the AONB.....	18
Figure 5: Hydrology in the AONB.....	19
Figure 6: Nature Designations in the AONB.....	20
Figure 7: Historical and Archaeological Designations in the AONB.....	21
Figure 8: Location of Joint Countryside Character Areas in the AONB.....	22
Figure 9: Landscape Character Types and Areas in the AONB.....	23
Figure 10: Typical Phases of an HLC Project.....	31
Figure 11: List of Enclosure Maps held by the Dorset County Record Office.....	37
Figure 12: List of Enclosure Maps held by the Hants County Record Office.....	38
Figure 13: List of Enclosure Maps held by the Wiltshire County Record Office...	38
Figure 14: Attributes recorded for each polygon listed by column.....	43
Figure 15: Structure of Historic Landscape Types (from Broad Type 1 to 4).....	45
Figure 16: Structure of Historic Landscape Types (from Broad Type 5 to 12)....	46
Figure 17: Information recorded on the Current Historic Landscape Type for each polygon listed by column.....	49
Figure 18: Information recorded on Previous Historic Landscape Types for each polygon listed by column.....	50
Figure 19: Example polygons overlying Modern Ordnance Survey MasterMap..	51
Figure 20: Example polygons overlying the First Edition OS Map 1843-1893....	52
Figure 21: General Map showing Local Authority Boundaries.....	67
Figure 22: Map showing location of market towns, main roads and rivers.....	68
Figure 23: Map showing Ancient Parish Boundaries in the AONB.....	69
Figure 24: Main Villages in the AONB.....	70
Figure 25: Landscape Character Types and Character Areas in the AONB.....	71
Figure 26: Location of known Deer Parks in the AONB.....	281
Figure 27: Broad Landscape Classification.....	395
Figure 28: Broad Landscape Classification with the C17th Chase Boundary.....	396
Figure 29: Iconic Map of the CCWWD AONB HLC.....	397
Figure 30: Enclosed Land in the AONB (by Major Historic Landscape Type).....	399
Figure 31: Map of Field Morphology.....	400
Figure 32: Open Land in the AONB (by Major Historic Landscape Type).....	401
Figure 33: Woodland in the AONB.....	402
Figure 34: Settlement in the AONB.....	404
Figure 35: Designed and Ornamental Landscapes in the AONB.....	405
Figure 36: Landscape history by period.....	406
Figure 37: Broad History of Today's Landscape 1.....	407
Figure 38: Broad History of Today's Landscape 2.....	407
Figure 39: Broad History of Today's Landscape 3.....	408
Figure 40: Density of SMR/HER record across the CCWWD AONB.....	415
Figure 41: Distribution of Round Barrows from HER/SMR dataset.....	416
Figure 42: Table showing number of Round Barrows in each major HLT.....	417
Figure 43: Distribution of main HLTs which contain Round Barrows.....	418
Figure 44: Relationship between the distribution of Round Barrows and areas which were previously open downland.....	419
Figure 45: Location of areas which were once downland but contain no SMR/HER record of Round Barrows.....	420
Figure 46: SSSIs in the CCWWD AONB.....	422
Figure 47: Approximately area of different Major HLTs which contain SSSIs.....	423
Figure 48: Distribution of Major HLTs which contain SSSIs.....	423



**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

# **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**



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## Contents

1.1 Introduction .....	3
1.2 The Guiding Principles of Historic Landscape Characterisation .....	3
1.3 Introducing the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.....	4
1.4 The Aims of the CCWWD AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation .....	5
1.5 References.....	6

## 1.1 Introduction

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION (HLC) is an archaeological method used to define and map the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape. It forms part of a National Programme developed by English Heritage in the early nineties and is continually evolving with ongoing development and changes in methodology, technology and application.

HLC is concerned with the totality of the landscape, providing a broad overview of the complexity of the historic environment in a given area. It is concerned with mapping the commonplace and locally distinctive and identifying time depth in the landscape.

Mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) plays a central role in both the creation of the HLC dataset and in the presentation of the results.

This report presents the results and findings of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty HLC. The primary purpose of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The AONB cannot achieve this purpose without a fuller understanding of the landscapes' cultural and historic evolution. Historic Landscape Characterisation will help provide this fuller understanding.

## 1.2 The Guiding Principles of Historic Landscape Characterisation

All Historic Landscape Characterisation Projects undertaken are underpinned by a series of guiding principles (Clark et.al. 2002: 6): -

- **Present not past:** it is the present-day landscape that is the main object of study
- **Landscape as history not geography:** the most important characteristic of landscape is its time-depth; change and earlier landscapes exist in the present landscape
- **Landscape not sites:** HLC-based research and understanding are concerned with area not point data
- **All aspects of the landscape,** no matter how modern, are treated as part of landscape character, **not just 'special' areas**
- Semi-natural and living features (woodland, land cover, hedges etc.) are as much a part of landscape character as archaeological features; **human landscape – bio-diversity is a cultural phenomenon**
- Characterisation of landscape is a matter of **interpretation not record, perception not facts;** understand 'landscape' as **an idea**, not purely as an objective thing
- **People's views:** it is important to consider collective and public perceptions of landscape alongside more expert views

- Landscape is and always has been dynamic: **management of change, not preservation** is the aim
- The process of characterisation should be **transparent**, with clearly articulated records of data sources and methods used
- HLC maps and text should be easy to understand, **jargon free** and **easily accessible** to users
- HLC results should be **integrated** into other environmental and heritage management records e.g. Sites and Monument Records (SMRs) or Historic Environment Records (HERs)

It is also crucial that this project has a clear definition of what is meant by landscape. This project defines Landscape as: -

***"an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."***

### **1.3 Introducing the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB**

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a landscape of national significance. The AONB covers an area of 983 square kilometres, and falls within four counties: Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. See figure 1

It forms part of the extensive belt of chalkland which stretches across southern England and abuts the Dorset AONB and includes part of the South Wessex Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1981 and confirmed in October 1983 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. It is clear from the Act, subsequent government sponsored reports, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 that natural beauty includes wildlife, scientific, and cultural heritage. It is also recognised that in relation to their landscape characteristics and quality, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equally important aspects of the nation's heritage and environmental capital. The primary purpose of the AONB is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

The AONB covers the administration areas of eleven Local Authorities: four county councils – Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset; and seven district councils – Salisbury, West Wiltshire, East Dorset, North Dorset, New Forest, Mendip and South Somerset.

West Wiltshire District Council, Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council, along with Kennet District Council and North Wiltshire District Council, are due to merge into one new authority called Wiltshire Council by May 2009.

Figure 1: Location of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB



#### 1.4 The Aims of the CCWWD AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation

The main aims of the Historic Landscape Characterisation are to help the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB to: -

- Better understand the historic elements of the whole landscape of the AONB
- Raise awareness and understanding of the unique cultural heritage of the area amongst local people, visitors and the wider population
- Provide a tool for managing the historic environment and the integrated management of the landscape as a whole
- Inform planning decisions
- Provide a framework for policy making and research agendas
- Enhance the county based SMR/HERs

The HLC will be used to:

- Add to the information about the landscape held by the AONB
- raise awareness of the special nature of the area

- develop a sense of identity for the AONB
- inform planning decision making and minimise the adverse environmental impact of new development
- offer integrated management advice
- feed into the AONB Management Plan

## 1.5 References

CLARK, J. et.al. (2004) Using Historic Landscape Characterisation. English Heritage & Lancashire County Council.

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND TO HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION



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## Contents

2.1 HLC Projects in England .....	9
2.2 Other relevant HLC Projects in the Region .....	11
2.3 References.....	11



## 2.1 HLC Projects in England

The national programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) was initiated by English Heritage in the early 1990s, to improve understanding of the historic dimension of landscape and thus better manage change in the archaeological and historic environment resource.

HLC works at a landscape scale. It recognises that the notion of present day landscape is a human construction. The fabric of the land that individuals and groups use to create their own notion of landscape is the product of thousands of years of human activity, although what remains to be seen today may be very recent, and has undergone successive periods of change and modification. Landscape, therefore, can only be understood if its dynamic nature is taken into account.

HLC builds on a long and successful tradition of “landscape archaeology” – the study of remains of past periods at a landscape scale. Landscape ecology has also made major contributions. In addition, new national contexts for understanding historic landscape have started to appear, for example the English Heritage settlement atlas (Roberts and Wrathmell 2000).

The creation of Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) has also been well established. These provide a valuable dataset upon which HLCs can draw. However, it was recognised early on that bolting on an historical dimension to a LCA was unsatisfactory. ‘Views from the Past’ (Countryside Commission 1996) attempted to address this problem, but it is only possible to integrate existing information. It was clear that integration could only be achieved if a new type of characterisation, focusing on providing a historical overview of landscape development, was provided.

Occurring at the same time as these developments, a government White Paper 1991 *This Common Inheritance*, led to an English Heritage project to consider the desirability to curate landscapes by drawing up a register of important ones (akin to Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens). This was subsequently published in *Yesterday’s World and Tomorrow’s Landscape* (Fairclough 1999) and the idea of a register was quickly discarded in favour of an inclusive approach. All landscape within the British Isles can be said to be historic – there are hardly any areas, even apparently ‘natural’ ones, which man has not utilised or affected. The term “historic landscape” was therefore taken to encompass not just archaeological monuments and historic sites and buildings, but also roads and open spaces, fields, hedgerows, woodland and other habitats. *Yesterday’s World and Tomorrow’s Landscape* recommended a comprehensive programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation using, but modifying, existing techniques from Landscape Character Assessment techniques.

HLC is now a key English Heritage programme, with its principles being extended to other characterisation projects and to other geographical areas, including the rest of Europe. HLC ideas have been embedded into the planning process through PPG 15 and PPS 7, and most recently in *A Force for our Future* (DCMS 2001). HLC is also in line with the definition of landscape adopted by the European Landscape Convention (2000).

Over the past decade, HLC has evolved; there have been several ‘waves’ of the programme, each project developing and adapting the method to its own area. A method review undertaken five years ago gives a useful summary of this history (Aldred and Fairclough, 2003). The method was first developed in Cornwall in

1993-94 (Herring 1998). In the last couple of years, progress has been rapid, particularly in the development of GIS tables. The most recent approaches (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> phases) have adopted a multi mode approach. This uses both descriptive and prescriptive criteria but their subjectivity is controlled and made transparent. Interpretations and observations are attached to GIS map polygons instead of being used to allocate land to pre-defined types. Classifications and characterisations can be created by manipulating the computer data in a variety of ways. The process of characterisation should be transparent, with clearly articulated records of data sources and methods used. The recent HLCs in the southwest are summarized in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: HLC Projects in Southeast and Southwest regions**

County	SE/ SW	Date of work	Reference/Progress	Methodological context
Oxfordshire	SE	1993	Chadwick in Fairclough et al 1999	Small Pilot study
Cornwall	SW	1994- 95	Herring 1998	First phase
Avon	SW	1995- 96	Sydes 1999	First phase
Hampshire	SE	1997- 98	Lambrick and Bramhill 1999	Second phase
Kent	SE	1998- 2000	Bramhill et al 2001	Second phase
Cotswolds (& Gloucestershire)	SW	1998- 2001	Hoyle 1999 and Wills 1999	Second phase
SW Wiltshire	SW	1998- 2001	Donachie & Hutcheson 2000	Experimental
Somerset & Exmoor	SW	1999- 2000	Aldred 2001	Third phase
Surrey	SE	2000- 2001	Bannister 2001	Third phase
Devon	SW	2001-		Fourth phase
Buckinghamshire	SE	2002-	Completed	Fifth phase
Dorset	SW	2002-	Ongoing	Fifth phase
Isle of Wight	SE	2002-	Completed	Fifth phase
North Wessex Downs AONB and West Berkshire	SW	2002- 2008	Completed – final report forthcoming	Fifth phase
Chilterns AONB	SE	2004- 2007	Completed	Fifth phase
SW Region HLC Draft	SW	2000- 01	Pilot undertaken by Cornwall Archaeology Unit.	Experimental, linked to EH Region funded Strategy for the Historic Environment for the region.

Despite the growing sophistication of GIS, HLC is a relatively generalised characterisation designed to serve as a resource management tool. It is not intended to be free-standing, or a replacement for other established datasets (such as SMRs/HERs or other landscape assessments) but fills a gap in the available range of conservation mechanisms. The overall characterisation of the country provides an

inclusive, comprehensive framework for conservation and management – there should be no ‘white areas’ on a map where the historical dimension is omitted. This broad approach is repeatable and updateable and enables more detailed assessment to be carried out when required.

Landscape can mean a multitude of different things to different people, however; a useful definition for the purposes of HLC is: “*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*” (European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe 2000).

In summary, HLC is an archaeological desk based method used to define and map the historic and archaeological dimension of the present day landscape.

## 2.2 Other relevant HLC Projects in the Region

Three Historic Landscape Characterisations have been undertaken whose areas overlap with the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB: -

1. The Hampshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (Lambrick and Bramhill 1999)
2. The Somerset Historic Landscape Characterisation (Aldred 2001)
3. The Dorset Historic Landscape Characterisation (Markham pers.comm)

These projects are discussed more fully in Section 4 Methodology.

The Dorset HLC is not yet complete.

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Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

# **SECTION 3: INTRODUCING THE LANDSCAPE OF THE AONB**



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## Contents

3.1 Introduction .....	15
3.2 Geology .....	16
3.3 Topography .....	17
3.4 Hydrology of the AONB .....	18
3.5 Ecology of the AONB .....	19
3.6 Archaeological and Historical Development .....	20
3.7 Landscape Character .....	21
3.8 Other relevant Landscape Studies .....	24
3.9 References .....	24

### 3.1 Introduction

**The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project focussed on the historic aspects of the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.**

**This section aims to give an overview of other key aspects of the landscape, including geology, topography, hydrology, and ecology. This will place the HLC in its wider landscape context.**

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.” Landscape, therefore, is much more than simply just topography and ground cover; it includes the interactions of generations of people who have lived, worked, or passed through, it includes the cultural as well as physical attributes, and it includes the living wildlife, the aesthetic, and the productive. Landscapes are more than three dimensional, they change daily and seasonally, they respond to the weather, some have a greater proportion of hard and constructed elements whilst in others the soft and semi-natural predominate. Landscapes are multi-faceted and are perceived and valued in different ways by individuals and communities.

The landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is the result of the various influences that have, over vastly different time-scales, acted upon it. The character of the landscape has evolved in response to the basic underlying geological characteristics of the land upon which natural processes and human activities have operated, in turn influencing the patterns of land use as well as ecological and cultural character.

It is an area comprising 981 square kilometres (379 square miles) forming part of the extensive belt of chalkland that stretches across southern England. Above all else, the AONB is dominated by chalk, a rock which has formed the distinctive convex landforms of the open downland and which has had a profound influence on the history of human activity, particularly influencing patterns of agriculture and settlement.

The strong and distinctive character of this AONB arises from the diversity and contrast represented by its eight landscape types, its tranquillity and remoteness coupled to its great ecological riches, and its unrivalled wealth of prehistoric sites and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century parklands and estates.

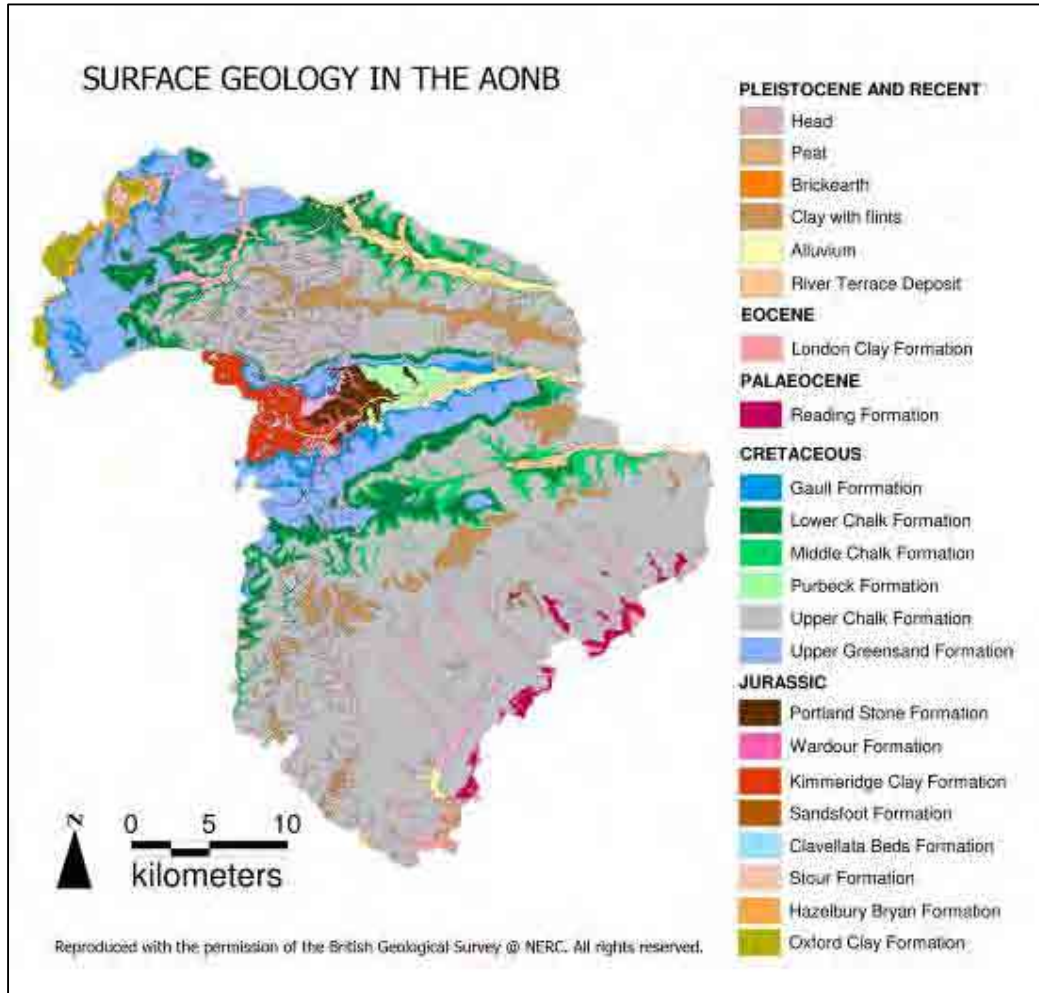
The daily activities of those who live and work in the area, as the generations before them, continue to fashion this dynamic, living, working landscape, honing and developing its special sense of place, admired and valued by locals and visitors alike.

This AONB is a deeply rural area with scattered villages and narrow roads. There are no large settlements in the AONB but nearby country market towns such as Salisbury, Blandford Forum, Wimborne Minister, Shaftesbury and Warminster are growth areas. Although there are a few sites attracting a large number of visitors, such as Longleat, Stourhead and Centre Parcs, the AONB is not a developed tourist area. The AONB comprises all or part of 104 parishes and has a resident population of approximately 30,000.

### 3.2 Geology

The landscapes of the AONB are profoundly influenced by the underlying Geology. This is comprised of four major geological areas.

**Figure 3: Geology of the AONB**



Firstly the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is dominated by two massive tracts of Chalk (see Figure 3 above). These are the West Wiltshire Downs Chalk and the Cranborne Chase Chalk. These chalk tracts have formed the distinctive convex landforms of the open downland and have had a profound influence on the history of human activity.

A major feature of the chalk geology of the AONB is the chalk escarpments caused by tectonic and geomorphological processes. Foremost among these are a series of compressions and intervening relaxations which affected the whole of the Hampshire Basin. These had the effect of creating a series of east-west faults (where the Chalk beds were vertically sheared from one another) and folds (where the beds are compressed into 'ripples'). The Chalk was weakened along these lines and rivers and streams were more easily able to remove material to form valleys, often leaving escarpments where the ends of the chalk strata are exposed and gentler slopes which follow the inclined surface of the Chalk



The third major feature is seen in the North of the AONB where, the Chalk gives way to Upper Greensand which forms a broad terrace and a series of dissected hills to the south of the Vale of Wardour and a further series of knolly hills to the north running between Warminster and Mere.

Between these hills, the River Nadder has revealed the fourth major geological area, even older Oolitic Limestone (known locally as Chilmark Stone) and Kimmeridge Clay, both of which were formed during the Upper Jurassic Period, up to 150 million years ago.

For further discussion of the geology of the AONB see Chapter 2 of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultants 2003).

### **3.3 Topography**

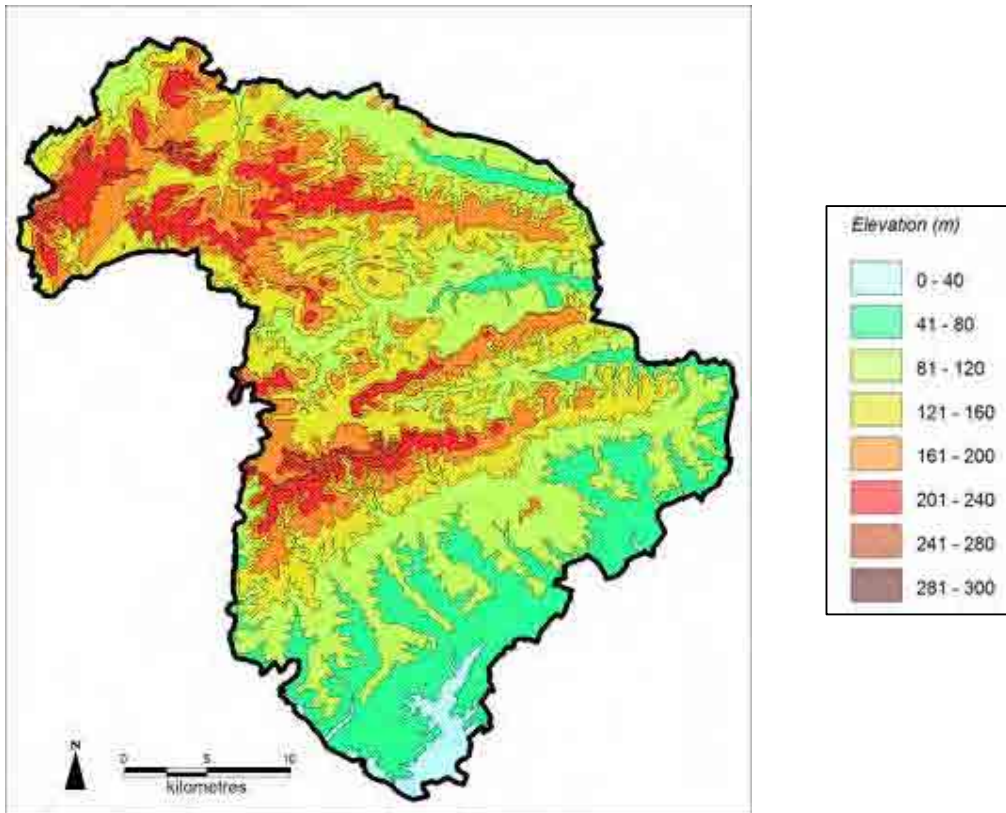
The underlying geology has strongly influenced the varied topography and soils present in the AONB.

The AONB is divided into two broad topographic areas by the fertile wooded Vale of Wardour. To the south is Cranborne Chase with its smooth rounded downs, steeply cut combs and dry valleys typical of a typical chalk landscape. The dip slope gently descends to the south-east where it meets the Dorset Heaths. To the north, the Wiltshire Downs are more elevated, the landform rising to a subtle ridge at Great Ridge/Grovely Wood. Both areas are fringed by impressive scarps, cresting above the adjoining greensand terraces.

Soil types and conditions are intrinsically linked to the nature of the underlying geology, drift deposits and hydrology. Soils have a direct bearing on the nature and intensity of land uses. There are seven soil groups present in the AONB: rendzinas; brown earths; argillic brown earths; paleo-argillic brown earths; brown calcareous earths; stagnogley soils; and groundwater gley soils.

For further discussion of the topography and soils of the AONB see Chapter 2 of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultants 2003).

Figure 4: Topography of the AONB



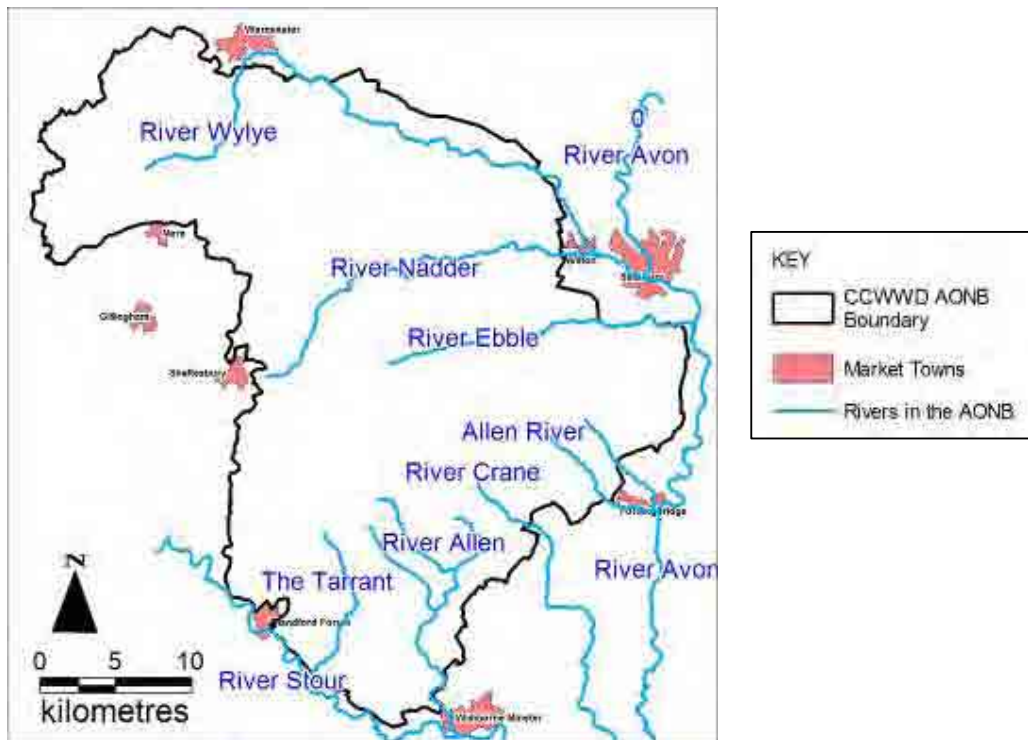
### 3.4 Hydrology of the AONB

The main drainage pattern of the rivers in the AONB can be split into two, differentiating hydrological activity between the north and the south of the AONB (See Figure 5). The key rivers influencing the landscape of the northern half of the AONB are the tributaries of the River Avon which drains north to south and runs through the centre of Salisbury just beyond the boundary of the AONB. These significant tributaries are the Rivers Wylde, Nadder and Ebble - cutting through the chalk following lines of weaknesses to create a sequence of valley landscapes. The Wylde drains north-south along lines of weakness through the Chalk. The Nadder and Ebble both drain east to west with all three rivers connecting with the south flowing Avon.

Within the south of the AONB the Rivers follow a different route. Here, they drain the dip slope of the Chalk – flowing down through the landform in a north south direction. The Rivers Tarrant and Allen drain to join with the River Stour that runs parallel to, and in places touches, the south-western boundary of the AONB. The Tarrant meets the Stour south east of the town of Blandford Forum whilst the Allen and Stour converge on the southern edge of Wimborne Minster. The Allen River and The River Crane, further east, both drain to meet the River Avon.

For further discussion of the Hydrology of the AONB see Chapter 2 of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultants 2003).

Figure 5: Hydrology of the AONB



### 3.5 Ecology of the AONB

The wildlife of the AONB is a crucial component of the landscape and the AONB is of great ecological importance. The AONB exhibits exceptionally rich and diverse habitats. The key habitats within the AONB include chalk grassland, chalk rivers and streams, broadleaved and yew woodland, acid and neutral grassland, unimproved neutral wet grassland and wet meadows, and finally arable farmland.

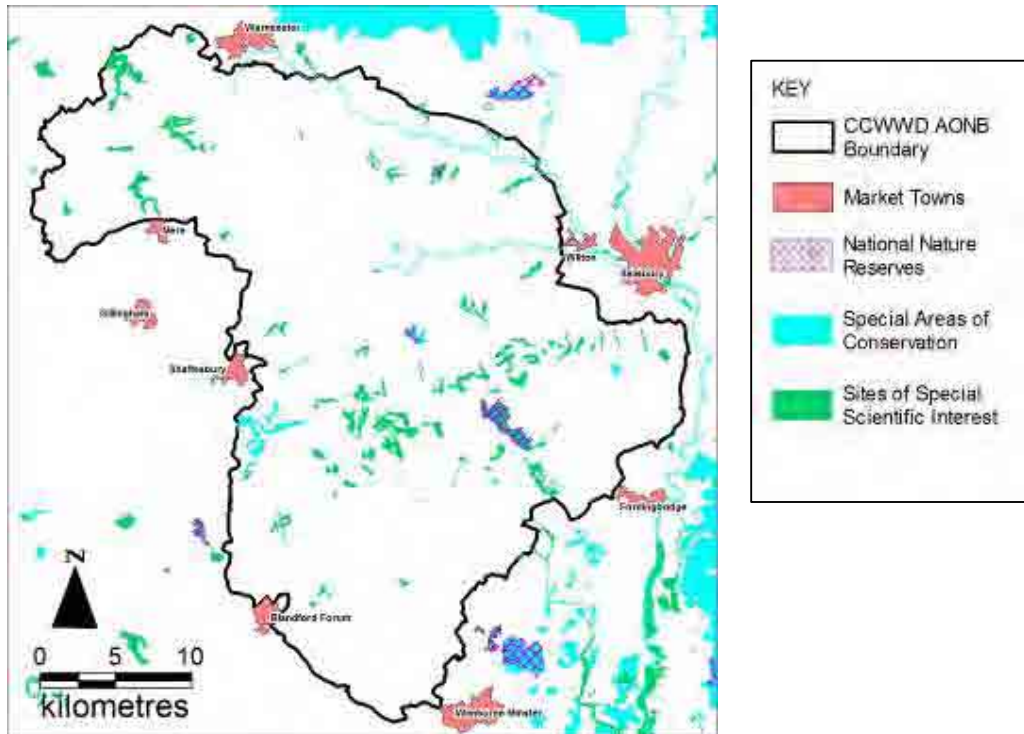
The AONB covers two of English Nature's Natural Areas. These are subdivisions of England identified as being unique on the basis of their physical, wildlife, land use and cultural attributes.

The Wessex Vales Natural Area is found in the northwest corner of the AONB and supports a variety of habitats from wet woodland, acid woodland to both calcareous and neutral meadows. The South Wessex Downs Natural Area covers the vast majority of the remaining area and is strongly characterised by the underlying chalk. It is internationally renowned for its chalk grassland, chalk rivers and the many notable and often rare species associated with these habitats.

The protected sites in the AONB recognise the significance of these habitats. These sites range from ancient downland, herb-rich fen and river meadow to scattered deciduous woodland which includes remnants of the ancient Cranborne Chase hunting forest and the former Royal Forests of Selwood and Gillingham. The AONB supports international nature conservation designations including five candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), three National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and fifty-seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), see Figure 6. Local councils also identify non-statutory sites referred to, depending on the county, as Sites of

Nature Conservation Importance (Dorset), Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (Hampshire) or County Wildlife Sites (Wiltshire and Somerset). The AONB has 519 of these sites within it, amounting to 9,155 hectares of land important for nature conservation.

**Figure 6: Nature Designations in the AONB.**



### 3.6 Archaeological and Historical Development

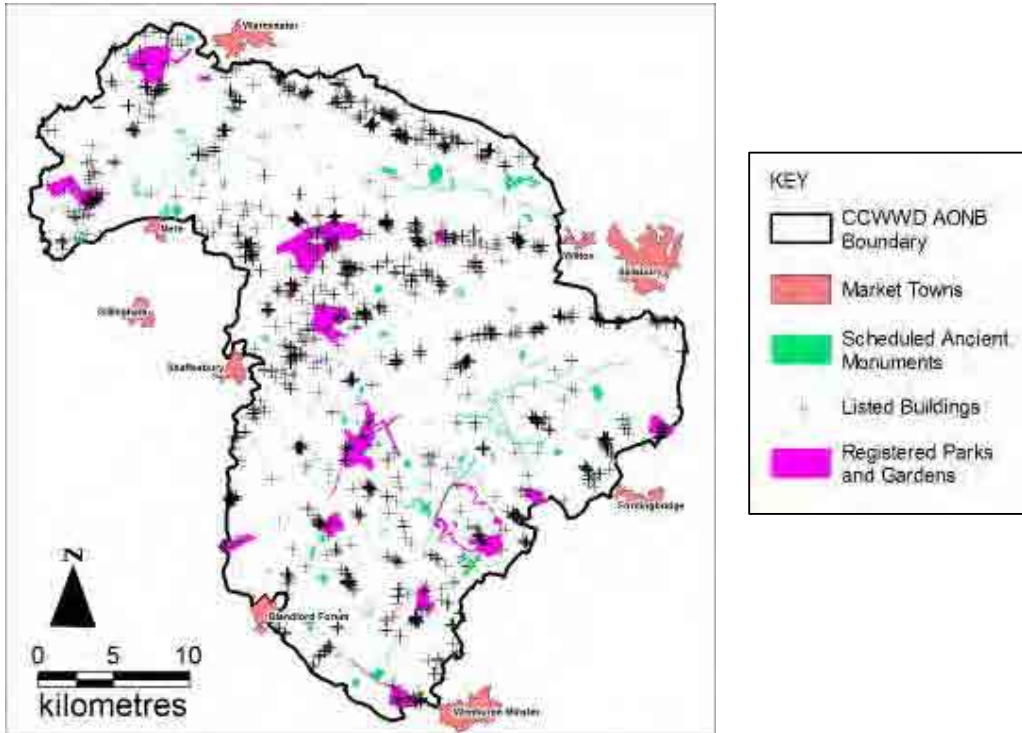
The landscape of the AONB bears the imprint of successive areas of human activity and settlement. Cranborne with its hunting chase and Wardour with its park were set within a medieval world of commons, strip fields and ancient woodlands, the last nibbled into by tiny assarts. Post-medieval planned enclosure and more recent prairie farming have reduced the extent of surviving ancient landscape, but have introduced further variety and interest. The landscape continues to change: agriculture intensifies, infrastructures are upgraded and the make up of rural society and settlement adjusts to regional and national pressures. It is susceptible to a range of forces for change, many of which will impact on the historic environment.

It has a special place in archaeology, being of course, one of the richest and most closely studied parts of prehistoric Wessex, the haunt of Pitt Rivers, Heywood Sumner, Richard Bradley and Martin Green.

This rich archaeology and historical legacy is reflected by the sites which have been nationally designated in the AONB. There are 556 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 2015 Listed Buildings, 77 of which are Grade I, and 16 Registered Parks and Gardens. See Figure 7. In addition, there are 63 Conservation Areas which have been locally designated by the relevant District Council.

A full overview of the Archaeological and Historical can be found in Chapter 4 of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultants 2003)

**Figure 7: Historical and Archaeological Designations in the AONB**



### 3.7 Landscape Character

The Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB is covered by five national scale Countryside Character Areas as defined by the Countryside Agency in 1993. These can be described as broad areas which each have a distinctive and cohesive character.

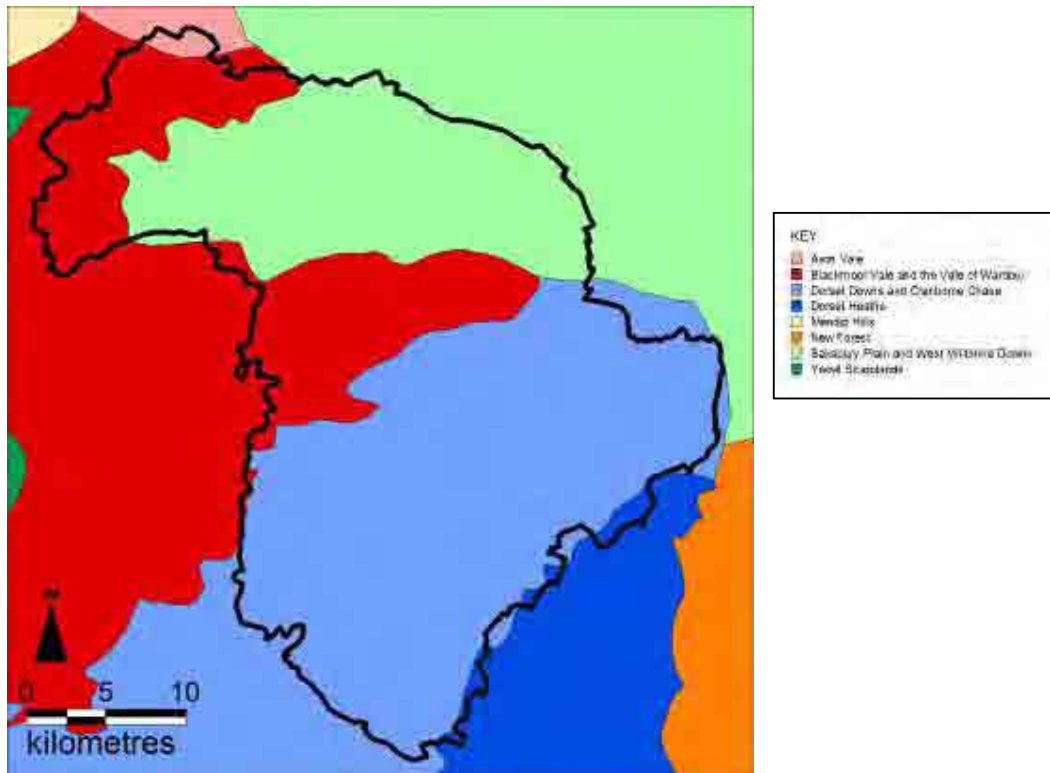
The majority of the AONB is covered by just three areas: area 132, Salisbury and West Wiltshire Downs; area 133, Blackmoor (sic) Vale and the Vale of Wardour; and area 134, Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase. Area 117, Avon Vale borders the AONB to the north and area 135, Dorset Heaths borders the AONB to the south (see figure 8).

In 2003 an Integrated Landscape Character Assessment was produced for the AONB by Land Use Consultants on behalf of the Countryside Agency (Land Use Consultants 2003). This built on an earlier Landscape Character Assessment undertaken in the nineties (Countryside Commission 1995).

Landscape Character Assessment seeks to present a fully integrated view of the landscape incorporating all the features and attributes that contribute to the special and distinctive character of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs. The physical, cultural, social and economic influences have combined to create the

unique and distinctive character of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. (CCWWD AONB 2006).

**Figure 8: Location of Joint Countryside Character Areas in the AONB**



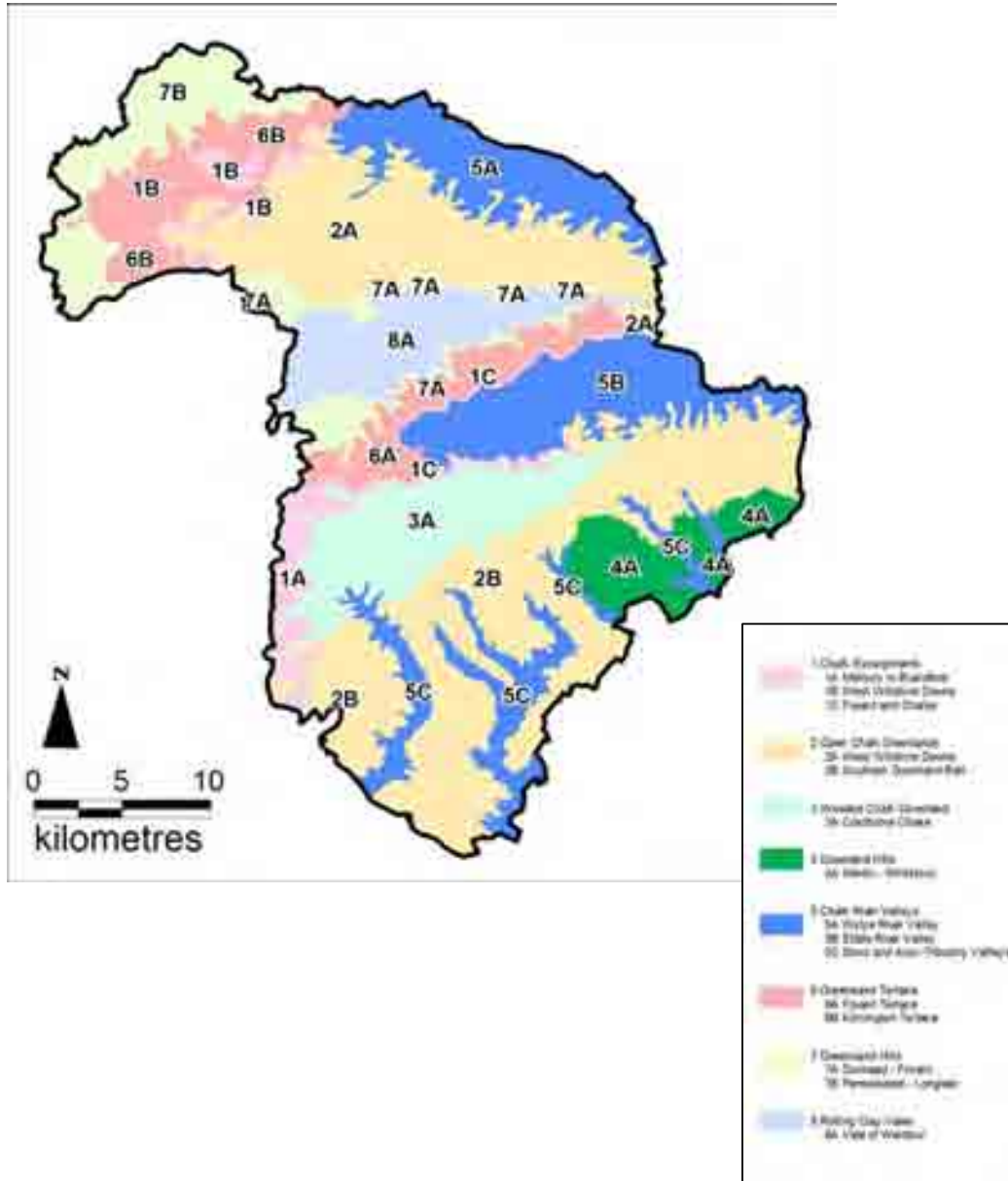
The area is characterised by a diversity of landscapes and these are represented by eight Landscape Types. These range from the high open remote downland, the ancient forests and woodland of Cranborne Chase and the dramatic steep escarpment slopes, to the more intimate secluded chalk river valleys with their distinctive pattern of settlement. Each Type has a distinct character with similar physical and cultural attributes. The landscape types can be further sub-divided into component Landscape Character Areas. Each character area has a distinct and recognisable local identity (see Figure 9).

The Landscape Character Assessment shows that the key elements of the AONB (Land Use Consultants 2003) are as follows: -

- Simple and elemental character of the open downland - wide expansive skies, dominant skylines, dramatic escarpments and panoramic views
- Unity of the underlying chalk expressed in the distinctive and sometimes, dramatically sculpted landforms, open vistas, escarpments and combs.
- A peaceful, tranquil, deeply rural area – largely ‘unspoilt’ and maintained as a working agricultural landscape
- Strong sense of remoteness with expanses of dark skies
- Juxtaposition and contrast of the open exposed downland incised by intimate settled valleys and vales

- A landscape etched with the imprint of the past – visible historic features including prehistoric earthworks, hillforts, field systems and water meadows and unique landscapes associated with the former Royal hunting forests

**Figure 9: Landscape Character Types and Areas in the AONB**



- Sparsely populated with absence of any large scale settlement – reinforcing strong AONB communities and sense of place
- Distinctive settlement pattern along the valleys and vales and small medieval villages along the scarp springline. Local vernacular building styles including the chequer pattern of knapped flint and clunch and straw thatch
- Overlain by a woodland mosaic – including the eye catching hill top copses, veteran parkland trees and avenues plus more extensive areas of wooded downland and ancient forest

- Rich ecological character – expressed in diversity of habitats including the distinctive herb rich chalk downland, clear fast flowing chalk streams and rivers, chalk heath, ancient woodlands including calcareous woodland and yew woodland and water meadows
- Legacy of halls and houses with their characteristic estate and parkland landscapes forming an important visual element
- Strong sense of place and local distinctiveness represented by small scale vernacular features such as the sunken lanes and distinctive black and white signposts.

### 3.8 Other relevant Landscape Studies

New Forest District Council undertook a district based LCA in 2000 which had a layer of Historic Landscape Characterisation analysis embedded within it (New Forest District Council 2000). This was possible as the Hampshire Historic Landscape Characterisation had already been completed.

Landscape Character Assessments have also been undertaken by other district councils and at county level but unlike the New Forest LCA have not referred to existing HLC so for the purposes of this study are superseded by the LCA undertaken specifically for the AONB.

### 3.9 References

CCWWD AONB (2006) Planning and the AONB. Sustaining Landscape Character.  
CCWWD AONB

COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION (1995) The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. Countryside Commission

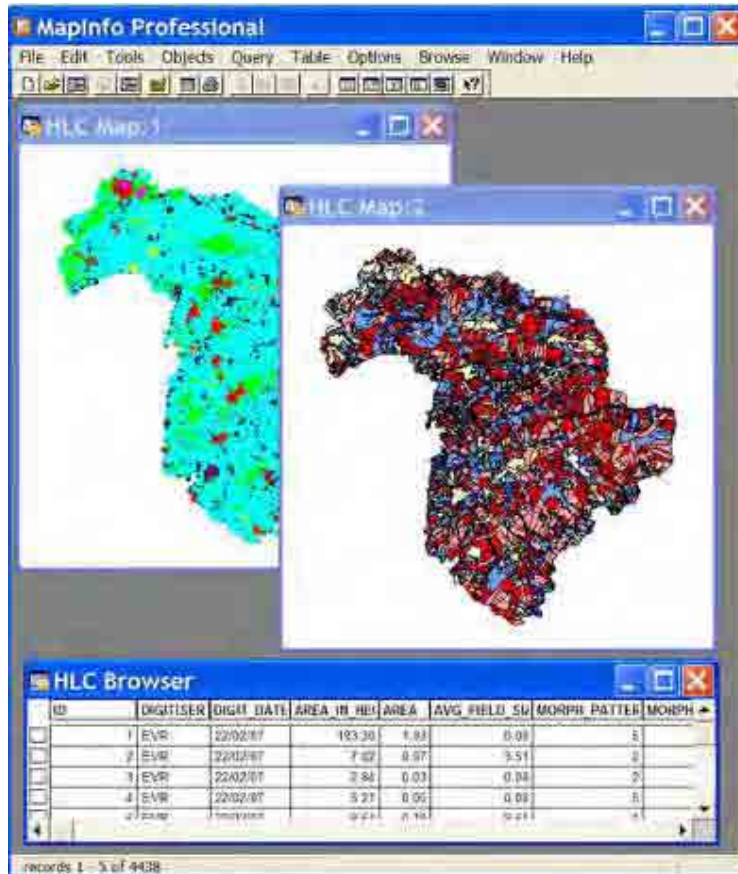
LAND USE CONSULTANTS (2003) Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. Integrated Landscape Character Assessment. Final Report. The Countryside Agency.

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL (2000) New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment. New Forest District Council with Hampshire County Council, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage, London.



# Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

## SECTION 4: METHODOLOGY



## Contents

<b>4.1 Summary</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>4.2 Introduction</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>4.3 End Uses of the HLC</b> .....	<b>28</b>
4.3.1 The primary product.....	28
4.3.2 The needs of the AONB.....	28
4.3.3 The role of the HLC within the relevant HERs and SMRs.....	29
<b>4.4 Review of Best Practice</b> .....	<b>29</b>
4.4.1 Summary.....	29
4.4.2 Current Guidelines on Best Practice.....	29
4.4.3 The Existing Historic Landscape Characterisation Projects .....	32
4.4.4 Trial Areas.....	34
<b>4.5 Summary of Key Map Based Sources</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>4.6 Methodology</b> .....	<b>39</b>
4.6.1 Stage One: Identification of polygons.....	39
4.6.2 Stage Two: Recording of Attributes.....	40
4.6.3 Stage Three: Allocating each polygon a Current HLTs.....	43
4.6.4 Stage Four: Allocating each polygon a Previous HLTs.....	49
4.6.5 Stage Five: Completing the Mapping Process.....	51
<b>4.7 Example of Data Creation</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>4.8 References</b> .....	<b>55</b>

## 4.1 Summary

The HLC dataset is created using a desk-based programme of GIS mapping and analysis which draws on a wide variety of data sources. These include modern maps, historic maps, aerial photographs, place name studies, SMR data and local archaeological and historical knowledge and research. These sources are used to identify and group archaeological, historic and other environmental attributes attached to land parcels. This allows the creation of multiple and hierarchical historic landscape types each with their own distinct and recognisable character. The distribution of these types can be mapped in GIS and are supported by written descriptions. HLC will form a permanent, flexible and renewable database.

This section outlines the methodology adopted for the Historic Landscape Characterisation undertaken for the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This area comprises an area of 983 square kilometres covering four counties Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset.

A general methodology was initially proposed in the Project Design. This has now been refined and tested. The methodology was devised by analysis of previous HLC projects, with especial attention being paid to the Hampshire HLC, Dorset HLC, and North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC. The methodology also reflects the individual requirements of the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The proposed end uses of the HLC have been borne in mind in the development of the methodology.

## 4.2 Introduction

This document provides an outline of the methodology used for the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.

The project follows the boundaries of the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB which covers the following four counties: Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset. Historic Landscape Characterisation Projects have already been undertaken for Somerset, Hampshire and Dorset and this work was used to shape the methodology adopted.

The methodology used was formalised after the following stages -

- Methodological Review of existing HLC Projects. This included studying the HLC method review (Aldred & Fairclough 2003) produced by English Heritage, and an in depth examination of the methodologies for the surrounding HLC's, especially those of Hampshire (Lambrick & Bramhill 1999), Dorset (Markham *pers.comm*) and North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC (Conway *pers.comm* a, b & c).
- Review of sources available at the Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire Record Offices and discussions with relevant experts.
- Consultation with Senior Archaeologists at Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire County Councils

- Review of the uses to which HLC had been put, with particular reference to Hampshire HLC, Buckinghamshire HLC (Green & Kidd 2006), and the North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC.
- A series of pilot areas were undertaken to review the initial proposed methodology. These aimed to cover the range of landscapes types found within the AONB as well as testing the methodologies proposed to use data from the Hampshire and Dorset HLC projects.

The project was undertaken in a series of stages -

- **Stage One** - Familiarisation, Refinement of Project Methodology and Sample Tests (January 2007 to March 2007)
- **Stage Two** – Characterisation: Mapping and Digitisation (April 2007 to December 2007)
- **Stage Three** – Review, Analysis and Interpretation of the Dataset, preparation of the Final Report (January 2008 to May 2008)
- **Stage Four** –Dissemination and Publication of the final report and the development of Applications for the HLC (June 2008)

#### 4.3 End Uses of the HLC

It was of vital importance that the methodology of the HLC was developed with possible end products and the needs of the end users in mind.

##### 4.3.1 The primary product

The CCWWD AONB HLC produced three primary products: -

1. Website – The website for the project was launched in March 2008 and provides an introduction to the project as well as a technical section which allows the data to be explored in detail.  
The website address is [www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk)
2. Written Report – This is aimed at a general readership and outlines the aims of the project, the location of the AONB, introduces the methodology and contains descriptive text of the historic landscape character of the AONB.
3. Technical Report – This explores the project in much greater depth and includes a full methodology and the full historic landscape type descriptions.

##### 4.3.2 The needs of the AONB

The decision to undertake a Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project for the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB was directly influenced by the AONB Management Plan 2004-2009. This set out an overriding aim regarding the Historic Environment to “conserve and enhance the historic, archaeological and cultural features within their distinctive landscape settings” (CCWWD AONB 2004: 56). This statement is supported by three key objectives, identified in the Management Plan by HIS. These are as follows: -

HIS A – historic, archaeological and cultural features are conserved, enhanced and appropriately managed as key elements of the AONB's landscape.

HIS B – land managers, residents and visitors understand value and help sustain the historic and cultural heritage of the area, perceiving it as an essential and integral part of the AONB's landscape character.

HIS C – the historic environment plays a fundamental role in contributing to landscape restoration work.

These objectives then led to the creation of nine policies relating to the Historic Environment. Policy HIS 2 is especially important as directly related to this project: –

“HIS 2: Undertake Historic Landscape Characterisation, ensuring consistency with existing studies, to better understand the AONB's historic and cultural evolution” (CCWWD AONB 2004: 58).

The Historic Landscape Characterisation has a clear priority, therefore, to fulfil the aims of the Management Plan. The HLC project aimed, in addition, to transform the HLC into various products of use to the AONB. This included a more general report and a dedicated website. The role of the HLC within outreach and research was also considered.

The results of the HLC project directly influenced the redrafting of the relevant sections of the AONB Management Plan during the process of Management Plan Review which occurred during 2008.

#### **4.3.3 The role of the HLC within the relevant HERs and SMRs**

On completion of the product the HLC dataset was circulated to the relevant county Historic Environmental Records (HERs) or Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), a copy of the full technical report was also given to each County Record Office.

### **4.4 Review of Best Practice**

#### **4.4.1 Summary**

This project aimed to create a HLC which conformed to current Best Practice and which is compatible with the surrounding existing HLC's of Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset. It is also important that the methodology shares common ground between the Dorset HLC and the North Wiltshire AONB and West Berkshire HLC, so that the proposed future Wiltshire HLC can easily develop a compatible methodology.

This section will firstly outline the current guidelines on best practice. It will then discuss the issues surrounding the existing Historic Landscape Characterisations and how they were used to inform this HLC.

#### **4.4.2 Current Guidelines on Best Practice**

In 2003 English Heritage published a national method review (Aldred & Fairclough 2003) supported by a template project design (English Heritage 2002). These provided guidance on best practice for creating an HLC as well as attempting to

create a more consistent and standardised method. It also recognised that a standard method should be balanced against the desirability of retaining some individuality to reflect local contexts and uses.

Any HLC is based on a series of key principles which can be summarised as follows (Clark et al 2004:6): -

- **Present not past:** it is the present-day landscape that is the main object of study
- Landscape as history not geography: the most important characteristic of landscape is its time-depth; change and earlier landscapes exist in the present landscape
- **Landscape not sites:** HLC-based research and understanding are concerned with area not point data
- **All aspects of the landscape,** no matter how modern, are treated as part of landscape character, **not just 'special' areas**
- Semi-natural and living features (woodland, land cover, hedges etc.) are as much a part of landscape character as archaeological features; **human landscape – bio-diversity is a cultural phenomenon**
- Characterisation of landscape is a matter of **interpretation not record, perception not facts;** understand 'landscape' as **an idea**, not purely as an objective thing
- **People's views:** it is important to consider collective and public perceptions of landscape alongside more expert views
- Landscape is and always has been dynamic: **management of change, not preservation** is the aim
- The process of characterisation should be **transparent**, with clearly articulated records of data sources and methods used
- HLC maps and text should be easy to understand, **jargon free** and **easily accessible** to users
- HLC results should be **integrated** into other environmental and heritage management records (e.g. SMRs or HERs)

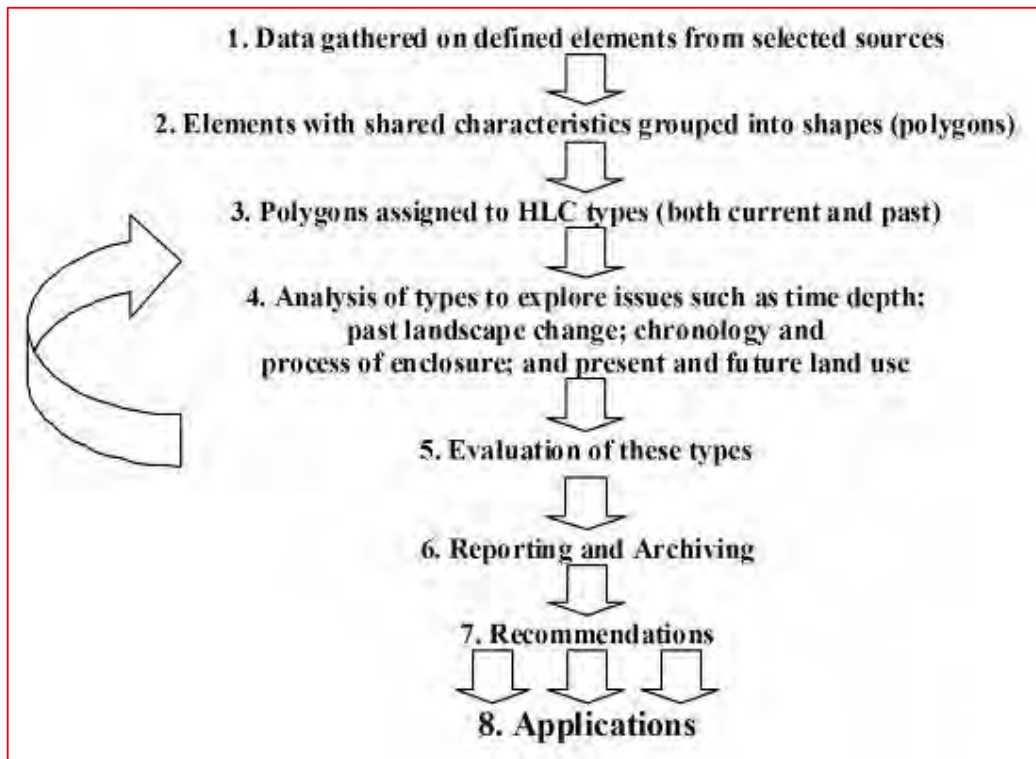
It is essential that it is recognised that characterisation is an interpretative process but that this interpretation must take part in a rigorous framework which ensures that the decision making process is transparent. A multi mode approach needs to be adopted, therefore, where interpretation is central but where subjectivity is made apparent by the use of an attribute based approach. This strikes a balance between a prescriptive approach using predefined classifications and a descriptive approach that relies on observation and the recording of attributes.

The process by which any HLC should proceed is characterised in figure 10.

HLC adopts a bottom up approach with individual land units being grouped into parcels of lands (polygons). The form of these polygons, and the way in which they articulate with each other, determines historic landscape character and a distinctive and repeated combination of polygons define a generic historic landscape character type (Rippon 2004).

Another key aspect is that of scale. HLC brings together large areas with long duration. The aim is to capture the past within the single layer of the present. This is referred to by Fairclough (2006) as the concertina effect. The level of generalisation should place the HLC between a national and local (i.e. Parish) based view. The size of polygons adopted should therefore reflect this scale.

**Figure 10: Typical Phases of an HLC Project (after Clark et.al. 2003)**



Polygons are created on the basis of shared attributes which will cover areas such as morphology, function, sources and time period. Even though it is possible through this approach to build more than one set of Historic Landscape Types, most HLCs also include a simple classification group to provide structure to the database e.g. enclosed land or open land. Morphology and time depth are used as the primary factors to identify which Historic Landscape Types belong to these areas. These Historic Landscape Types are therefore simultaneously generic in character and specific to certain geographical areas. The coverage of map based sources is uneven, and can understate time depth, therefore map based sources are only used to support, modify and guide morphological assumptions.

Another key issue is identifying time depth. Historic depth is identified in the present day landscape from analysis of morphological attributes and comparison between historical sources. This should be achieved by computer manipulation and is not aimed at reconstructing a landscape at a particular date but rather at recognising longer term processes in the landscape. Again, it is crucial that the decision making process is transparent. The characterisation of time depth in the landscape will be based on the idea of "stratigraphy in the landscape". This should also incorporate horizontal and vertical stratigraphy.

The decision making process covers two key areas, the first is the identification of areas with shared morphology and second is the process through which Historic Landscape Types are assigned to each polygon (shape). This decision making process can be split into two elements: -

- Firstly information about when the polygon (parcel of land) was created and by whom.

- Secondly, information connected with the decision making process for each polygon. This will include information on the data sources used to identify time depth. Processes leading to events, such as enclosure or clearance, should also be identified.

Therefore any data structure adopted will be split into four key areas: -

1. Each polygon (shape) will have its own unique ID
2. Metadata documenting the identity of the digitiser and the date of data creation
3. Present day landscape character
4. Previous landscape character

#### 4.4.3 The Existing Historic Landscape Characterisation Projects

The methodology for this HLC was created with reference to the HLCs which surround it geographically.

##### Hampshire Historic Landscape Characterisation

This was an early HLC project. It was paper map based using field morphology as a starting point. The Historic Landscape Types identified were subsequently incorporated within a GIS as predefined classified types (Lambrick & Bramhill: 1999).

Polygons were identified on the basis of morphology and characterised as belonging to one of 85 Historic Landscape Types. The mapping was based on the interpretation of modern 1:25000 maps with reference being made to historic maps and data held by the County Council. The data structure was implicit and classification led, and was able to display some time depth. This meant that the project used a predefined classification of Historic Landscape Types and did not record any information on why polygons were allocated a particular Historic Landscape Type. This HLC was torch bearing in that it was one of the first to use GIS to code attribute data rather than just using it as a display tool. Its weaknesses are that the classification led structure was not transparent and though it was able to display some time depth it did not record information on Previous Historic Landscape Types (see section 4.6.4 below).

The North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC have already assessed the ease of incorporating the Hampshire HLC data into a new HLC and the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC followed its recommendations. These recommendations were: -

*“The pre-existing HLC data for Hampshire was assessed at this stage [the pilot studies] and it was concluded that it could not be simply merged into the new dataset and new attributes added. There are several reasons for this:*

- *the Hampshire data, whilst a valid indication of the nature of the current landscape, does not consistently record former land-uses;*
- *boundaries of polygons are much less accurate, due to the way the data was created, than those in newly digitised work;*
- *Some Hants HLC types combine land-uses that are separate types in the NWD AONB & WB HLC, e.g. Type 9.2 post-1810 scattered settlement with paddocks.*

*The workload generated by the amount of editing and edge-matching that would be necessary to make the Hampshire data fit with the new data, combined with edits*



*necessary due to changes in land-use since this data was created, was considered to be greater than that of creating new data". (Conway in draft c)*

## **Somerset HLC**

Somerset County Council undertook a county wide HLC in 1999/2000. The GIS system developed used multiple attribute data for each polygon (shape) as well as indicating past changes by comparison between the present-day and 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6" maps. There was a greater reliance on morphological attributes held within discrete data fields. This increased the range and scope of types and made interpretation more transparent. This has been referred to as a "conceptual characterisation approach", where character types were devised after areas had been grouped by their morphological attributes. One of the most interesting elements of the Somerset HLC is the attempt to unpick the relationship between the facts of enclosure and their interpretation, moving beyond simple relationships such as sinuous morphology equalling early enclosure (Aldred 2001).

The information on the Somerset HLC and the GIS dataset has been provided by the Somerset SMR, and the data structure has some striking differences from that used for the Dorset HLC and the North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC. The approach to time depth, for example, is interpretative in the Somerset HLC while the others follow the Buckinghamshire method, which is more proscriptive in its approach.

The area of the AONB in Somerset represents 2.28% of the total area of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, so the polygons in this area were redigitised and the final dataset compared against the Somerset HLC to ensure consistency in interpretation.

## **Dorset HLC**

The Dorset HLC is the most recent to cover an area of the AONB, and was developed to be methodologically consistent with other projects started at the same time (Markham *in draft*). 29.48% of the CCWWD AONB is in Dorset, and its HLC is currently in a semi-completed state. The initial dataset has been compiled with Historic Landscape Types being assigned, but there has been no analysis of the results or descriptions prepared for the Historic Landscape Types. The decision-making structures are transparent and current and previous land character areas are separated. The final report for the Dorset HLC has not as yet been prepared, but the methodology statement is available in draft form. The Dorset HLC borrowed extensively from the Shropshire and Devon methods. Mastermap was used as the primary base and the polygons were identified using detailed morphological attributes. At the time of the methodology being formalised for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC there were several issues with incorporating the existing Dorset HLC into the new dataset.

Firstly, only a mixture of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> epoch Historic Ordnance Survey maps were available when the Dorset HLC dataset was compiled. There is no indication of whether any other sources were consulted such as 1820's OS Surveyors map, or enclosure maps. This meant that the identification of time depth was not as comprehensive as that adopted for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC.

Secondly, the database which originally linked to the .shp files (a GIS format) containing the polygons could no longer be accessed. This has several implications: -

- Some data fields appear to be missing from the GIS dataset, including those relating to Past Landscape Use.
- There is considerable overlap between polygons, which will have an impact on the calculations of areas
- It would be a time consuming process to make this dataset seamless.

Thirdly, the sample areas undertaken indicated there was a fundamental mismatch between the locations where different historic landscape types were identified, and in the locations of the boundaries of the polygons.

Resolving this issue has a considerable time implication therefore it was decided that the area of Dorset within the AONB would have to be redigitised and analysed afresh if the new Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC was going to remain robust.

### **North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC**

This HLC uses modern and historic mapping, aerial photography and archaeological and environmental information to assess how each land parcel has evolved (Conway: pers.comm). Areas of similar evolution are assessed together and mapped as polygons in a GIS with the attributes related in an internal database. Information in the database is split into three sections: current land use; earlier land use; and information about the polygon (land parcel) itself. Twelve broad character groups were identified and 50 plus Historic Landscape Types. Details of the data structure and final Historic Landscape Types have been made readily available for the CCWWD HLC project. The attributes used to record morphology and current landscape types are very similar to those adopted for the Dorset HLC.

In relation to past Historic Landscape Types the North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC adopts an approach which uses a system of multiple previous land types, recorded along with their source, and period of origin. This method was selected rather than using the Buckinghamshire HLC method which recorded the land-use type of each polygon (land parcel) at set documentation dates. This was because the North Wessex Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC did not have consistent holdings of data sources across local authorities and it was also felt that it could have difficulty dealing with earlier prehistoric influences or areas not always reliably depicted on maps. It was decided to use the same approach in the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB HLC.

Another useful innovation of the North Wiltshire Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC was the incorporation of an element of settlement character analysis, for example separating the suburban or village edge from the historic core. A similar approach was adopted for the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB which was especially helpful due to the small size of the settlements in the AONB.

#### **4.4.4 Trial Areas**

The methodology was refined and tested during Stage 1 of the project when a series of sample areas were undertaken. These aimed to test the proposed methodology, test how easy it would be to incorporate existing HLCs into the dataset (discussed above) and finally to calculate the timescale over which Stage Two of the project would be completed. The trial areas represented a 10% sample of the total.

## 4.5 Summary of Key Map Based Sources

The creation of the HLC is primarily a desk based exercise, so the selection of key map sources was crucial. The base level map that the HLC uses is the Ordnance Survey MasterMap; this is because the starting point for the Historic Landscape Characterisation is the present day landscape. The selected historical maps were then compared against this base map. The AONB spans four counties and therefore coverage of some historical mapping is partial but this does have the advantage of increasing the range of sources available. In order to be consulted the sources had to at least cover a large part of the AONB, they also could not be so detailed that they could not be easily consulted in the time available. This meant, for instance, that it was not possible to consult individual estate records. The key sources used and their strengths and weaknesses are listed below: -

### MODERN MAP SOURCES

#### **MasterMap 2006**

The Ordnance Survey MasterMap provides the base map to which all others are compared, when used in conjunction with Aerial Photographs it provides information morphology of key attributes such as fields and woodland.

#### **Rectified Vertical Aerial Photographs**

*Coverage: All*

These are used in conjunction with the OS MasterMap and provide additional detail on land use and land cover.

#### **Ordnance Survey 1:25000 (paper only)**

*Coverage: All*

These were used as a visual check during the project to provide overview as the detail on MasterMap was scrutinised.



These three sources also provide information on former land use in the form of earthworks, crop marks and relic features such as field boundaries. This provides additional time depth.

### HISTORIC MAP SOURCES

**Ordnance Survey Maps** - There are four series of historic Ordnance Survey maps available to this project as digital datasets. The primary source to be used in this project is the original **First County Survey Maps (6":1 mile maps)**. The fact that these maps are being used as a digital data set means that the survey date and publication date for each map tile is not available, instead a date range is provided during which these maps were surveyed and produced. The digital datasets, however, are reproduced from the original editions and not from reprints. For ease of reference in digital form the first edition maps, and subsequent revisions, are split into epochs, each of which is associated with a particular date range.

There are several points that need to be borne in mind when drawing information from historic Ordnance Survey maps: -

- Firstly, a series of assumptions are implicitly used when drawing information from these maps. It is assumed that they are accurate, time specific and that the recording and surveying process was sufficiently discriminatory to distinguish between features, rather than agglomerating them. Any given map tile may, in reality, fail to meet any or all of these criteria.
- Secondly, over the course of the production of Ordnance Survey maps there were significant changes in symbology. The original map keys are not available due to the digital nature of the available dataset, so the Ordnance Survey Keys reproduced in Richard Oliver's (2005) 'Ordnance Survey Maps: A Concise Guide for Historians' has been used.
- Finally, the levels of detail depicted tended to vary in the first county series in particular due to the differences between individual surveyors; efforts were made by the Ordnance Survey to standardise survey methods between 1890 and 1910. This led to an increase in accuracy in the subsequent County Revisions.

**Ordnance Survey Maps Epoch 4 1919 - 1939**  
**Third County Series Revision (6": 1 mile maps)**

*Coverage: Partial*

These maps represent a very partial revision of the Second County Series. All of the Historic Ordnance Survey Maps are available as digital maps and can therefore be overlaid in GIS over the modern Ordnance Survey Maps. There is some overlap chronologically with Epoch 3.

**Ordnance Survey Maps Epoch 3 1904 - 1939**  
**Second County Series Revision (6": 1 mile maps)**

*Coverage: Partial*

Providing a view of the landscape in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. These maps provide evidence of change during the first forty years of the century.

**Ordnance Survey Maps Epoch 2 1891 - 1912**  
**First County Series Revision (6": 1 mile maps)**

*Coverage: Partial*

Providing a view of the landscape at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. These maps are of the same detail as the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition.

**Ordnance Survey Maps Epoch 1 1843 - 1893**  
**First County Series Survey (6": 1 mile maps)**

*Coverage: All*

The first edition 6" maps are the most detailed early dataset available. These are core to the main study. They provide evidence of change over the second half of the 19th Century.

**Ordnance Survey 2" Surveyor's Draft  
(1800 – 1820)**

*Coverage: All*

These were available on CD-ROM and provide the most detailed scale map of the AONB from this period. The depictions of individual fields on these maps are schematic and they are most valuable to illustrate areas of unenclosed land and woodland. The accuracy and the level of detail depicted vary between each map, as they were created by different surveyors. Five maps cover the AONB; these are centred on Warminster, Frome, Shaftesbury, Berwick St John, and Cranborne respectively.

**Enclosure Maps (approx 1760-1860)  
Digital Photographs of Maps in Record Offices**

*Coverage: Partial*

The enclosure maps show land enclosed by Parliamentary Act in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. They are parish based and therefore their coverage is partial. These maps were primarily used to identify enclosed land. The Hampshire Enclosure Maps are available in printed form (Chapman & Seeliger 1997). The Wiltshire Enclosure Awards have been transcribed (Sandall 1971). Those for Wiltshire and Dorset were photographed so they were available for reference as the Characterisation progressed, but meant that the time consuming process of transcribing them onto 1:25000 maps, adopted for other Historic Landscape Characterisation's, was avoided. Parishes in the AONB which have Enclosure Maps held by the relevant County Record Office are listed in Figures 11, 12 and 13 below.

**Figure 11: List of Enclosure Maps held by the Dorset County Record Office**

PARISH	COUNTY	REFERENCE	DATE
Ashmore	Dorset	Inc 21 & Inc 84	1829 & 1859
Chettle	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Compton Abbas	Dorset	Inc 82	1853
Cranborne	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Farnham	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Fontmell Magna	Dorset	Inc 58	1853
Gussage All Saints	Dorset	Inc 44	1798
Gussage St Michael	Dorset	Inc 45	
Handley	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Iwerne Courtney	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Iwerne Minister	Dorset	Inc 21 & Inc 62	1829 & 1848
Long Crichel	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Melbury Abbas	Dorset	Inc 21 & Inc 26	1812 & 1829
Moor Crichel	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Pentridge	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Pimperne	Dorset	Inc 21 & inc 70	1814 & 1829
Shapwick	Dorset	Inc 50	1813
Stourpaine	Dorset	Inc 21 & Inc 89	1829 & 1859
Tarrant Gunville	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Tarrant Hinton	Dorset	Inc 48	1827
Tarrant Rawston	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Tarrant Rushton	Dorset	Inc 21	1829
Wimborne Minister	Dorset	Inc 1	1786
Witchampton	Dorset	Inc 21	1829

**Figure 12: List of Enclosure Maps held by the Hampshire County Record Office**

PARISH	COUNTY	REFERENCE	DATE
Damerham	Hampshire	14040	1818
Rockbourne	Hampshire	14117	1802
Whitsbury	Hampshire	14117	1802

**Figure 13: List of Enclosure Maps held by the Wiltshire County Record Office**

PARISH	COUNTY	WRO REFERENCE	DATE
Alvediston	Wiltshire	EA 38/1	1794
Ansty	Wiltshire	2667/21/1	1809
Barford St Martin	Wiltshire	EA 94	1815
Berwick St Leonard	Wiltshire	EA 158	1840
Berwick St John	Wiltshire	EA 141	1829
Bishopstone	Wiltshire	EA 38/2	1792
Bower Chalke	Wiltshire	EA 181 & EA 38/3	1792 & 1860
Broad Chalke	Wiltshire	EA 38/4	1792
Broad Chalke & Chilmark	Wiltshire	EA 188	1861
Burcombe	Wiltshire	EA 179	1860
Codford St Mary	Wiltshire	EA 164	1844
Codford St Peter	Wiltshire	EA 135 & EA 137	1810
Coombe Bissett	Wiltshire	EA 106	1806
Corton (in Boyton)	Wiltshire	EA 111	1829
Dinton and Teffont Magna	Wiltshire	EA 150	1837
Donhead St Andrew	Wiltshire	EA 141	1829
Donhead St Mary	Wiltshire	EA 190	1867
Downton	Wiltshire	EA 122	1822
East Knoyle	Wiltshire	EA 191	1867
Ebbesborne Wake	Wiltshire	EA 38/5	1792
Fifield Bavant	Wiltshire	EA 38/6	1792
Fisherton de la Mere	Wiltshire	EA 71	1807 & 1810
Fovant	Wiltshire	EA 38/7	1792
Fugglestone	Wiltshire	EA 179	1860
Great Wishford	Wiltshire	EA 81	1809
Heytesbury	Wiltshire	EA 25	1785
Homington	Wiltshire	EA 26	1787
Kingston Deverill	Wiltshire	EA 179	1785
Knook	Wiltshire	EA 57	1798
Mere	Wiltshire	EA 116	1821
Netherhampton	Wiltshire	EA 179	1860
Odstock	Wiltshire	EA 28	1787
Sherrington	Wiltshire	EA 41	1796
Steepleford Langford	Wiltshire	EA 153 & EA 186	1836 & 1863
Stockton	Wiltshire	EA 112	1815
Sutton Mandeville	Wiltshire	EA 90	1812
Sutton Veny	Wiltshire	EA 62	1804
Swallowcliffe	Wiltshire	EA 38/8	1792
Tisbury	Wiltshire	EA 149	1836
Tollard Royal	Wiltshire	EA 141	1829
Upton Lovell	Wiltshire	EA 139	1825
Warminster & Corsley	Wiltshire	EA 189	1783
Wilton	Wiltshire	EA 179	1860
Wylve	Wiltshire	EA 187	1861

## **Historic County Maps (Approx 1750 -1840)**

*Coverage: All*

These date from the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The most important are as follows: -

- Andrew's and Dury's 1773 Map of Wiltshire
- Bowen 1748 Map of County of Dorset
- Smith 1801 Map of County of Dorset Divided into Hundreds and Liberties
- Taylor 1759 – Map of Hampshire
- Milne 1791 – Map of Hampshire
- Christopher Greenwood – Map of Hampshire 1826

## **Secondary Sources**

There are a series of secondary digital sources available. The most important of these include maps of geology, land use, ancient woodland, and the landscape character areas from the AONB Landscape Character Assessment.

## **4.6 Methodology adopted for the CCWWD AONB HLC**

The creation of the dataset for the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation was undertaken using MapInfo 9.0 GIS and with reference to key electronic and digital datasets (outlined in section 4.5).

The starting point for any HLC is the present day landscape, the HLC process is looking to record the historic landscape character of the landscape which can be seen today.

The methodology was created with the following factors clearly in mind: -

- The proposed end uses of the HLC, to ensure it was 'fit for purpose'
- The current best practice outlined in section 4.4.
- Ensuring compatibility with existing HLC's, especially those for Dorset and the North Wiltshire Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC. This will ensure that any future Wiltshire county-wide HLC can easily fit within existing methodologies.

The creation of the dataset follows four stages. The sequence of each of the stages was undertaken for approximately a 10 kilometre square area and then the process was repeated for similar size area, until the whole AONB was covered.

### **4.6.1 Stage One: Identification of polygons**

The first step in creating the HLC dataset is to group individual land units into parcels of lands (technically called polygons in GIS) which share BOTH a common morphology and shared land use history. In this process comparison between the modern Mastermap and historical maps is crucial.

For example, shared morphology in the case of fields would include factors such as the shape and size of the fields, whether the boundaries are straight or curving, and whether the boundaries are hedged or fenced.

In the case of shared land use history any unit of land in the AONB has a primary character which has evolved from a particular historical process and dates from a certain period of land use. The land might also have evidence of previous land uses which survive as fragments. Each parcel of land must share this layered history of land use which survives to the modern day.

Each parcel of land will have the same land-use type and have undergone the same process of land-use evolution. As an initial step each parcel of land (polygon) was annotated on paper OS 1:25000 Explorer maps to ensure that the dataset was being created at the appropriate scale. The polygons identified were then digitised from MasterMap data. As a rough guide, units of land less than 1 hectare were not digitised.

#### 4.6.2 Stage Two: Recording of Attributes

Each of the polygons was associated with a field in a data table internal to the GIS system. This ensured that simplicity was maintained, allowing easier dissemination of the end result. The data table was designed to be flexible so the information allocated to each polygon can be subject to continual revision.

The next stage was to record relevant data for each parcel of land. The data added at this stage is listed below and is also outlined in figure 14.

- i) **Identification Number** – The Unique Number for each polygon
- ii) **Digitiser** – the identity of the individual creating the polygon
- iii) **Date** - The date on which the polygon was created
- iv) **Area (Ha)** – the area of the polygon in hectares
- v) **Area (in Km<sup>2</sup>)** - the area of the polygon in square kilometres
- vi) **Place Name** – Applicable Place Name Evidence, taken from modern and historic Ordnance Survey Mapping, which often gives an indication of a polygons previous Historic Land Use
  - 1. Assart, ridding, stubbs, stubbing – referring to an assart or field cleared from woodland
  - 2. Furlong – a rough rectangular block composed of parallel and adjacent strips lying within an open field.
  - 3. Copse/coppice – coppiced woodland. The two words are derived from the same source
  - 4. Wood
  - 5. Green – an area of common land often surrounded by settlement
  - 6. Spinney
  - 7. Furze – an area covered
  - 8. Common – land constrained by long established tenant rights to grazing, fuel and building materials
  - 9. Shaw – attenuated belts of woodland bordering fields
  - 10. Hanger – a wood on a slope



11. Leigh/Ley – land that was cultivated but was then left under grass for a number of years in a common field
12. Grove – A small wood
13. Marsh – wet or boggy area
14. Park – confined and enclosed area for amenity, recreation, or for keeping deer
15. Plantation – deliberate planted area of trees
16. Meadow – field for pasture often in low lying area
17. Enclosure – area of land which has been fenced or hedged.
18. Heath – an area characterised by open, low growing ericaceous vegetation found mainly in poor acidic soils
19. Chase – a medieval hunting ground
20. Downland – an area of open grazed grassland
21. Covert – a piece of woodland cover or scrub grown specifically to harbour game
22. Gore – triangle of land left at the corners of an irregular field in an open field system
23. Fox warren
24. Close – enclosure often near a settlement
25. Warren – area for keeping rabbits
26. Bushes
27. Forest – in the AONB the association of this name may refer to a medieval hunting forest; the foreign land outside the managed or the cultivated.
28. Orchard – area of cultivated fruit trees
29. Pen Pits – area in the AONB associated with collapsed ancient quern stone quarries
30. Screen – area of deliberately planted woodland
31. Lawn – often associated with medieval deer parks, a grass area especially in woodlands
32. Hay – hedge, sometimes an enclosure in a wood, assart or the hedge around a deer park.

*Many of the definitions given have been derived from Muir's Reading the Landscape (2000)*

- vii) **Morphological Pattern** – The overriding appearance of the polygon. These are only defined for Enclosed Land, Settlement and Woodland

For Enclosed Land where the parcels of field are – **Regular, Semi-Irregular, Irregular** or **Sinuous**

For Woodland - **Irregular** or **Regular**

For Settlement whether the groups of housing and buildings are – **Nucleated Clusters, Nucleated Rows, Planned Nucleated, Interrupted Rows, Clusters of Farm Buildings, and Isolated Farm Settlement.**

- viii) **Morphological Boundary** – For enclosed land whether the internal boundaries are **Straight, Jointed, Curving** or **Wavy**

- ix) **Boundary Type** – for enclosed land only whether the boundaries are primarily **Fence, Hedgerow, or Wall.** This is only used where the

boundaries are clear on the Aerial Photographs so is most effective for identifying hedgerows.

- x) **Field Number** – The number of fields which comprise a polygon of enclosed land in the present day.
- xi) **Average Field Size** – The average size of the fields in the polygon
- xii) **Boundary Loss** – A numeric measure of boundary loss on enclosed land between the First Epoch Ordnance Survey and the Modern Map
- xiii) **Boundary Gain** - A numeric measure of boundary gain on enclosed land between the First Epoch Ordnance Survey and the Modern Map
- xiv) **Secondary Water** – Secondary Water Features which have relevance to the polygon but which are too small to be recorded individually.
  - 1. Ornamental Lake
  - 2. Pond
  - 3. Streams
  - 4. River
- xv) **Secondary Wood** - Secondary Woodland Features which have relevance to the polygon but which are too small to be recorded individually.
  - 1. Small Copse
  - 2. Ornamental Tree
  - 3. Dispersed Tree Cover
  - 4. Plantation
  - 5. Abundant Tree Cover
  - 6. Heavily Wooded Hedgerow
- xvi) **Secondary Building** - Secondary Building Features which have relevance to the polygon but which are too small to be recorded individually.
  - 1. Small Farm Cluster
  - 2. Isolated Farmstead
  - 3. Large Country House or Manor
  - 4. Church

**Figure 14: Attributes recorded for each polygon listed by column**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>REQUIRED</b>
i	HLC_ID	Numeric: Unique Ref for Polygon	Yes
ii	DIGITISER	Text: Digitiser	Yes
iii	DIGIT_DATE	Text: Date Digitised	Yes
iv	AREA_IN_HEC	Numeric: Area of Polygon in hectares	Yes
v	AREA_KM2	Numeric: Area of Polygon in km <sup>2</sup>	Yes
vi	PLACE_NAME	Text: Indication of History e.g. Copse	
vii	MORH_PATTERN_NO	Text: dominant morphology e.g. Regular, Irregular	
viii	MORPH_BOUNDARY_NO	Text: Dominant Boundary e.g. Straight, curving,	
ix	BOUNDARY_TYPE	Text: Type of Boundary e.g. Hedgerow, Fence	
x	FIELD_NO	Numeric: Number of Fields	
xi	FIELD_SIZE	Text: Size of Fields	
xii	BOUNDARY_LOSS	Numeric: Boundary Loss since first edition 6" OS map	
xiii	BOUNDARY_GAIN	Numeric: Boundary Gain Since first edition 6" OS map	
xiv	SEC_WATER	Text: Key Water based features too small to digitise	
xv	SEC_WOOD	Text: Key woodland features too small to digitise	
xvi	SEC_BUILD	Text: Building Types which contribute to Historical Character	

#### **4.6.3 Stage Three: Allocating each polygon a Current Historic Landscape Type**

Each parcel of land is then allocated a Current Historic Landscape Type. This type represents the historic landscape character present in the modern day landscape. The morphology of the parcels and their particular land use history plus the way that they articulate with each other determines historic landscape character and a repeated combination of these factors define a particular generic Historic Landscape Type.

A key aspect of the Historic Landscape Types is that they exist in a series of nested layers. Each polygon can be allocated an Historic Landscape Type at four levels: Broad Type, Major Type, Subtype 1 and Subtype 2. For example, each parcel of land which is settlement will have the same Broad Historic Landscape Type, but may have different Major Historic Landscape Types or different Subtypes. This approach gives

structure to the data table but also allows the dataset to be interrogated in levels of detail, depending on the scale of interest. For example, when looking at the spread of Historic Landscape Types over the AONB it may be more meaningful to look at Broad or Major Landscape Types. When focusing in on a smaller area the subtypes will be more useful.

The possible Historic Landscape Types and their nested structure is outlined in Figures 15 and 16.

In addition, when a Current Historic Landscape Type is allocated to polygon information is also recorded on the primary map source used to make the decision, the broad time period each parcel of land use dates from, and the certainty of the identification.

**Figure 15: Structure of Historic Landscape Types (from Broad Type 1 to Broad Type 4)**

BROAD TYPE	MAJOR TYPE	SUBTYPE 1	SUBTYPE2	
1	Enclosed Land	1.1 Pre 18th Century Fields		
				1.1.1 Pre 1800 Curving Irregular Fields
				1.1.2 Pre 1800 Regular Fields
				1.1.3 Pre 1800 Sinuous Fields
				1.1.4 Pre 1800 Semi-Irregular Fields
				1.1.5 Strip Fields
	1.1.6 Assarts			
	1.2 18th and 19th Century Fields	1.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure		
		1.2.2 Planned Enclosure		
		1.2.3 Large Scale Enclosure of Downland		
		1.2.4 Downland Improvement		
		1.2.5 Replanned Fields		
	1.3 20th Century Fields	1.3.1 New Fields		1.3.1.1 Medium New Fields
				1.3.1.2 Large Fields
		1.3.2 Modified Fields		1.3.1.3 Semi-enclosed Escarpments
				1.3.1.4 Cleared Fields
		1.3.3 Enlarged Fields		1.3.2.1 Paddocks
				1.3.2.2 Reorganised Fields
				1.4.1 Enclosed Meadows
	1.4 Other Fields	1.4.2 Water Meadows		
1.4.3 Allotments				
1.4.4 Orchards				
2 Open Land		2.1 Downland and Unimproved Grassland	2.1.1 Common Downland and Unimproved Grassland	
	2.2 Marsh and Bog			
	2.3 Scrubland and Rough Grazing	2.3.1 Common Scrubland and Rough Grazing		
		2.4 Heath		
	2.5 Furze			
	3 Woodland	3.1 Pre 1800 Woodland		
3.2 Post 1800 Woodland				
4 Water Association	4.1 Man-made Lakes and Ponds			
	4.2 Fishpond and Hatcheries			
	4.3 Watercress Beds			
	4.4 Withy Bed			

**Figure16: Part 2 Structure of Historic Landscape Types (from Broad Type 5 to Broad Type 12)**

BROAD TYPE	MAJOR TYPE	SUBTYPE 1	SUBTYPE2
5	Settlement	5.1.1	Pre 1800 Linear Settlement
		5.1.2	Pre 1800 Nucleated Settlement
		5.1.3	Pre 1800 Planned Nucleated Settlement
		5.1.4	Pre 1800 Farm Complex
		5.1.5	Historic House
	5.2	18th and 19th Century Settlement	
	5.3	20th Century Settlement	
6	Designed and Ornamental	5.4	Churches, Cemeteries and Graveyards
		6.1	Formal Garden
		6.2	Designed Landscape Gardens and Parkland
7	Recreation	6.3	Deer Park
		7.1	Holiday Village
		7.2	Safari Park
		7.3	Camping and Caravan Site
		7.4	Race Course
		7.5	Playing Field
8	Industry	7.6	Golf Course
		8.1	Extractive
		8.2	Commercial
		8.3	Manufacturing
9	Inland Communications	8.2.1	Industrial Estate
		8.2.2	Commercial - Other
		8.2.3	Game Farm
10	Military	9.1	Roads
		9.2	Railways
		9.3	Car Park
11	Civic	10.1	Military Camp
		10.2	Rifle Range
12	Archaeology	11.1	Landfill
		11.2	Utilities
		12.1	Cultural Asset
		12.2	Iron Age Hillfort
		12.3	Other Archaeological Earthworks

The data added at this stage is listed below and is also outlined in figure 17:

- xvii) **Current Broad Historic Landscape Type Number** – The number relating to the Broad Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xviii) **Current Broad Historic Landscape Type Text** – Name of the Broad Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xix) **Current Major Historic Landscape Type Number** – The number relating to the Major Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xx) **Current Major Historic Landscape Type Text** - The name relating to the Major Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xxi) **Current Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type Number** – The number relating to the Subtype1 Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon where appropriate as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xxii) **Current Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type Text** – The name relating to the Subtype1 Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon where appropriate as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xxiii) **Current Subtype 2 Historic Landscape Type Number** – The number relating to the Subtype2 Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon where appropriate as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xxiv) **Current Subtype 2 Historic Landscape Type Text** - The number relating to the Subtype2 Historic Landscape Type allocated to the polygon where appropriate as per tables 4.6.3.1 and 4.6.3.2
- xxv) **Period** - The Period in which it is judged the Historic Landscape Type originated
  - 1. Prehistoric
  - 2. Roman
  - 3. Anglo-Saxon
  - 4. Medieval
  - 5. Post Medieval
  - 6. 18th Century
  - 7. 19th Century
  - 8. 20th Century (First Half)
  - 9. 20th Century (Second Half)

xxvi) **Source** – The main source used to identify and date the polygon

1. Master & AP
2. OS Epoch 4
3. OS Epoch 3
4. OS Epoch 2
5. OS Epoch 1
6. Enclosure Map
7. Andrews & Dury Wilts County
8. Taylor Hants County
9. Milne Hants County
10. Greenwood Hants County
11. Dorset County 1748
12. Dorset County 1801
13. OS Surveyors Map 1802

xxvii) **Confidence** – A measure of how certain the recorder is of the identification of the Historic Landscape Type

1. Certain
2. Probable
3. Possible
4. Unsure

xxviii) **Status** - This is only applicable to some polygons. It is used to indicate for example, in the case of quarries whether these are still: -

1. Active
2. Inactive.

xxix) **Now Common** – This is only applicable to some polygons and is used to indicate where there are common rights associated with the polygon in the present day

xxx) **Pre Common** - This is only applicable to some polygons and is used to indicate where there were common rights associated with the polygon previously



**Figure 17: Information recorded on the Current Historic Landscape Type for each polygon listed by column**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>REQUIRED</b>
xvii	BROAD_TYPE_NO	Numeric: Number for Broad Historic Landscape Type	Yes
xviii	BROAD_TYPE	Text: Name of Broad Historic Landscape Type	Yes
xix	MAJOR_CUR_TYPE_NO	Numeric: Number for Major Historic Landscape Type	Yes
xx	MAJOR_CUR_TYPE	Text: Name of Major Historic Landscape Type	Yes
xxi	SUBTYPE1_CUR_NO	Numeric: No. for Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type	
xxii	SUBTYPE1_CUR	Text: Name of Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type	
xxxiii	SUBTYPE2_CUR_NO	Numeric: No. for Subtype 2 Historic Landscape Type	
xxiv	SUBTYPE2_CUR	Text: Name of Subtype2 Historic Landscape Type	
xxv	PERIOD_CUR	Text: Period type dates to	
xxvi	SOURCE_CUR	Text: Source used to identify type	
xxvii	CONFID_CUR	Text: Confidence of identification	
xxviii	CUR_STATUS	Text: Identified as Disused where appropriate	
xxix	NOW_COMM	Text: Identified as Common Land where appropriate	
xxx	PRE_COMM	Text: Identified as Previous Common Land where appropriate	

#### **4.6.4 Stage Four: Allocating each polygon a Previous Historic Landscape Types**

The Historic Landscape Characterisation is also interested in recording evidence for previous land uses which remain as fragments in today's landscape.

If time depth can be identified the polygon can be assigned up to three Previous Historic Landscape Types. These use the same nested types as the Current Historic Landscape Type allocated to a polygon, see Figures 15 and 16 above.

The data added at this stage is listed below and is also outlined in Figure 18.

- xxxi) **Previous 1 Broad Historic Landscape Type Number**
- xxxii) **Previous 1 Historic Landscape Type Text**
- xxxiii) **Current Major Historic Landscape Type Number**

- xxxiv) **Current Major Historic Landscape Type Text**
- xxxv) **Current Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type Number**
- xxxvi) **Current Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type Text**
- xxxvii) **Current Subtype 2 Historic Landscape Type Number**
- xxxviii) **Current Subtype 2 Historic Landscape Type Text**
- xxxix) **Period** - The Period in which it is judged the Previous Historic Landscape Type originated as per xxv
- xl) **Source** – The main source used to identify and date the Previous Historic Landscape Type as per xxvi
- xli) **Confidence** – A measure of how certain the recorder is of the identification of the Previous Historic Landscape Type as per xxvii

**The process is then repeated for allocating Previous Historic Landscape Type 2 and Previous Historic Landscape 3 where appropriate.**

**Figure 18: Information recorded on Previous Historic Landscape Types for each polygon listed by column**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>REQUIRED</b>
xxxix	HIST1_BROAD_TYPE_NO	Numeric: Number for Broad Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_BROAD_TYPE	Text: Name of Broad Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_MAJOR_TYPE_NO	Numeric: Number for Major Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_MAJOR_TYPE	Text: Name of Major Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE1_NO	Numeric: No. for Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE1	Text: Name of Subtype 1 Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE2_NO	Numeric: No. for Subtype 2 Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE2_CUR	Text: Name of Broad Historic Landscape Type	
xxxix	HIST1_PERIOD	Text: Period Type dates to	
xl	HIST1_SOURCE	Text: Source used to identify Type	
xli	HIST1_CONFID	Text: Confidence of identification	
xlii - lii	Columns repeated for Previous Historic Type 2 where appropriate		
liii - lxiii	Columns repeated for Previous Historic Type 3 where appropriate		

#### 4.6.5 Stage Five: Completing the Mapping Process

As mentioned above, each of the stages was undertaken for approximately a 10 kilometre square area and then the process was repeated. The process continued until the whole of the AONB had been mapped. This took 9 months from April 2007 until December 2007. Approximately 9 square kilometres were mapped and recorded per day.

At the end of the process 4438 separate polygons had been created with a total area of 98474.64 hectares. The average size of a polygon was 42 hectares and 30% of the polygons were allocated at least one additional level of time depth.

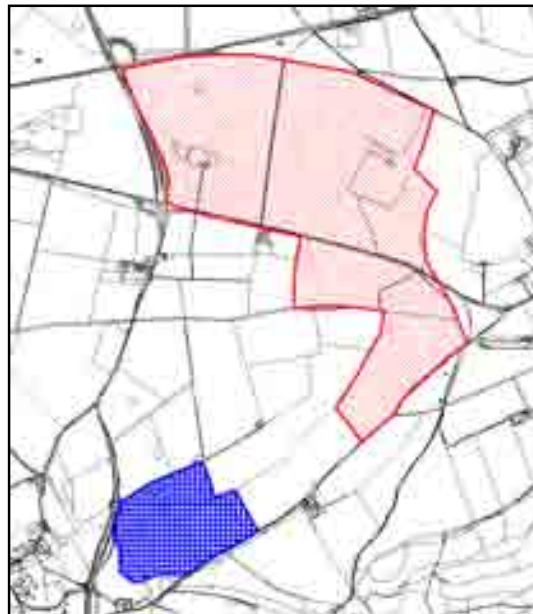
#### 4.7 EXAMPLE OF DATA CREATION

Now that the methodology has been outlined, this section gives an example of how the recording and subsequent interpretation of polygons works in practice. It shows an area of land to the west of Hindon, Wiltshire which was communally grazed until the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century (Red Polygon) and an area of Reorganised Fields which were previously 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Enclosures (Blue Polygon)

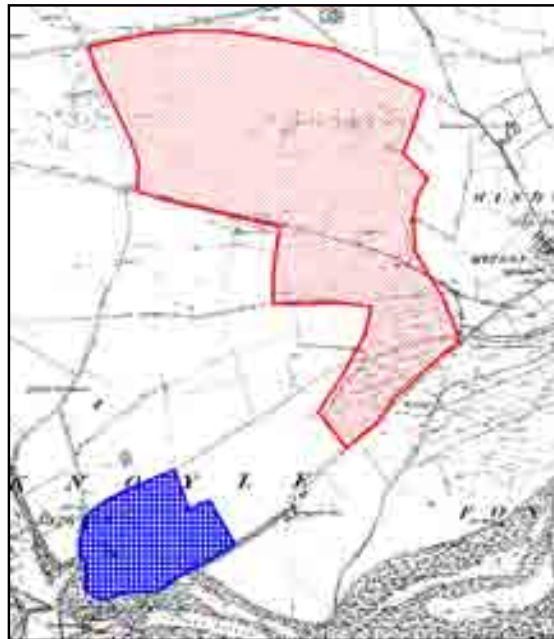
##### Stage One – Identification of Polygons

The individual land units are grouped into polygons which share BOTH a common morphology and shared land use history. Both polygons were identified and annotated on paper OS 1:25000 Explorer. The polygons were then digitised from MasterMap data.

Figure 19: Example polygons overlying Modern Ordnance Survey MasterMap 2006



**Figure 20: The polygons overlying the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1843-1893**



**Stage Two – Recording of Attributes**

Relevant Data is recorded for each polygon

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>RED POLYGON</b>	<b>BLUE POLYGON</b>
i	HLC_ID	42	46
ii	DIGITISER	EVR	EVR
iii	DIGIT_DATE	26/04/2007	26/04/2007
iv	AREA_IN_HEC	196	34
v	AREA_KM2	1.96	0.34
vi	PLACE_NAME	Downland	
vii	MORH_PATTERN_NO	Semi-Irregular	Regular
viii	MORPH_BOUNDARY_NO	Straight	Straight
ix	BOUNDARY_TYPE	Fence	Hedgerow
x	FIELD_NO	7	4
xi	FIELD_SIZE	28	8.5
xii	BOUNDARY_LOSS	0	0
xiii	BOUNDARY_GAIN	7	0
xiv	SEC_WATER		
xv	SEC_WOOD		
xvi	SEC_BUILD		

### Stage Three – Allocating each polygon a Current Historic Landscape Type

	NAME	RED POLYGON	BLUE POLYGON
xvii	BROAD_TYPE_NO	1	1
xviii	BROAD_TYPE	Enclosed Land	Enclosed Land
xix	MAJOR_CUR_TYPE_NO	1.3	1.3
xx	MAJOR_CUR_TYPE	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fields	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fields
xxi	SUBTYPE1_CUR_NO	1.3.2	1.3.2
xxii	SUBTYPE1_CUR	Modified Fields	Modified Fields
xxxiii	SUBTYPE2_CUR_NO	1.3.2.2	1.3.2.2
xxiv	SUBTYPE2_CUR	Reorganised Field	Reorganised Field
xxv	PERIOD_CUR	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> Century
xxvi	SOURCE_CUR	MasterMap & AP	MasterMap & AP
xxvii	CONFID_CUR	Certain	Certain
xxviii	CUR_STATUS		
xxix	NOW_COMM		
xxx	CUR_STATUS		

### Stage Four – Allocating each polygon Previous Historic Landscape Types where appropriate.

	NAME	RED POLYGON	BLUE POYGON
xxxix	HIST1_BROAD_TYPE_NO	1	1
xxxix	HIST1_BROAD_TYPE	Enclosed Land	Enclosed Land
xxxix	HIST1_MAJOR_TYPE_NO	1.3	1.1
xxxix	HIST1_MAJOR_TYPE	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fields	Pre 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Fields
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE1_NO	1.3.1	1.1.2
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE1	New Fields	Pre 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Regular Fields
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE2_NO	1.3.1.2	
xxxix	HIST1_SUBTYPE2_CUR	Large Fields	
xxxix	HIST1_PERIOD	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Post Medieval
xl	HIST1_SOURCE	Epoch 3 OS	Epoch 1 OS
xli	HIST1_CONFID	Certain	Probable
Xlii	HIST2_BROAD_TYPE_NO	2	
Xliii	HIST2_BROAD_TYPE	Open Land	
Xliv	HIST2_MAJOR_TYPE_NO	2.1	

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>RED POLYGON</b>	<b>BLUE POLYON</b>
Xlv	HIST2_MAJOR_TYPE	Downland & Unimproved Grassland	
Xlvi	HIST2_SUBTYPE1_NO		
Xlvii	HIST2_SUBTYPE1		
Xlviii	HIST2_SUBTYPE2_NO		
Xlix	HIST2_SUBTYPE2_CUR		
L	HIST2_PERIOD	Post Medieval	
Li	HIST2_SOURCE	Epoch 1 OS	
Lii	HIST2_CONFID	Certain	
Liii	HIST3_BROAD_TYPE_NO		
Liv	HIST3_BROAD_TYPE	Archaeology	
Lv	HIST3_MAJOR_TYPE_NO	12.3	
Lvi	HIST3_MAJOR_TYPE	Other Archaeological Earthworks	
Lvii	HIST3_SUBTYPE1_NO		
Lviii	HIST3_SUBTYPE1		
Lix	HIST3_SUBTYPE2_NO		
Lx	HIST3_SUBTYPE2_CUR		
Lxi	HIST3_PERIOD	Prehistoric	
Lxii	HIST3_SOURCE	Epoch 1 OS	
Lxiii	HIST3_CONFID	Certain	

## 4.8 References

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**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**SECTION 5:  
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTIONS**



## Table of Contents

<b>5.1 Summary.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>5.2 Historic Landscape Type Descriptions.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>5.3 Describing the Distributions of HLC Types.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>5.4 Describing the Morphology of Particular HLC Types.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>5.5 Reference Maps.....</b>	<b>66</b>

## 5.1 Summary

This section contains descriptions of each Historic Landscape Type identified in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

Each polygon/parcel of land in the dataset is allocated a Current Historic Landscape Type. This type represents the historic landscape character present in the modern day landscape.

Polygons/parcels of land which share the same Current Historic Landscape Type can be separated spatially but they share the same generic morphology and land use history.

Each Historic Landscape Type exists as a series of nested layers. This hierarchical structure consists of four levels: Broad Type, Major Type, Subtype 1 and Subtype 2.

If there is time depth present any polygon/parcel of land can be assigned up to three Previous Historic Landscape Types where evidence for previous land uses survive in the modern day landscape. These also exist as a series of nested layers.

For more detail see Section 4 Methodology

## 5.2 Historic Landscape Type Descriptions

For ease of reference the Historic Landscape Type Descriptions have been split into sections by Broad Type: -

- Type 1 Enclosed Land
- Type 2 Open Land
- Type 3 Woodland
- Type 4 Water
- Type 5 Settlement
- Type 6 Parkland and Designed
- Type 7 Recreation
- Type 8 Industry
- Type 9 Inland Communications
- Type 10 Military
- Type 11 Civic
- Type 12 Archaeology

Each section includes a general introduction to the Broad Type, and a organisational chart illustrating the hierarchy of Historic Landscape Types which are nested under each Broad Historic Landscape Type. A description of each Historic Landscape Type at each level starting with the highest (i.e. Broad Type) is then included.

Each Historic Landscape Type description at each level contains the following elements:

1. **Distribution Map** – showing the distribution of the type across the AONB
2. **Introduction** – short description of type, and short discussion of how source was identified

3. **Distribution** – text based description of the distribution of the type across the AONB (see section 5.3)
4. **Principal Historical Processes** – the key historic factors which have lead to the creation of the type
5. **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components** – the attributes and components with which this type is a associated
6. **Rarity** – a measure of how rare or common this type is both across the AONB and more locally (see section 5.3 for further discussion)
7. **Survival** – The main factors leading to the retention and/or loss of this type.
8. **Degree of Surviving Coherence of the Historic Landscape Components** – a description of how coherent the attributes which combine to make this type appear.
9. **Past Interaction with Other Types** – the other Historic Landscape Types with which this Type is commonly associated.
10. **Evidence for Time Depth** – a discussion of the Previous Historic Landscape Types allocated alongside this Type
11. **Contribution to Present Landscape Character** – the extent to which the Type makes a contribution to present landscape character both at a AONB wide and a local scale.
12. **Key Statistics.** These include: -
  - 12.1. **Total Area** – Year 2007 coverage in hectares; % of AONB covered
  - 12.2. **Number of Polygons** – number of GIS polygons/land parcels in hectares; % of total polygons
  - 12.3. **Average Polygon Size** – average size of GIS polygon/land parcels in hectares
  - 12.4. **Occurrence** – assessed relative to other Historic Landscape Types as a measure of how common place or rare the Type is across the AONB as a whole. See section 5.3 for further discussion.
  - 12.5. **Previous Coverage** - the total area in hectares in the AONB at the period in which this Historic Landscape Type is most prevalent in the dataset; % of the total AONB covered
  - 12.6. **Total Recorded Coverage** – the total area in hectares in the AONB that has been allocated this Historic Landscape Type at any identified point in time; % of the AONB covered
13. **Constituent Types** – the Major Type or Subtype 1 or Subtype 2 which make up this Type.
14. **Parent Type** – the Broad Type or Major Type or Subtype 1 to which this Type belongs
15. **Suggested Sources** – references both text and web based relevant to this Historic Landscape Type

### 5.3 Describing the Distributions of HLC Types

A key aspect of creating Historic Landscape Type descriptions is being able to describe the distributions of each Type in a consistent and comparable manner. This has been achieved by following four stages when describing the distribution of each type.

The distribution of particular types has been described in relation to key features in the AONB. These include the locations of the A Roads, rivers, ancient parishes, villages, market towns, and Landscape Character Types and Areas. The reference maps in section 5.5 are crucial if the Historic Landscape Type descriptions are to be followed.

#### STAGE ONE

The first stage is to calculate the statistical occurrence of each Historic Landscape Type across the AONB as a whole, relative to other types. The % of the total area of the AONB that the Historic Landscape Type covers is calculated and then the Type is allocated one of the following categories: -

<b>% of the AONB that the Historic Landscape Type Covers</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>
Less than 0.01 % of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Very Rare</b>
Greater than 0.01% to 0.1% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Rare</b>
Greater than 0.1% to 1% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Scarce</b>
Greater than 1% to 5% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Uncommon</b>
Greater than 5% to 10% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Occasional</b>
Greater than 10% to 20% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Frequent</b>
Greater than 20% to 30% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Common</b>
Greater than 40% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Abundant</b>

The occurrence type is then added to the Key Statistics section in the Historic Landscape Type descriptions (see section 5.2 above).

However a Historic Landscape Type could be common statistically, but restricted to a particular location, or alternatively scarce but spread over the entire AONB. There needs to a consistent way to describe the unique **spatial** distribution of each Type. Each distribution has been described, therefore, using the following additional stages.

#### STAGE TWO

Is the distribution: -

- 1) **Widespread**, and if so are there any voids in the distribution? Where are the voids located? Is the distribution patchy?
- 2) **Restricted** to specific areas or places? If so, where are these areas/places located?

Is the distribution of the Historic Landscape Type: -

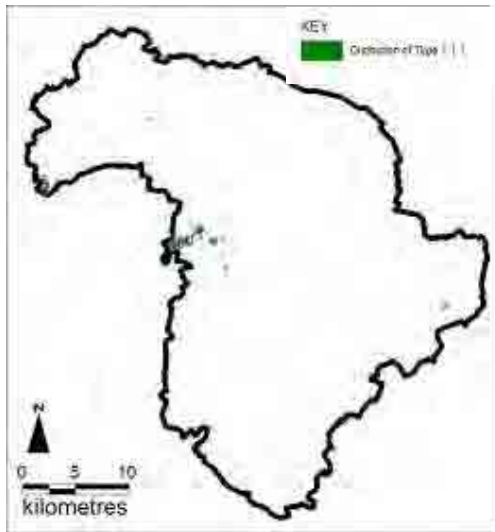
- 1) Found in **dense groupings or clusters**? If so, are the blocks linear? Are they interspersed with other types? Do they vary in size spatially?
- 2) Found in **dispersed groupings**? If so, do these vary in size spatially?

### STAGE THREE

Regarding the category of occurrence allocated to each type, are there particular localities which are different to the overall pattern? Are there areas in which the Historic Landscape Type is **locally common** or **locally scarce**? If so, where are these areas located?

These local patterns of occurrence will not be described with the same detail as seen in Stage One as this is a visual identification rather than a statistical calculation.

### EXAMPLE OF DESCRIBING HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE DISTRIBUTIONS



#### Map showing distribution of Type 1.1.1

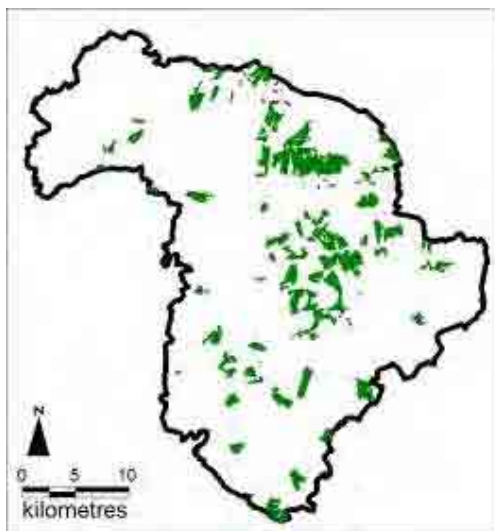
This type covers 433.16 hectares in the AONB or 0.44% of the total area.

Stage One: Occurrence is **rare**.

Stage Two: **Restricted distribution**, in area to the north of Shaftesbury and in the area around Selwood.

Stage Three: **Dense clusters**, in area to north of Shaftesbury the type is formed of nearly one complete block becoming more dispersed towards the eastern side.

Stage Four – **Locally common** in two locations.



#### Map showing distribution of type 1.2.1

This type covers 9602 hectares in the AONB or 9.75% of the Total Area.

Stage One: Occurrence is **Occasional**

Stage Two: **Widespread but patchy distribution** with **voids** in the western West Wiltshire Downs, the Greensand Hills and the western Vale of Wardour.

Stage Three: **Dense clusters** within the main areas of distribution, these are more interspersed with other types in the centre of the AONB.

Stage Four: **Locally rare** on the western side of the AONB. **Locally common** on the eastern side of the West Wiltshire Downs and on the sides of the Ebbel Valley.

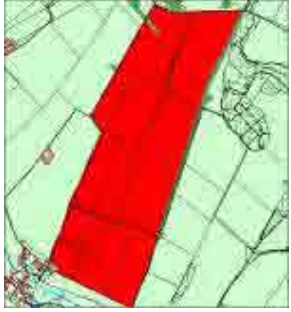



## 5.4 Describing the Morphology of Particular HLC Types

Historic Landscape Types which relate to Enclosed Land, Settlement and Boundary have elements of their morphology recorded (see Section 4 Methodology).

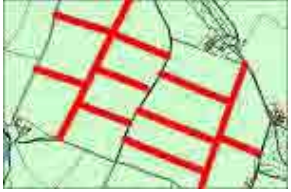



These are recorded for each polygon/land parcel but together are used to describe the generic morphology of each Historic Landscape Type.

### 5.4.1 Enclosed Land

**Stage One.** One of four generic **morphological patterns** is allocated to each parcel/polygon of fields. This describes the general character of each polygon as it is not possible to record the attributes of every single field in the time available.

Morphology of Fields	Description	Example
1. Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trapezoidal</li> <li>▪ Often two parallel sides</li> <li>▪ Grid like groups of fields</li> <li>▪ Fields share common axis</li> <li>▪ Often indicative of large scale planned groups of fields</li> </ul>	
2. Semi-Irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Often four sided</li> <li>▪ Share common alignment</li> <li>▪ Tend to be evenly sized</li> <li>▪ Skewed shapes</li> <li>▪ Not grid like</li> </ul>	
3. Irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irregular shapes</li> <li>▪ Can have more than four sides</li> <li>▪ No common layout</li> <li>▪ No common axis</li> </ul>	
4. Sinuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wavy fields</li> <li>▪ Long and thin</li> <li>▪ Share common axis</li> </ul>	

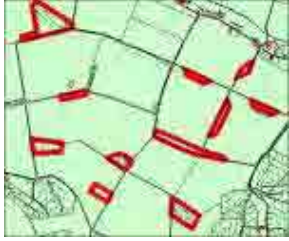

**Stage Two.** One of four generic **boundary morphologies** is allocated to each parcel/polygon of fields. This describes the overriding form of boundary present. Within a parcel of fields several different boundary morphologies may be present, but this records the dominant form. It is possible to have any combination of Field Morphology and Boundary Morphology. Certain combinations are more common, fields with a regular morphology, for example, are likely to be associated with straight field boundaries.

Field Boundary	Description	Example
1. Straight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ruler straight</li> <li>▪ Regular Corners</li> <li>▪ Often continue for several fields</li> </ul>	
2. Jointed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small straight lengths</li> <li>▪ Kinks or zigzags</li> <li>▪ Form Irregular corners</li> </ul>	
3. Curving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curving boundaries</li> <li>▪ Irregular corners</li> <li>▪ Often follow features such as streams, rivers and the edge of woodland</li> </ul>	
4. Wavy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wavy boundaries</li> <li>▪ Curves change directions at least twice</li> <li>▪ Tapering corners</li> </ul>	





### 5.4.2 Woodland





One of two generic morphological patterns is allocated to each polygon/parcel of woodland.

Woodland Morphology	Description	Example
1. Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular geometric shape</li> <li>▪ Often straight boundaries</li> <li>▪ Often indicative of planned woodland plots and plantations</li> </ul>	
2. Irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irregular often rounded shapes</li> <li>▪ Often indicative of semi-natural woodland</li> <li>▪ Often curving boundaries</li> </ul>	

### 5.4.3 Settlement

One of six generic morphological patterns is allocated to each polygon/parcel of settlement

Settlement Morphology	Description	Example
1. Nucleated Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agglomerated Settlement grouped around a single point, often a green, market place, church or manor house.</li> </ul>	
2. Nucleated Rows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linear Settlements arranged contiguously along a road.</li> <li>▪ The plots can be of regular width.</li> </ul>	

Settlement Morphology	Description	Example
3. Planned Nucleated Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agglomerated Settlements which have been planned as one block.</li> </ul>	
4. Interrupted Rows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dispersed Settlements intermittently found along a Routeway.</li> <li>▪ Settlement plots interspersed with fields.</li> </ul>	
5. Farm Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Groups of farms or farm buildings forming a subtle but discernable settlement pattern.</li> <li>▪ These can be regular spaced or clustered around a central point.</li> <li>▪ They can also be regularly sized, reflecting a consistent holding size.</li> </ul>	
6. Isolated Farmstead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farm situated away from other settlement.</li> </ul>	

## 5.5 Reference Maps

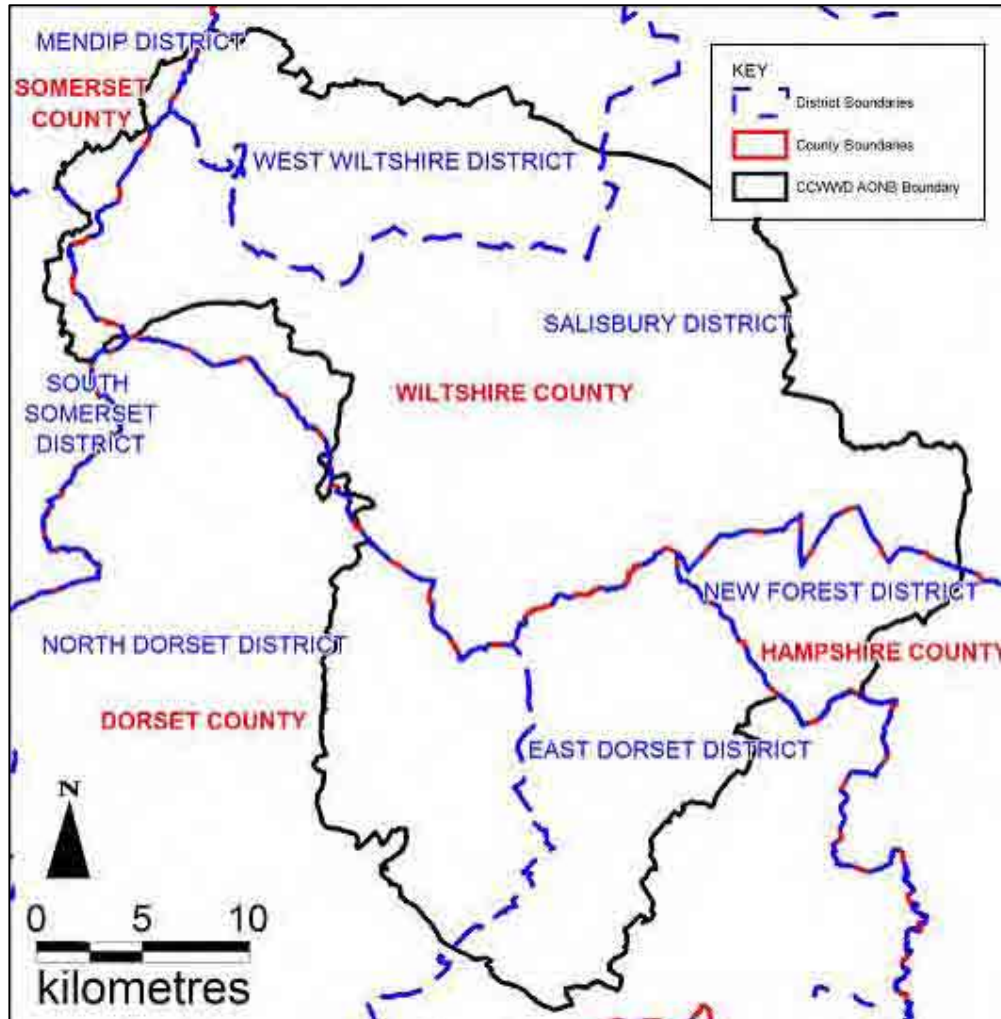
The following reference maps should be used to locate authorities, settlements, rivers, roads, parishes and landscape types and character areas mentioned in the Historic Landscape Type Descriptions.

- Map One**      **General Map showing Local Authority Boundaries**
- Map Two**      **Map showing location of market towns, roads and rivers**
- Map Three**      **Map showing ancient Parish Boundaries**
- Map Four**      **Main villages in the AONB**
- Map Five**      **Landscape Character Types and Character Areas in the AONB**

### **Map One: Local Authority Boundaries**

The AONB covers the administrative areas of eleven Local Authorities: four County Councils – Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset; and seven District Councils – Salisbury, West Wiltshire, East Dorset, North Dorset, New Forest, Mendip, and South Somerset.

**Figure 21: General Map showing Local Authority Boundaries**



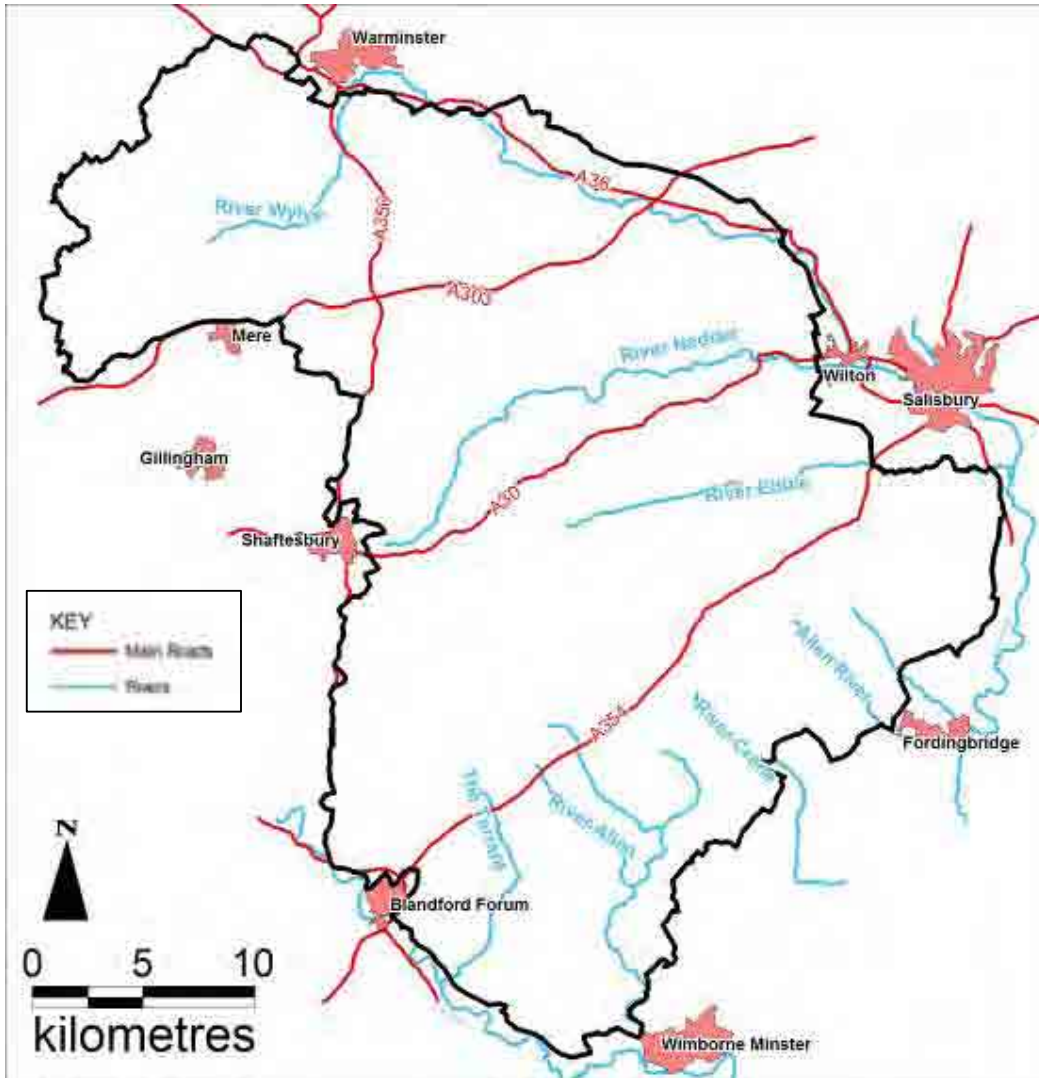
### **Map Two: Market Towns, Main Roads and Rivers**

The AONB is surrounded by country towns including Warminster, Mere, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Blandford Forum, Wimborne Minster, Fordingbridge and the City of Salisbury.

There are five main A Roads crossing the AONB – A350, A303, A36, A30 and the A354.

There are 7 chalk river valleys, the Wylde, Nadder and Ebbel flow from west to east, while the Tarrant, River Allen, Crane and Allen River flow from north to south

Figure 22: Map showing location of market towns, main roads and rivers

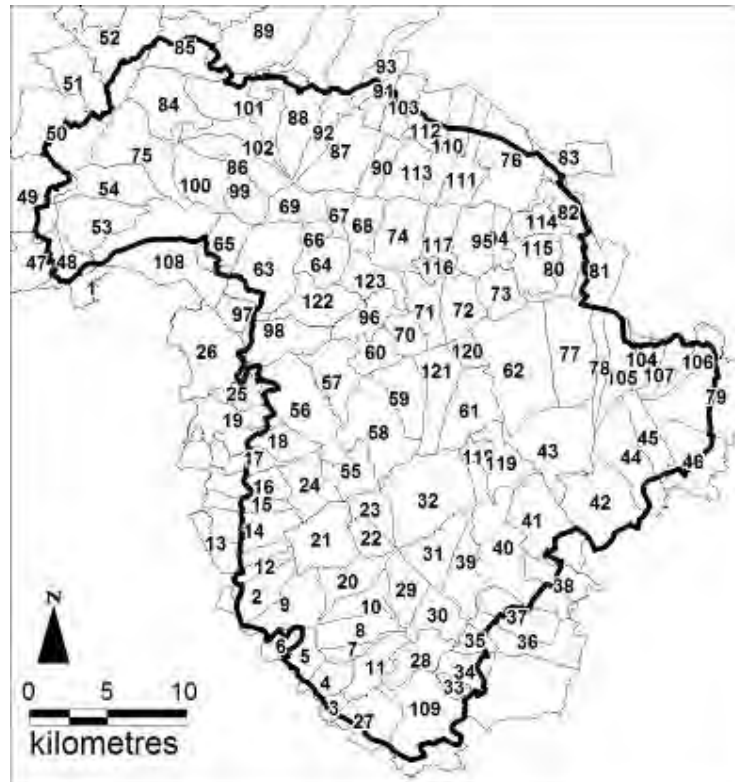


### Map Three: Ancient Parishes

In the modern day the AONB is comprised of 104 parishes. Map Three shows the historic boundaries of ancient parishes many of which were merged in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. An ancient parish can be defined as a village or group of villages or hamlets and the adjacent lands.

Civil Parishes were created with the election of parochial boards. They were founded anytime after the sixteenth century, but most commonly between 1845 and 1975. Many boundaries between civil and ecclesiastical parishes diverged after 1845. The Ancient Parish names and boundaries have been used in this discussion as they allow comparison with historic maps.

Figure 23: Map showing Ancient Parish Boundaries in the AONB



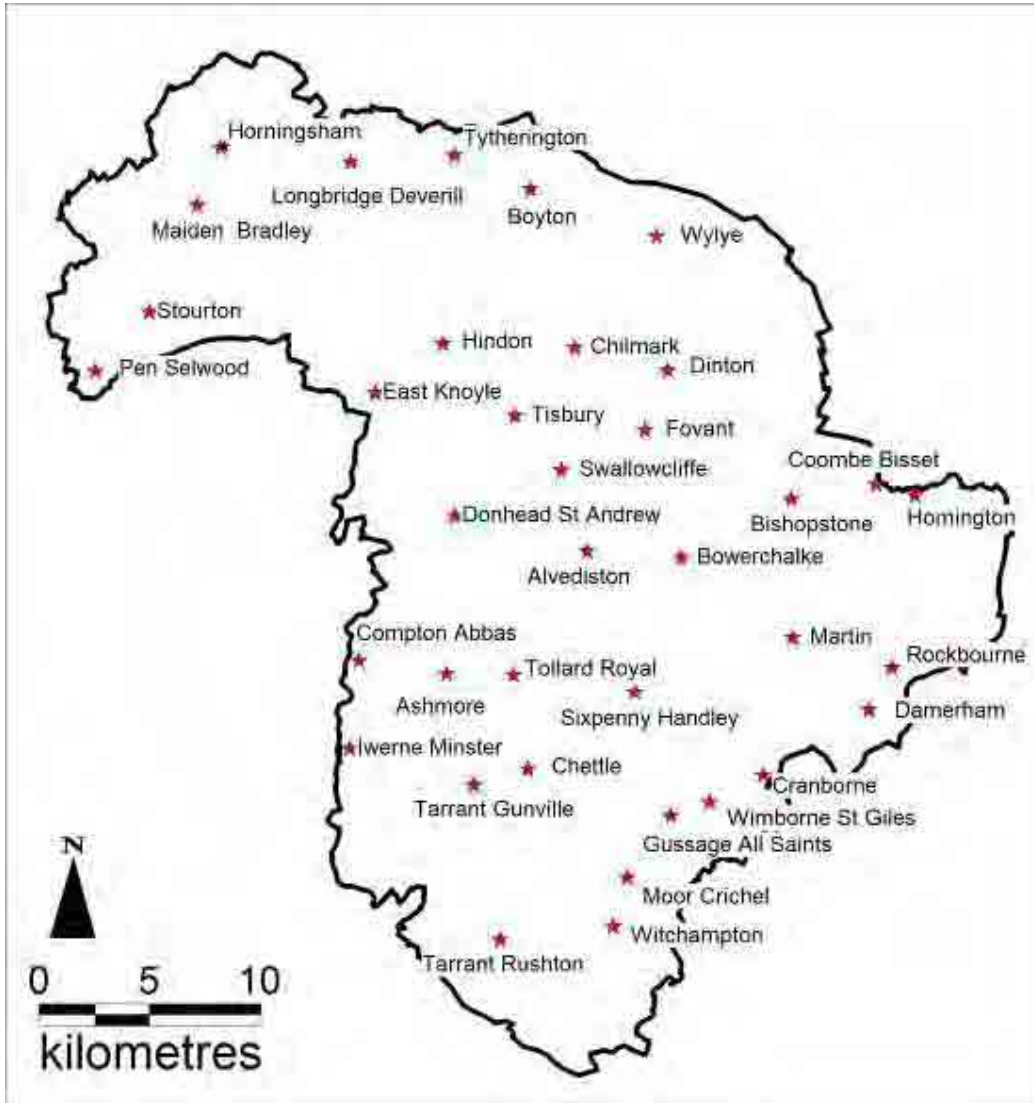
**KEY: Ancient Parishes in the AONB**

- |                        |                        |                                   |                           |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. BOURTON             | 31. GUSSAGE ST MICHAEL | 61. BOWER CHALKE                  | 92. HEYTESBURY            |
| 2. STOURPAINE          | 32. SIXPENNY HANDLEY   | 62. BROAD CHALKE                  | 93. KNOOK                 |
| 3. TARRANT CRAWFORD    | 33. HINTON PARVA       | 63. EAST KNOYLE                   | 94. BAVERSTOCK            |
| 4. TARRANT KEYNESTON   | 34. HINTON MARTELL     | 64. FONTHILL GIFFORD              | 95. DINTON                |
| 5. LANGTON LONG        | 35. CHALBURY           | 65. WEST KNOYLE                   | 96. WARDOUR               |
| 6. BLANDFORD           | 36. HORTON             | 66. HINDON                        | 97. SEDGEHILL             |
| 7. BLANDFORD FORUM     | 37. WOODLANDS          | 67. BERWICK ST LEONARD            | 98. SEMLEY                |
| 8. TARRANT RAWSTON     | 38. EDMONDSHAM         | 68. FONTHILL BISHOP               | 99. MONKTON DEVERILL      |
| 9. TARRANT MONKTON     | 39. GUSSAGE ALL SAINTS | 69. CHICKLADE                     | 100. KINGSTON DEVERILL    |
| 10. PIMPERNE           | 40. WIMBORNE ST GILES  | 70. SWALLOWCLIFFE                 | 101. LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL  |
| 11. TARRANT LAUNCESTON | 41. CRANBORNE          | 71. SUTTON MANDEVILLE             | 102. HILL DEVERILL        |
| 12. TARRANT RUSHTON    | 42. DAMERHAM           | 72. FOVANT                        | 103. CODFORD ST PETER     |
| 13. IWERNE STEPLETON   | 43. MARTIN             | 73. COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE          | 104. HOMINGTON            |
| 14. SHROTON            | 44. ROCKBOURNE         | 74. CHILMARK                      | 105. COOMBE BISSETT       |
| 15. IWERNE MINSTER     | 45. WHITSBURY          | 75. MAIDEN BRADLEY WITH YARNFIELD | 106. NUNTON AND BODENHAM  |
| 16. SUTTON WALDRON     | 46. BREAMORE           | 76. STEEPLE LANGFORD              | 107. ODSTOCK              |
| 17. FONTMELL MAGNA     | 47. CHARLTON MUSGROVE  | 77. BISHOPSTONE                   | 108. MERE                 |
| 18. COMPTON ABBAS      | 48. PEN SELWOOD        | 78. STRATFORD TONY                | 109. WIMBORNE MINSTER     |
| 19. MELBURY ABBAS      | 49. BREWHAM            | 79. DOWNTON                       | 110. FISHERTON DE LA MERE |
| 20. CANN               | 50. WITHAM FRIARY      | 80. BURCOMBE                      | 111. WYLYE                |
| 21. TARRANT HINTON     | 51. TRUDOXHILL         | 81. WILTON                        | 112. CODFORD ST MARY      |
| 22. TARRANT GUNVILLE   | 52. SELWOOD            | 82. GREAT WISHFORD                | 113. STOCKTON             |
| 23. CHETTLE            | 53. STOURTON           | 83. STAPLEFORD                    | 114. GROVELY WOOD         |
| 24. FARNHAM            | 54. KILMINGTON         | 84. HORNINGSHAM                   | 115. BARFORD ST MARTIN    |
| 25. ASHMORE            | 55. TOLLARD ROYAL      | 85. CORSLEY                       | 116. TEFFONT EVIAS        |
| 26. SHAFTESBURY        | 56. DONHEAD ST MARY    | 86. BRIXTON DEVERILL              | 117. TEFFONT MAGNA        |
| 27. MOTCOMBE           | 57. DONHEAD ST ANDREW  | 87. BOYTON                        | 118. WEST WOODYATES       |
| 28. SHAPWICK           | 58. BERWICK ST JOHN    | 88. SUTTON VENY                   | 119. PENTRIDGE            |
| 29. WITCHAMPTON        | 59. ALVEDISTON         | 89. WARMINSTER                    | 120. FIFIELD BAVANT       |
| 30. MOOR CRICHEL       | 60. ANSTY              | 90. SHERRINGTON                   | 121. EBBESBOURNE WAKE     |
|                        |                        | 91. UPTON LOVELL                  | 122. WEST TISBURY         |
|                        |                        |                                   | 123. EAST TISBURY         |

#### **Map Four: Main Villages**

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is a deeply rural area with scattered villages. There are no large settlements in the AONB. The map above shows the main settlements in the AONB.

**Figure 24: Main Villages in the AONB**



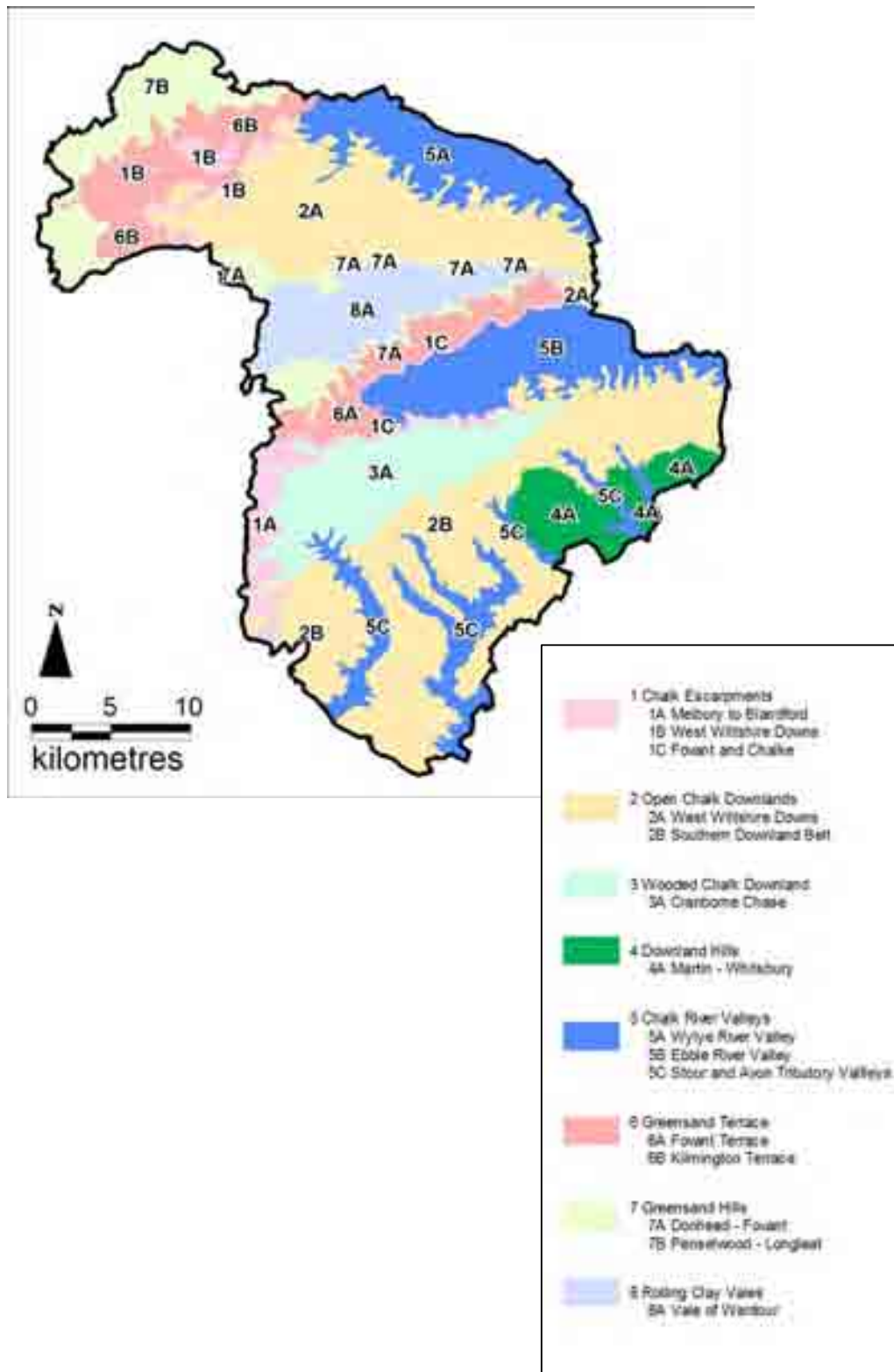
#### **Map 5: Integrated Landscape Character Assessment**

An integrated Landscape Character Assessment of the AONB was completed in 2003. This drew together all the features and attributes that contribute to the distinctive and outstanding character of the AONB.

The AONB is characterised by eight different and distinct landscape types shown in the map above. These have been subdivided into 15 Landscape Character Areas that are smaller discrete areas with a distinct and recognisable local identity.

Full details of the Landscape Character Assessment can be found on the AONB website at [www.cwwdaonb.org.uk/landscape/lca.asp](http://www.cwwdaonb.org.uk/landscape/lca.asp)

**Figure 25: Landscape Character Types and Character Areas in the AONB**







Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:  
TYPE 1 ENCLOSED LAND**



## CONTENTS

<b>Enclosed Land in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	75
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	76
<b>Type 1 Enclosed Land</b> .....	77
Type 1.1 Pre 1800 Fields.....	80
Type 1.1.1 Pre 1800 Irregular Curving Fields.....	83
Type 1.1.2 Pre 1800 Regular Fields.....	86
Type 1.1.3 Pre 1800 Sinuous Fields.....	90
Type 1.1.4 Pre 1800 Semi-Irregular Fields.....	93
Type 1.1.5 Strip Fields (Previous type only).....	96
Type 1.1.6 Assarts.....	99
<b>Type 1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Fields</b> .....	102
Type 1.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure.....	106
Type 1.2.2 Planned Enclosure.....	111
Type 1.2.3 Large Scale Enclosure of Downland.....	115
Type 1.2.4 Downland Improvement (Previous type only).....	118
Type 1.2.5 Replanned Fields.....	121
<b>Type 1.3 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields</b> .....	124
Type 1.3.1 New Fields.....	127
Type 1.3.1.1 Medium New Fields.....	130
Type 1.3.1.2 Large Fields.....	133
Type 1.3.1.3 Semi-enclosed Escarpments.....	136
Type 1.3.1.4 Cleared Fields.....	139
Type 1.3.2 Modified Fields.....	142
Type 1.3.2.1 Paddocks.....	145
Type 1.3.2.2 Reorganised Fields.....	148
Type 1.3.3 Enlarged Fields.....	151
<b>Type 1.4 Other Fields</b> .....	154
Type 1.4.1 Enclosed Meadows.....	157
Type 1.4.2 Water Meadows.....	160
Type 1.4.3 Allotments.....	163
Type 1.4.4 Orchard.....	166

## Enclosed Land in the AONB: An Introduction

*“But 'tis more remarkable still; how a great part of these downs comes by a new method of husbandry, to be not only made arable, which they never were in former days, but to bear excellent wheat, and great crops too, tho' otherwise poor barren land, and never known to our ancestors to be capable of any such thing; nay, they would perhaps have laugh'd at any one that would have gone about to plough up the wild downs and hills, where the sheep were wont to go: But experience has made the present age wiser, and more skilful in husbandry; for by only folding the sheep upon the plow'd lands, those lands, which otherwise are barren, and where the plow goes within three or four inches of the solid rock of chalk, are made fruitful, and bear very good wheat, as well as rye and barley”*

(From Defoe. (1725) A tour thro' the whole island of Great Britain, divided into circuits or journies. G Strahan: London

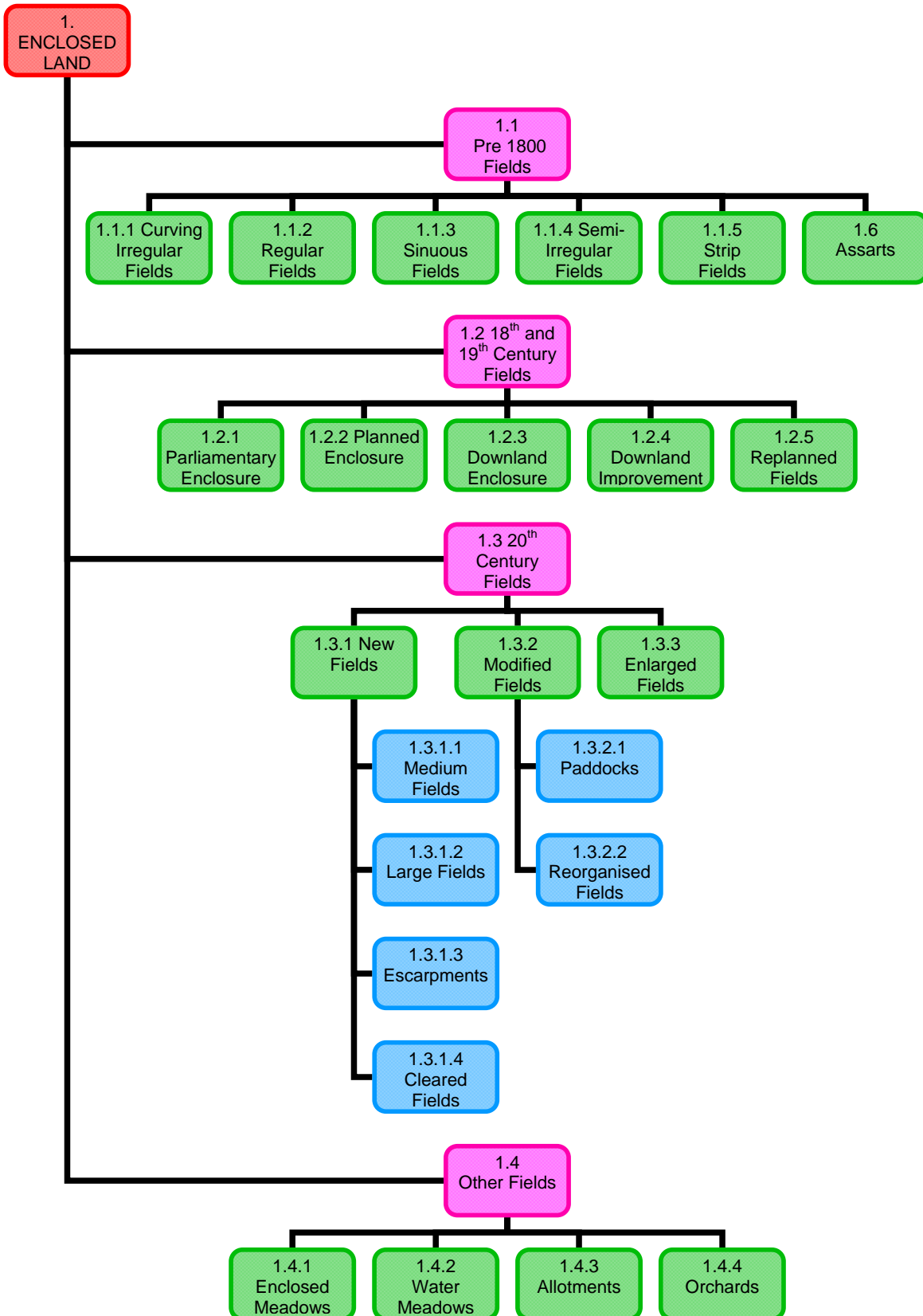
When at the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Defoe surveyed the downs around Salisbury he was amazed at the new fields that were being created, and the new technological expertise that made this possible. Defoe was witnessing the acceleration of a process that would transform the landscape that is now the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.



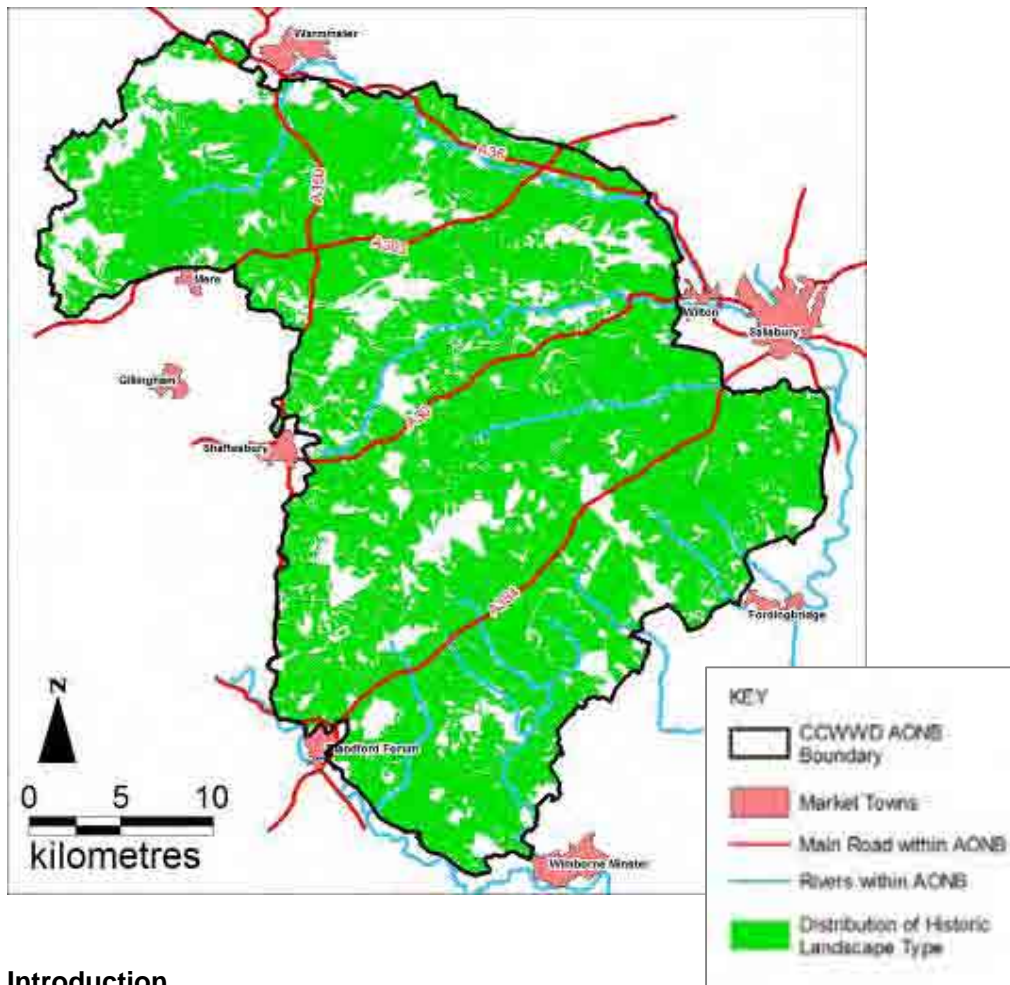
The process of the creation of the modern fieldscapes in the AONB has its origins with the medieval open strip fields, some of which remain fossilised in the landscape today, through the creation of enclosed piecemeal irregular fields. At the same time new irregular piecemeal fields were created from open land and the assarting of ancient forest became increasingly common.

The first formally arranged and larger scale attempts at enclosure occurred from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards and became politically formalised with the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century period the enclosure process accelerated with the creation of large prairie fields and the reorganisation of existing field systems. These processes all combine to create the fieldscapes with which we are so familiar today, and the evidence for all these processes is still written in the landscape.

Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## Type 1 Enclosed Land



### Introduction

Enclosed Land primarily consisting of fields in the AONB.

### Distribution

Enclosed Land is widely distributed across the AONB. There are notable voids in its distributions, especially where large blocks of woodland occur on the Wooded Chalk Downland of Cranborne Chase, through the Vale of Wardour, the West Wiltshire Downs and the Penselwood-Longleat greensand hills. In addition the distribution of Enclosed Land is broken by the surviving open land on Martin Down in Hampshire.

### Principal Historical Processes

The history of the enclosed land, which still exists in the modern day landscape, dates back to the medieval period and the remnants of fossilised open strip fields. The process of enclosure started in the early post medieval period and accelerated markedly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the parliamentary enclosure movement. The 20<sup>th</sup> century led to marked changes in field form and morphology. 40% of the fields present in the AONB have 20<sup>th</sup> century characteristics.

## Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components

Fields with a range of morphologies and sizes. Their boundaries tend to be hedged and fenced, and they exist over the whole range of morphologies present in the AONB.



© Countryside Agency Photo: Nick Smith 02-4841

## Rarity

Fields are abundant in the AONB and form the most dominant land use present.

## Survival

Over the last 100 years approximately 2,500 field boundaries have been gained in the AONB as opposed to the 800 which have been lost. The trend, therefore, is towards the increasing subdivision of existing fields and the creation of new smaller fields.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

A field is recognisable to all, however, the nuances in their individual morphologies and history is less easily accessible.

## Past interaction with other types

Fields are linked with the settlements and farms which they surround.

## Evidence for time-depth

Over half of all fields preserve traces of previous land uses. The majority of these traces provide evidence for previous episodes of enclosure and also traces of the open land from which the majority of the fields were created.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

The rural nature of the AONB means that enclosed land has a dominant impact on landscape character.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	78,082 hectares, 79.2% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2,343 polygons, 52% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 33.3 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Abundant

Previous Coverage: 78082 hectares, 79% of AONB was Enclosed Land at the point when this type was at its most prevalent

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 78874 hectares, 80% of the AONB

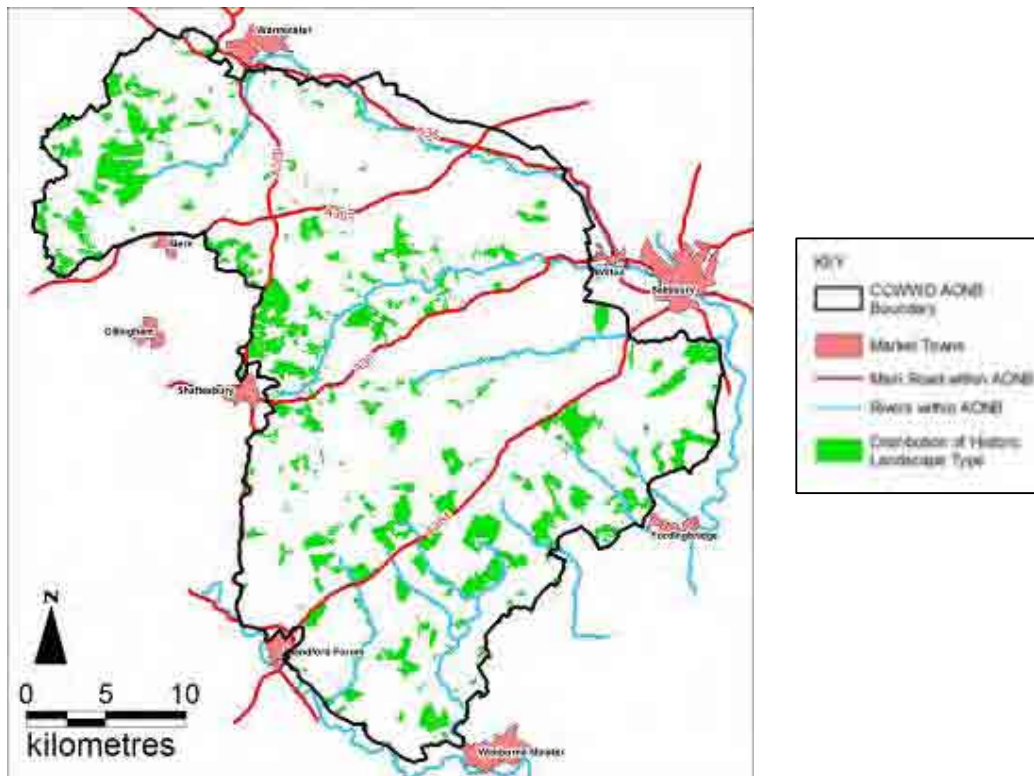
**Constituent Types**

- [1.1 Pre 1800 Fields](#)
- [1.2 18th and 19th Century Fields](#)
- [1.3 20th Century Fields](#)
- [1.4 Other Fields](#)

**Parent Type**

None

## Type 1.1 Pre 1800 Fields



### Introduction

Fields and anciently enclosed land in the AONB that dates to before 1800 AD. These are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey and identified through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey maps. In the present day they account for 11,716 hectares or 11.9% of the AONB. They demonstrate a range of different morphologies being regular, sinuous, semi-irregular and irregular. One example, medieval strip fields, exists only as a previous type.

### Distribution

This type has a wide spread distribution with notable concentrations along the greensand terraces and hills between Mere and Warminster, in the Vale of Wardour and to the south of the A354. They are largely absent from the Ebble and Wylde Valleys and the West Wiltshire Downs. They tend to be found in dense groupings consisting of large blocks. The blocks of field are smaller towards the eastern side of the Vale of Wardour and across the wooded chalk downland of Cranborne Chase.

### Principal Historical Processes

The earliest traces of pre 1800 fields exist only as a fossilised type. These traces have probably been created through the fossilisation of medieval open strip fields which would have originally been characterised by features such as ridge and furrow, headlands, and furlongs. These open fields then appear to be enclosed through a piecemeal process of enclosure to form pre 1800 fields. Many of the examples in the southern half of the AONB, especially around Martin, recorded as pre 1800 regular



fields may be examples of the same process. Similarly, the sinuous fields that tend to occur on the sloping sides of valleys may be created by the enclosure of formerly open medieval strips, thus explaining the slight curve in some of their boundaries.

Earlier traces of enclosure has also been documented in two discrete concentrations of small curving irregular fields, found just to the south of Penselwood and in the parish of Semley in the western half of the Vale of Wardour. They are associated with thick hedges with mature trees, small areas of woodland between the fields and ancient and semi-natural woodland, which suggests that these fields may have originated as ancient assarts of medieval or post medieval date. Further research may indicate that they are of even greater antiquity.

Many of the other regular, semi-irregular and irregular fields recorded as pre 1800 fields may have been created through informal or formal agreement. This occurred prior to the formalised Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The exact mechanisms through which this enclosure occurred will not be known without more detailed archaeological and documentary research.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Small fields with a range of morphologies (shape, boundary, form etc.) but which tend to be associated with thick wooded hedgerows. The curving regular fields have a limited distribution occurring primarily in the Vale of Wardour, while other field morphologies, such as semi-irregular fields, are much more widely distributed



across the AONB. These fields tend to be associated with areas of ancient woodland, settlement, and old trackways. The mature hedgerows are likely to be of ecological significance.

### **Rarity**

Pre 1800 fields occur frequently in the AONB, though they are locally scarce across the West Wiltshire Downs and Ebble Valley. It is comprised of approximately 3,000 individual fields.

### **Survival**

Since the 1880s over 200 field boundaries have been lost from this type, while over 150 have added within field patterns of this type, showing that the historical cohesion of this type is slowly being eroded and distorted. In addition, over 3,000 hectares of pre 1800 fields have become a previous type fossilised or overlain by others in the landscape since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This suggests that this type is fairly fragile.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is easily recognisable in the landscape to an expert. It is currently a fairly coherent and ancient type in the landscape associated with other ancient elements.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types including ancient woodland, common land, open unimproved grass and ancient settlement. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

## Evidence for time-depth

A very small proportion of these fields preserve landscape-scale traces of previous land uses, demonstrating not only the antiquity of these fields but the radical departure in land use terms that they represent. This evidence for time depth consists of enclosed land types where the pre 1800 fields appear to have undergone an evolution in morphology, for example, from open strip fields to regular enclosed fields. Further research is required to establish the extent to which there are buried or earthwork remains of prehistoric fields beneath this medieval derived type.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB, and demonstrates the antiquity of the AONB in general.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	12,560 hectares, 12.8% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 581 polygons, 13.9% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 21.69 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Frequent.
Previous Coverage:	16,975 hectares, 17.2% of AONB was Pre 1800 fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 17,987 hectares, 18.3% of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

[1.1.1 Pre 1800 Curving Irregular Fields](#)

[1.1.2 Pre 1800 Regular Fields](#)

[1.1.3 Pre 1800 Sinuous Fields](#)

[1.1.4 Pre 1800 Semi-Irregular Fields](#)

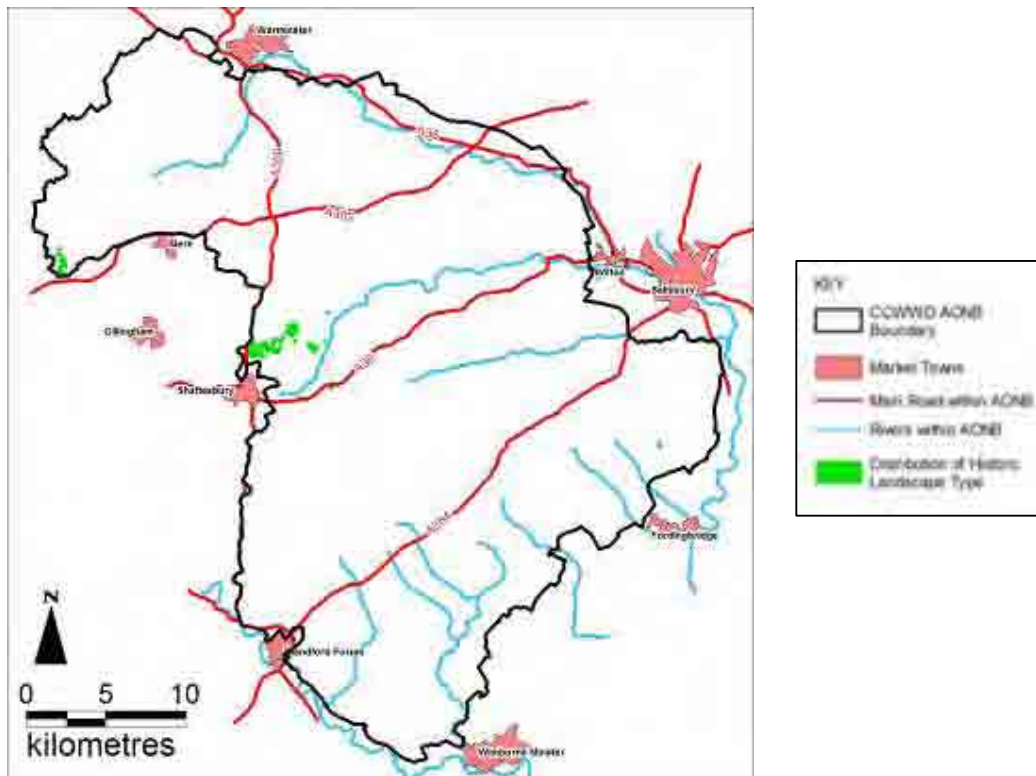
[1.1.5 Strip Fields \(Previous type only\)](#)

[1.1.6 Assarts](#)

## Parent Type

[1. Enclosed Land](#)

## Type 1.1.1 Pre 1800 Irregular Curving Fields



### Introduction

Small irregular fields with curving boundaries which date to before 1800 AD. They are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey, and on the 1820s Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps. The areas in which they are found are identified as enclosed on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> Century County Map.

### Distribution

They have a very restricted distribution occurring just to the south of Penselwood and in the parish of Semley in the western half of the Vale of Wardour. The spread of the fields is in dense groupings. They are confined to the greensands in the east of the Penselwood distribution and the Kimmeridge clay in the Vale of Wardour. They all occur at an elevation between 120-160m. Despite these similarities the two distributions are geographically discrete.

### Principal Historical Processes

These fields are earlier in date than 1800 as they appear on the 1820's surveyor's maps and the area is indicated as being enclosed on the earliest county maps. They are associated with extremely thick wooded hedges, and have small areas of old woodland between the fields which suggests that these fields may have originated as ancient assarts, that is fields taken in from woodland, probably from the late medieval period onwards if other southern English patterns are a guide. In this AONB this form

of fields appears to be a localised phenomenon and contrasts greatly with the more ubiquitous semi-irregular pre 1800 fields which occur to the north of the Semley distribution. The topography where the curving fields occur is more steep and undulating. The occurrence of the fields to the south of Penselwood seems to suggest that the assarting there is from ancient forest. If so, this might suggest that in the area between Motcombe and Semley there may also have once been a belt of ancient woodland, which was subject to gradual assarting. Both of these distributions occur on ancient borderlands and so may have been considered marginal land in which colonising clearance of woodland was more easily tolerated, or even encouraged, by lords.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type consists of very small size fields with rounded irregular shapes and curving boundaries, that are all mature woodland hedgerows and are associated with small copses and areas of ancient woodland that are bounded both to the south and north by ancient common land. The SMR data for the area indicated a concentration of undated enclosures, ancient farmhouses and buildings and ancient trackways.



### **Rarity**

This type is scarce in the AONB; it is comprised of approximately 150 fields; however the type is locally common around Semley and to the south of Penselwood.

### **Survival**

The coherency of this type could be easily eroded because it is so few in number and there has been a trend towards boundary loss over the last 100 years.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape, but due to the nature of the terrain and the tree cover on the higher ground is often hidden from view.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types including ancient woodland, rough common land to the south, and open unimproved grass common land. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Only two of the polygons are associated with previous historic landscape types. One of these is ancient woodland, and the other is an Iron Age Hillfort which has affected the morphology of the later field. It is likely that there are other prehistoric and earlier medieval features surviving either buried or as earthworks within this type.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has a considerable influence on the landscape character in the two areas in which it occurs. It, therefore, has important local significance.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	433 hectares, 0.44% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 24 polygons, 0.5% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 18 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	433 hectares, 0.4% of AONB was Pre 1800 irregular curving fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 666.9 hectares, 0.6% of the AONB

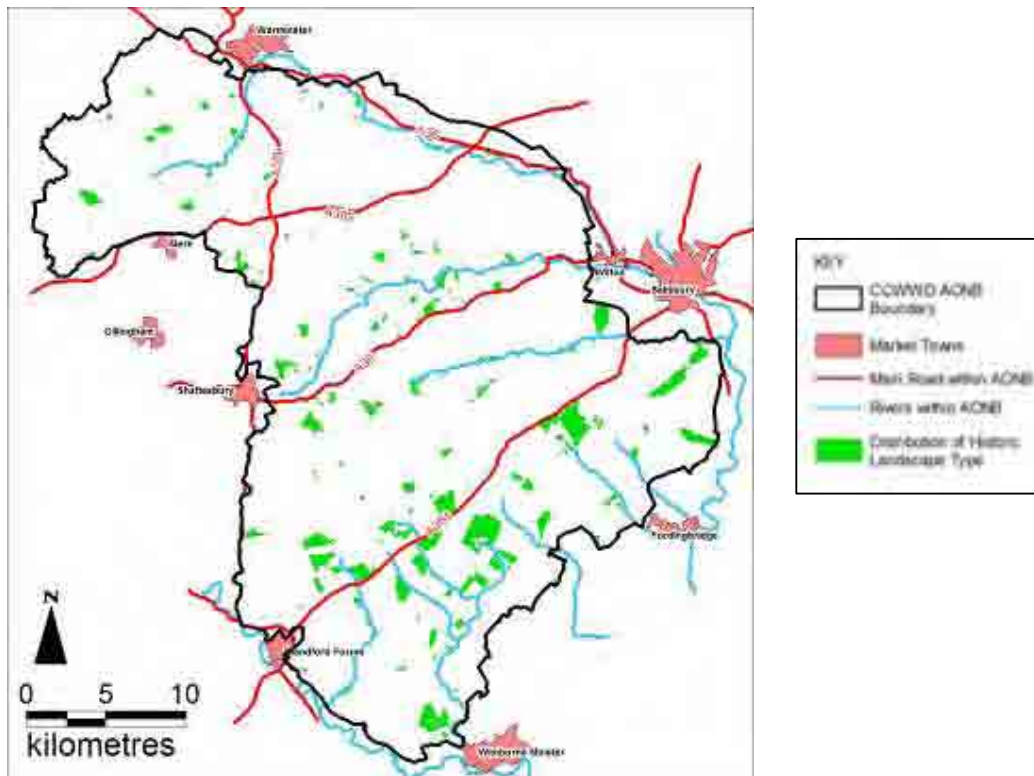
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[1.1 Pre 1800 Fields](#)

## Type 1.1.2 Pre 1800 Regular Fields



### Introduction

Small regular fields that date to before 1800 documented both on the modern day Ordnance Survey, historic Ordnance Survey maps and 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps.

### Distribution

These fields are widespread throughout the AONB but there are voids on the West Wiltshire Downs, the Wylve Valley and the greensand hills in the far west of the AONB. They occur more frequently in the southern half of the AONB and appear as denser groupings. In the north of the AONB they occur as smaller clusters. They show no particular distribution with regards to geology or topography.

### Principal Historical Processes

These fields date to before 1800 as they appear on the 1820's surveyor's maps and the area is indicated as being enclosed on the earliest county maps. They could have been created via a range of different historical processes, and further research is needed.

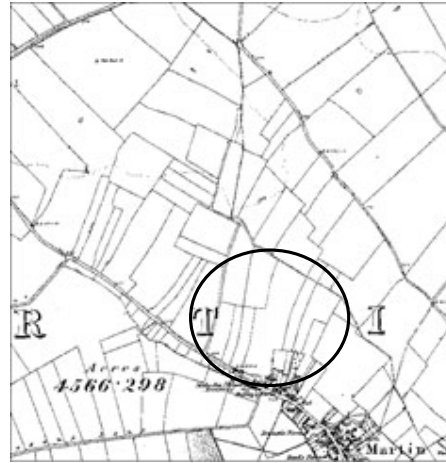
As a starting point, many of the examples in the southern half of the AONB, especially around Martin, may be examples where medieval open fields in the form of strips have been grouped together and enclosed following agreement between respective holders of land to produce elongated fields, whose slightly curving edges preserved parts of the outlines of medieval strip fields, a phenomenon that has been

recorded in many parts of Britain, including at Middleton Carr in Yorkshire (Muir 2000: 209)

An example of this can be seen in the maps below.



Area around Martin Today



Area around Martin in the 1880s

The left hand map shows the regular fields that survive in today's landscape which have a slight curve to some of their boundaries, marked by the arrow, while the map to the right shows how these strips were elements of a much more extensive pattern of strips in the 1880's.

Many of the other regular fields recorded may have been created through process of informal or formal agreement that happened before the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century parliamentary enclosure. The mechanisms through which this enclosure occurred will not be known without more research; the enclosure of open fields for Tudor sheep pastures, for example, is not easily recognisable without documentary support.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type consists of small sized fields with regular or semi-irregular boundaries. They can occur in blocks as rectangular strips or as square enclosures. They often have mature wooded hedgerows. In the northern half of the AONB they tend to be smaller and clustered around villages, while in the south they are larger and tend to be more strip-like in form.



## **Rarity**

This type is uncommon in the AONB; and is comprised of approximately 1,060 fields, of which 40% have been subject to boundary alteration and loss since 1880. The historic significance of this type can not be determined without further work, but it may be that some of the fields are of considerable antiquity.

## **Survival**

This is potentially a very fragile type. There are nearly 6,000 hectares of land with some trace of the key components that define this type, of which, only 4,458 hectares are sufficiently intact to be identified as this type. The rest of the evidence for this type only survives as traces in later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century fields. This means that over 1,500 hectares has been eroded since the 1800's, mostly in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century with the amalgamation and reorganisation of fields (see types 1.3.2, and 1.3.3). This suggests that this type could be subject to further erosion in the future.

## **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type could be easily confused with fields which are 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century in date especially those that are more regular in form. However, this type occurs in medium sized blocks, especially in the southern half of the AONB, so their coherence could be recognised in the landscape, if not necessarily their age.

## **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with previous landscape types, including strip fields and is associated especially in the northern half of the AONB with other pre 1800 types including the pattern of pre 1800 settlement.

## **Evidence for time-depth**

Only a small percentage of this type has evidence of previous historic landscape types. This is due to the antiquity of this type. These previous types include open downland and unimproved grassland and possible medieval strip fields, as discussed above.

## **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type contributes to the sense of antiquity of the current day landscape character immensely, representing the fossilisation of medieval strips and the very early enclosure of land in the post medieval period. The detail of this can only be fully understood through further study.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	4,459 hectares, 4.53% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 225 polygons, 5.1% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 19.82 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.



Previous Coverage: 5,942 hectares, 6.03% of AONB was Pre 1800 Regular Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 5,900 hectares, 6% of the AONB

### **Constituent Types**

None

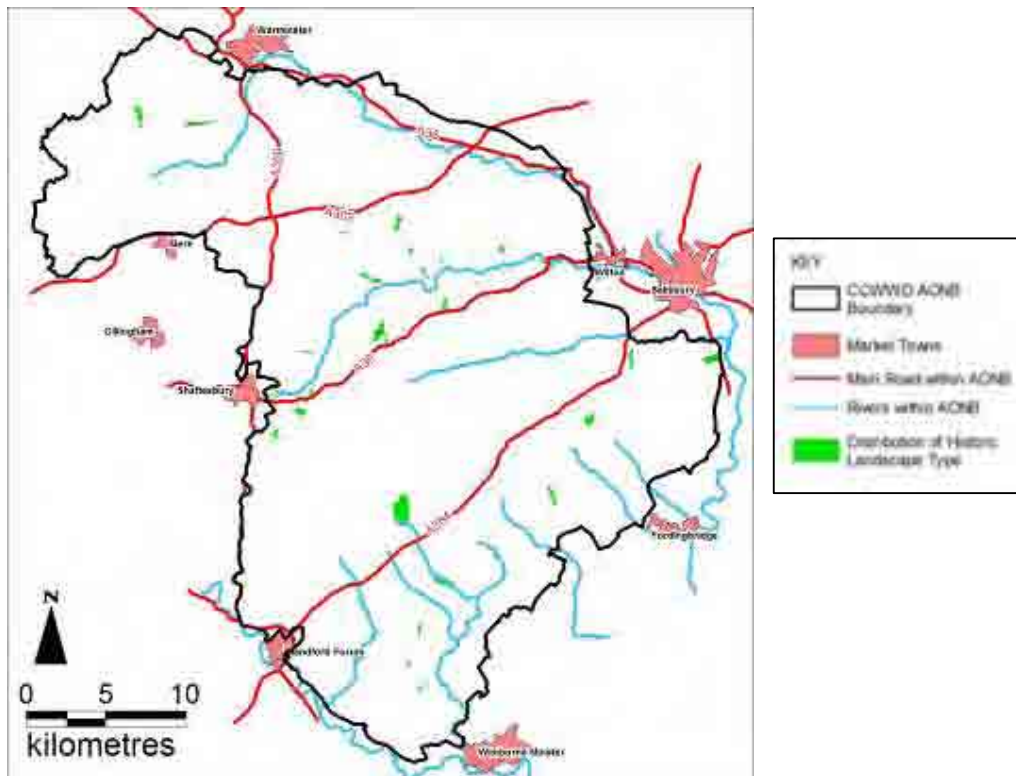
### **Parent Type**

[1.1 Pre 1800 Fields](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

Muir, R. (2000) The NEW Reading the Landscape. University of Exeter Press: Exeter.

### Type 1.1.3 Pre 1800 Sinuous Fields



#### Introduction

Small sinuous fields often with curving S-shaped boundaries, that date to before 1800 AD. These fields have been documented both on the modern day Ordnance Survey, historic Ordnance Survey maps and 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps.

#### Distribution

These fields have a restricted distribution in the AONB. There is a concentration on the far edges of the Nadder Valley, and a block at the head of the Allen River. They are often found on steeper slopes on valley sides and tend to follow the curve of the topography. They show no particular distribution with regards to geology. In the southern half of the AONB they tend to be found in denser groupings, while they occur in more dispersed groupings through the Nadder Valley.

#### Principal Historical Processes

These fields date to before 1800 AD as they appear on the 1820's surveyor's maps and the area is indicated as being enclosed on the earliest county maps. The historical processes which created fields with this morphology needs further research. Some of them may be created by the enclosure of formerly open medieval strips thus explaining the slight curve in some of their boundaries, which may be the result of the 'aratra' curve created as plough-teams of oxen began to make their turn at the end of medieval strips. Some of the curving boundaries may also be a response to the contours of the topography on which these fields are found. Further

research may reveal that the field boundaries may be associated with relic lynchet, which is a terraced field usually found on hillsides.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type consists of small fields which are sinuous and irregular in shape and tend to occur in thin blocks. They are often associated with hedgerows and tend towards greater regularity in size and shape towards the east of the AONB.



### **Rarity**

This type is scarce in the AONB and is comprised of only 210 fields. These, however, are very intact and have undergone little boundary loss or gain since the 1880's.

### **Survival**

This is potentially a very fragile type, at least 100 hectares of this type has been lost since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their marginal position, often on valley sides, means that they have largely escaped the reorganisation and amalgamation of fields that occurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, their sinuous nature means that the removal of just one boundary could have a catastrophic effect on the cohesion of this type.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The flowing nature of these fields and their position on small valley sides means that they are distinctive and easily recognisable in the landscape.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other historic landscape types, especially enclosed meadows.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of the examples of this type contains evidence of previous land use, indicating the possible antiquity of this type, i.e. at least medieval in origin, with some perhaps having prehistoric elements.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has the potential to contribute to current day landscape character, representing the possible fossilisation of medieval strips and the very early enclosure of land. The historical meaning of this contribution can only be fully understood through further study.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	750 hectares, 0.76% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 47 polygons, 1.06% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 15.97 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	898 hectares, 0.91% of AONB was Pre 1800 Sinuous Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 910.73 hectares, 0.92% of the AONB.

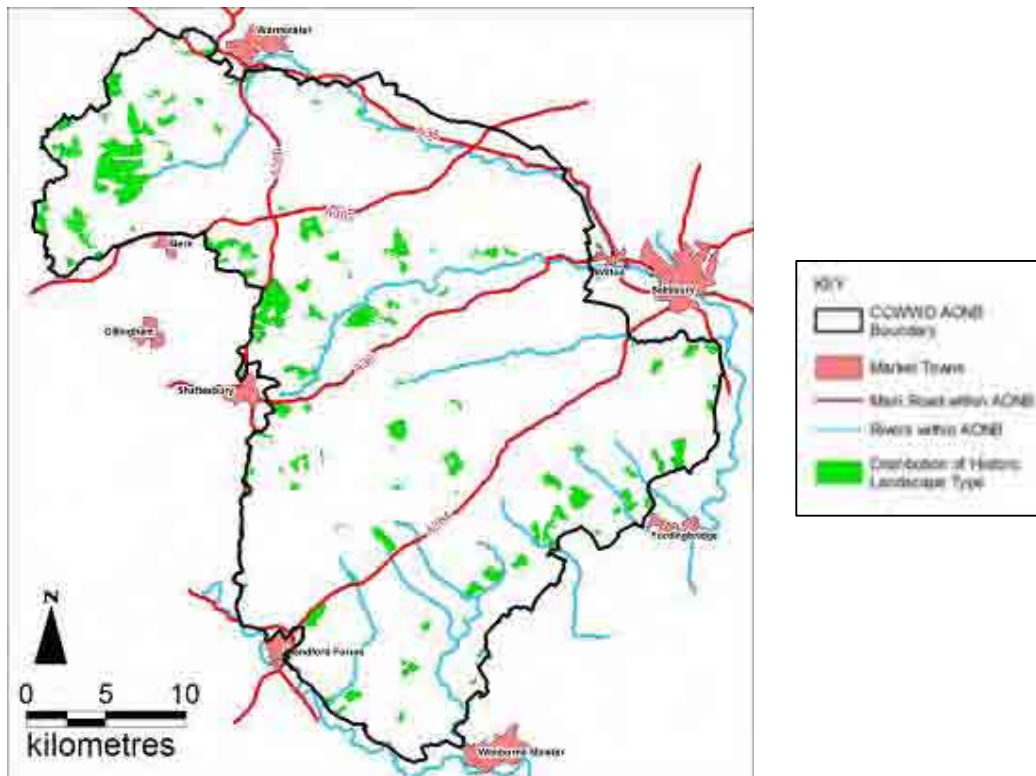
## **Constituent Types**

None

## **Parent Type**

[1.1 Pre 1800 Fields](#)

## Type 1.1.4 Pre 1800 Semi-Irregular Fields



### Introduction

Small sized irregular and semi-irregular shaped fields with curving and semi-straight boundaries. These date to before 1800 AD. These fields have been documented both on the modern day Ordnance Survey, historic Ordnance Survey maps and 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps.

### Distribution

These fields have a widespread distribution. There are concentrations of this type along the south east edge of the AONB; in the Vale of Wardour; and on along the greensand terrace, and greensand hills between Penselwood and Longleat. In this last area there is a large block between the villages of Maiden Bradley and Stourton. Their distribution also continues to the west beyond the Penselwood woods and outside of the boundary of the AONB into Somerset. They are largely absent from the West Wiltshire Downs and Ebble Valley. They are less common across the wooded open downland of Cranborne Chase, where they occur in smaller blocks. They show no particular distribution with regards to geology and topography.

### Principal Historical Processes

These fields date to before 1800 AD as they appear on the 1820's surveyor's maps and the area is indicated as being enclosed on the earliest county maps. They are widely distributed across the AONB and are probably derived from the piecemeal and ad hoc enclosure of formerly open land. In general, they fossilise few traces of

previous land uses suggesting their possible antiquity. They are also associated with a concentration of pre 1800 settlement, and old routeways.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type consists of irregular and semi irregular fields with jointed boundaries and these are often associated with mature wooded hedgerows. The fields are medium sized. They occur in very large blocks of fields, in some cases greater than 500 hectares, especially in the north of the AONB. Although they are widely distributed there are three key areas in which they are located (see page 93 distribution). They are associated with curving routeways and a concentration of rights of way.



### **Rarity**

This type is comprised of over 1,252 fields. As mentioned above the distribution of this type of field extends into Somerset and may be regionally more common than it appears within the AONB itself. This type occurs occasionally in the AONB, it is locally common along the south east edge of the AONB, in the Vale of Wardour, and on the greensand terrace, and greensand hills, between Penselwood and Longleat.

### **Survival**

These fields have experienced only minimal boundary loss and gain since the 1880s and are fairly intact. They also remain in large blocks in the AONB, and therefore retain their original characteristics on a landscape scale.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

These fields survive in a very coherent form. The number of rights of way that runs through this type means that it can be viewed and experienced from a number of different vantage points. The fields themselves would be highly recognisable, although their true antiquity may not be appreciated.

### **Past interaction with other types**

This type is associated with a concentration of Pre 1800 settlements, and ancient woodland, and with other types of Pre 1800 fields, especially in the Vale of Wardour, all of which indicates the possible antiquity of this type.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Only 3% of this type contains evidence for previous land uses. The majority of this being part of a former medieval deer park.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type contributes greatly to the current present landscape character as it is of some antiquity and occurs as blocks within the landscape.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	6,074 hectares, 6.17% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 214 polygons, 4.8% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 28.38 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional.
Previous Coverage:	7894 hectares, 8% of AONB was Pre 1800 Semi-Irregular Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 8089 hectares, 8.2% of the AONB.

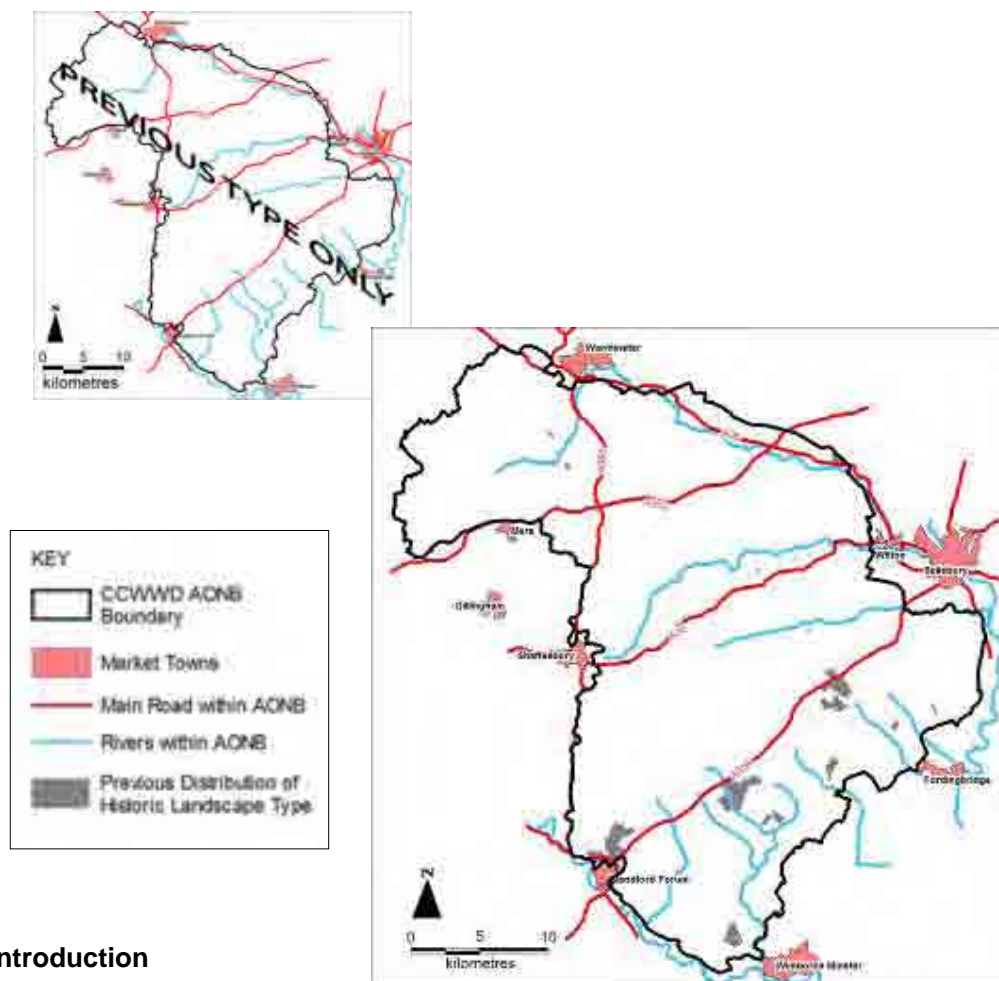
### Constituent Types

None

### Parent Type

[1.1 Pre 1800 Fields](#)

## Type 1.1.5 Strip Fields (Previous type only)



### Introduction

This type occurs only as previous type, meaning that it does not survive intact in the present day landscape. Rather, the edges of the open strips have been incorporated into later enclosed fields; therefore it represents areas of land which in today's landscape retain evidence for open medieval strip fields. They have been identified through analysis of the morphology of Pre 1800 fields which survive in the modern landscape, and analysis primarily of Epoch 1 1880's historic Ordnance Survey maps.

### Distribution

The traces of this previous type have a restricted distribution, only occurring in a few locations in the northern half of the AONB. In the southern half of the AONB they occur in dense clusters. These can be found in the area around Martin; the area around Camp Down to the North of Blandford; west of Cranborne; and finally around Gussage St Michael and Gussage All Saints. They are primarily found on the chalk and at relatively low elevations.

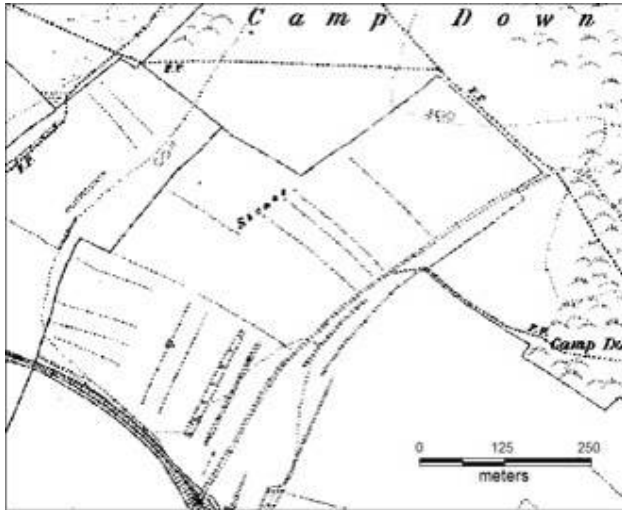
### Principal Historical Processes

These traces have probably been created through the fossilisation of medieval open strip fields which would have originally been characterised by features such as ridge



and furrow, headlands, and furlongs. These open fields then appear to have been enclosed through a piecemeal process of enclosure to form pre 1800 fields (see particularly discussion of Types 1.1.2 Pre 18<sup>th</sup> Century Regular Fields, and 1.1.3 Pre 18<sup>th</sup> Century Sinuous Fields), and also in a few cases to form fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components



The traces left of this type are sinuous reverse-S shaped and curving boundaries, narrow strip fields and indicative place names. In some case there are indications that these fields were still open during the 1880s (see figure), though mostly they are identified through interpretation of morphology of fields in today's landscape.

The figure is a snapshot from the 1880s Ordnance Survey map which shows the possible remnants of strip fields, these became fossilised in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as part of new regular fields.

### Rarity

It appears to be rare for fragments of open medieval fields to be preserved within the boundaries of later fields within the AONB. It must be remembered that this does not represent the only evidence for medieval farming systems in the AONB. It only reflects where this system has affected the morphology of fields in the modern day landscape. This evidence must be viewed along with other surviving evidence, such as ridge and furrow or strip lynchets to obtain a clearer view of former extents of open fields. In particular, it is at least possible that there were extensive areas of former strip fields in the substantial areas of later enclosure, including Parliamentary Enclosure (see [Type 1.2.1](#)).

### Survival

This type survives as traces of single boundaries in the landscape which have been subsequently enclosed, rather than complete fields.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

N/A

### Past interaction with other types

This type is intrinsically linked with the more recent types which have led to its preservation. It is also linked in time with other fossilised medieval types, including deer parks, and earthworks such as strip lynchets. There should also be a correlation

with nucleated settlement, the open fields having been worked in common by the several members of a small agricultural community.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

In the areas where they have been identified this past historic landscape type marks the earliest land use traces which exist in today's landscape.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

N/A

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	N/A
No. of Polygons:	N/A
Av. Polygon Size:	N/A
Occurrence:	N/A
Previous Coverage:	1231 hectares, 1.25% of AONB preserves traces of this type at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total previous recorded coverage of this type is 1606 hectares, 1.6% of the AONB

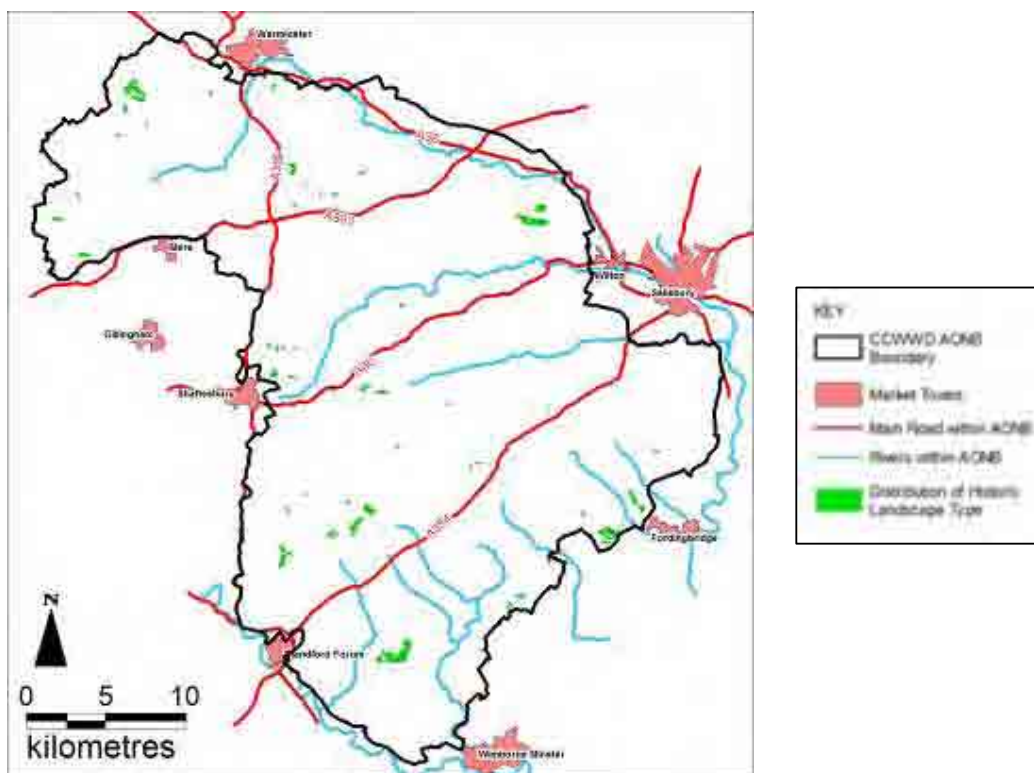
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[1.1 Pre 18<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

## Type 1.1.6 Assarts



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Medium fields with a range of morphologies which have been assarted (cleared) from pre 1800 woodland. In the present day they account for 883 hectares or 0.9% of the AONB. These fields have been documented both on the modern day Ordnance Survey, historic Ordnance Survey maps and the Ordnance Survey 1820s Surveyors Map.

### Distribution

Assarts have a widespread distribution in the landscape of the AONB but tend to be concentrated on the western side of the AONB. Notable concentrations are to be found to the north of Blandford Forum, along the north western edge of the AONB, across the wooded chalk downland of the Cranborne Chase and along the south eastern edge of the AONB. They are found in dispersed groupings which become larger in size towards the south of the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

These assarts date mostly to the post medieval period but could also be medieval in date. These fields have only been identified as assarts where their previous wooded land use can be assumed with some level of confidence. This means that some of the field's categorised as pre 1800 regular, semi-irregular and curving irregular fields may therefore be assarts; this type may therefore be under represented in the dataset. The process of assarting from the medieval period onwards is seen as a result of population pressure and the need for more agricultural land, and accelerated

from the early medieval period onwards (Muir 2000: 22). This is linked to the occurrence of place names referencing the former common status of these older assarts. These assarts were previously more frequent, but some have been reorganised and amalgamated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Across the centre of the AONB the assarts exist only as previous types, especially in the parishes of Donhead St Mary, Bowerchalke and Grovely Wood. In these parishes they have been obscured by modern land uses including 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century field types and recent woodland. They also have a tendency to cluster on ancient parish boundaries, especially in the neighbouring parishes of Tarrant Gunville, Chettle and Iwerne Minister.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type consists of medium fields which exhibit a range of morphologies. The fields are regular, semi-irregular or irregular. There is a tendency for the assarts to be more regular in the southern half of the AONB but the morphology does not appear to be linked to any particular process. The fields have mature wooded hedgerows, and areas associated with copses.



### **Rarity**

This type is scarce throughout the AONB; it is only comprised of 156 fields.

### **Survival**

Over the last 200 years over 400 hectares of assarts have become fossilised types in the landscape incorporated into new 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century fields. However the assarts that have survived have been subject to minimal boundary loss or change.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is only fairly recognisable in the landscape. It could easily be confused with pre 1800 fields.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated primarily with woodland. The smaller older medieval and post medieval assarts are associated with other pre 1800 types, including ancient woodland, common land, and pre 1800 fields. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 30% of the polygons demonstrate time depth the majority of this being the past woodland land use from which the assarts were created.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has had influence on the landscape character especially in areas adjacent to surviving ancient woodland.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	884 hectares, 0.9% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 12.45 polygons, 1.6% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 33.3 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce
Previous Coverage:	1,238 hectares, 1.2% of AONB was Assarts at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1,419 hectares, 1.4% of the AONB

### Constituent Types

None

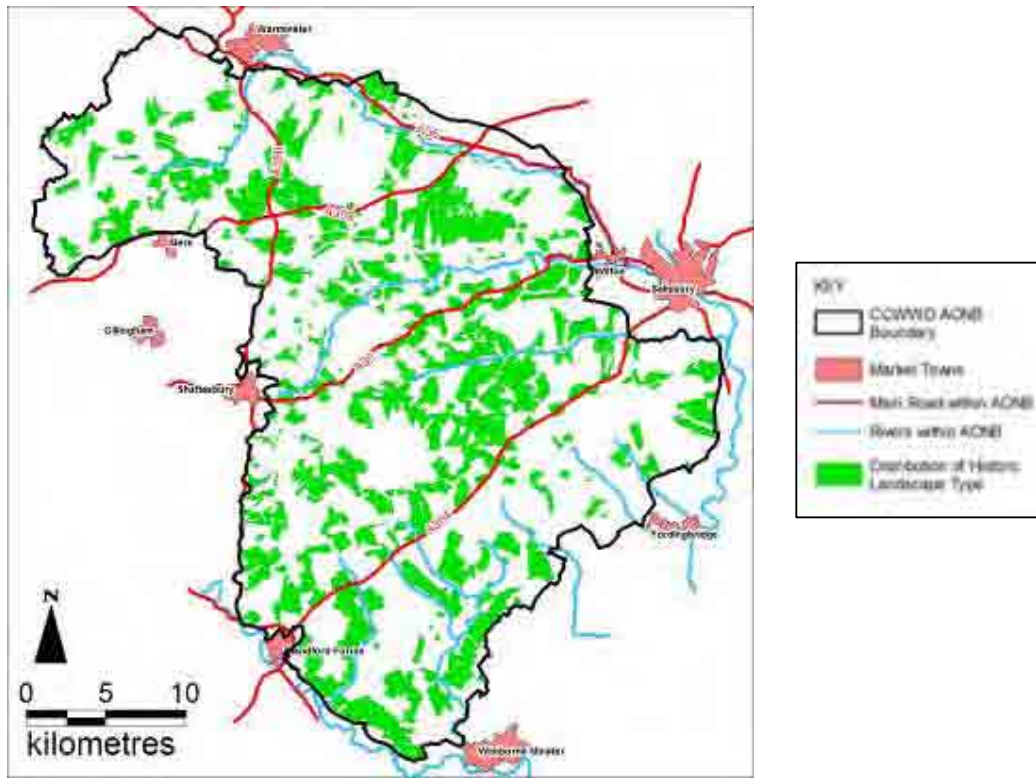
### Parent Type

[1.1 Pre 1800 Fields](#)

### Suggested Sources

Muir, R. (2000) *The NEW Reading the Landscape*. University of Exeter Press: Exeter.

## Type 1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields



### Introduction

Large formally planned fields primarily created in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These have been documented by comparison of the modern day Ordnance Survey, historic Ordnance Survey maps and enclosure award maps. In the present day they account for 2,8519 hectares of the AONB or 29% of the AONB. These fields take a range of forms and have been created by a range of processes and include replanned, formal, parliamentary, and downland fields. In some instances they overlap chronologically with examples of pre 1800 fields, but have been created through a separate set of historical processes.

### Distributions

They are widely distributed throughout the AONB with slightly higher concentration occurring in the area around the Ebbles Valley and on the West Wiltshire Downs. They are found in dense clusters. There are voids in the distribution, notably in the far north of the AONB, along the West Wiltshire Downs and in the area to the north of Fordingbridge.

### Principal Historical Processes

Over 30% of these fields have been created through the process of Parliamentary Enclosure. Land in the AONB has been identified as the type "parliamentary enclosure" where the pattern of fields indicated on the enclosure map can still be seen in today's landscape either in its original form or as a fossilised type. This process could transform landscapes at a stroke by imposing a new angular geometry

where previously there had been winding lanes and sinuous fields. The scale of the impact, however, varies quite considerably between areas.

The majority of fields, 63%, however, could not be linked to a Parliamentary Act suggesting that they were created through more informal methods for which there is no easily traceable documentary evidence. These fields share the same impact and the same regular, evenly spaced morphology that is seen with parliamentary fields.

In a few cases in the AONB the enclosure of much larger blocks of land can be identified which, unlike the types just discussed, can be defined as enclosure through consensus and exchange, and appears to be the result of a single landowner or group of neighbours enclosing large areas of formerly open downland. This type is primarily found on the West Wiltshire Downs

There is also fossilised evidence in the landscape on the West Wiltshire Downs and in the Ebbles Valley of an initial stage to the creation of these new fields when their boundaries were not formalised and they were left as open fields for some time, before being formally enclosed.

Alternatively some fields created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century involved the reorganisation of earlier pre 1800 enclosed fields, as is seen in four locations in the Nadder Valley.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by fields which are regular in size and shape with straight boundaries, and which are often hedged. These boundaries can follow the line of newly created straight linear boundaries. These boundaries have been imposed across the landscape regardless of topography and can extend for several kilometres. However the morphology of these fields can also vary with response to local topography, pre-existing route ways, or boundaries.



### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as occurring commonly in the landscape of the AONB. It comprises nearly 30% of the landscape of the AONB and, as such, contributes greatly to the character of the fieldscapes of the AONB.

### **Survival**

Although a very robust type, 40,342 hectares of the AONB or 40.97 % of the AONB could at some point have been characterised as 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century fields. This means that since the 19<sup>th</sup> century over 12,000 hectares has been modified, reorganised or enlarged into new 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes.

## **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century fields which survive in the landscape are still very recognisable in the landscape due to their angular form. However, half of the fields in this type have been subject to some form of boundary alteration since their creation, with over 1,000 boundaries being created since the 1880s and 324 boundaries being lost. This means that this type is being diluted by the subdivision of the existing fields.

## **Past interaction with other types**

19<sup>th</sup> century fields imposed a new symmetry on the landscape often creating radical upheavals in existing land use patterns.

## **Evidence for time-depth**

A third of the land identified as 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure preserves evidence for previous land uses. The vast majority of these are earlier enclosure patterns which have been fossilised within the new enclosure pattern. The imposition of these new enclosures does, therefore, demonstrate some flexibility in its implementation, often incorporating existing boundaries or mirroring older boundaries, and therefore implicitly incorporating older enclosure patterns.

## **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB, and would be apparent to most observers.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	28519 Hectares, 29% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 667 polygons, 15% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 42 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Common.
Previous Coverage:	40,342 hectares, 41% of AONB was 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century enclosure at the point in time when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 40,534 hectares, 41% of the AONB.

## **Constituent Types**

[1.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure](#)

[1.2.2 Planned Enclosure](#)

[1.2.3 Large Scale Enclosure of Downland](#)

[1.2.4 Downland Improvement \(previous type only\)](#)

[1.2.5 Replanned Fields](#)



## Parent Type

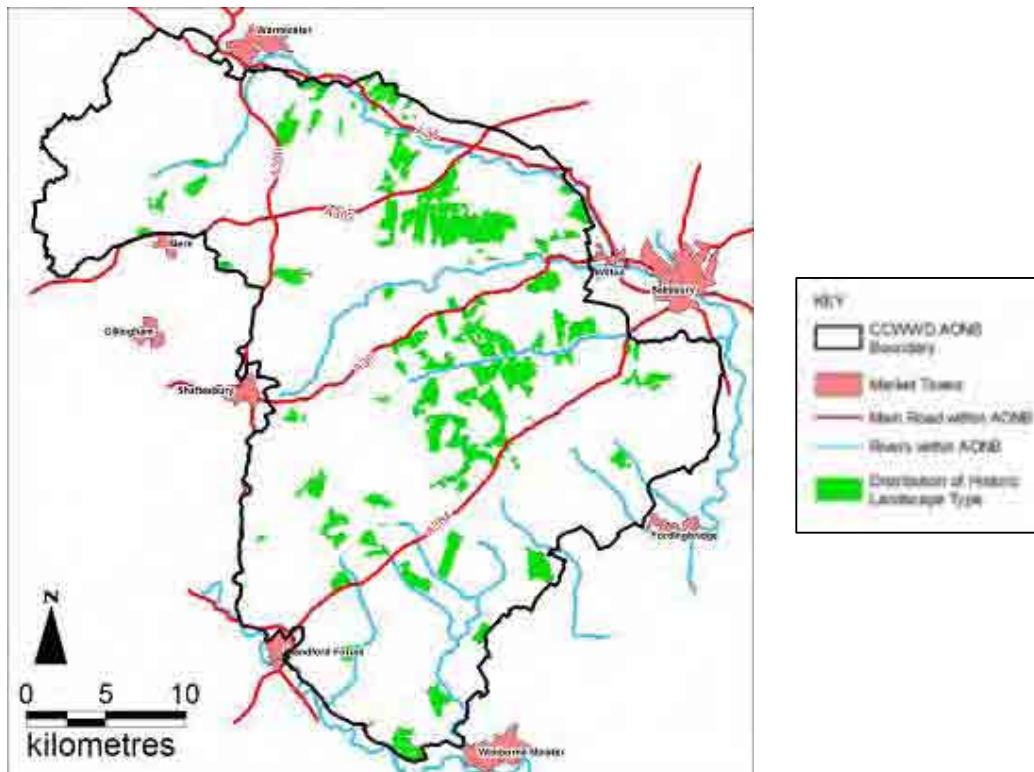
### [1. Enclosed Fields](#)

## Suggested Sources

Chapman, J. and Seeliger S. (1997) A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900. Hampshire County Council: Winchester

Sandell, R. E. (1971) Abstracts of Wiltshire Inclosure Awards. Wiltshire Record Society: Devizes

## Type 1.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure



### Introduction

Fields created by, or subject to, Parliamentary Enclosure documented on the relevant Enclosure Awards and Maps dating between the mid 18<sup>th</sup> and mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In the present day they account for 9602 hectares or 9.75 % of the AONB. They tend to be on higher ground and be formed by very regular shaped fields with straight edges.

### Distributions

These fields are widely distributed across the AONB. There are distinct concentrations of this type on the sides of the Ebbles Valley, on the West Wiltshire Downs to the north of Chilmark, on the wooded chalk downland between Bowerchalke and Sixpenny Handley and finally a more scattered distribution along the sides and the upper reaches of the River Tarrant and the River Allen. This type is found in dense groupings and clusters and those on the West Wiltshire Downs have a linear form. This type is absent from the north-west and south-east corners of the AONB. It tends to be distributed on the eastern side of the AONB. There is no clear distribution in respect of underlying geology.

### Principal Historical Processes

These fields have been created through a process of Parliamentary Enclosure (often referred to as Inclosure in older documents) which occurred in England mostly in the period between 1750 and 1850. Enclosure is the process "by which land that has formerly been owned and exploited collectively is divided into separate parcels, each owner exchanging rights in part of it" (Sandell 1971: 1). The process of enclosure

could transform landscapes at a stroke by imposing a new angular geometry where previously there had been winding lanes and sinuous fields. The scale of the impact, however, varies quite considerably between areas. The methods of enclosure can be divided into four main types (Chapman & Seeliger 1997: xiv): -

1. Piecemeal
2. Formal Agreement
3. Imposition by the Lord of the Manor
4. Formal agreement and by Act of Parliament

It is this fourth method that relates to the type under discussion. Until 1836 it was normal to obtain a separate Act for each individual manor or parish subject to enclosure, but after this date blanket authorisation for enclosure by agreement was introduced, which allowed enclosure to occur automatically if certain conditions were met (notably, that just two-thirds of the interested parties agreed to the enclosure).

The records for the individual Enclosure Awards are held by the individual County Archives and in some cases the National Archives. For this project the Enclosure Awards relating to more than 60 parishes in the AONB have been consulted, the earliest dating to 1783 for Warminster and Corsley and the latest from 1867 for Donhead St Mary. In most cases the records consist of an award document and a supporting map. The award gives details of the date of the Act, the name of the Lord of the Manor, the area of enclosure, the allotments, provision of fencing, enumeration of roads and paths, details of herbage allotted and finally details of the accompanying awards. These Award Documents have been transcribed for Wiltshire and Hampshire (Chapman & Seeliger 1997; Sandell 1971).

The maps themselves indicate the size and shape of fields subject to the Enclosure Act, the names of the allottees and acreages.

Land in the AONB has been identified as the type “parliamentary enclosure” where the pattern of fields indicated on the enclosure map can still be seen in today’s landscape, either in its original form or as a fossilised type. In some cases there is no evidence that the pattern of enclosure indicated on the map became a reality, perhaps due to subsequent changes in land use. The maps also often indicate areas of “old inclosure”, meaning fields which were known to have been in existence for at least 30 years before the date of the award. These have been used in the identification of other types such as Pre 1800 Fields. The maps also indicate areas to which rights were formerly held in common, and in some cases these rights are reinforced by the Parliamentary Enclosure Act.

One major exception from this general historical pattern is the case of the 1829 Cranborne Chase Award. Although grouped in the literature with the Enclosure Awards, this was a private disenfranchising act formally enrolled in 1831 through which Lord Rivers agreed to accept £1800 per annum as compensation for extinguishing his right to allow deer to roam on the Chase. The numbers of deer were estimated at between 12,000 and 20,000. The amount of £1800 per annum was made up of individual proportions so, for example, in Berwick St John and Donhead St Andrew, the Rev. Richard Downs paid £11.11s. for 42 acres (Chapman & Seeliger 1997: 57). The maps accompanying this award still provide a useful source for the fields which existed at this date, many of which appear to have been subject of piecemeal or informal enclosure, and have been characterised as such.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is dominated by fields which are regular in size and shape with straight boundaries, and are often hedged. These boundaries can follow the line of newly created straight linear boundaries which have been imposed across the landscape, regardless of topography and can extend for several kilometres. These often occur in the same direction as existing parish boundaries, as occurs in the parishes of Dinton and Teffont Magna. However, the morphology of these fields can also vary in response to local topography, pre-existing route ways or boundaries.



This type, therefore, has had a striking impact of the landscape; only a third of the land subject to parliamentary enclosure preserves traces of previous land uses. The change wrought by parliamentary enclosure is not, however, as striking as seen in other regions of the country (see for example the Buckinghamshire HLC) partly due to the fact that much of the landscape had already been enclosed by ancient enclosure, piecemeal enclosure and informal enclosure.

### Rarity

This type can be characterised as occurring “occasionally” in the landscape of the AONB. It comprises nearly 10% of the landscape of the AONB and as such contributes to the character of the fieldscapes of the AONB, especially in areas where this type clusters, such as the Ebble Valley. It is locally scarce, however, in some areas on the western side of the AONB. It is not as prevalent as in other areas of the Central province of England (Roberts and Wrathmell 2000).

### Survival

12,352 hectares of the AONB or 12.5% of the AONB could at some point have been characterised as “parliamentary enclosure”, meaning that since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century over 2,500 hectares has been modified, reorganised or enlarged by new 20<sup>th</sup> Century fields.

## **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The parliamentary enclosure that survives is still very recognisable in the landscape due to its angular form. However, half of the fields in this type have been subject to some form of boundary alteration since their creation, with 219 boundaries being created since the 1880s and only 25 boundaries being lost. This means that the coherency of this type is being diluted by the subdivision of the existing field.

## **Past interaction with other types**

Parliamentary enclosures are often associated with other types of 19<sup>th</sup> Century enclosure including formal enclosure and 19<sup>th</sup> century large scale enclosure of downland.

## **Evidence for time-depth**

A third of the land identified as “parliamentary enclosure” preserves evidence for previous land uses. The majority of these being earlier enclosure patterns which have been fossilised within the 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure pattern. In addition, as discussed above, the imposition of enclosures does demonstrate some flexibility in its implementation, often incorporating existing or mirroring older boundaries and, therefore, implicitly incorporating older enclosure patterns.

## **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Where this type clusters it has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB; it would be apparent to most observers.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	9,602 Hectares, 9.75% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 195 polygons, 4% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 50 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional
Previous Coverage:	11,710 hectares, 12% of AONB was Parliamentary Enclosure the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Enclosed Land is 12,352 hectares, 12.5% of the AONB

## **Constituent Types**

None

## Parent Type

### [1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

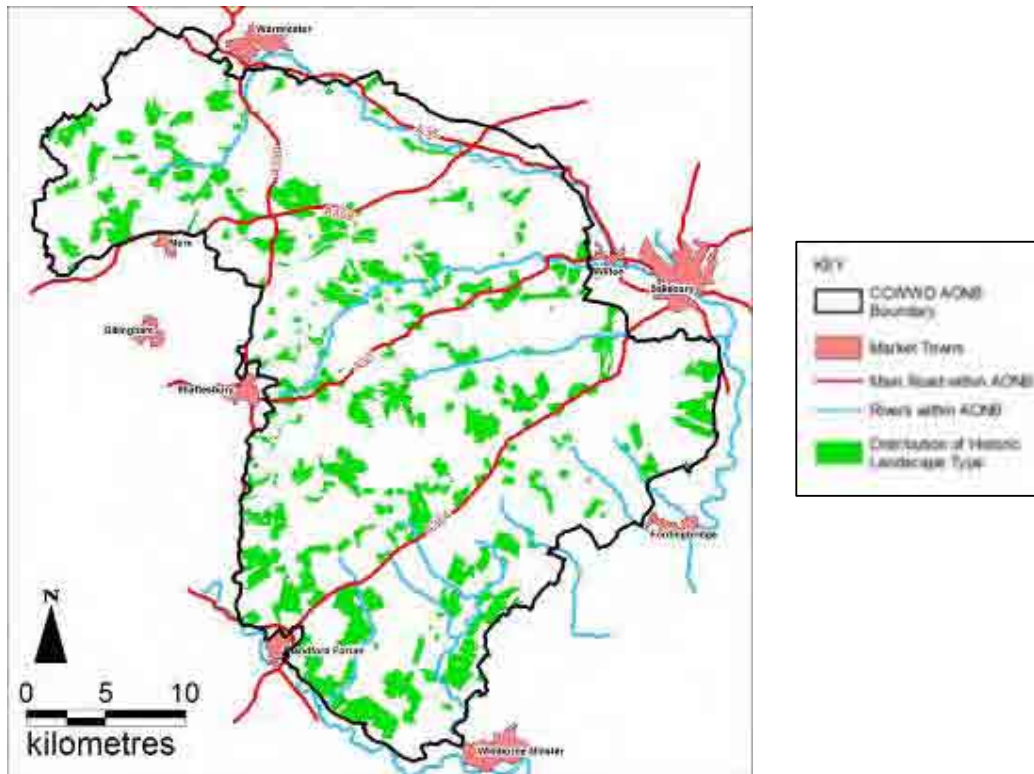
#### Suggested Sources

Chapman, J. and Seeliger S. (1997) A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900. Hampshire County Council: Winchester

Roberts, B.K and Wrathmell, S. (2000) An atlas of Rural Settlement in England. English: Heritage: London.

Sandell, R. E. (1971) Abstracts of Wiltshire Inclosure Awards. Wiltshire Record Society: Devizes

## Type 1.2.2 Planned Enclosure



### Introduction

Fields created mostly in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century which appear to have been created in a planned manner but are not recorded within the relevant Enclosure Award and Map. In the present day they account for 17,736 hectares or 18% of the AONB.

### Distribution

They are present across most of the AONB but are largely absent from the West Wiltshire Downs and the Wylde Valley. They are distributed across a range of topographies and geologies. They tend to occur in very large blocks but their distribution is fragmentary through the Vale of Wardour.

### Principal Historical Processes

These fields have been created through the process of Planned Enclosure which occurred in England mostly in the period between 1750 and 1850. Enclosure is the process “by which land that has formerly been owned and exploited collectively is divided into separate parcels, each owner exchanging rights in part of it” (Sandell 1971: 1). The process of enclosure could transform landscapes at a stroke, imposing a new angular geometry where previously there had been winding lanes and sinuous fields. The scale of the impact however varies quite considerably between areas. The methods of enclosure can be divided into four main types (Chapman & Seeliger 1997: xiv): -

1. Piecemeal
2. Formal Agreement
3. Imposition by the Lord of the Manor
4. Formal agreement by Act of Parliament

The type under discussion is not formed by Act of Parliament and therefore their creation appears to be through more informal methods for which there is no easily traceable documentary evidence, such as formal agreement, or imposition. This form of enclosure covers twice the area of that covered by formal Parliamentary Enclosure, suggesting not only that this was the preferred method of enclosure in the area but also that large areas of the AONB were enclosed before the main reliance on Parliamentary Enclosure took place, i.e. before 1800. Its morphological similarities to fields created by Parliamentary Enclosure suggests that these fields were also created through consensus and exchange

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by fields which are regular or semi irregular in size and shape with straight boundaries, and are often hedged. These boundaries can follow the line of newly created straight linear boundaries which have been imposed across the landscape regardless of topography and can extend for several kilometres. The fields themselves form large regular angular blocks that can cover



more than 400 hectares which demonstrates the planned nature of these components. They do, however, respect older boundaries. For example, the planned fields follow the edge of the old Roman Road which runs between Badbury Rings and Salisbury. As mentioned above the pattern of fields is much more dispersed through the Vale of Wardour suggesting that much of the lands here had already been enclosed at an earlier date. This is supported by the predominance of pre 1800 semi-irregular fields, ancient assarts and wooded common land. Conversely, its absence from the West Wiltshire Downs is due to the fact that much of this landscape was not enclosed until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The morphology of these fields is very similar to those created through an identified Parliamentary Act. The main differences, therefore, between this type and type 1.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure is the historical process which led to their creation.

### **Rarity**

This type is widely distributed and occurs frequently across the AONB, excluding the Wylve Valley and the West Wiltshire Downs where it is locally rare.

### **Survival**

Previously 24,058 hectares of the AONB, or 24%, could have been characterised as “planned enclosure”. This means that since the 19<sup>th</sup> century over 6,000 hectares has been modified, reorganised or enlarged through the creation of 20<sup>th</sup> century fields.



## **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The examples of this type that survive are still very recognisable in the landscape due to its angular form and the large blocks in which it is found. However, half of the fields in this type have been subject to some form of boundary alteration since their creation, with 262 boundaries being created since the 1880s and only 85 boundaries are lost. This means that the coherency of this type is being diluted by the subdivision of the existing fields, although the original boundaries are maintained. This is similar to the process occurring in parliamentary enclosure.

## **Past interaction with other types**

Planned enclosures are often associated with other types of 19<sup>th</sup> Century enclosure including parliamentary enclosure and 19<sup>th</sup> century large scale enclosure of downland.

## **Evidence for time-depth**

Under a third of the land identified as planned enclosure preserves evidence for previous land uses, the majority of these being open land. This demonstrates that this enclosure often marked a radical departure from earlier land uses.

## **Contribution to the present landscape character**

It comprises 18% of the AONB and, therefore, contributes greatly to the character of the AONB, especially in areas where it forms large blocks in the landscape, such as the southern half of the AONB.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	17,736 Hectares, 18.1% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 458 polygons, 10.3% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 38.7 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Frequent,
Previous Coverage:	24,038 hectares, 24% of AONB was Formal 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Enclosure at the point when this type was at its most prevalent,
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Enclosed Land is 24,158 hectares, 24.5% of the AONB,

## **Constituent Types**

None

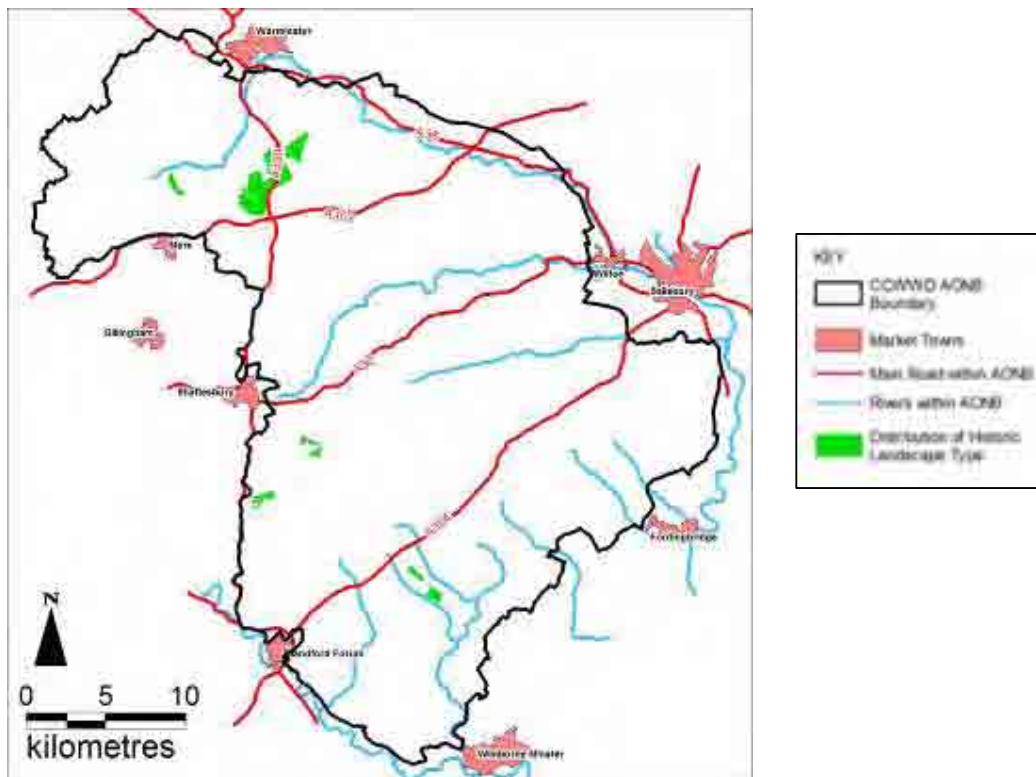
## **Parent Type**

### [1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

## **Suggested Sources**

Chapman. J. and Seeliger S. (1997) A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900. Hampshire County Council: Winchester

### Type 1.2.3 Large Scale Enclosure of Downland



#### Introduction

Fields created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which involved the large scale enclosure of downland. These are related to other 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure types, such as parliamentary or planned enclosure, but appear to have been created on a much larger scale. They consist of much larger fields with long boundaries which are shared across the landscape. They are also much more irregular in form. In the present day they account for 1,045 hectares or 1% of the AONB.

#### Distribution

These fields have a restricted distribution and are most evident to the south of Longbridge Deverill at the western edge of the West Wiltshire Downs. There are smaller concentrations around the village of Compton Abbas and in the Tarrant Valley. They tend to occur on higher ground, and have all been created from land that was formerly open downland and unimproved grassland.

#### Principal Historical Processes

These fields have been created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and their planned nature suggests that they are related to the same historical processes which created Parliamentary Enclosure and other planned fields. However, unlike these other types, which can be defined as enclosure through consensus and exchange, these fields appear to be the result of a single landowner or group enclosing large areas of formerly open downland. The result is the enclosure of much larger blocks of land, the creation of

long boundaries which are imposed across the landscape regardless of topography and much larger irregular fields. However, this is a much rarer type of enclosure suggesting that it was uncommon for a single individual or group to have control over such a large area of land at this date. In addition, much of the downland would have been common land, preventing much of the land being enclosed in this way at an early date. This type can be seen as marking the beginnings of the large scale enclosure of open downland which can be seen in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the creation of large prairie fields across the remaining open land.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by fields which are very large, and irregular in shape with curving boundaries. Some of these are imposed across the landscape while others follow the topography of the land. It appears that the main emphasis was placed on enclosing large blocks of land in the most expedient way possible with little regard for order or plan. Many of these fields preserve names which relate to their former existence as open grass downland.



### **Rarity**

This type is uncommon and only mainly occurs in three discrete locations. It is locally common in the area centred on Keysley Down.

### **Survival**

300 hectares has been lost since the 19<sup>th</sup> century when this type was at its most prominent, but there has been only minimal boundary loss and gain since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

Where this enclosure type is found it is very recognisable as it forms large blocks in the landscape. However, the irregular nature of its boundaries means that it could be easily confused with more recent enclosure of open downland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when large prairie fields were created.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Large scale enclosure of downland is often associated with other types of 19<sup>th</sup> Century enclosure, including parliamentary enclosure and formal enclosure.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 85% of these fields preserve traces of the origins of this land as unenclosed open downland.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has a small contribution due to the infrequency of its occurrence. However, where this type is found it has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB, and would be apparent to most observers. In the case of its occurrence on Keysley Down, in this location it contributes greatly to landscape character.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	1,045 Hectares, 1.06% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 10 polygons, 0.23% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 104.51 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	1,703 hectares, 1.79% of AONB was Large Scale Enclosure of Downland at the point in time when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Enclosed Land is 1,762 hectares, 1% of the AONB

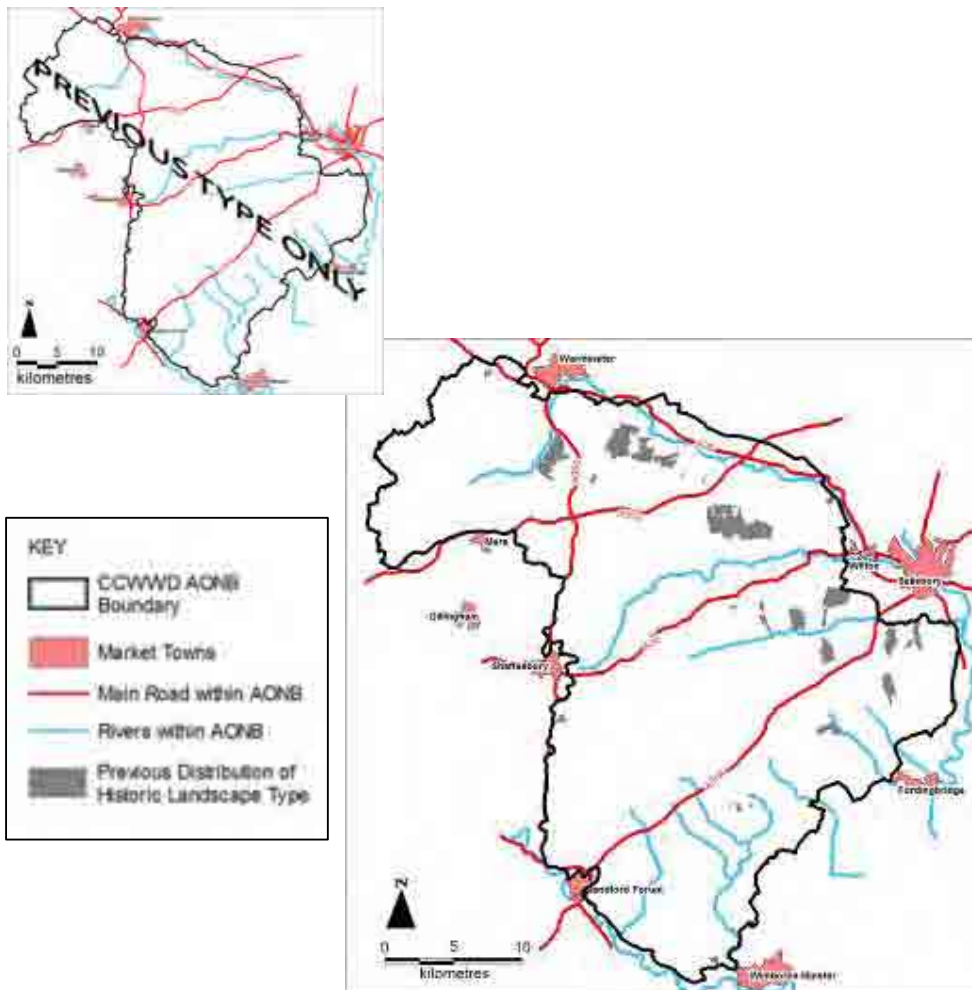
## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

[1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

## Type 1.2.4 Downland Improvement (Previous type only)



### Introduction

This type occurs only as a previous type, meaning that it does not survive intact in the present day landscape. It represents areas which seem to represent the improvement of downland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century before this land was formally enclosed. The exact nature of this activity is unknown, it is represented as unenclosed delineated, but open fields on the 1880's Ordnance Survey which then become the boundaries of later formal fields. They have been identified through analysis of the morphology of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century fields which survive in the modern landscape, and analysis primarily of Epoch 1 1880's historic Ordnance Survey maps.

### Distribution

The evidence for this type has a restricted distribution. It can mainly be found along the edges of the West Wiltshire Downs and in the Ebbles Valley, where they exist as large coherent blocks. They are primarily found on the chalk and at higher elevations.

## Principal Historical Processes

These open fields have the same morphology as formally enclosed 19<sup>th</sup> century fields, as they are very regular, with straight boundaries and are imposed across large areas of downland. They probably represent the dividing up of the open downland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, often following the same area of enclosure award maps from the 1820's but for which physical boundaries, such as fences or hedges, had not as yet been created. This suggests that these fields may have been under cultivation so it was not necessarily to enclose them straight away. It also indicates the expense that enclosure could entail, suggesting that fields were not physically enclosed until it was absolutely necessary. These fields were probably created through the same processes as other 19<sup>th</sup> century fields (see particularly discussions of Types 1.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure, and type 1.2.2 Planned Enclosure).

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components



The traces left of this type are straight regular open fields. The boundaries of which are indicated as dotted lines on the 1880's historic Ordnance Survey maps. These then become fossilised in the boundaries of enclosed 19<sup>th</sup> century fields. There is no indication of these fields on the 1820's surveyor's maps and the 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps.

The adjacent figure shows a snapshot from the 1880's Ordnance

Survey map at Teffont Down which shows the possible outline of these 19<sup>th</sup> century open fields,; these later became fossilised in the boundaries of enclosed fields

## Rarity

Across the edges of the West Wiltshire Downs and in the Ebbles Valley it appears to be fairly common for these fields to occur as a precursor to 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosed fields. The maximum extent of their recorded distribution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was only 3% of the AONB, however, so they are a locally common phenomenon.

## Survival

This type only survives as previous fossilised type.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type cannot be readily recognised in the landscape without reference to historic maps.

### **Past interaction with other types**

This previous type is intrinsically linked with the more recent types which have led to its preservation. These include 19<sup>th</sup> century Parliamentary Enclosure, 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure and fields created at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

In the areas where they have been identified this past historic landscape type marks the earliest evidence of the formal enclosure of land which would have previously been open downland and unimproved grassland.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

N/A

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: N/A

No. of Polygons: N/A

Av. Polygon Size: N/A

Occurrence: N/A

Previous Coverage: 3,160 hectares, 3% of AONB preserves traces of this type at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total previous recorded coverage of this type is 3,213 hectares, 3% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

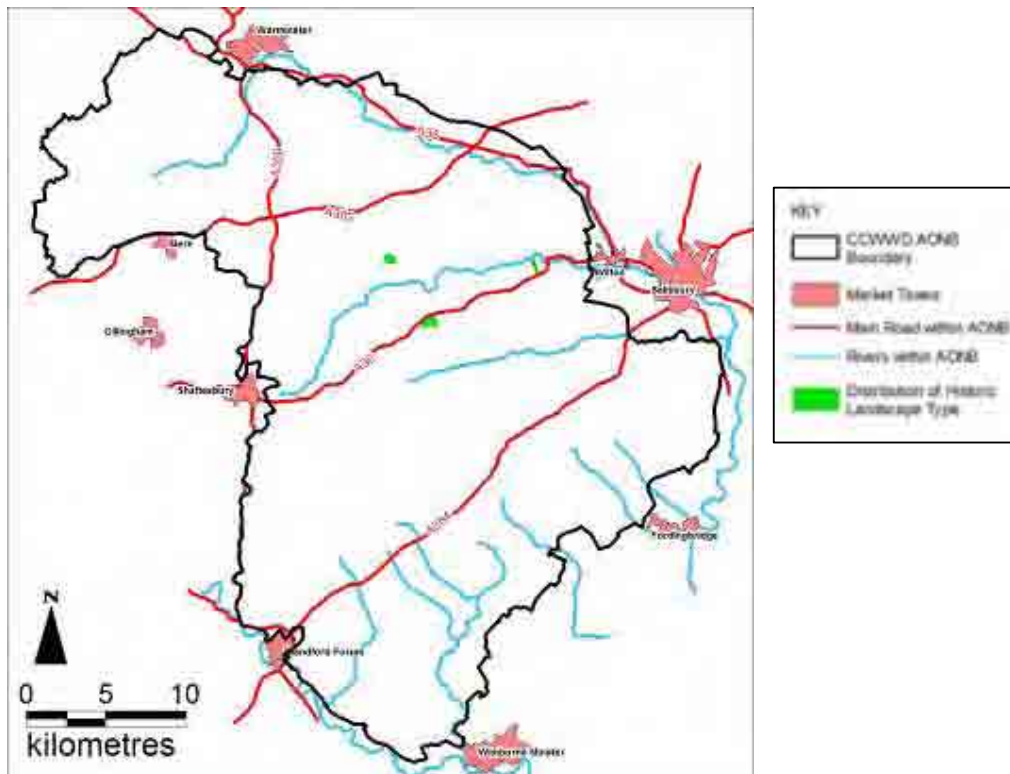
None

### **Parent Type**

[1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)



## Type 1.2.5 Replanned Fields



### Introduction

Fields whose boundaries were reorganised in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These are related to other 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure types such as parliamentary or planned enclosure but appear to involve the reorganisation of fields which had already been enclosed at an earlier date. They are extremely rare in the present day and account for just 0.14% of the AONB. They have been identified through the morphology of the fields as indicated by the 1820s surveyor's maps and their morphology on the later 1880s Ordnance Survey map. They tend to occur on the valley sides.

### Distribution

This type has an extremely restricted distribution and occurs in just four locations in the Nadder Valley.

### Principal Historical Processes

These fields have been created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and involve the reorganisation of earlier pre 1800 enclosed fields. The new fields are more regular in size and shape and have the same morphology as newly created 19<sup>th</sup> century fields in the form of parliamentary and planned enclosure. Unlike these they contain traces of the early field boundaries within their overall form. They form part of the major reorganisation of the landscape which occurred from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and can be linked to the intensification of agricultural practice which occurred with the industrial revolution.

This led to an increasing regularity in field shape and form which could transform the appearance of the landscape.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by fields which are medium sized and are regular shaped with straight boundaries. A third of the boundaries are curving, representing the remnants of early 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure within their form.

### **Rarity**

This type is scarce within the AONB as a whole and occurs in only four discrete locations.

### **Survival**

Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century over 100 hectares of this type has been lost, becoming part of 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes. This is nearly half the extent of this type of field, suggesting this type is fairly fragile.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type could be easily confused with other types of 19<sup>th</sup> century field. Its most distinguishing feature is the preservation of earlier field boundaries within its form. These could consist of mature hedgerows in some instances.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Replanned 19<sup>th</sup> century fields are often associated with other types of 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure including parliamentary enclosure and planned enclosure.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

All of these fields preserve traces of earlier pre 1800 field boundaries which were reorganised. These date from the early post medieval period onwards.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Small contribution due to the rarity of this type. However, where this type is found it has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB, and would be apparent to most observers.



## Key Statistics

Total Area:	135 Hectares, 0.14% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 4 polygons, 0.09% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 33.87 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	225 hectares, 0.23% of AONB was large scale enclosure of downland at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Enclosed Land is 360 hectares, 0.33% of the AONB.

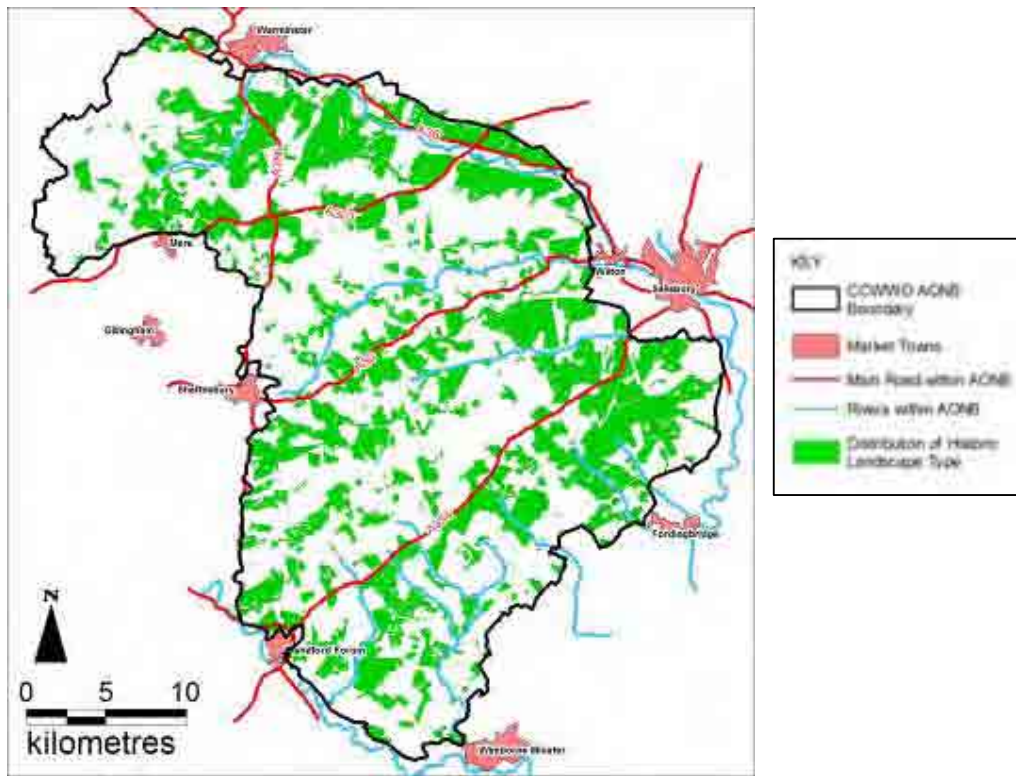
## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

[1.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

## Type 1.3 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields



### Introduction

Fields created in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey maps. In the present day they account for 33,610 hectares or 34% of the AONB.

### Distribution

They are widely distributed across the AONB but are largely absent from the far north-western edge of the AONB. They are found in dense groupings which become more dispersed through the Nadder Valley, across the wooded chalk downland of Cranborne Chase and along the south western edge of the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields are created through a number of mechanisms.

Firstly, they have arisen through the creation of new fields. Secondly, they have been created through modifying existing field layouts. Thirdly, they have been created through amalgamation, where existing field boundaries are removed to create new larger fields.

In general terms these processes have resulted in the addition of over 2000 field boundaries since the 1880's as opposed to the approximate 350 which have been removed.

The most common process has been the creation of new fields which comprise 65% of this type. Modified fields account for 20% of the type which are probably linked to changes in agricultural practice and the intensification of farming. Far less common is the amalgamation of existing fields. In general terms there has been a trend over the last 100 years for an increase in the number of fields present in the AONB.

### **Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

In general these fields show a whole range of morphologies and sizes. This reflects the different processes which have led to their creation and the number of fields under discussion (nearly 4000).



### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as common in the landscape of the AONB, as such it can be characterised as having a major contributory role to the character of the fieldscapes of the AONB.

### **Survival**

This type represents the most recent phase of enclosure in the landscape.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is less recognisable in the landscape as a whole, due to its varied morphology. Its individual elements are much more recognisable, such as the creation of new paddocks or large prairie fields. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and as such it demonstrates a high level of coherence and intactness.

### **Past interaction with other types**

These fields either mark a radical departure from older types or, in some instances, can be characterised as representing a final stage in the history of the enclosure of the AONB which was first accelerated in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 90% of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields preserve evidence for previous land uses. This wealth of history is demonstrated from the 18 different groups of place names which have been recorded. In general these fields preserve evidence of previous phases of enclosed land or evidence that the land was previously unenclosed.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Where this type occurs it has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	34,381 hectares, 34.9% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 928 polygons, 20.9% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 37 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Common.
Previous Coverage:	34,380 hectares, 34% of AONB was 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 34,466 hectares, 35% of the AONB

## **Constituent Types**

[1.3.1 New Fields](#)

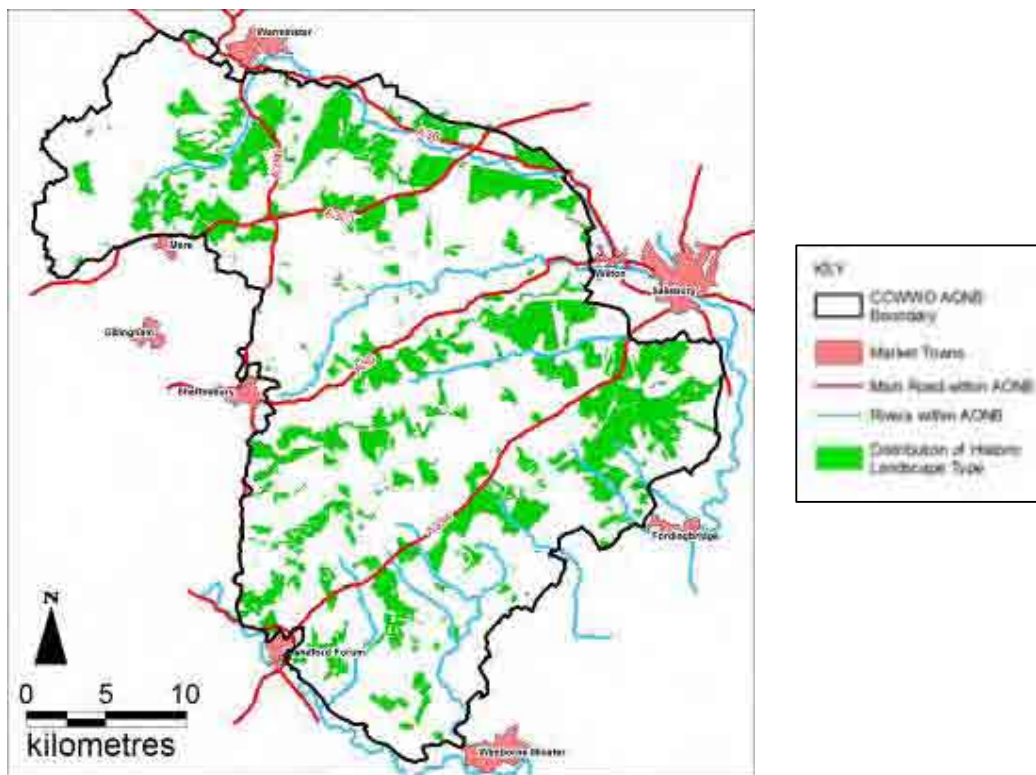
[1.3.2 Modified Fields](#)

[1.3.3 Enlarged Fields](#)

## **Parent Type**

[1. Enclosed Land](#)

### Type 1.3.1 New Fields



#### Introduction

New Fields created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey maps. In the present day they account for 22,063 hectares or 22.41% of the AONB. They tend to form discrete blocks of land and have been created across a range of topographies, geologies and landscape types.

#### Distribution

They are distributed widely across the AONB, but are largely absent from the Vale of Wardour and the greensand hills between Penselwood and Longleat. They are formed of larger blocks in the eastern and northern halves of the AONB. They are much more dispersed through the Vale of Wardour and the southern tip of the AONB.

#### Principal Historical Processes

The large fields are by far the most common comprising over 40% of the type. In the vast majority of cases (over 82%) these fields have been created by enclosing previously open land, and the vast majority of this was open grassland and downland. Similarly the medium sized new fields have been created by imposing a new, often radical, layout and form of fields upon the landscape. However in this instance these tend to have been imposed upon existing enclosed land created in the Post Medieval period. The process of creating both these types of fields started in first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and accelerated markedly in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century with over 80% of these fields being created at this point. They are probably linked to

changes in agricultural practice and increases in arable farming. The fact that these fields occur often in quite large blocks, greater than 250 hectares in size, points to the planned nature of these fields and the possible consolidation and replacement of smaller land holdings.

At the same time the open escarpments were also being enclosed, but here the topography of the escarpments has very much dominated the form that the newly created fields have taken. The top and bottom of these escarpments were often enclosed by default and they were then subdivided horizontally across the break of slope. In some respects these fields also maintain their former open characteristics.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by either large fields with a range of different morphologies or medium fields which are regular in size and shape, with straight boundaries. These fields have been imposed across the landscape; their boundaries can respect local topography, meaning that their form can, in these instances, deviate from the normal regular pattern,



becoming more sinuous and irregular in nature. The imposition of these fields has had a fairly striking impact on the landscape.

### **Rarity**

This type occurs commonly in the landscape of the AONB, and as such it has a major contributory role to the character of the fieldscapes of the AONB. They are locally scarce in the north western edge of the AONB.

### **Survival**

This type represents the most recent phase of enclosure in the landscape. The regular size and shape of the fields could be eroded in the future by future amalgamation, or subdivision, of the field boundaries.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is fairly recognisable in the landscape, due to the fact that it occurs in discrete blocks and the often regular size and shape of its constituent fields or the large size of the fields themselves. Despite this, it is comprised of several different sizes and forms of fields which would only be recognised through comparison with map based sources. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and as such it demonstrates a high level of coherence and intactness.



## Past interaction with other types

These fields can mark a radical departure from older types. The creation of these new fields can also be characterised as representing a final stage in the history of the enclosure of the open downland, and the creation of new fields and as such it is connected with the 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure types such as “Parliamentary Enclosure” which began the acceleration of this process.

## Evidence for time-depth

Over 85% of the land identified as “New Fields” preserves evidence for previous land uses, the majority of these being unenclosed land. This is reflected by the regular association between the place name “downland” and this type. However, 25% of the fields which contain evidence of previous land uses were created from previously enclosed land, and these earlier enclosure patterns have been fossilised within the enclosure pattern. There are traces of previous land uses dating back to prehistory, though the vast majority of traces are for the post-medieval period.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

High, where this type occurs it has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB, it would be apparent to most observers.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	22,883 hectares, 23.2% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 240 polygons, 5.4% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 25 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Common.
Previous Coverage:	22,883 hectares, 23.2% of AONB was covered at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 24,032 hectares, 24.4% of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

[1.3.1.1 Medium New Fields](#)

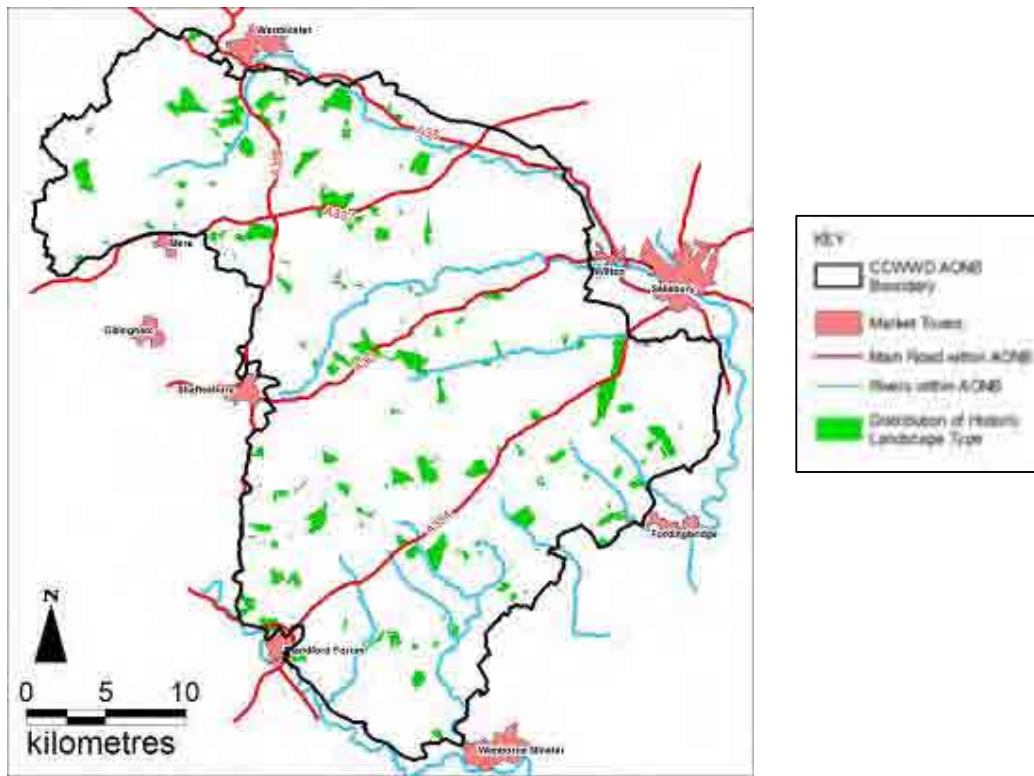
[1.3.1.2 Large New Fields](#)

[1.3.1.3 Reorganised Fields](#)

## Parent Type

[1.3 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

### Type 1.3.1.1 Medium New Fields



#### Introduction

New Fields created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey maps. In the present day they account for 6,013 hectares or 6% of the AONB. They tend to form discrete blocks of land in the landscape and have been created across a range of topographies, geologies and landscape types. They tend to be very square or rectangular in shape, of a regular size and often have very straight boundaries.

#### Distribution

They are distributed widely across the AONB. They are fairly dispersed and consist of medium sized blocks, interspersed with more widely scattered groupings. They tend to have more regular layouts in the northern half of the AONB. They are absent from the greensand terrace in the north western edge of the AONB and the lower reaches of the Wylfe and Nadder Valleys.

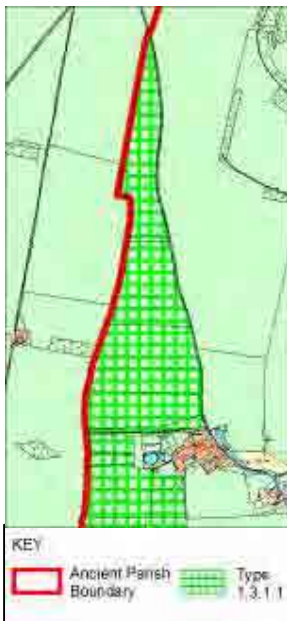
#### Principal Historical Processes

This type has been created by imposing a new, often radical layout and form of fields upon the landscape. This process started in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and accelerated markedly in the second half of the 20th century, with 85% of this field type being created at this point. They are probably linked to changes in agricultural practice and the intensification of farming. The fact that these fields occur often in quite large blocks, greater than 250 hectares in size, points to the planned nature of these fields and the possible consolidation and replacement of smaller land holdings.

Over 50% of these fields have been imposed upon existing enclosed land created in the post medieval period. However, due to the imposition of these new fields on the landscape only some elements of these earlier fields, their boundaries and layout, survive. This is testified by the 578 new boundaries which have been created since the 1880's.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is dominated by fields which are regular in size and with straight boundaries. The fields on average are 6.22 hectares in size. Although these fields have been created across a range of topographies, their boundaries do respect local topography, meaning that their form can, in these instances, deviate from the normal regular pattern, becoming more sinuous and irregular in nature. In addition, they also tend to respect existing historic boundaries such as those of ancient parishes.



A good example of this can be found in the parish of Teffont Magna [see adjacent figure], where the regularity of the fields is bounded by the sinuous ancient parish boundary to the west and an ancient route way to the east, which forms a block of regular fields within the bounds of an irregular triangle of land. The imposition of these fields has had a fairly striking impact on the landscape; this is especially the case for 30% of the area where these fields replaced open land.

### Rarity

This type can be characterised as occurring “occasionally” in the landscape, and comprises 6% of the landscape, as such it can be characterised as having a contributory role to the character of the fieldscapes of the AONB. However it is locally scarce through parts of the Vale of Wardour.

### Survival

This type represents the most recent phase of enclosure in the landscape. The regular size and shape of the fields could be eroded in the future by future amalgamation, or subdivision, of the field boundaries.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape, due to the fact that it occurs in discrete blocks and the regular size and shape of its constituent fields. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and, as such, it demonstrates a high level of coherence and intactness.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type Medium New Fields is often associated with other types of new 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes, including Prairie Fields, Paddocks and Reorganised Fields. These are all linked to the same historical processes but have different morphologies reflecting nuances in the reasons for their creation.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 80% of the land identified as “Medium New Fields” preserves evidence for previous land uses, the majority of these being earlier enclosure patterns which have been fossilised within the enclosure pattern. As discussed, however, these traces will be more fragmented due to the imposition of these new fields onto the landscape. There are, however, traces of previous land uses dating back to prehistory, though the vast majority of traces are for the Post Medieval period.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Where this type occurs it has had a fairly large impact on the landscape of the AONB, it would be apparent to most observers.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	6,013 hectares, 6.11% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 240 polygons, 5% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 25 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional.
Previous Coverage:	6,013 hectares, 6% of AONB was covered at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Medium New Fields is 6,463 hectares, 6.5% of the AONB.

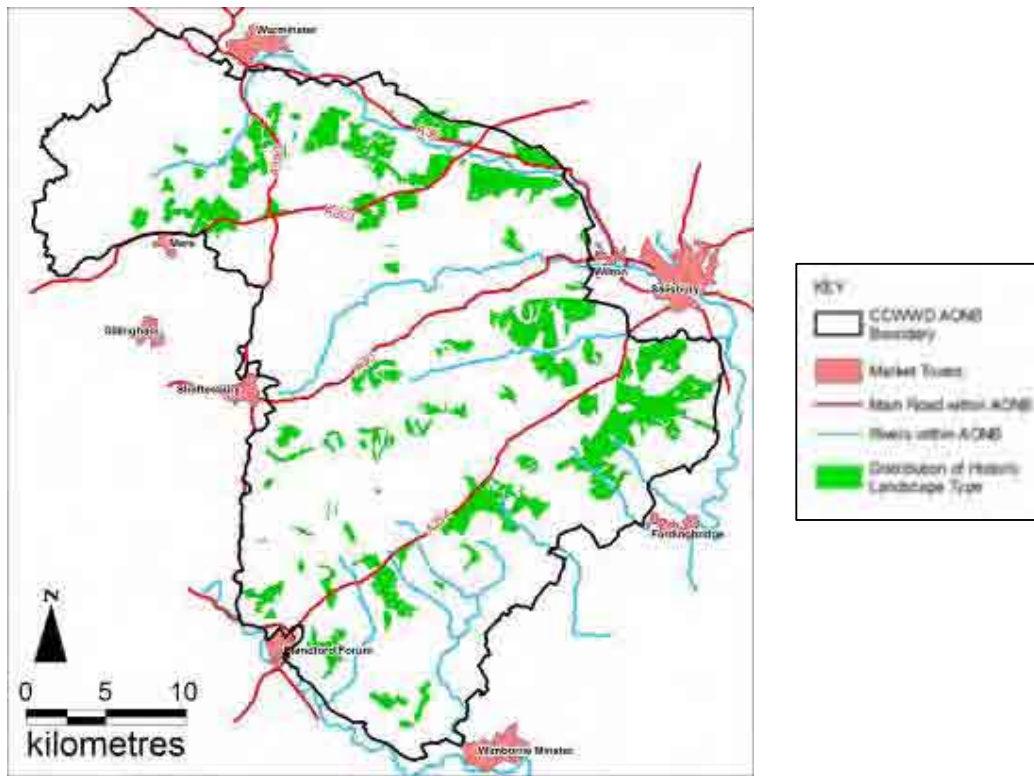
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

#### [1.3.1 New Fields](#)

## Type 1.3.1.2 Large New Fields



### Introduction

Large New Fields created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey. In the present day they account for 13,759 hectares, or 14%, of the AONB. They are characterised by large fields with straight or curving boundaries.

### Distribution

They are widely distributed across the AONB. This type is absent from the Vale of Wardour and the north western corner of the AONB between Longleat and Penselwood. They tend to form large contiguous blocks in the landscape, though they are more dispersed through the area of the Cranborne Chase. This type occurs frequently on the sides of the Wylde and Ebbel Valley, along the edges of the West Wiltshire Downs and in the eastern corner of the AONB in Hampshire. They tend to occur on the middle and upper chalk, and also on higher ground on the sloping valley sides.

### Principal Historical Processes

This type has involved the creation of blocks of large new fields in the landscape. This process started in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and accelerated markedly in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with 85% of this field type being created at this point. In the majority of cases (over 80%) these fields have been created by enclosing previously open land, and the vast majority of this is open grassland and downland. These fields are created to increase the amount of land which can be put to the plough and cultivated. However, this process tends to have occurred at the

edge of the former open downland areas or on river valley sides such as the Wylle. In this respect, it can be seen as a final stage in the enclosure of the open grassland and downland of the AONB, which started in the post medieval period and was greatly accelerated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the parliamentary enclosure movement. The fact that these fields occur in very large blocks, some being greater than 700 hectares in size, points to the planned nature of these fields. However, the semi regular nature of the fields and the irregular nature of the field boundaries suggest that rather than being created as part of an imposed grid system, as is often seen with parliamentary enclosure, they were created in an organic fashion, respecting topography and pre-existing features such as track ways. This means they have preserved the character of the previous open land use. The large scale of the fields, their respect for local topography and the more frequent occurrence of fences, mean that these fields can feel very open and can maintain wide vistas across the landscape.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by fields which are very large in size, 17 hectares on average. The fields show a range of morphologies, being regular, semi-irregular and irregular, though they are rarely sinuous in form. They have either curving and/or semi-irregular boundaries, which often reflect local topography or incorporate older boundaries, such as ancient parish boundaries. The fields have greater



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regularity in their morphology in the southern half of the AONB. The vast majority of this type has been created from formerly open land which is reflected in their semi-irregular morphology.

### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as occurring frequently in the landscape of the AONB, and comprises 14% of the landscape of the AONB.

### **Survival**

This type represents one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is fairly recognisable in the landscape, due to the fact that it occurs in large discrete blocks and due to the large size of its constituent fields. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and, as such, it demonstrates a high level of coherence and intactness.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is often associated with other types of new 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes including Medium New Fields, Paddocks and Reorganised Fields. These are all linked to the same historical processes, but have different morphologies reflecting nuances in the reasons for their creation. As discussed, it can also be characterised as representing a final stage in the history of the enclosure of the open downland and, as such, it is connected with the 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure types such as “Parliamentary Enclosure”, which began the acceleration of this process.

## Evidence for time-depth

Over 94% of the land identified as Large New Fields preserves evidence for previous land uses, the majority of this, 82%, being unenclosed land. This is reflected by the regular association between the place name “downland” and this type. However, 14% was created from previously enclosed land, the vast majority of these are 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosures which have been incorporated into these large scale fields. This has tended to occur in the north of the AONB in the upper reaches of the Wyllye Valley.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has had a fairly large impact on the landscape of the AONB. Its wide open form would be apparent to most observers, but probably not the overall coherence of the type.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	13,758 hectares, 14% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 189 polygons, 4.2% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 73 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Frequent.
Previous Coverage:	13,759 hectares, 14% of AONB was Large New Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Large New Fields is 14,489 hectares, 16% of the AONB.

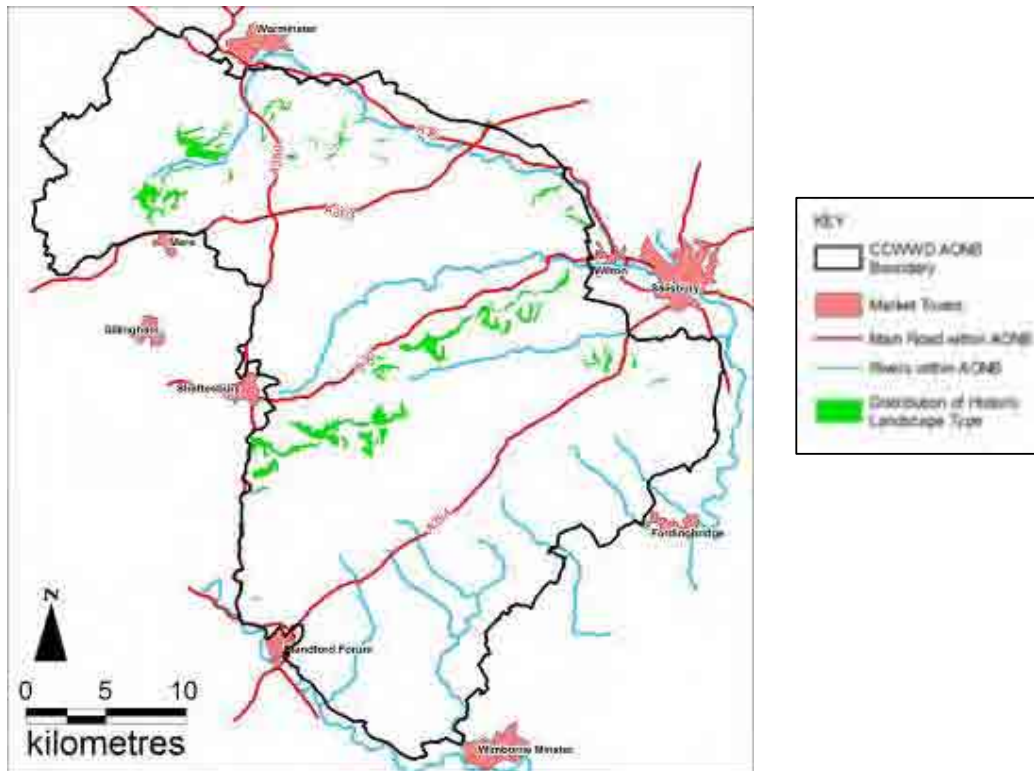
## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

### [1.3.1 New Fields](#)

### Type 1.3.1.3 Semi-enclosed Escarpments



#### Introduction

Semi-enclosed Escarpments created primarily in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey. In the present day they account for 2,460 hectares, or 2.5%, of the AONB. They form a series of linear bands through the landscape on the edge of the chalk escarpments and are semi-irregular in form, with wavy and semi straight boundaries. Their occurrence on the chalk escarpment means that the fields have extremely steep gradients.

#### Distribution

This type has a restricted distribution. It occurs running from southwest to northeast along the Melbury Abbas Escarpment and the Fovant Escarpment. It also occurs in the north of the AONB, along the escarpments to the north of Mere and to the west of Brixton Deverill. It forms a series of linear bands running across the landscape.

#### Principal Historical Processes

The creation of these fields has involved the enclosure of the previously open chalk downland escarpments. This process began in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century when 6% of this type was created, and escalated during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The topography of the escarpments has very much dominated the form that the newly created fields have taken. They are very steep and sinuous in nature, with curving and semi-irregular boundaries at the top and bottom of the slope. In contrast, the boundaries which divide the escarpments into discrete parcels and run up the slopes tend to be completely straight and spaced evenly apart.



This suggests that while the top and bottom of these escarpments has been enclosed by default of the land either side being enclosed, an organised effort has been made to further subdivide this land into a series of individual regular land parcels.

This form of enclosure can be characterised as forming the final stage of the enclosure of the open chalk grassland and downland which was once a dominating component of this landscape. Given the steepness of the escarpments in question it is not surprising that these areas were not enclosed until recently. In general the boundaries are formed of fences and the escarpments are still composed of rough grazing and scrub and thus maintain much of their previous open nature. Indeed, from a distance the dividing straight boundaries make little impact on the appearance of the escarpment. This feeling of openness is often emphasised by the fact that they are sandwiched between the intensively enclosed valley bottom below and the ploughed downland above.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by fields which are large in size. The fields themselves tend to be long and thin, with curving and or semi-irregular boundaries along the top and bottom of the escarpments, and straight boundaries cutting down the escarpments subdivide it into a series of individual regularly sized blocks. The late enclosure of these areas means that they preserve many older features, including strip lynchets and cross dykes.



### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as occurring uncommonly in the landscape of the AONB. However, the escarpments themselves are a highly visible feature in the landscape.

### **Survival**

This is a very robust type, representing one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape, due to the fact that it occurs in large discrete blocks and the large size of its constituent fields. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and, as such, it demonstrates a high level of coherence and intactness. In addition, it represents enclosure of previously open land and it still retains an open appearance and character.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is often associated with other types of 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes, including Formal Enclosure, Parliamentary Enclosure and Prairie Fields, which have involved the enclosure of the open downland landscape. It is also linked spatially with the features which occur upon the escarpments, such as the Fovant Badges or Mere strip lynchets.

## Evidence for time-depth

Over 99% of the Semi-enclosed Escarpments preserve evidence for previous land uses in its current day morphology. The majority of this, 90%, is evidence for the unenclosed land which the enclosures replaced. A small percentage, 7%, preserves traces for a previous form of enclosure, this occurs primarily in the escarpment to the west of Brixton Deverill. Here 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure boundaries have been incorporated into the edges of the regularly spaced subdivision of the escarpment. The fact that these escarpments were only enclosed relatively recently means that they preserve traces of older land use. These include chalk pits, medieval strip lynchets, most notably just north of Mere, and prehistoric earthworks such as cross dykes.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has had a fairly large impact on the landscape of the AONB. The historic landscape type adds greatly to the character of the area. Its wide open form would be apparent to most observers.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	2460 hectares, 2.5% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 62 polygons, 1.4% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 39.69 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	2460 hectares, 2.5% of AONB was Semi-enclosed Escarpments at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 2572 hectares, 2.6% of the AONB.

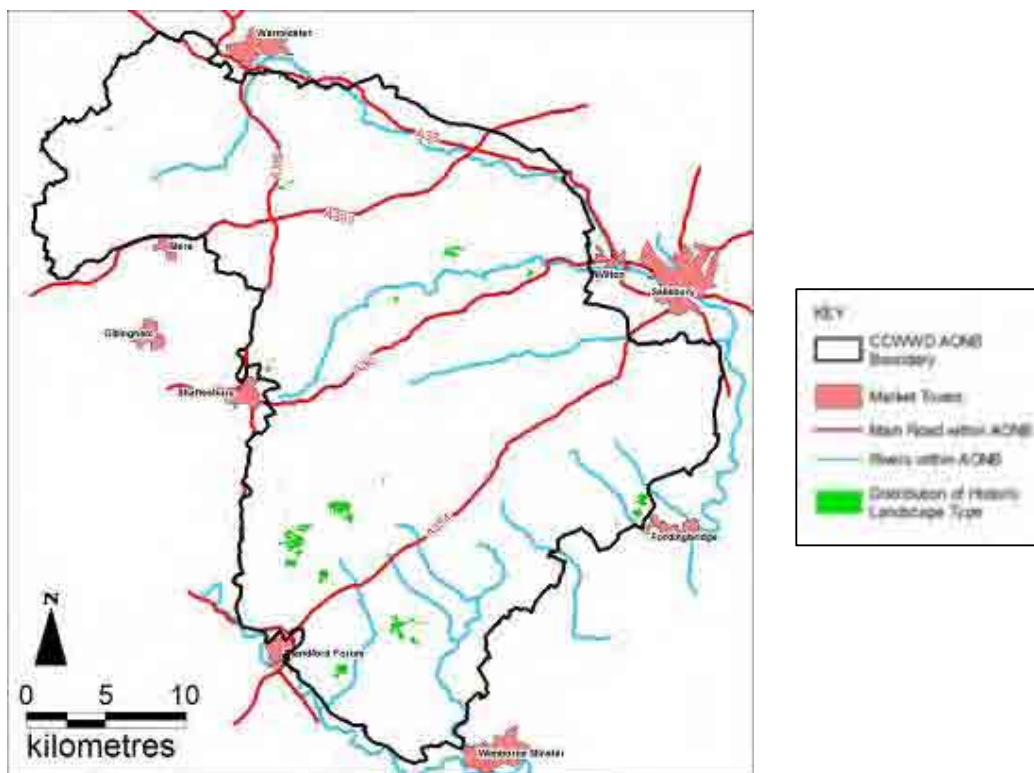
## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

### [1.3.1 New Fields](#)

### Type 1.3.1.4 Cleared Fields



#### Introduction

Fields created by clearing woodland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey. In the present day they account for 601 hectares or 0.61%, of the AONB.

#### Distribution

This type has a restricted distribution. It occurs in dense clumps to the north and West of Blandford Forum and in a few more dispersed locations in the Nadder Valley.

#### Principal Historical Processes

These fields were created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the clearance of a mixture of both pre 1800 and post 1800 woodland. This could be linked to an increasing need for cultivable land in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and agricultural improvements which make it possible to farm less desirable land.

#### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is formed of fields which are medium in size. The fields themselves tend to be semi-irregular or irregular, with straight or kinked boundaries.

### **Rarity**

This type is very scarce in the landscape of the AONB.

### **Survival**

This type represents one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is not very recognisable in the landscape due to the irregular morphologies of the fields. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and, as such, it demonstrates a high level of intactness.



### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the woodland which was created to make these fields. It is also associated with other forms of 20<sup>th</sup> century enclosure.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 80% of type preserves evidence for previous land uses in its current day morphology. The majority of this is evidence for the woodland which the enclosures replaced.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a very small impact on the landscape of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	601 hectares, 0.6% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 37 polygons, 0.8% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 16.24 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	601 hectares, 0.6% of AONB was Cleared Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded  
Coverage:

The total recorded coverage of this type is 601  
hectares, 0.6% of the AONB.

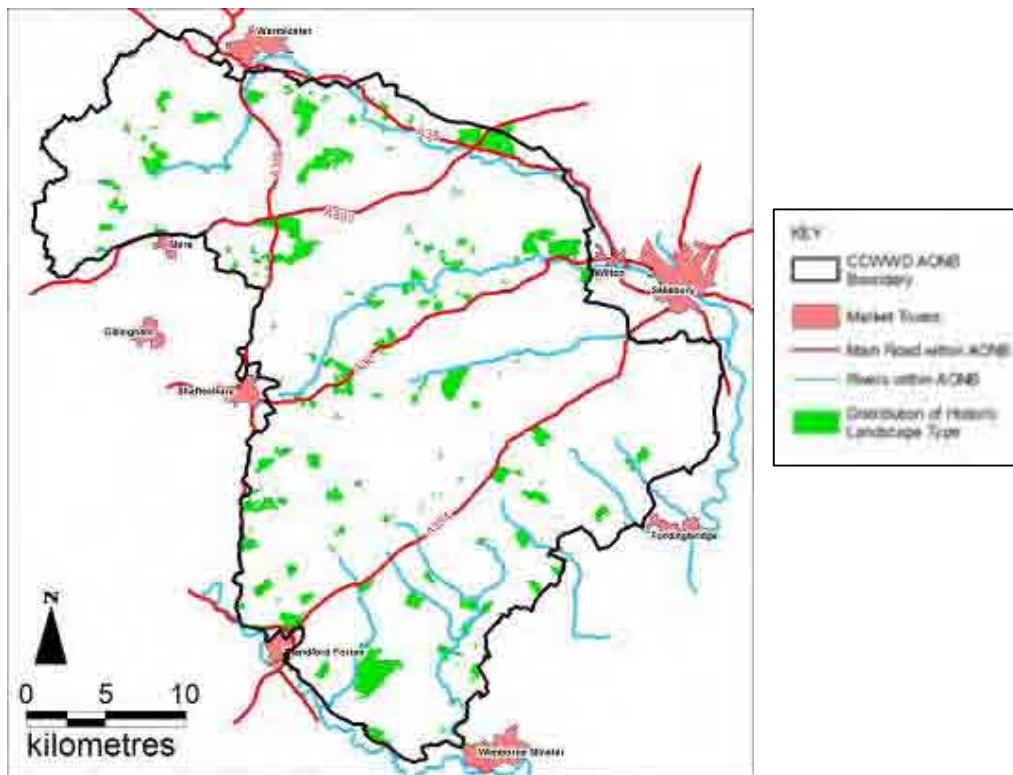
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[1.3.1 New Fields](#)

## Type 1.3.2 Modified Fields



### Introduction

Fields created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from pre-existing fields through the reorganisation of boundaries, or the creation of paddocks within larger fields. They have been documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey. In the present day they account for 6,609 hectares or 6.7% of the AONB.

### Distribution

This type is widely spread through the AONB, but is absent from the far east of the AONB, the north-western greensand hills and the lower reaches of the Ebble Valley. The paddocks tend to cluster at the edge of settlements, while the reorganised fields tend to form large blocks in the landscape and are more widely distributed through the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

The paddocks are created in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century via the subdivision of larger fields to create small paddocks. These could have been created for a variety of purposes, but part of the explanation may very well be equestrian.

The reorganised fields are probably linked to changes in agricultural practice and the intensification of farming. The fact that these fields occur often in very large blocks, and can be greater than 400 hectares in size, suggests that the layout of these fields

may have been pre-planned. In general, this reorganisation has led to smaller fields, with 768 boundaries being gained since the 1880s as opposed to only 83 being lost.

85% of this type preserves traces of previous land uses. This suggests that though the fields themselves mark a radical departure and reorganisation of form and size, a large number retain traces of older boundaries, or alternatively traces of the layout of older field systems.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type demonstrates a great variety in morphology. The paddocks tend to be small fields with regular shapes and straight boundaries. The reorganised fields have also tended towards great uniformity with over half of the fields having regular shaped fields and regular boundaries. The rest have tended towards irregular shaped fields with kinked and curving boundaries. These fields tend to be fenced, but include hedgerows where they incorporate older boundaries.



### **Rarity**

This type occurs occasionally in the AONB.

### **Survival**

This type represents one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape, and represents a process which is probably still ongoing.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be fairly unrecognisable in the landscape, due to the range of morphologies it embodies and the fact that it is identified through comparison with historical Ordnance Survey mapping. Its coherence is weakened by the fact that this type is scattered across the AONB. The creation of these fields also leads to a weakening of the coherence of previous historic landscape types, these older fields remaining only as fragments in these new fieldscapes.

### **Past interaction with other types**

This type by its very nature marks a departure from previous land use forms and therefore can be seen as a new stage in the history of enclosure in the AONB.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 85% of this type contains traces of previous land uses; the majority of this is enclosed land. The fields represent the reorganisation of pre-existing fields, which are either 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century formal and parliamentary enclosure, or early 20<sup>th</sup> century new fields and some of the boundaries of these fields remain. The type also retains traces of earlier open land uses in the form of open unimproved grassland and downland.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type as it becomes more numerous will have an increasing effect on the landscape. The paddocks especially will have a noticeable impact around the villages of the AONB. This may lead to a weakening in the morphological distinctiveness of the fields in the landscape and an erosion of older fieldscapes.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	6,609 hectares, 6.71 % of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 244 polygons, 5.5% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 27.09 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional.
Previous Coverage:	6,609 hectares, 6.71 % of AONB was Modified Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 6,671 hectares, 6.7% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

[1.3.2.1 Paddocks](#)

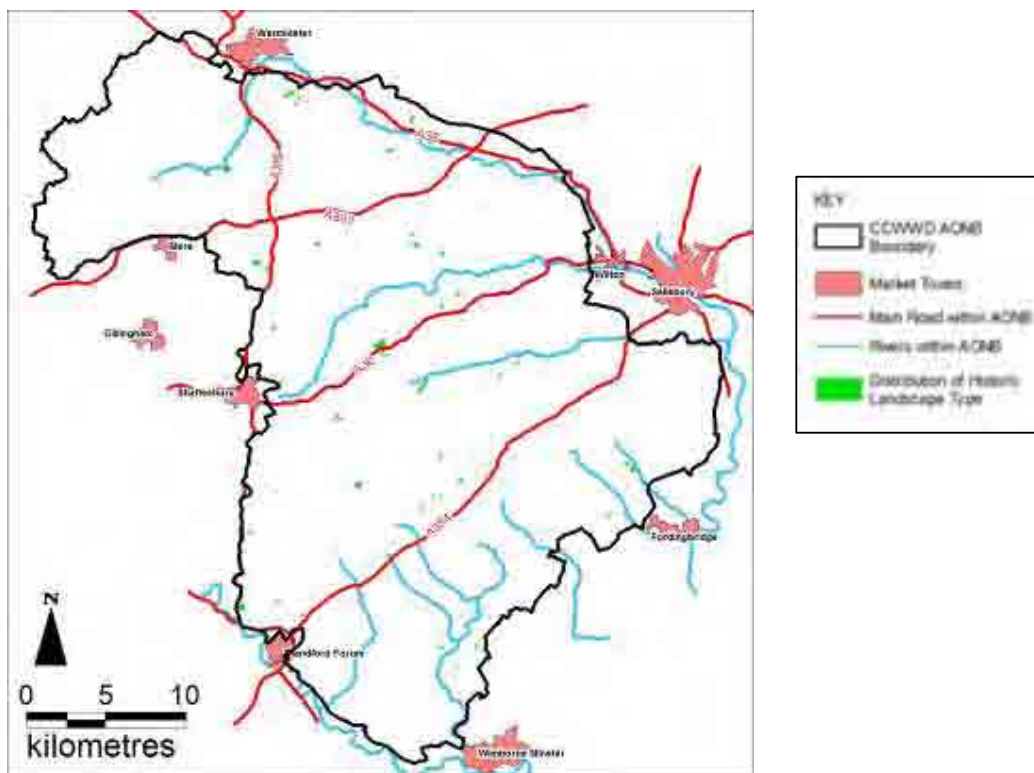
[1.3.2.2 Reorganised Fields](#)

### **Parent Type**

[1.3.2. Modified Fields](#)



### Type 1.3.2.1 Paddocks



#### Introduction

Small Paddocks created from larger fields in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey. In the present day they account for 387 hectares or 0.4% of the AONB.

#### Distribution

This type is distributed across the AONB, but are absent from the far eastern and western sides of the AONB. They tend to cluster at the edge of settlements, and are very regular in form, size and shape. They occur as dispersed groupings.

#### Principal Historical Processes

These fields are created in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century via the subdivision of larger fields to create small paddocks, fields and enclosures at the edges of villages. These could have been created for a variety of purposes, but part of the explanation may very well be equestrian. The process appears to be happening on an ad hoc and piecemeal basis. This is leading to gradual erosion of older enclosure forms, including 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure patterns and older pre 1800 fields, so that 258 boundaries have been added to these areas of enclosure since 1880.

#### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is dominated by small fields which are 1 hectare on average in size. The fields are very regular in size and shape with predominantly straight boundaries; this

can vary where they are incorporating existing boundaries into their form. These fields tend to be fenced, but include hedgerows where they are incorporating older boundaries.

### **Rarity**

This type is scarce in the AONB, but is increasing. It is locally common on the edge of the villages where it is being created.

### **Survival**

This type represents one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape, and represents a process which is still ongoing.



### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be recognisable in the landscape only on a local scale on the outskirts of villages. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and, as such, it demonstrates a high level of intactness, but its coherence is weakened by the fact that this type is scattered across the AONB.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the settlements around which it is being created

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Only 50% of this type maintains traces of previous land uses, the majority of this is enclosed land, but a small percentage is also parkland. The majority of this previous land use relates to 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure patterns which the paddocks are subdividing.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type as it becomes more numerous will have an increasing effect on the landscape around the villages of the AONB, but it has less contribution to the character of the AONB as a whole.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: 387 hectares, 0.4% of the AONB

No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 68 polygons, 1.5% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 5.70 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce
Previous Coverage:	387 hectares, 0.4% of AONB was Paddocks at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 387 hectares, 0.4% of the AONB

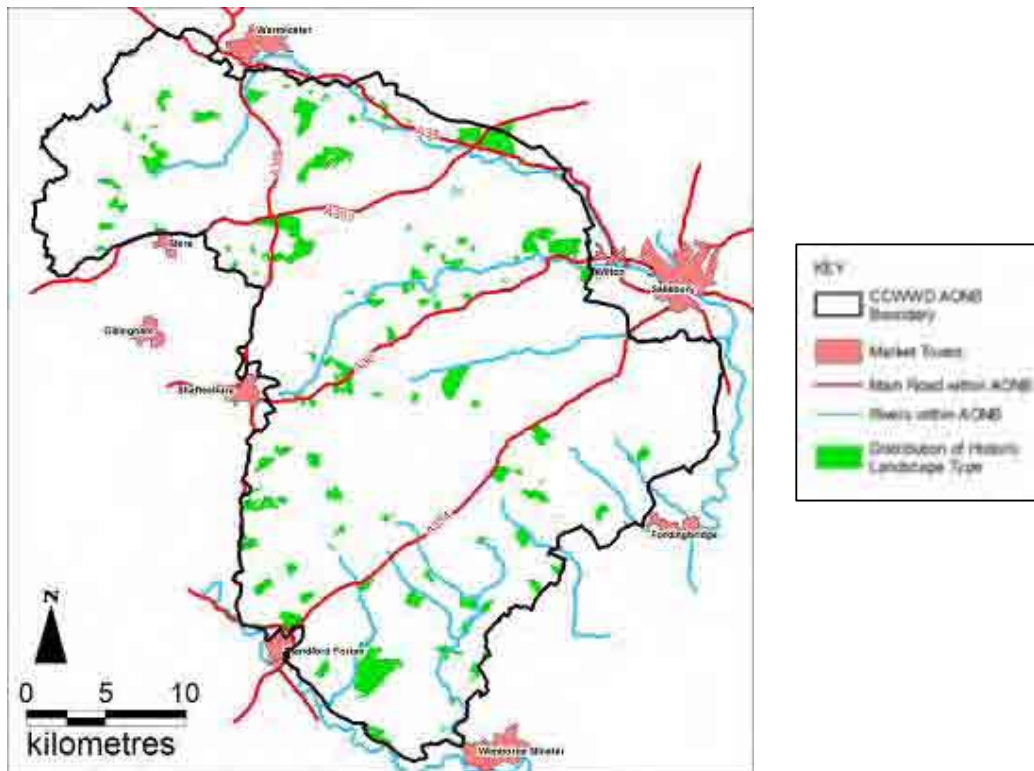
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[1.3.2 Modified Fields](#)

### Type 1.3.2.2 Reorganised Fields



#### Introduction

Fields which have been created through the reorganisation of existing enclosed land primarily in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey, and representing a marked change from the fields shown on the historical Ordnance Survey maps. In the present day they account for 6,609 hectares or 6.7% of the AONB.

#### Distribution

This type is widely distributed across the landscape of the AONB. There are distinct concentrations along the Wylde and Nadder Valleys, to the south of the A354 on the edges of the Tarrant, Allen and Crane Valleys, to the west of Hindon and along the western edge of the AONB between Shaftesbury and Blandford. This type is absent from the upper reaches of the Ebbel Valley, the far east and west of the AONB. There are also voids in its distribution on the open chalk downland of Cranborne Chase and the Vale of Wardour. They tend to form large blocks in the landscape which are not interspersed with other types. They tend to be found on slightly higher ground but occur across a range of geologies. They have a mixed morphology.

#### Principal Historical Processes

These fields were created in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century through the mass reorganisation of pre-existing fields. They are probably linked to changes in agricultural practice and the intensification of farming. The fact that these fields occur often in large blocks, and can be greater than 400 hectares in size, points to the planned nature of these

fields. This reorganisation often led to the division of existing fields, indicated by the 342 boundaries which have been gained since the 1880's as opposed to just 83 lost. The variable morphologies of these fields suggests that though overall these fields represents a planned element in the landscape, the fields were created in an ad hoc way paying respect to local topography and, in some cases, incorporate existing boundaries where convenient. Over 90% of this type preserves traces of previous land uses. This suggests that though the fields themselves mark a radical departure and reorganisation of form and size, a large number of these fields retain traces of older boundaries.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type demonstrates a great variety in morphology. In approximately half the cases the reorganisation has tended towards great uniformity, with regular shaped fields and regular boundaries. The other half has tended towards irregular shaped fields with kinked and curved boundaries. There appears to be no spatial patterning in the differences in morphology. Both kinds of morphology also display a range of previous historic landscape types, suggesting that there is no correlation between previous land use and the form of fields created.



### **Rarity**

This type occurs occasionally in the AONB, and may be increasing.

### **Survival**

This type represents one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape, and represents a process which is probably still ongoing.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be fairly unrecognisable in the landscape due to the range of morphologies it embodies and the fact that it is identified through comparison with historical Ordnance Survey mapping. Its coherence is weakened by the fact that the examples of this type are scattered across the AONB. The creation of these fields also leads to a weakening of the coherence of previous historic landscape types, these older fields remain only as fragments in these new fieldscapes.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other types of new 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes, including new fields, and amalgamated fields. These are all linked to the same historical processes but have different morphologies reflecting nuances in the reasons for their creation. This type, by its very nature, marks a departure from previous land use forms and, therefore, can be seen as a new stage in the history of enclosure in the AONB.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 90% of this type preserves evidence for previous land uses, and in over a third cases multiple layers of land use history. This type represents the reorganisation of pre-existing fields. These older fields were either 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned and parliamentary enclosure or early 20<sup>th</sup> century new fields. The type also retains traces of earlier open land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type leads to a weakening in the morphological distinctiveness of the fields in the landscape of the AONB and a corrosion of older fieldscapes.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	6,609 hectares, 6.7 % of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 244 polygons, 5.5% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 27 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional.
Previous Coverage:	6,609 hectares, 6.7 % of AONB was Reorganised Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 6,671 hectares, 6.7% of the AONB.

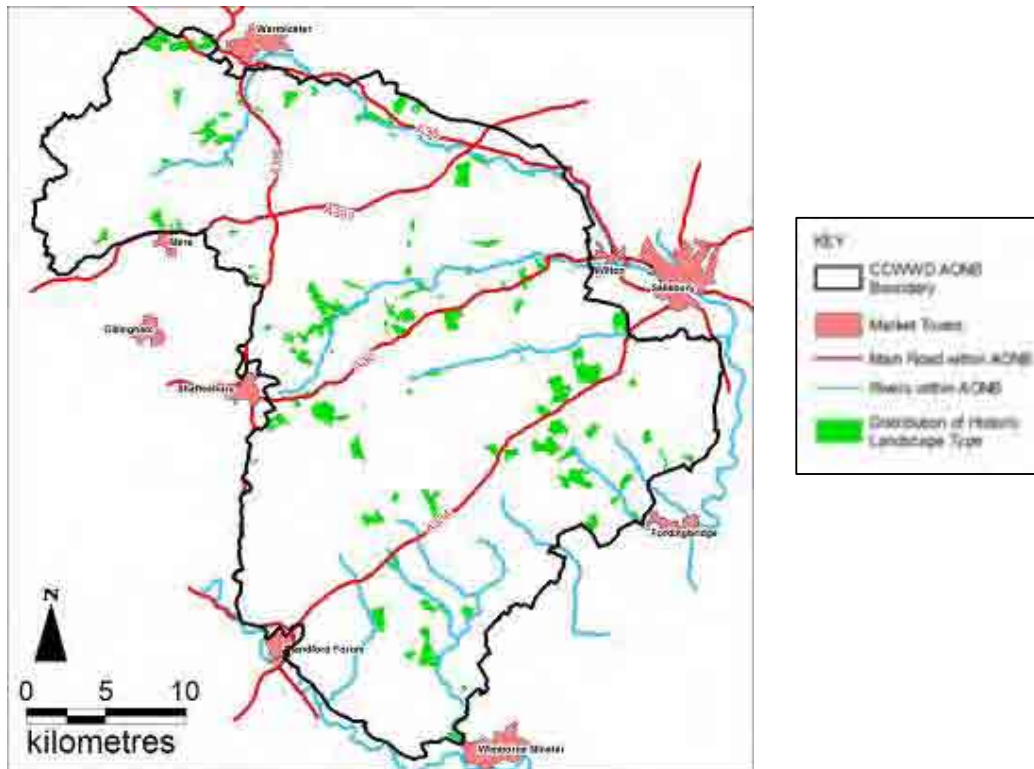
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[1.3.2 Modified Fields](#)

### Type 1.3.3 Enlarged Fields



#### Introduction

Fields that have been created through the amalgamation of existing enclosed land in the second half of the 20th century, documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey, and representing substantial boundary loss from older historic fields. In the present day they account for 4,938 hectares or 5% of the AONB. In order to be identified as this type, the fields in question must have undergone considerable boundary loss between the 1880's historic Ordnance Survey and the modern MasterMap.

#### Distribution

This type is widely distributed throughout the landscape of the AONB. It consists of large blocks, except through the Vale of Wardour where the type is more widely dispersed and interspersed with other types. It is absent from the core of the West Wiltshire Downs, the western greensand hills and the western edge of the AONB between Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum. Concentrations are present in the area between Martin, Rockborne, and Damerham in the southwest of the AONB, along the Tarrant, Allen and Wylve Valleys and the western half of the Vale of Wardour. There is a distinct concentration in the far north of the AONB to the west of Warminster. The type is distributed across a range of topographies and geologies. The type shows a greater regularity in morphology towards the north of the AONB.

#### Principal Historical Processes

These fields were created in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the amalgamation of pre-existing fields; this is demonstrated by the 371 boundaries lost

since the 1880s. This reorganisation has also involved the shifting and relocation of boundaries, as well as their amalgamation, thus 156 boundaries have also been added. This process is probably linked to changes in agricultural practice and the intensification of farming. These fields tend to have a regular or semi-regular form and a mixture of boundary form. This suggests that the boundaries that have been removed create not just larger fields but more regular ones, and the boundaries that remain, or have been added, follow the morphology of the older fields. Over 98% of this type preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

These fields are large and demonstrate variety in morphology. The fields are grouped together in small or medium size blocks. Over 60% are regular or semi regular in shape with either straight or curving boundaries, while 30% are irregular in shape with curving or semi straight boundaries. The fields in the north of the AONB tend to demonstrate greater regularity than in the south.



### **Rarity**

This type occurs occasionally in the AONB, but may be increasing.

### **Survival**

This type represents one of the most recent phases of enclosure in the landscape, and represents a process which is probably still ongoing.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be fairly unrecognisable in the landscape due to the fact that it is identified through comparison with historical Ordnance Survey mapping. Its coherence is weakened by the fact that this type is scattered across the AONB. The creation of these fields also leads to a weakening of the coherence of previous historic landscape types, and the removal of ancient hedged field boundaries. Older fields remain only as fragments in these new fieldscapes.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other types of new 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscapes, including New Fields, Reorganised Fields and Paddocks. These are all linked to the same historical processes but have different morphologies reflecting nuances in the



reasons for their creation. This type, by its very nature, marks a weakening of previous land use patterns.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Over 98% of this type preserves evidence for previous land uses, and a third of cases multiple layers of land use history. This type represents the enlargement and amalgamation of pre-existing fields. These pre-existing fields were either pre 1800 or 19<sup>th</sup> century fields. The type also retains traces of earlier open land uses in the form of open unimproved grassland and downland, and in a few cases of parkland and designed landscape.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type, if it becomes more numerous, will have an increasing effect on the landscape. It has already led to a weakening in the morphological distinctiveness of the fields in the landscape and an erosion of older fieldscapes.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	4,938 hectares, 5% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 156 polygons, 3.5% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 31.7 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional.
Previous Coverage:	4,937 hectares, 5% of AONB was Enlarged Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 5,021 hectares, 5% of the AONB.

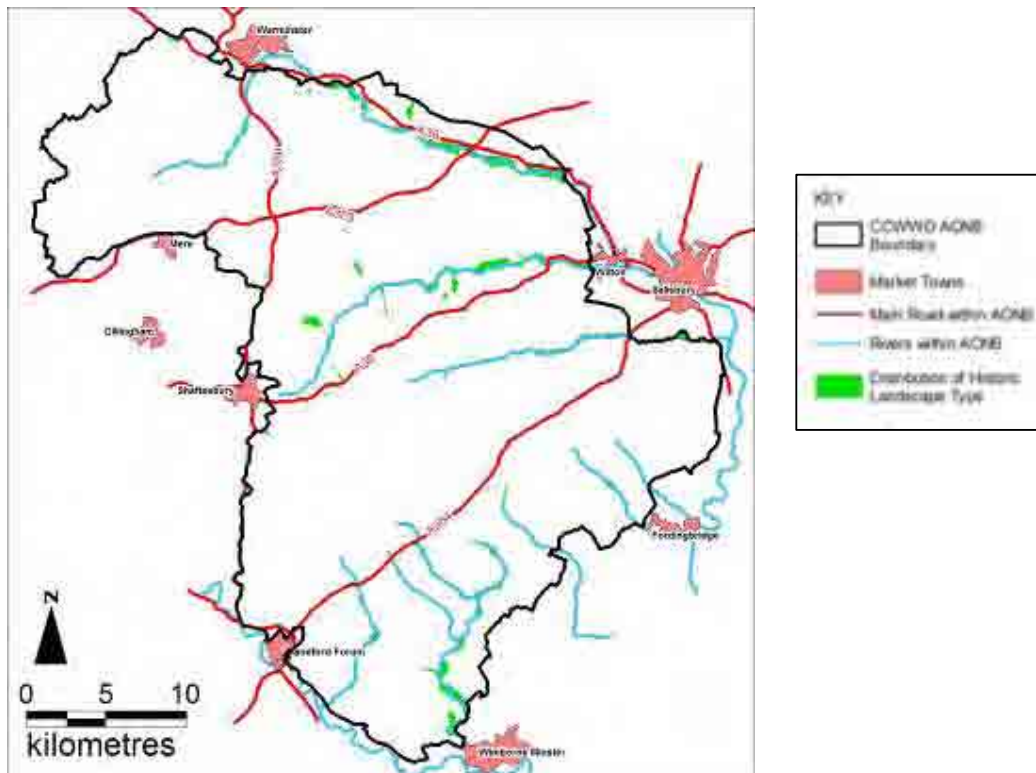
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[1.3. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields](#)

## Type 1.4 Other Fields



### Introduction

Other Field types which it is not easy to attribute to a single time period or historical process. These include orchards, allotments, enclosed meadows, and relic water meadows. The first three are very rare in the AONB and it is the relic water meadows which make the biggest contribution to this type. In total, this type in the present day accounts for 2,581 hectares, or 2.62%, of the AONB. They have been identified by the comparison of historic maps and modern Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs.

### Distribution

This type has a restricted distribution and is found primarily in the Wylve, Ebbw, Nadder, Allen and Tarrant Valleys. This type is found adjacent to river courses and settlements.

### Principal Historical Processes

The sinuous enclosed meadows were probably used for the cultivation of hay and for grazing. The majority have been dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Water Meadows played a vital role in Britain's farming economy between 1600 and 1900. The early grass that could be produced by watered meadows was a crucial element to the farming regimes of the chalklands of Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire.

Allotments represent the leasing of small plots of land to tenants for growing vegetables and in some instances for the rearing of livestock, and represents a process which dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The orchards identified are at least 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Enclosed meadows are dominated by small sinuous semi irregular fields with curving boundaries, found alongside streams and in valley bottoms.



The water meadows comprise a series of complex and sophisticated bedworks, which used a system of weirs, hatches, channels and drains to drown the meadows.

Allotments usually consist of a plot of land bounded by a hedge and fence, which is subdivided by unenclosed cultivation plots.

Orchards are dominated by small enclosures which are typically hedged containing a variety of fruit trees.

### **Rarity**

These types can be characterised as being uncommon in the landscape, though there are locally common along the chalk river valleys.

### **Survival**

These form a fairly fragile type as it exists in low densities.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The overall cohesion of this group is not high as they span a range of land uses.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Enclosed meadows are associated with other pre 1800 field types, and mark the beginning of the intensification of activity in the valley bottoms culminating in the creation of water meadows. The orchards and allotments are associated with various settlement types.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Less than 2% of these fields contain traces of previous land uses, highlighting the fact that they represented a transformation of land use.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Due to their uncommon occurrence this type has minimal impact on the landscape character of the AONB, compared to other enclosed land categories; although they can contribute greatly to the character of individual settlements and valleys.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	2,582 Hectares, 2.62% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 167 polygons, 1.37% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 15.46 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	3,027 hectares, 3.07% of AONB was Other Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Other Fields is 2,626 hectares, 2.6% of the AONB.

### Constituent Types

[1.4.1 Enclosed Meadows](#)

[1.4.2 Water Meadows](#)

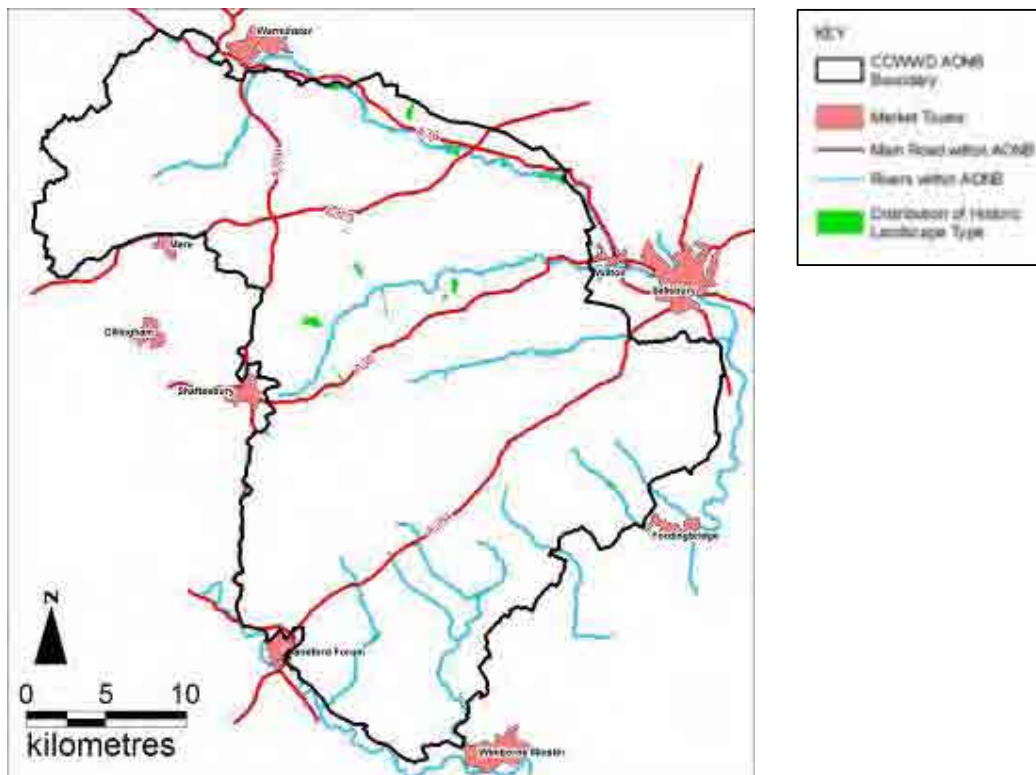
[1.4.3 Allotments](#)

[1.4.4 Orchards](#)

### Parent Type

[1. Enclosed Land](#)

## Type 1.4.1 Enclosed Meadows



### Introduction

Enclosed hedged semi-irregular and curving meadows located on low lying valley bottoms or along stream tributaries. In the present day they account for 847 hectares, or 0.86%, of the AONB. They have been identified by comparison of historic maps and modern Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs.

### Distribution

They have a restricted distribution along the Wylfe, Ebble and Tarrant Valley, and on the tributaries of the Nadder Valley, where they cluster in dense groups.

### Principal Historical Processes

These sinuous fields were probably used for the cultivation of hay and for grazing. The majority have been dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century but it is likely that with further research and investigation they could be identified as being of greater antiquity, possibly post medieval or even medieval in origin. Some of the 19<sup>th</sup> century examples of this type may prove to be heavily eroded water meadows. Many more of this type may have previously existed than there is evidence for in today's landscape, but would have been transformed into water meadows and therefore all traces would have been removed.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by small sinuous semi irregular fields with curving boundaries found alongside streams and in valley bottoms.

### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as being scarce in the landscape, though there are distinct concentrations in their distribution especially along the Wylze Valley.

### **Survival**

This is a fairly fragile type, due to their location. The fact that they are stretched out along the valley bottom means that their cohesion can be easily eroded.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

Today the majority of this type is primarily used for grazing and it is their location, rather than their form, which now distinguishes them from pre 1800 field types, such as pre 1800 sinuous fields.

### **Past interaction with other types**

These enclosed meadows are associated with other pre 1800 field types, and mark the beginning of the intensification of activity in the valley bottoms, culminating in the creation of water meadows.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Less than 4% of these fields contain traces of previous land uses, highlighting the potential antiquity of the fields and the fact that they represented a transformation of land use from previously unenclosed land. The 34 hectares that do demonstrate previous land use represent the late creation of enclosed meadows from parliamentary enclosed land and early water meadows, though this juxtaposition of land uses is the exception rather than the rule.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Due to its scarce occurrence and sparse distribution this type has had a minimal impact on the landscape character of the AONB, though it may contribute greatly to the character of individual valleys.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: 847 Hectares, 0.86% of the AONB.



No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 84 polygons, 1.89% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 10.08 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	1,043 hectares, 1.06% of AONB was Enclosed Meadows at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Enclosed Meadows is 1,043 hectares, 1% of the AONB.

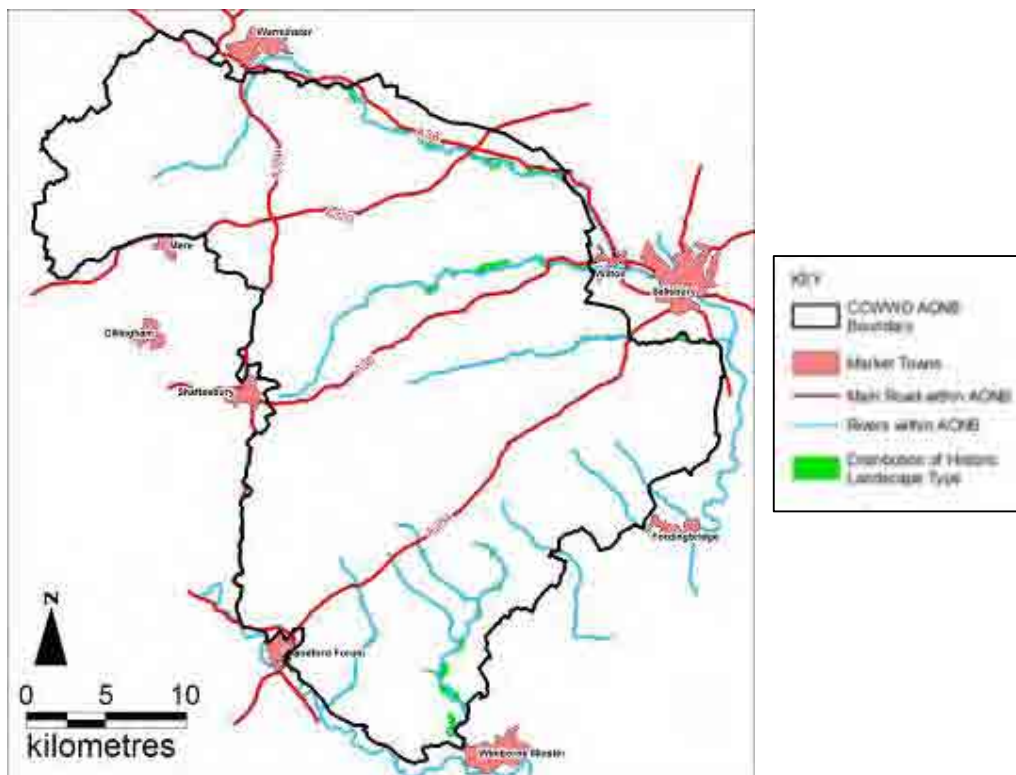
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[1.4 Other fields](#)

## Type 1.4.2 Water Meadows



### Introduction

Relic Water Meadows created between 1600 and 1900 AD documented on historic Ordnance Survey maps through the depiction of their associated channels, sluices and weirs. In the present day they account for 1,710 hectares, or 1.74%, of the AONB.

Land in the AONB has been identified as “water meadows” only where there is clear evidence on the modern Ordnance Survey or historic maps for the associated sluices, bedworks and channels. If these are not present then sinuous fields in valley bottoms have been identified as enclosed meadows, further ground truthing may identify these also as water meadows.

### Distribution

They have a restricted distribution and they are found in the valley bottoms of all the river systems in the AONB including the Wylde, Nadder, Ebble, Tarrant and Crane. There are, however, distinct concentrations in the Wylde, Nadder and Tarrant where this type forms large coherent blocks in the valley bottoms.

### Principal Historical Processes

Water Meadows played a crucial role in Britain's farming economy between 1600 and 1900. The early grass that could be produced by water meadows was a crucial element to the farming regimes of the chalklands of Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire.



The meadows formed a central feature of the local sheep/corn system of agriculture. They allowed for the artificial control of the watering of meadows using a sophisticated system of hatches, weirs, channels and drains. This allowed a lush crop of grass to grow several weeks before natural grazing became available and allowed for greater flocks of sheep to be maintained and thus more farmland to be enriched with manure.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

The Water Meadows comprise a series of complex and sophisticated bedworks, which used a system of weirs, hatches, channels and drains to drown the meadows. These were interspersed by culverts and bridges, which provided access to the meadows for carts when the hay was harvested. Water Meadows can vary greatly in their form,



extent and arrangement. The evidence for these is still visible in the landscape. The channels are especially noticeable in low light or when the meadows flood in winter. None of the Water Meadows within the AONB are still operational, although there are fine examples on the border of the AONB at West Harnham, and in the Woodford Valley.

### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as occurring uncommon in the landscape of the AONB. The amount of areas these relic meadows cover however belies the fact that they are an extremely characteristic feature of chalk river valley systems where they are locally common.

### **Survival**

No water meadows survive in the AONB in working order; they are only present in relic form although their major features do survive. However, since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century 150 hectares of water meadows have been lost.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The water meadows are very recognisable in the landscape due to their characteristic form, many of their features, such as the sluices, channels and bridges are much degraded.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Water meadows are part of the farming economy which existed in the chalklands of Wessex from 1600 to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They are, therefore,

intrinsically linked with other changes which occurred at this time, such as the enclosure of open downland, fields and common land.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Less than 1% of water meadows preserve any trace of previous land uses, demonstrating the radical impact this system had in the valley bottoms.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Where this type exists it has had a large impact on the landscape of the AONB, it would be apparent to most observers especially in low light or when the meadows are flooded.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	1,710 Hectares, 1.74 % of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 72 polygons, 1.6 % of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 23 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	1,894 hectares, 1.92% of AONB was Water Meadows at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of Water Meadows is 1,916 hectares, 1.9% of the AONB.

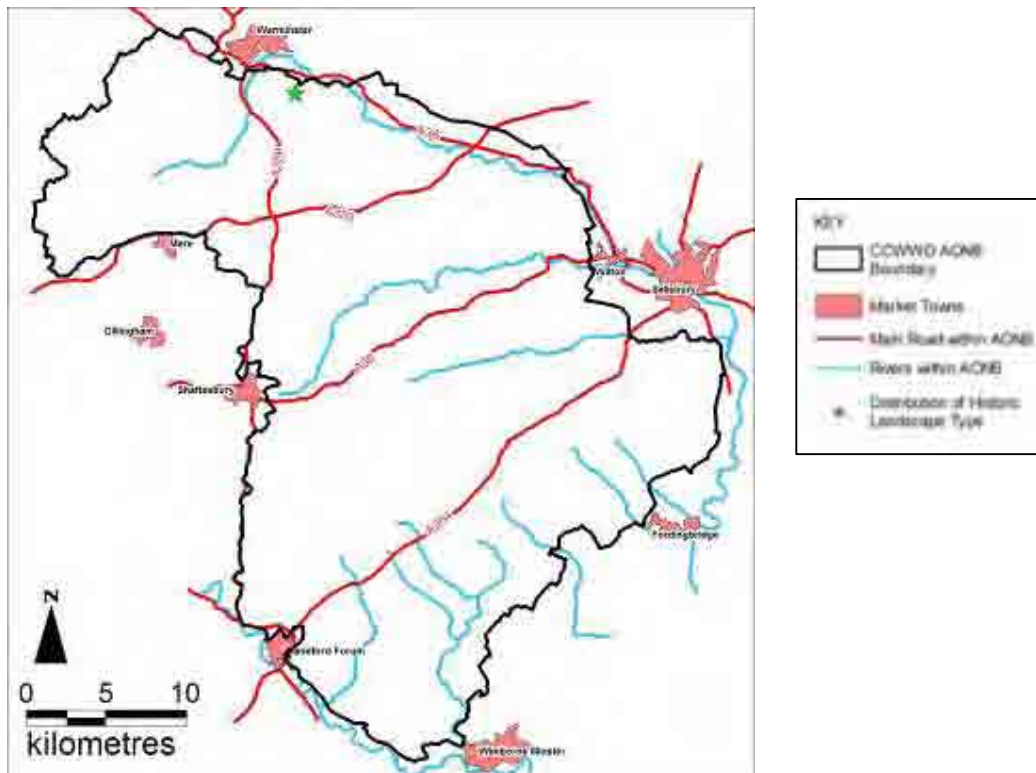
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[1.4 Other fields](#)

### Type 1.4.3 Allotments



#### Introduction

Allotments created from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. In the present day they account for 1.81 hectares, or 0.1%, of the AONB. However, this does not represent all the Allotments present only those of significant size to be identified as such.

#### Distribution

This dataset only identified one allotment at Sutton Veny from the modern day Ordnance Survey map. However, much smaller examples exist throughout the AONB but are too small to be recorded as such and would, therefore, be subsumed under various settlement types.

#### Principal Historical Processes

An Allotment is a small area of land, let out at a nominal yearly rent by local government or independent allotment associations, for individuals to grow their own food. Allotments represent the leasing of small plots of land to tenants for growing of vegetables and in some instances for the rearing of livestock, and represents a process which dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The one recorded allotment in this dataset dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and those recorded as previous types date to the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. As discussed above, there are many more Allotments in the AONB, but these are too small to be recorded, the majority of these are 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. The provision of Allotments is codified in law by, for example, the 1922 Allotments Act. Allotments tend to have great community value and are also increasingly valued today for their green credentials.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Allotments usually consist of a plot of land bounded by a hedge and fence which is subdivided by unenclosed cultivated plots. These plots are often associated with garden sheds, water butts and stand pipes. The Allotments are always associated with villages or small settlements which have the rights to lease them.



### Rarity

This type can be characterised as very rare in the AONB due perhaps to the rural nature of the AONB.

### Survival

Only one allotment is of sufficient size to be recorded in the dataset. The dataset also suggests that this type has decreased in number during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

Allotments where they exist are very recognisable, and have a coherent form and function.

### Past interaction with other types

Allotments are often associated with the expansion of settlement in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Evidence for time-depth

The one allotment which has been recorded does not have any evidence for previous land uses.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

Allotments are a very localised phenomenon, which do not contribute greatly to landscape character. However, they may be a very valued community asset.

### Key Statistics

Total Area: 1.81 Hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.

No. of Polygons: This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygon, 0.01 % of the total number of polygons digitised.

Av. Polygon Size: Each polygon averages 1.81 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Very Rare.

Previous Coverage: 22.11 hectares, 0.02% of AONB was Allotments at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of Enclosed Land is 22.11 hectares, 0.02% of the AONB.

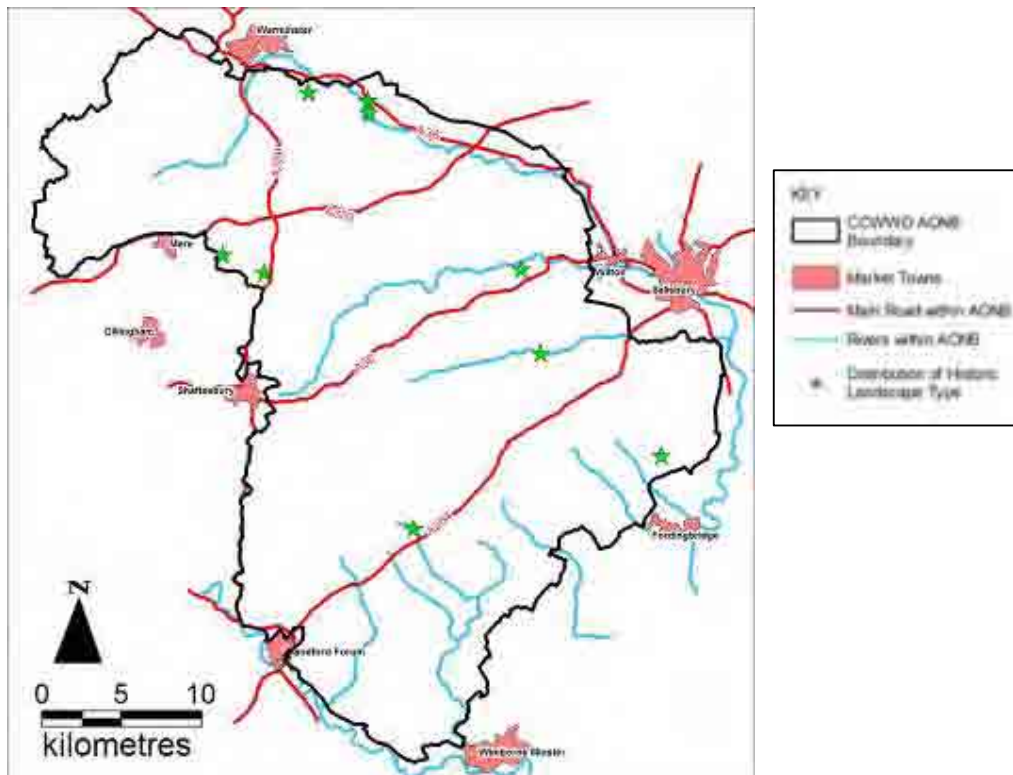
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[1.4 Other fields](#)

## Type 1.4.4 Orchard



### Introduction

Fields, paddocks and enclosures which contain plantations of fruit trees for both private and commercial use. In the present day they account for 22.63 hectares, or 0.02%, of the AONB.

### Distribution

Orchards are sparsely distributed but there is a tendency for them to be located in or near to settlements and farms, especially along the Nadder and Wylde Valley. In order to be mapped the orchards need to be over 1 hectare so many smaller orchards forming parts of larger gardens or estates will not have been mapped.

### Principal Historical Processes

The orchards in question are at least 19<sup>th</sup> century in date; these traditional orchards would have been planted at much lower densities than would be common today. The traces for orchards which survive in the modern day landscape reach their peak in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but orchards have a long tradition in the area. The first written reference to cider in Dorset, for example, dates from 1291, where there is mention of cider 'ciseria' in an enrolled account of Shaftesbury Abbey. There was previously a much greater density of larger orchards spread throughout both the Wylde and Nadder Valley.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is dominated by small enclosures which are typically hedged, containing a variety of fruit trees.

### **Rarity**

This type can be characterised as rare in the landscape. The tradition of orchards in the AONB is not as strong as in some of the surrounding areas of Dorset and Somerset.



### **Survival**

This is a fairly fragile type, since the 19<sup>th</sup> century over 50 hectares of orchards have been lost, especially in the Nadder and Wylve Valley.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The orchards which survive are still very recognisable in the landscape due to the specific ways in which the trees were planted, grown and cultivated, and the varieties of tree which were chosen. The sparse distribution of the orchards means they are not a dominant feature of the landscape.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The orchards form an integral part of the historic settlements and estates in which they are situated.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Only one of the orchards recorded contains traces of previous enclosure, the majority mark a departure from older land use patterns.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Due to its rare occurrence and sparse distribution this type has a minimal impact on the landscape character of the AONB, though it may contribute greatly to the character of individual settlements.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	22.63 Hectares, 0.02% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 10 polygons, 0.23% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.26 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Rare.

Previous Coverage: 72.44 hectares, 0.07% of AONB was Orchards at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of Orchards is 80.07 hectares, 0.08% of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[1.4 Other fields](#)



**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 2 OPEN LAND**



## CONTENTS

<b>Open Land in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	171
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	172
<b>Type 2 Open Land</b> .....	173
Type 2.1 Open Downland and Unimproved Grassland.....	176
Type 2.1.2 Common Open Grassland and Unimproved Grassland.....	180
Type 2.2 Marsh.....	183
Type 2.3 Scrubland and Rough Grazing.....	186
Type 2.3.1 Common Scrubland and Rough Grazing.....	189
Type 2.4 Heath.....	192
Type 2.5 Furze.....	195

## Open Land in the AONB: An Introduction

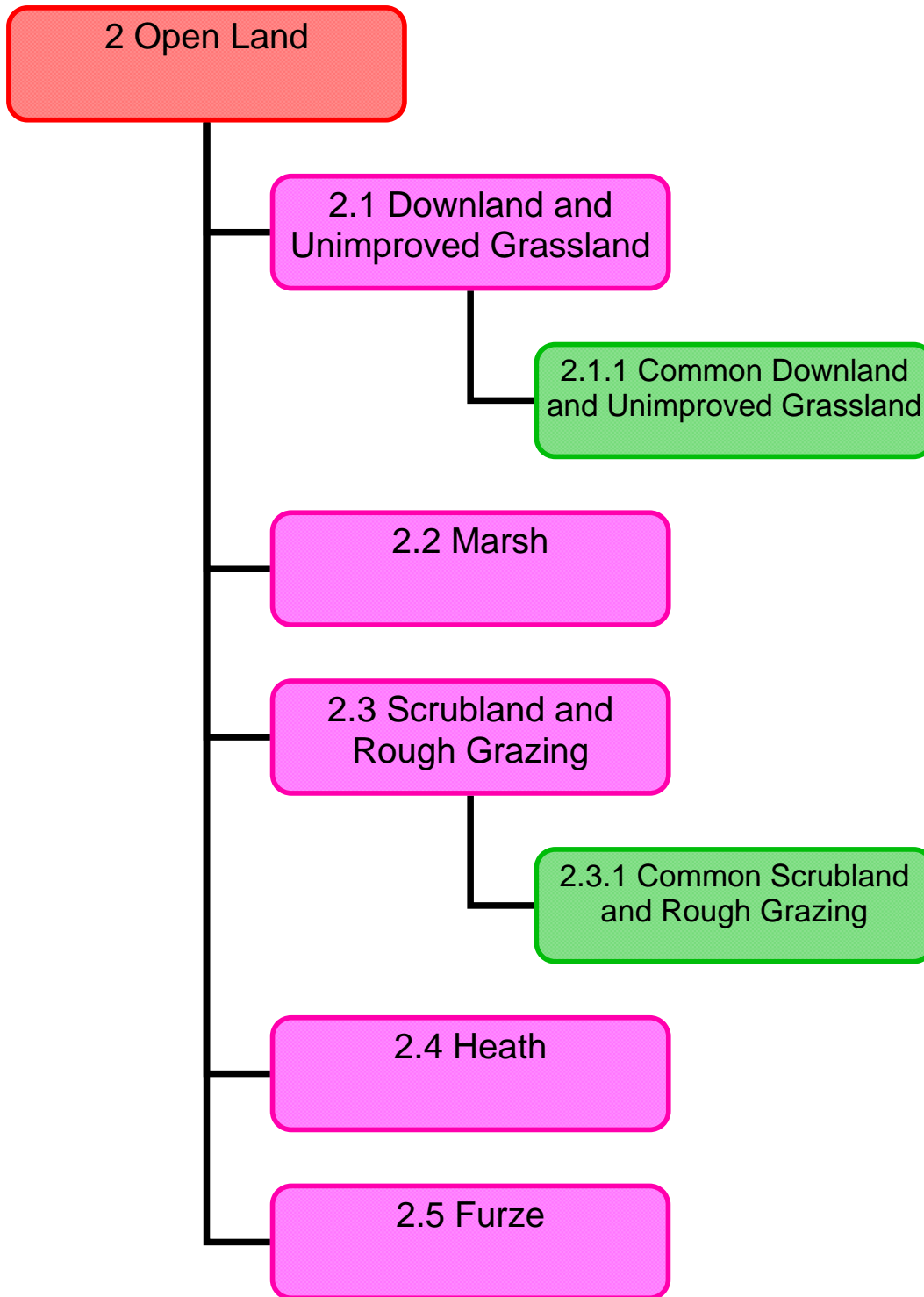
***“The vast flocks of sheep, which one every where sees upon these downs, and the great number of those flocks, is a sight truly worth observation; 'tis ordinary for these flocks to contain from 3 to 5000 in a flock; and several private farmers hereabouts have two or three such flocks.”***

(From Defoe. (1725) A tour thro' the whole island of Great Britain, divided into circuits or journies. G Strahan: London)

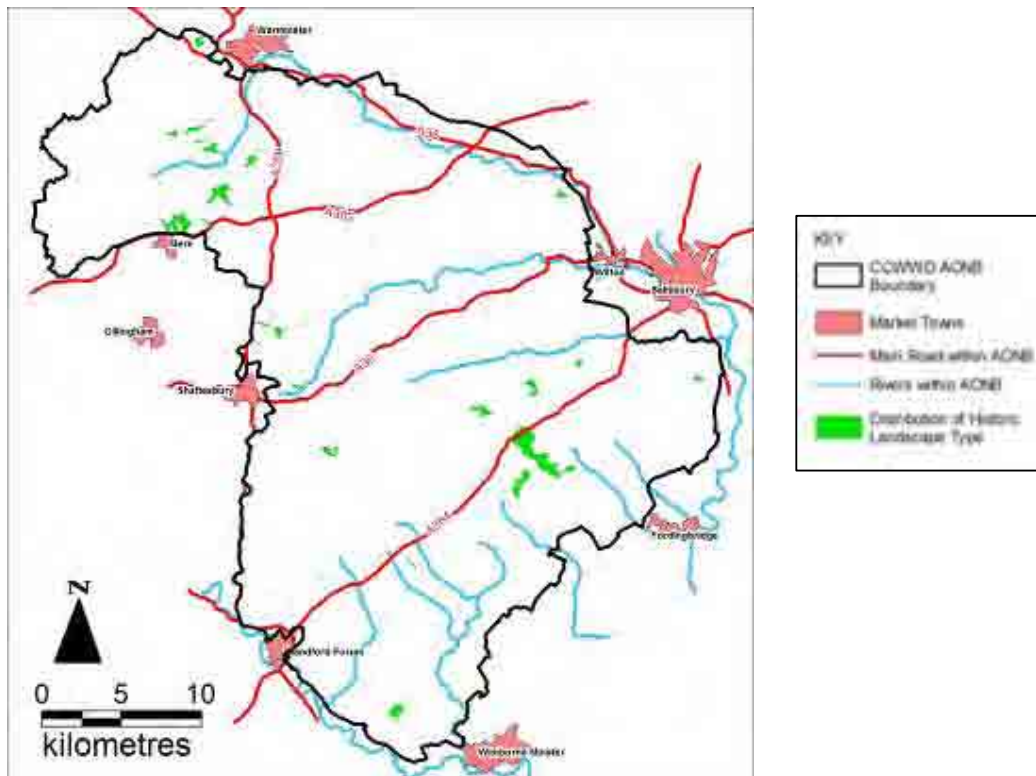
Today the open downland of the AONB is limited to small areas on the edge of escarpments, in steeped sided coombes or to nature reserves such as at Martin Down in Hampshire. However, historic ordnance maps show that as recently as 50 years ago the AONB was dominated by open downland and unimproved grassland. These high downlands were typified by vast uninterrupted vistas, lack of dwellings, few marked roads and very large flocks of sheep, all of which impressed Defoe in his travels across the area in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The open downland, areas of rough grazing, furze and heath were all extremely important features of the landscape in the past, much of these areas were subject to common rights which gave people access to fuel, summer grazing and materials for construction. These more marginal lands were increasingly encroached upon as the land was more intensively farmed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These pressures meant that the open land in the AONB shrunk to a fraction of its former size. The locations where it is still found mark an important historical survival, therefore, which is often also of great ecological significance.



Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## Type 2 Open Land



### Introduction

Surviving areas of Open Land in the AONB. These include areas of downland and unimproved grassland, scrubland and rough grazing, marsh, heath and furze. There are also remnant traces of heath land and former common land. The surviving open land only represents a fraction of the former extent of open land in the AONB, and the biggest impact of this type has been its influence on the later fields and woodland which were created from this land

### Distribution

Open Land in the AONB has a very restricted distribution. There are distinct concentrations of surviving open land firstly in the area surrounding Martin Down, to the north of Mere and to the north of Shaftesbury around Semley Common. The area around Semley Common forms the only surviving common land in the AONB, and is an unusual feature in the 21<sup>st</sup> landscapes of England.

### Principal Historical Processes

The surviving Open Land is present in the AONB for two reasons.

Firstly, the surviving open chalk downland represents traces of what would have once been large tracts of downland. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century this land formed a major part of the sheep/corn husbandry system of farming. Much of this land was transformed into fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, with only small areas remaining today.

The second process represents the survival of land, which would have been on the edge of settlements and fields in the past, and often was poor quality agricultural land such as marsh or heath. They did, however, represent an important resource in the past and much of the scrubland and rough grazing, for example, was subject to common rights. The escalating process of enclosure, culminating in the intensification of farming in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, meant that this land was increasingly encroached upon until only fragments were left in the landscape.

### **Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

Surviving Open Land is often irregular in shape and found on the edge of parishes, settlements or on steep or undulating ground. It is associated with a range of ground cover including furze, scrub, unimproved or short cropped grassland.



### **Rarity**

Open Land is uncommon in the AONB and is only found in a few locations.

### **Survival**

The surviving areas of this type only represent a fraction of the former extent of Open Land. However, former traces of this type survive fossilised within more recent land uses. These traces include the way formerly Open Land has affected the shape and morphology of more recent fields and woodland. This evidence suggests that while there is 1,095 hectares of Open Land surviving today, it previously covered an area in excess of 23,000 hectares in the early post medieval period. 15,000 hectares of this land still existed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Open Land was commonly found across the AONB, with the exception of parts of the Vale of Wardour, the greensand hills between Warminster and Mere, and the chalk river valleys.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The larger surviving areas of Open Land, especially in the area around Martin Down, would be recognisable to most observers. The smaller more marginal traces would probably not be recognised unless map base evidence was consulted.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Open Land is often associated with areas of higher downland and with the edges of parishes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Surviving Open Land is often associated with extant archaeological earthworks.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has a localised influence on the landscape character of the AONB. The surviving traces are very important as they represent fragments of a once much more widespread land use.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	1,095 hectares, 1.11 % of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 40 polygons, 0.90% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 27 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	24,719 hectares, 25 % of AONB was Open Land at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 28,286 hectares, 28 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

[2.1 Downland and Unimproved Grassland](#)

[2.2 Marsh](#)

[2.3 Scrubland and Rough Grazing](#)

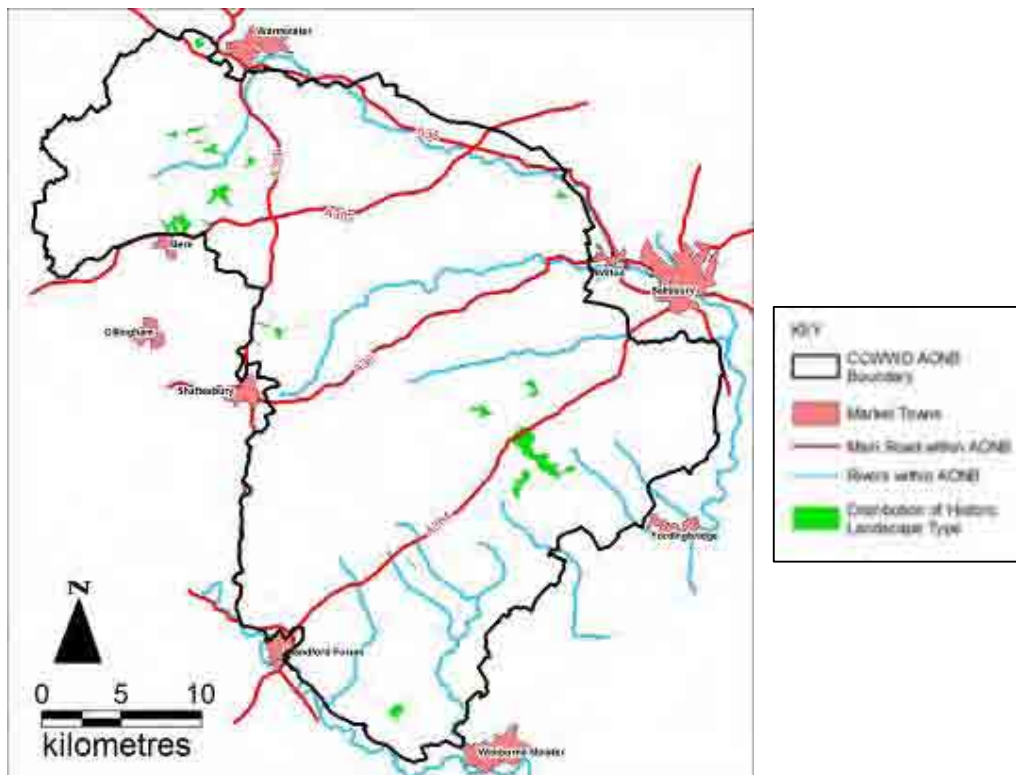
[2.4 Heath](#)

[2.5 Furze](#)

### **Parent Type**

None

## Type 2.1 Open Downland and Unimproved Grassland



### Introduction

Open areas of predominantly close-cropped chalk downland.

### Distribution

This type has a very restricted distribution. It occurs on the southern chalkland downland band in the AONB around Martin Down, and to the north of Mere. There is an outcrop of open chalk downland surviving at Cley Hill near Warminster but also unimproved grassland. In addition, there is a small surviving remnant of lowland unimproved grassland in the Wardour Vale around Semley Common, which forms some of the only surviving common land in the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

The surviving areas of open chalk downland represent traces of what would have once been large belts of downland. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century this land formed a major part of the sheep/corn husbandry system of farming, that is a system of grain production made possible by the large sheep flocks which fed all day on the high open chalk downland and by night were folded on arable lands to enrich the soils. This allowed much greater yields of crops to be grown. It was the effect of the grazing of large flocks of sheep, which sometimes numbered in their 1000's, which maintained the short turf and plant rich ground cover which is so characteristic of this form of open land. The surviving areas of open downland are still used as sheep



pasture today. The small areas of surviving unimproved grassland seen in the Vale of Wardour around Semley have a different historical trajectory.

**Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

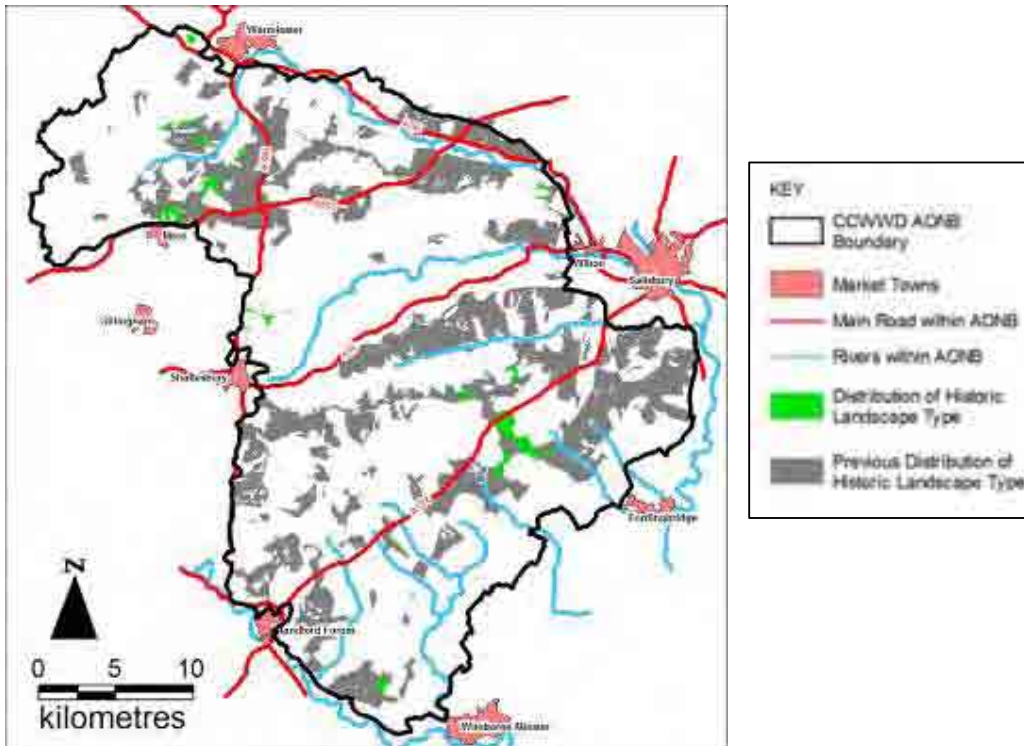
Open short cropped downland and unimproved grass. This is often associated with ancient earthworks which can be of prehistoric date. The land is also associated with small patches of scrub, gorse and open chalk track ways.



**Rarity**

Open downland and unimproved grassland as a group is uncommon in the AONB. However, in the two areas where it is mostly found, around Martin Down in Hampshire and along the chalk escarpments to the north of Mere, it is locally common.

**Survival**



The surviving open area of chalk downland only represents a fraction of the former extent of this downland. The previous evidence for past land uses recorded, which includes how former open land has affected the shape and morphology of more recent fields and place name evidence, suggests that there is 1,000 hectares of open downland and unimproved grassland surviving today (in green on the map on page 177). This previously covered an area in excess of 20,000 hectares in the early post medieval period (in grey on the map on page 177). In addition, 10,000 hectares of this survived into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, demonstrating the dramatic effect that the intensification of farming and the creation of fields in the 20<sup>th</sup> century had on the landscape of the AONB. Much of this surviving area was transformed into large scale prairie fields at this point. Open chalk grassland was commonly found across the AONB, with the exception of the Vale of Wardour, the greensand hills between Warminster and Mere, and the chalk river valleys. Its distribution was also more broken across the wooded chalk downland of Cranborne Chase.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape, especially in the area around Martin Down.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 18<sup>th</sup> century types including ancient woodland, common land, open unimproved grass and ancient settlement. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The open downland is scattered with a number of surviving earthworks, these date to all periods. These areas are also notable for the survival of prehistoric earthworks in particular due to the lack of modern ploughing, which has occurred in these areas.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB. This influence is dramatically increased when its distribution is combined with the semi-enclosed chalk escarpments which are formally fields but maintain much of their former open characteristics.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	1006 hectares, 11.9% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 27 polygons, 0.61% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 37 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	22561 hectares, 22.91% of AONB was Open Downland and Unimproved Grassland at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded	The total recorded coverage of this type

Coverage: is 25681 hectares, 26% of the AONB.

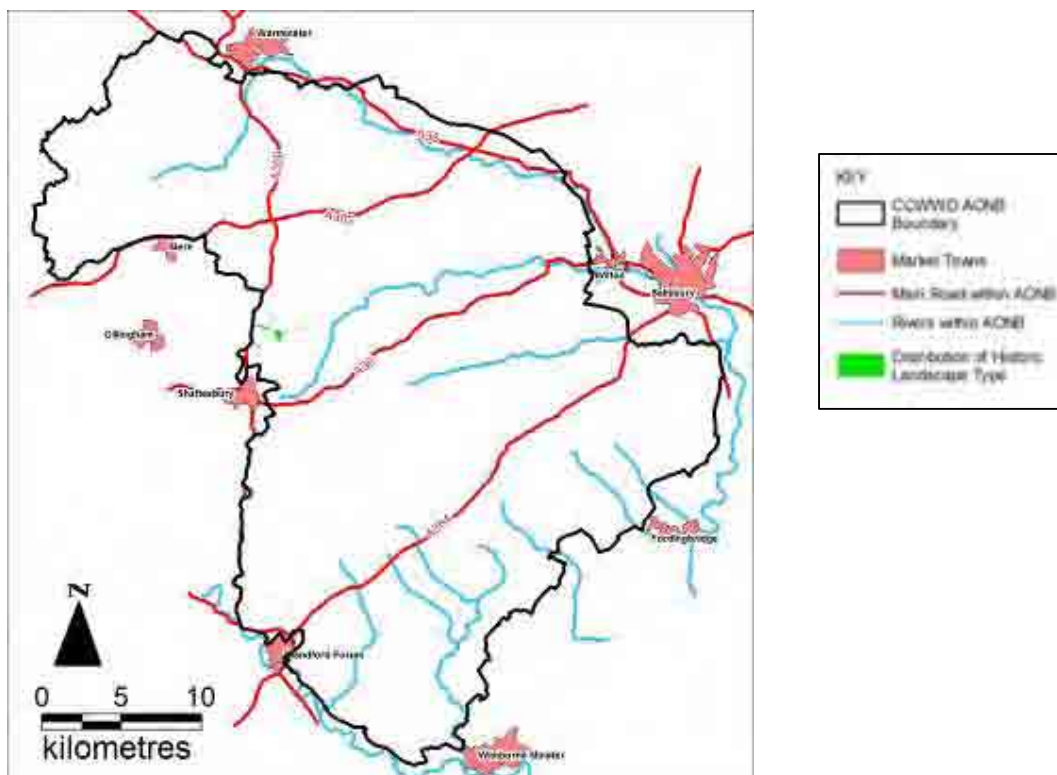
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[2 Open Land](#)

## Type 2.1.1 Common Open Grassland and Unimproved Grassland



### Introduction

Open areas of unimproved grassland which exist of zones of grassland common bordering roads which were formerly tracks.

### Distribution

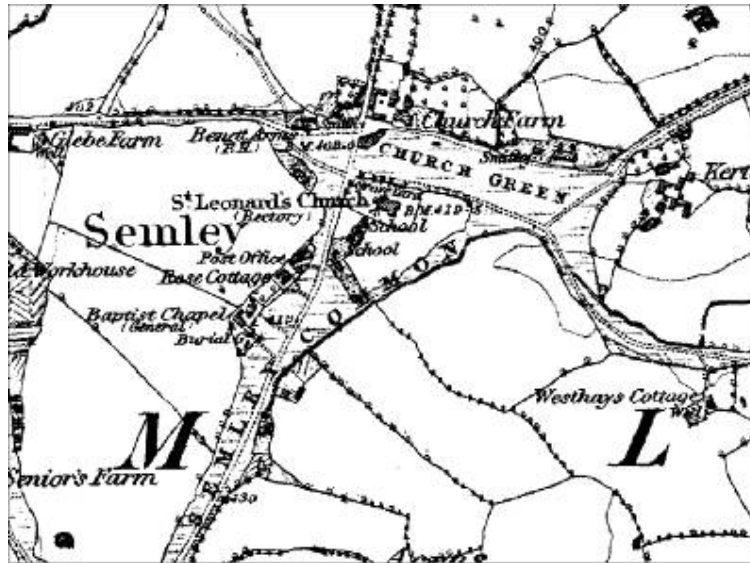
This type has a very restricted distribution. It occurs in the Vale of Wardour around Semley Common. This forms some of the only surviving common land in the AONB, and pre 1800 in date.

### Principal Historical Processes

The small areas of surviving unimproved grassland noted in the Vale of Wardour around Semley represent the survival of marginal common land. The extent of former commons varies from manor to manor; they remained the property of the lord of the manor or major landowner in the areas. Their rights were constrained by long-established tenant rights, linked to particular estates and properties, generally these concentrated the rights to graze, to gather fuel, and to use material to make dwellings, hedges etc. On many of the commons the amount of grazing was strictly controlled or stinted (Muir 2000: 60). The registration documents for Semley would show which of these rights Semley Common is still subject too.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Open unimproved grassland, often in widened areas beside roadsides, associated with indicative place names, often found alongside ancient route ways and on the fringes of parishes and settlements. It is often associated with earthworks dating to the prehistoric period onwards.

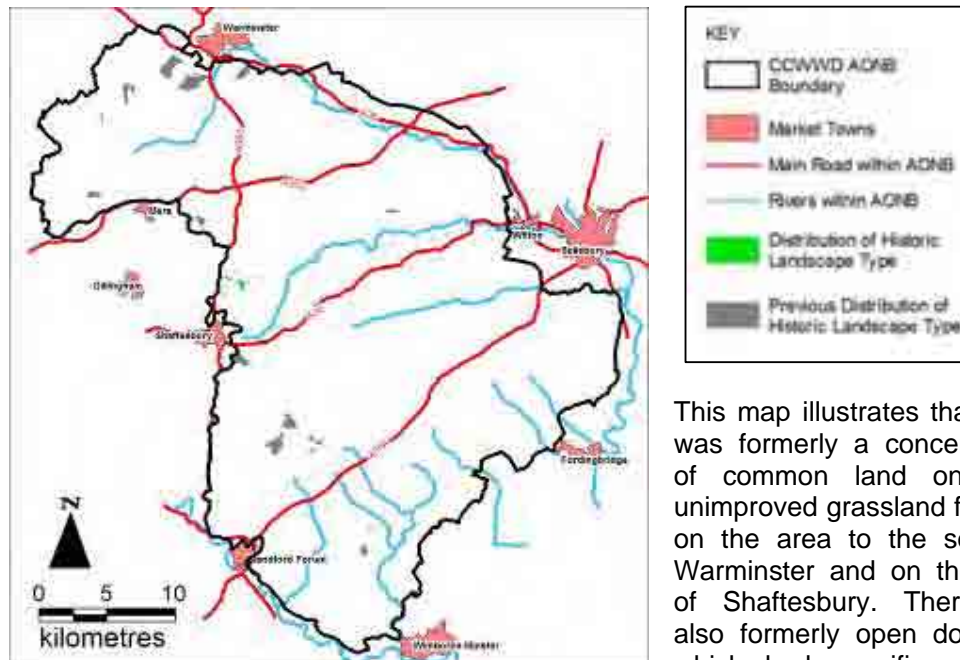


### Rarity

Unimproved grassland common is very rare in the AONB and only survives in the area around Semley.

### Survival

This is a very rare type, which was distributed much more widely in the AONB before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This marginal land was increasingly encroached upon as the demand for agricultural land increased. The map below shows the former extent of this open common land (in grey) for which there is evidence surviving compared to its distribution today (in green).



This map illustrates that there was formerly a concentration of common land on open unimproved grassland focused on the area to the south of Warminster and on the edge of Shaftesbury. There was also formerly open downland which had specific common

rights attached to them, on the edges of the ancient parishes of Chettle, Tarrant Gunville and Ashmore. The majority of this common land has been identified through indicative place names. This former open land was replaced by fields by the 19<sup>th</sup>

century, and the majority had been enclosed during the early post medieval period. It still affects the morphology of fields to this day.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape; the area around Semley is unique in the AONB.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 18<sup>th</sup> century types including ancient woodland, ancient settlement, ancient assarts and pre 1800 fields. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this open land preserves traces of previous land uses, demonstrating the antiquity of this land.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has a considerable influence on the landscape character of the area in which it is located.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	61 hectares, 0.06% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 6 polygons, 0.14% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 10.19 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	736 hectares, 0.75% of AONB was Common Open Downland and Unimproved Grassland at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 895 hectares, 0.91% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

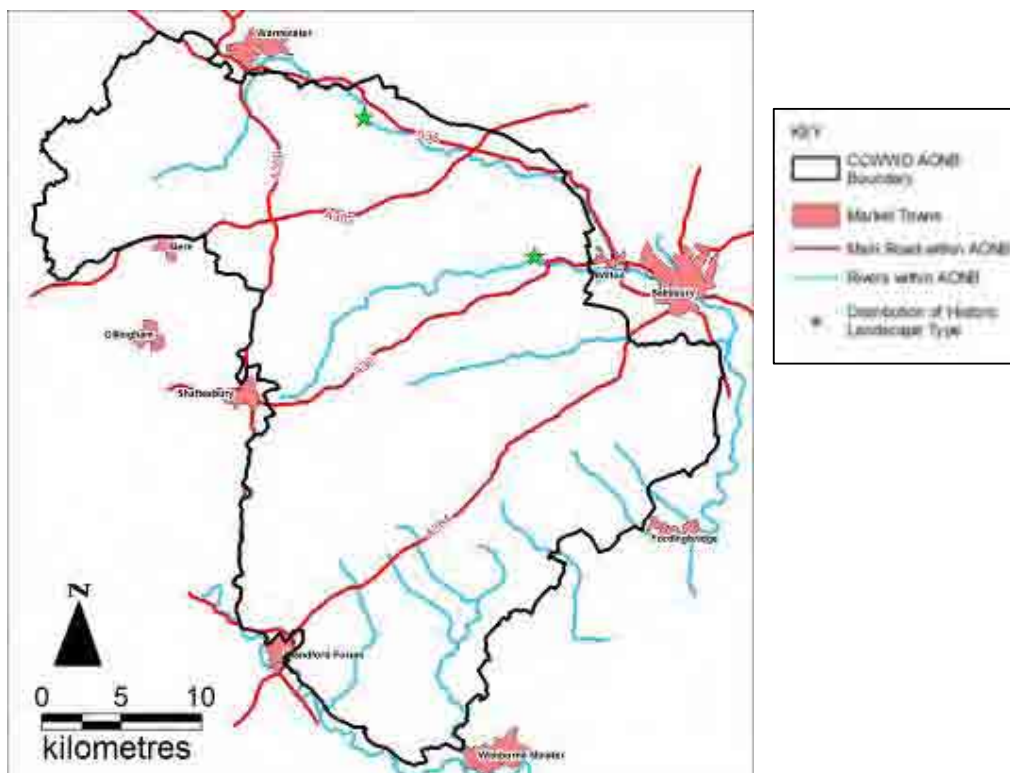
### **Parent Type**

[2 Open Downland and Unimproved Grassland](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

MUIR, R. (2000) The New Reading the Landscape. Fieldwork in Landscape History. Univeristy of Exeter Press: Exeter.

## Type 2.2 Marsh



### Introduction

Wet boggy areas unsuitable for agriculture, found in the base of valleys next to water courses. They are very small and often have been fenced off from the enclosed meadows around them. These have been identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and historic Epoch 1 Ordnance Survey Maps. They existed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are probably much older in date.

### Distribution

This type has a very restricted distribution. The two surviving examples exist in the Wylde and Nadder Valleys, alongside the river courses.

### Principal Historical Processes

These represent areas which are so wet and marshy that it was not expedient or economic to drain them. The chalk river valleys in which they are found are, in general, well draining so they are very rare. They remain as isolated islands surrounded by a sea of valley fields and relic water meadows.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

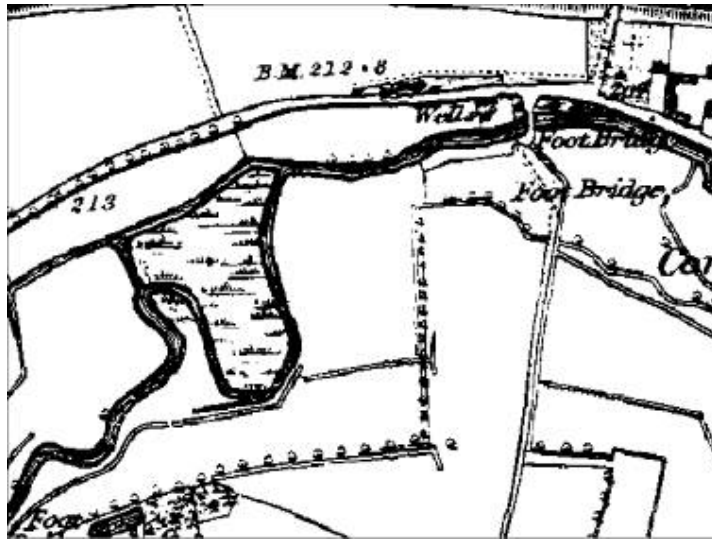
Marshy ground, often irregular in shape, associated with wet loving plant species. The land is often very overgrown, and only covers a very small area.

## Rarity

Marshes are very rare in the AONB and are only found in two locations.

## Survival

The surviving marshy areas were once slightly more common in the Nadder and Wylde Valleys, where the remnants of four other marshy areas survive. These traces include field names and woodland which are still very wet under foot.



## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

These marshes would be very recognisable if you were in their vicinity, but would not be easily discernible from a distance.

## Past interaction with other types

This type represents marginal land which has been isolated as the valley floors were enclosed by meadows. They were often found adjacent to water meadows.

## Evidence for time-depth

The surviving areas of marsh contain no traces of any previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has little influence on the landscape character of the AONB. They represent isolated and marginal areas of land.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	2.83 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 1.42 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Very Rare.
Previous Coverage:	7.79 hectares, 0.01% of AONB was Marsh at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 14.1 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.



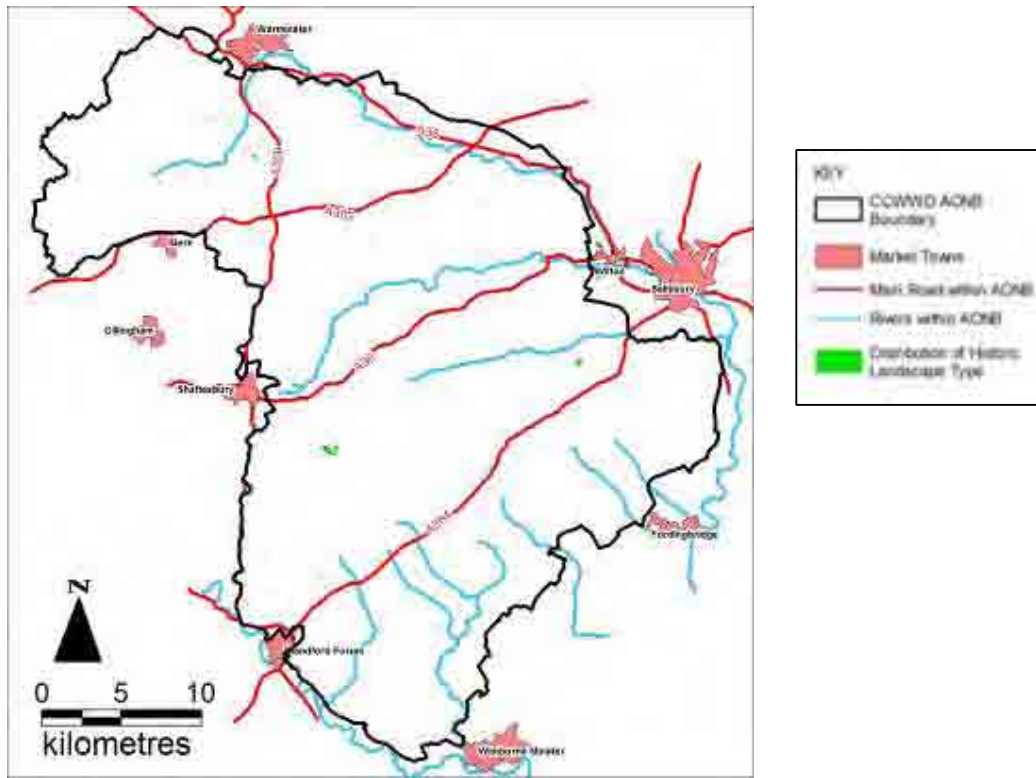
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[2. Open Land](#)

## Type 2.3 Scrubland and Rough Grazing



### Introduction

Surviving open areas of marginal scrubland and rough grazing, identified on modern day Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs.

### Distribution

These occur across the AONB but there are slightly larger concentrations to the north of Ashmore and to the south-west of Donhead St Mary.

### Principal Historical Processes

The surviving scrubland and rough grazing represent traces of what would have once been larger areas of marginal open land on the edges of settlement and fields. Approximately a fifth of this was common land with its associated rights. The majority of this marginal land was encroached upon in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and created into new fields.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Rough ground often on steep or sloping ground surrounded by enclosed fields. These areas are often associated with long rough grass, and scrub.

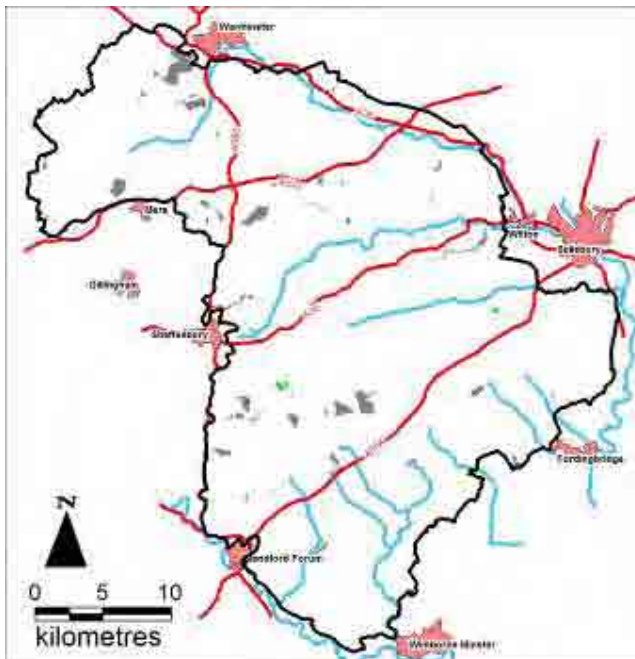
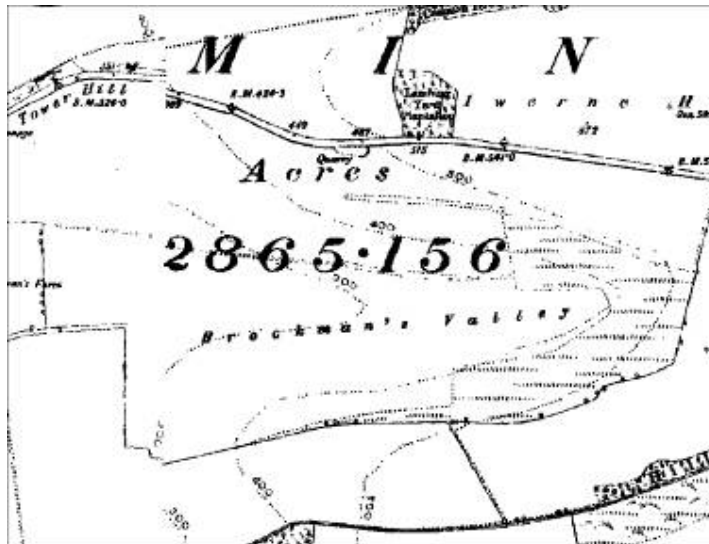
## Rarity

Rough ground and scrubland is rare in the AONB and represents marginal and neglected land.

## Survival

The surviving areas of scrubland and rough grazing represent a fraction of the former extent of this land type. The previous evidence for an area of land

formerly being scrubland and rough grazing includes place names evidence and how this former open land has affected the shape and morphology of more recent fields. This evidence suggests that where there is only 72 hectares of scrubland and rough grazing surviving today (in green on the map), there is evidence to suggest this previously covered an area in excess of 1,700 hectares in the early post medieval



period (in grey). This was concentrated to the south of Warminster; around East Knolye and Hindon; along valley edges such as the Tarrant; on the edge of downland areas; and across the wooded chalk downland of the Cranborne Chase. In

addition, 1,000 hectares of this land survived into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the intensification of farming and the creation of fields encroached onto these surviving areas.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would not be very recognisable in the landscape, and only an expert familiar with the map based evidence would recognise it as a remnant of once much more wide spread land use.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types, including common land, and open unimproved grass and downland. These all represent surviving traces of marginal land dating to the medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

A quarter of the surviving areas of scrubland and rough grazing preserve traces of having formerly been old woodland suggesting that these areas may have been cleared of woodland in the past but not subsequently turned into fields, perhaps due to their position or the quality of their soils.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had small influence on the landscape character of the AONB in the present day, as it only remains in a few restricted locations.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	72 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 10 polygons, 0.23% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 7.24 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	1501 hectares, 1.53% of AONB was Scrubland and Rough Grazing at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1769 hectares, 1.80% of the AONB.

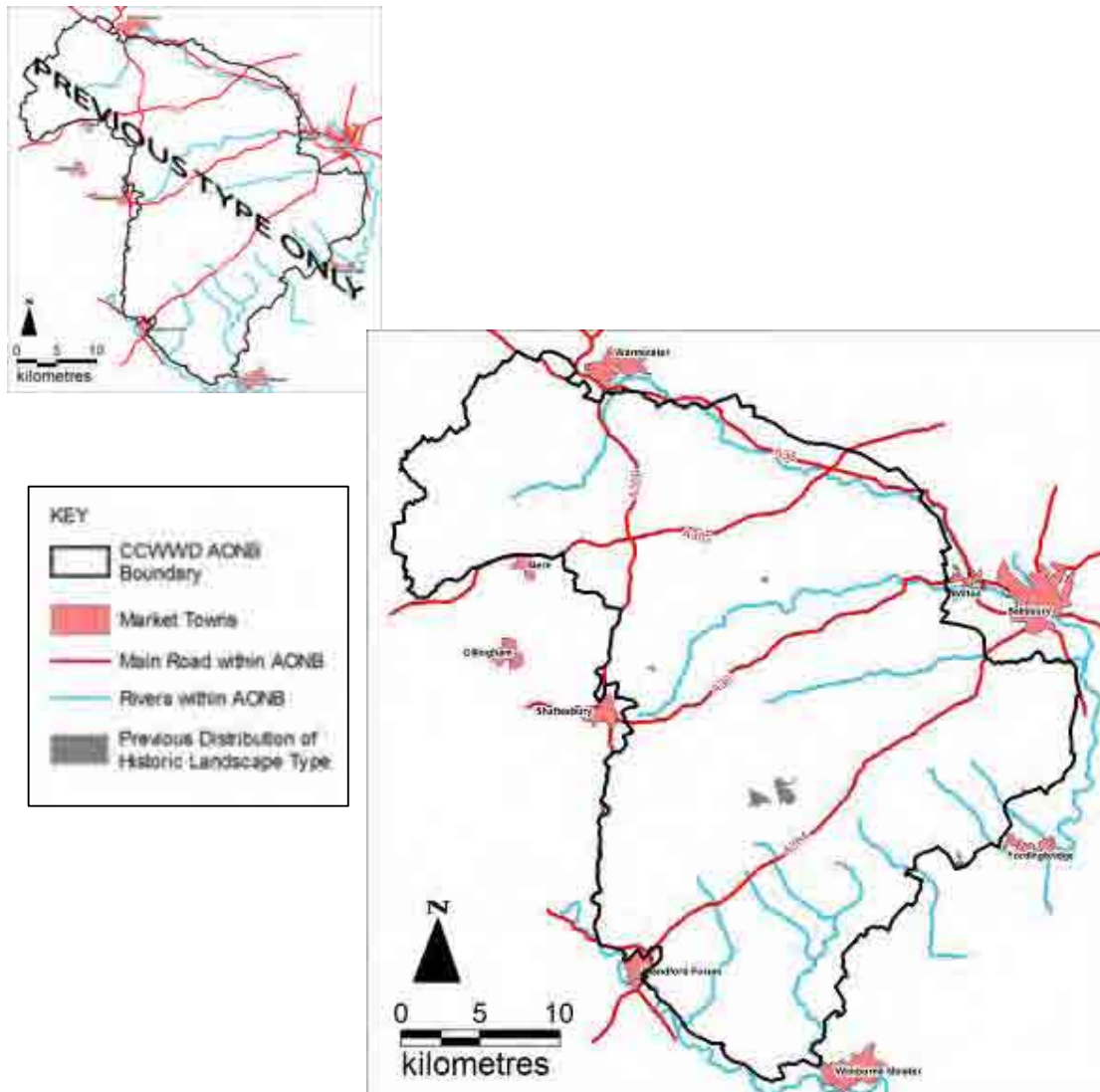
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[2 Open Land](#)

## Type 2.3.1 Common Scrubland and Rough Grazing



### Introduction

Surviving traces of areas of scrubland and rough grazing which were formally areas of common land. The traces of these survive in areas which are either 20<sup>th</sup> century fields or recent woodland, in these areas there is either place name evidence or the past land use has affected the morphology of the fields. They have been identified by comparison with historic Ordnance Survey maps. Semley Common is not included in this section as this represented a much more managed landscape, subject to regular grazing episodes, and is represented as a more closely cropped grassland on historic maps.

### Distribution

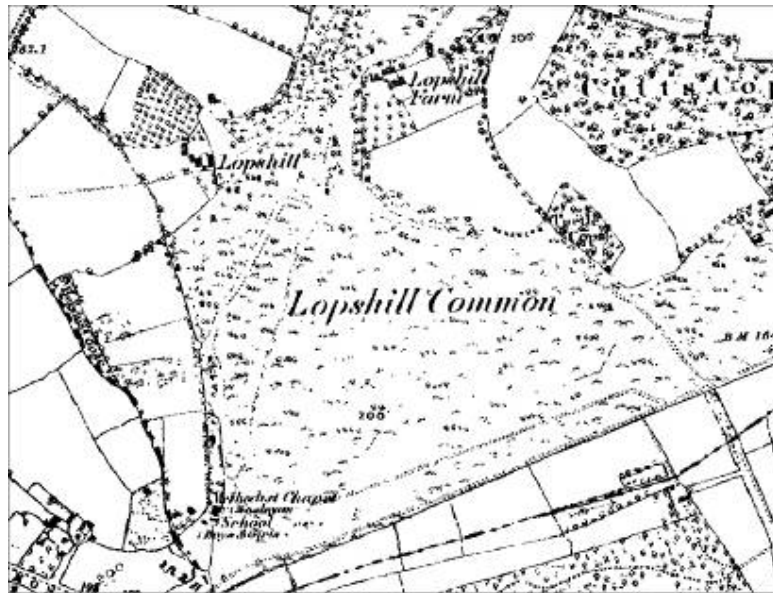
Traces for these occur in the Vale of Wardour, on the edge of the parkland at Tollard Royal and at Lopshill on the south-eastern edge of the AONB.

## Principal Historical Processes

The small traces of scrubland and rough grazing noted represent the survival of marginal common land. The extent of former commons varies from manor to manor, they remained the property of the lord of the manor or major landowner in the areas. Their rights were constrained by long-established tenant rights, generally these concentrated the rights to graze, to gather fuel, and to use material to make dwellings, hedges etc. Further documentary research is needed but it is likely that the traces of this common land was previously subject to all these rights.

## Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components

Traces of common scrubland and rough grazing within areas which are recent fields and woodlands. These traces include indicative place names, surviving small remnant areas of scrub and the effect on the morphologies of the more recent land uses.



## Rarity

There are no surviving areas of common scrubland and rough grazing.

## Survival

There are no examples of this type surviving in today's landscape. This marginal land was increasingly encroached upon as the demand for agricultural land increased or as new areas of woodland was created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

The traces of this previous land use would only become obvious through detailed comparison of modern and historic Ordnance Survey maps.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the wider distribution of scrubland and rough grazing and other types of open land, such as downland and unimproved grass. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

## Evidence for time-depth

N/A

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has little recognisable impact on the landscape character of the area in which it is located.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: N/A

No. of Polygons: N/A

Av. Polygon Size: N/A.

Occurrence: N/A

Previous Coverage: 312 hectares, 0.32 % of AONB was Common Scrubland and Rough Grazing at the point when this type was at its most prevalent

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 312 hectares, 0.32 % of the AONB

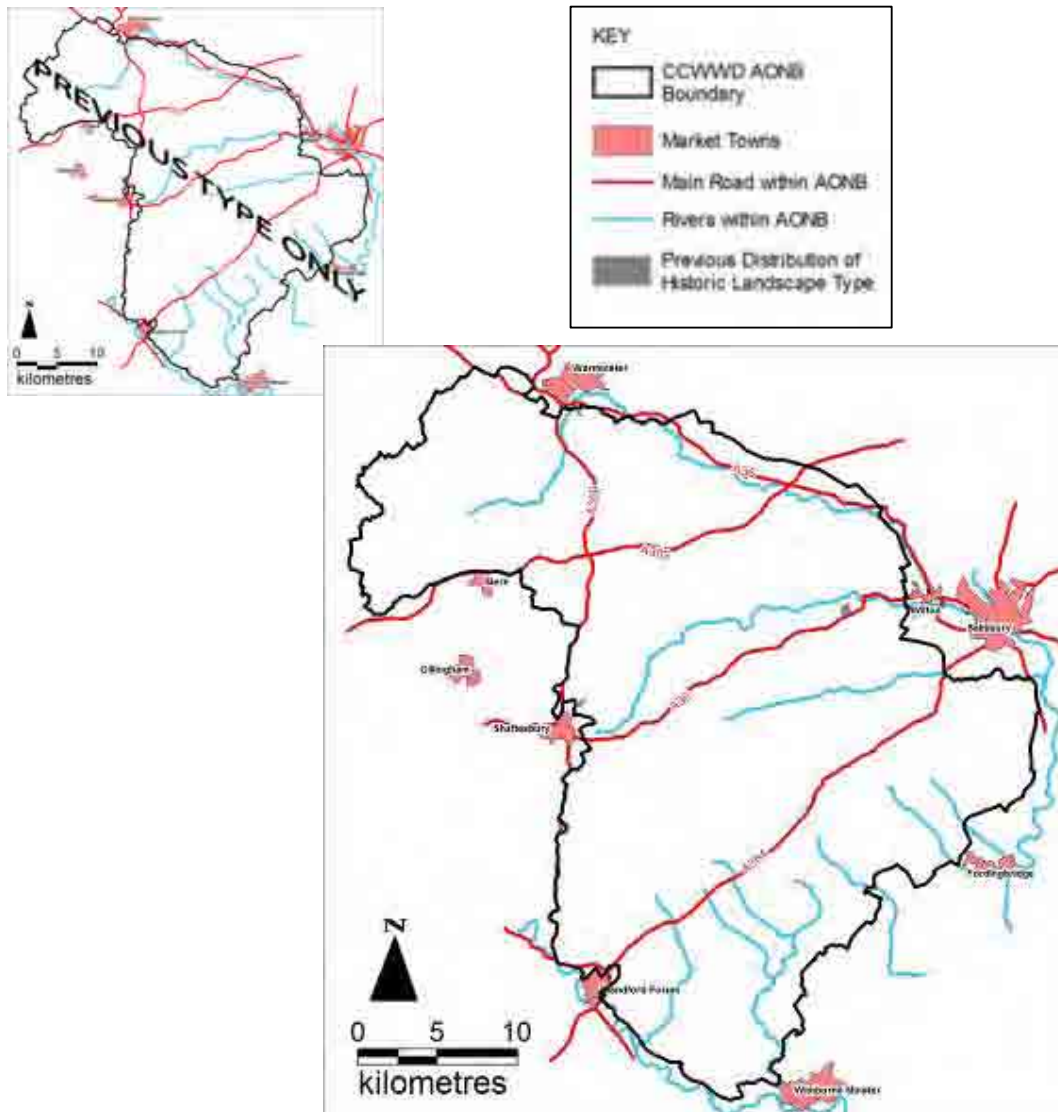
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[2.3 Scrubland and Rough Grazing](#)

## Type 2.4 Heath



### Introduction

Areas of heath land characterised by open, low growing woody vegetation found mainly in poor acidic soils. No heath land that is of sufficient scale to be recorded in this characterisation survives today in the AONB. They do, however, remain as traces in the modern landscape, mostly in the form of place name evidence. Their location has been mapped through comparison between the modern day Ordnance Survey maps and historic Epoch 1 Ordnance Survey maps.

### Distribution

They have a restricted and scattered distribution. There were previously small areas of heath land in the greensand hills to the north of Longbridge Deverill, and on the greensand which is found running through the AONB between Donhead St Mary and



Longbridge Deverill. They tended to occur on higher ground and are associated with underlying greensand geology.

### Principal Historical Processes

Due to their poor soils areas of heath remained as marginal and open elements in the landscape of the AONB into the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, until they were finally enclosed to form fields or small areas of woodland.

### Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components

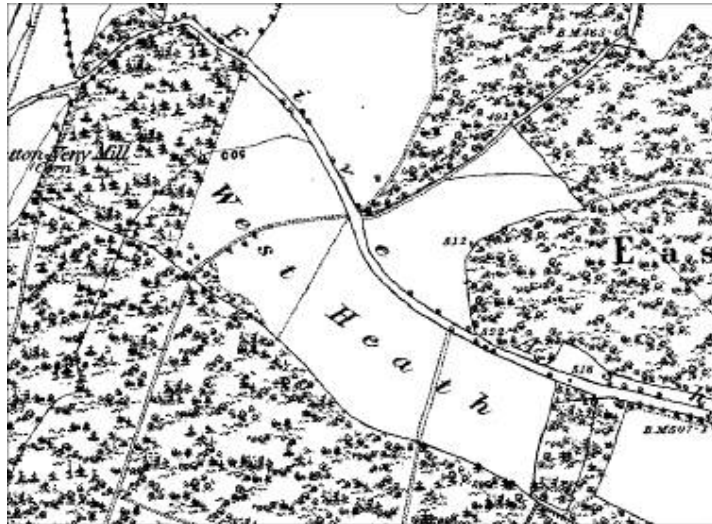
The traces of heath land in the AONB are associated with indicative place name evidence.

### Rarity

N/A

### Survival

No heaths survive in the AONB



### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

The traces of heath would only be detected through an examination of the relevant map based evidence.

### Past interaction with other types

This type represents marginal land which has been isolated in the landscape in the past as it was surrounded by pre 1800 fields and old woodland.

### Evidence for time-depth

N/A

### Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has had little influence on the landscape character of the AONB.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	N/A
No. of Polygons:	N/A
Av. Polygon Size:	N/A
Occurrence:	N/A

Previous Coverage: 74.4 hectares, 0.08 % of AONB was Heath at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 74.4 hectares, 0.08 % of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[2 Open Land](#)



areas of human activity in the past. Gorse also acidifies chalk downland soils making the land where they are found poor areas to cultivate.

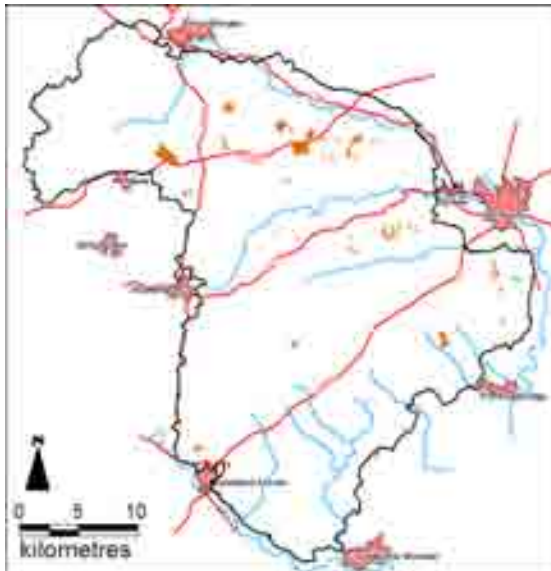
### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Areas of furze are often irregular in shape and densely covered in gorse. The area surviving today has become fenced in through the creation of fields around it.

### **Rarity**

Surviving areas of open ground covered in furze are rare in the AONB; the surviving element represents a fraction of the previous area over which it was found.

### **Survival**



Traces of open areas which were once covered in furze existed across a wide area of the AONB.

The areas of orange represent places where traces of this land use still exist. This is primarily in the form of place names but is also represented by scattered clumps of gorse. Areas of furze in the past were associated with open downland and unimproved grassland. This explains for example its concentration across the West Wiltshire Downs.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

These furze would be very recognisable if you were in their vicinity, but it would not be obvious that they represent a fragment of a once much more wide spread land cover.

### **Past interaction with other types**

This type represents marginal land which has been isolated as the open downland was enclosed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The surviving areas of furze do not contain traces of any previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has little influence on the landscape character of the AONB. They represent isolated and marginal areas of land.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	13 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygons, 0.02% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 13 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare
Previous Coverage:	958 hectares, 0.97% of AONB was Furze at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1,239 hectares, 1.26% of the AONB

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[2 Open Land](#)



**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 3 WOODLAND**



## CONTENTS

<b>Woodland in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	201
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	203
<b>Type 3 Woodland</b> .....	204
Type 3.1 Post 1800 Woodland.....	207
Type 3.2 Pre 1800 Woodland.....	210



## Woodland in the AONB: An Introduction

*“a truly venerable tract of forest land, one of the few remaining woodlands in England of undoubted primeval date, wherein Druidical mistletoe was still found on aged oaks, and where enormous yew-trees, not planted by the hand of man, grew as they had grown when they were pollarded for bows’.”*

(From Thomas Hardy (1981) Tess of the D'Urbervilles)



Woodland is a major component of the landscape of the AONB. The quote from Thomas Hardy demonstrates how ancient woodland is a major feature which contributes greatly to the character of the landscape. Many areas of woodland date back to the medieval period and are associated with ancient trees, coppices and semi-natural habitats. Just as important, however, are the post 1800 additions to the woodlands of the AONB. These include new geometric blocks of woodland used as game cover which have been imposed on some areas of downland. Just as striking are the ornamental additions linked to the creation of the great landscape parks of the AONB. Although many areas of old woodland have been cleared or replanted since the medieval period, the general trend over the last 200 years has been towards a more dispersed woodland landscape punctuated by ancient blocks of woodland. There are of course exceptions to this pattern, for

example, around the Donheads, in the Vale of Wardour ancient enclosures and assarts nestle alongside dispersed bands of ancient trees and wooded over common land.

In this project woodland has been split into two fairly broad categories, in-between which there is inevitably some chronological overlaps, so they should be treated with a certain amount of caution. The categories are: -

1. Pre 1800 Woodland
2. Post 1800 Woodland

Woodland which can be identified on 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps has been identified as pre 1800 in date. This leaves the problem of old woodland which is too small scale to be identified on these maps, but is pre 1800 in date. If this woodland is present on the 1820s Ordnance Surveyor's maps and there is other evidence which suggests that it is ancient, then it too is allocated as being pre 1800 in date. In these instances

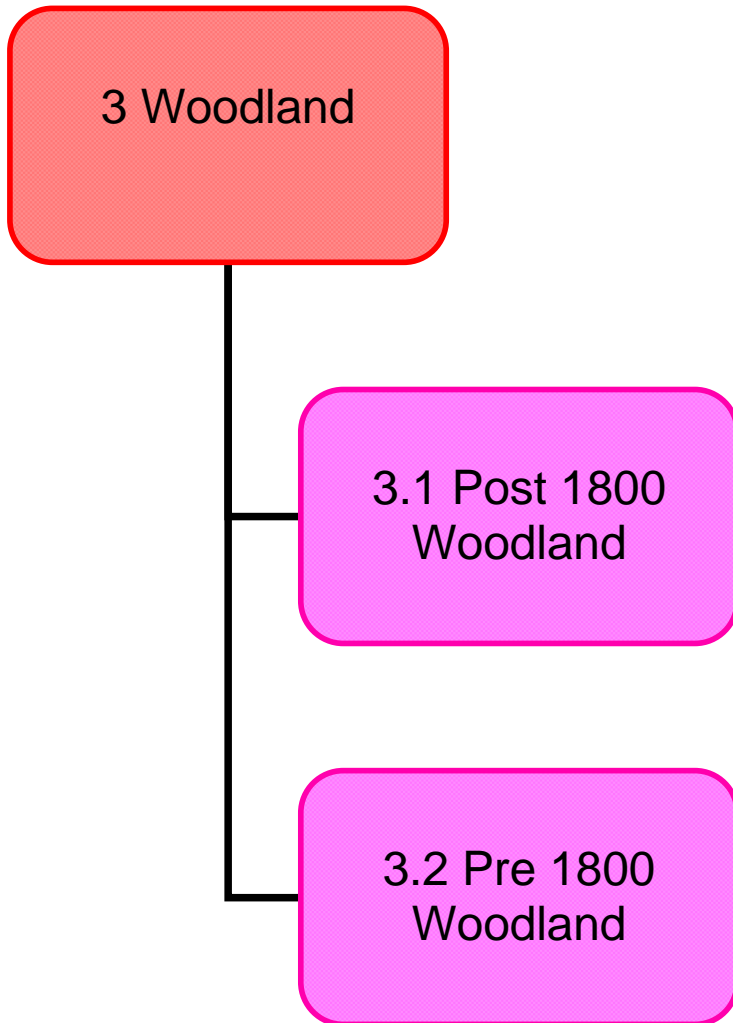
its confidence level is only recorded as “probable”. This evidence includes place name evidence, close association with larger blocks of confidently dated pre 1800 woodland and morphological clues such as association with medieval archaeology.

All other woodland is allocated as post 1800 woodland. This type will inevitably include woodland planted in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, often associated with landscaped parks. The exact date of this woodland cannot be assessed with the map sources available. However the historical processes which led to the planting of these new woodland blocks and strips is much more akin with the woodland created in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries than the older woodland, so it sits more comfortably in this category

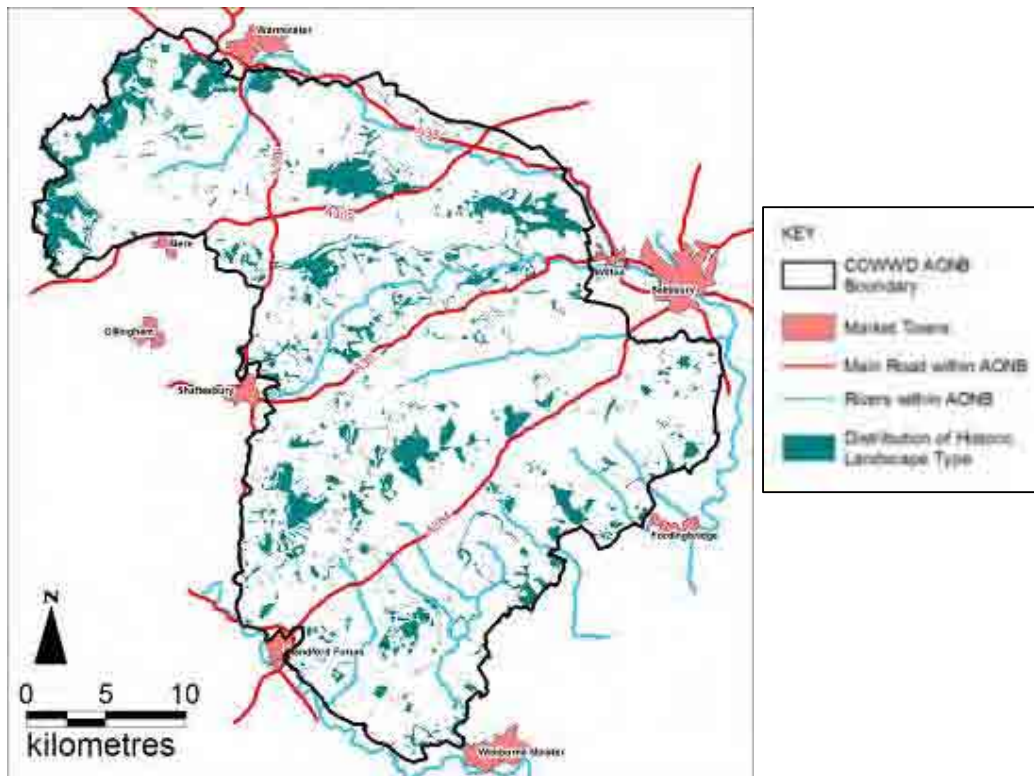
This project chose not to use the more familiar term of ancient woodland used to refer specifically to woodland dating back to 1600 or before in England and Wales, because it was felt that the available map sources do not allow woodland in the AONB to be confidently attributed to existing before or after the date of 1600. Not using this term also has the benefit of avoiding confusion with the Natural England maps and inventories of Semi-Natural and Ancient Woodland.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project has split the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB into individual parcels of lands, one of the weaknesses of this approach is that it is not able effectively thin linear features in the landscape. This means that features such as the iconic 3 mile Beech Avenue running past Badbury Rings to Kingston Lacy Park is not included in the dataset.

Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## Type 3 Woodland



### Introduction

Woodland in the AONB identified on modern Ordnance Survey mapping. The age of the individual blocks of woodland have been identified through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey mapping and 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps. Woodlands are found throughout the AONB and although they only cover 13% of the AONB by area they are a major feature of this landscape.

### Distribution

Woodland is found across the whole AONB. Larger woodland blocks are found across the wooded chalk downland of Cranborne Chase and the West Wiltshire Downs. There is a continuous belt of woodland along the north-west greensand hill and to the south of Warminster. This is infilled by more dispersed smaller woodland blocks. Woodland is largely absent from the Ebbw Valley, the head of the Wylye Valley, in the area to the north of Mere, to the south of A303 and through parts of the southern downland belt especially along the A354.

### Principal Historical Processes

Much of the pre 1800 woodland is of considerable antiquity representing traces of the medieval hunting forests, chase and parks in the AONB. This woodland is also associated with concentrations of ancient coppices and area of less managed more natural woods. Approximately 60% of the woodland in the AONB is pre 1800 in date.

The post 1800 woodland can be attributed to natural infilling, the creation of ornamental landscapes, larger commercial woods, post First World War planting and the creation of game coverts.

Overall since 1800 there appears to have been an increase in the amount of woodland in the AONB.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Much of the woodland in the AONB is associated with broadleaved natural species and semi-natural areas. There are some areas especially at Fonhill and to the west of Longleat where coniferous species dominate. Much of the woodland is associated with ancient coppices, woodland banks and boundaries.



### **Rarity**

Woodland occurs frequently in the AONB, although it is locally scarce through the Ebble and Wylve Valleys.

### **Survival**

Despite the clearance of ancient woodland to create new fields, especially on the Cranborne Chase, since 1800 there has been a trend towards an increase in the amount of woodland in the AONB. However the new blocks created have tended to be smaller, more dispersed, and more regular in shape. In some locations, for example Grovely Wood, large areas of pre 1800 woodland have been replanted, often with non-native species.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape, but many of the historic aspects, such as evidence for past woodland management, are only identifiable by experts. Some areas where the woodland is more dispersed, especially through the Vale of Wardour, are more fragile and could be easily corroded.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with parkland and in some areas, especially the Vale of Wardour, is integrally linked with the farmland with which it is mixed.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

20% of woodland retains evidence for previous land uses. This 20% is mostly comprised of post 1800 woodland which has been created on previously open land.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has had a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB. The subtle differences between the woodland in the landscape contribute greatly to the contrasting landscape characteristics found in the AONB.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	12,775 hectares, 12.97% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1007 polygons, 22.69% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 12.69 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Frequent.
Previous Coverage:	12,775 hectares, 12.97% of AONB was woodland at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 15,223 hectares, 15.46% of the AONB.

### Constituent Types

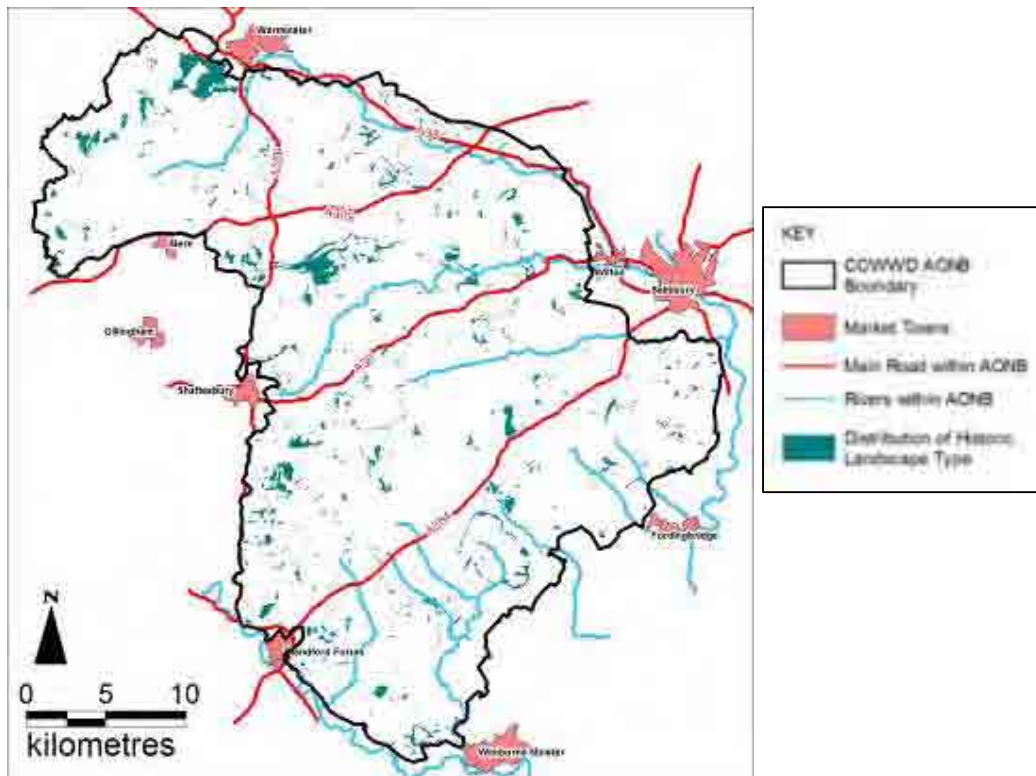
[3.1 Post 1800 Woodland](#)

[3.2 Pre 1800 Woodland](#)

### Parent Type

None

## Type 3.1 Post 1800 Woodland



### Introduction

Woodland planted post 1800. Large parts of this woodland are comprised of deliberate planting schemes, but the woodland has also developed through natural colonisation and the regeneration of native species. Much of this woodland is associated with coniferous and non-native species. These woodlands have been identified through comparison of modern Ordnance Survey maps against historic Ordnance Survey mapping. The woodland does not appear on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map or often on the 1820s surveyors' maps. However the county maps only show larger blocks of woodland so some of the woodland may be 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. This is especially the case with those areas of woodland that are linked to the creation of new landscaped parks.

### Distribution

Post 1800 Woodland is widely distributed across the AONB. In general it is found in small scattered blocks and is absent from areas of the chalk downland in the south of the AONB and along the river valley of the Ebble. There are larger and denser concentrations along the greensand terrace in the north of the AONB especially near Longleat and around Fonthill in the Vale of Wardour. These are the result of new planting schemes undertaken by two of the major landowners in the AONB. There is also a linear distribution of medium blocks of woodland along the edge of the chalk escarpment between Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum. Finally, one striking pattern is the oval belt of woodland which forms the edge of the Brownian ride at Wimborne St Giles. This woodland, of course, dates to the 1770s and is a good example of the

chronological overlap present between the two categories of woodland. This is discussed further in the introduction to this section.

### **Principal Historical Processes**

The creation of woodland since 1800 can be linked to four main factors: -

1. The creation of large blocks of woodland for economic reasons. This led to the planting of the larger blocks of woodland in the northern half of the AONB at Longleat and Fonthill. Some woodland was planted in response to specific economic factors. For example during the agricultural depression in the 1930s some major landowners formed tree planting gangs as local job creation schemes.
2. The creation of small geometric blocks of woodland as areas of game cover and coverts. This is linked to the increasing importance of fox hunting and shooting in the area from 1800 onwards.
3. The creation of ornamental belts of woodland. These new woodland plantings were used to enhance the new landscaped parks which appeared from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, to create new arboretums with exotic specimens and to enclose and screen areas. In some cases the planting of new woodlands was aimed at the visual improvement of the wider landscape especially on the newly enclosed high downland. This is not so common, however, as in other areas such as the North Wessex Downs.
4. Natural processes. Some areas of formerly open land and common land were naturally infilled. This process can clearly be seen on Semley Hill and Gutch Common in the Vale of Wardour and on the common land to the west of Dinton Park.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

The post 1800 woodland takes three main forms: -

1. Large blocks of coniferous species planted over large areas
2. Smaller blocks planted in geometric shapes associated with a mixture of native and non-native species.
3. Smaller, irregular often sinuous blocks relating to natural infilling and the planting of ornamental belts of trees, associated with a mixture of native and non-native species.

### **Rarity**

Post 1800 woodland is uncommon but widespread in the AONB.

### **Survival**

Over the last 200 years there has been a trend towards the creation of new woodland blocks in the landscape. These tend to be more fragmented and widely distributed in nature than the older pre 1800 woodland.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type of woodland would not be associated with very old trees or semi-natural ancient habitats. The smaller geometric blocks are very recognisable especially when they occur on the more open downland. However this type could be easily confused with older woodland which has recently been replanted.



### **Past interaction with other types**

The type can be associated with landscaped parks. In some instances, however, as with the geometric blocks of woodland, it can be imposed upon the landscape.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Just over 40% of this type preserves evidence of previous land uses. The majority of this is of open land upon which it was planted.



### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB. This influence is dramatically increased when its distribution is combined with the enclosed downland or where it occurs as very large blocks in the landscape.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	4,607 hectares, 4.68% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 625 polygons, 14% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 7.37 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon but widespread.
Previous Coverage:	4,607 hectares, 4.68% of AONB was post 1800 Woodland at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 4,647 hectares, 4.72% of the AONB.

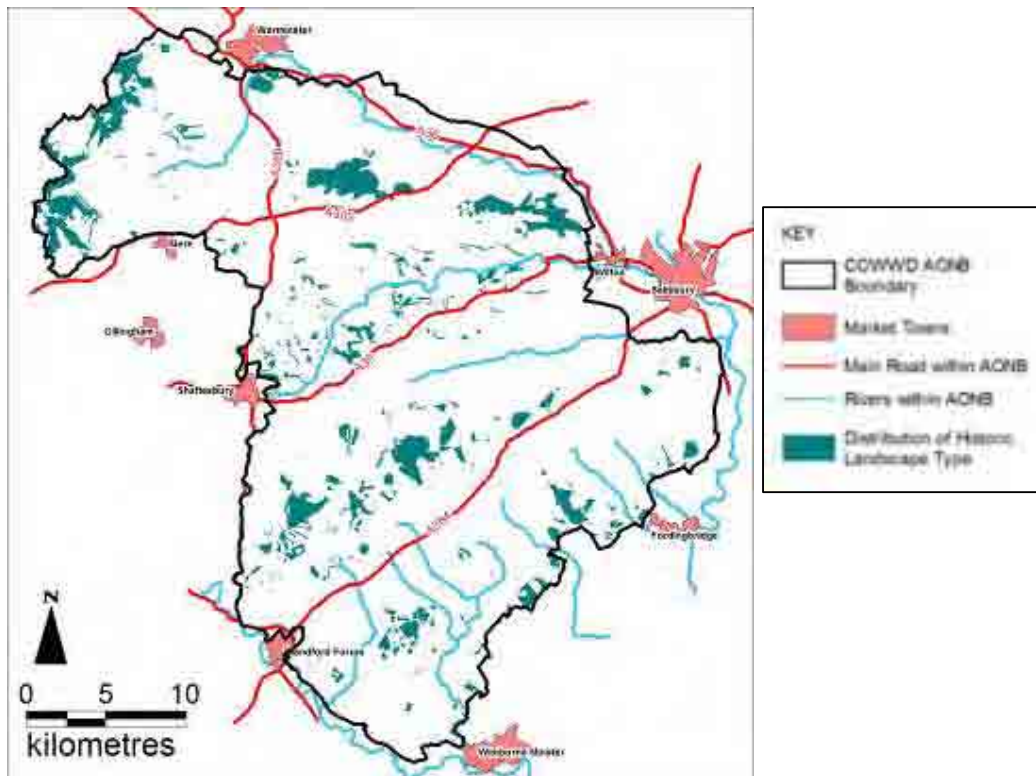
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[3 Woodland](#)

## Type 3.2 Pre 1800 Woodland



### Introduction

Woodland that is pre 1800 in date. This has been identified on both modern maps and the historic 1820s Ordnance Surveyor's maps. The larger blocks of woodland also appear on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps. Much of this woodland is species rich broadleaf woodland, associated with ancient semi-natural habitats, ancient coppices and ancient trees. In some instances this woodland has been replanted with non-native species in the last 200 years especially across the West Wiltshire Downs. Some coniferous woodland therefore is found on old woodland sites, for example, Grovely Wood.

### Distribution

The pre 1800 woodland is found in large blocks across the northern greensand hills, the tops of the West Wiltshire Downs, the woods of the Cranborne Chase downland, the area between Warminster and Mere, and the Martin to Whitsbury Downland Hills. The woodland is much more dispersed through the Vale of Wardour. There is very little ancient woodland in the chalk river valleys and through large parts of the southern downland belt.

### Principal Historical Processes

Much of this woodland is of considerable antiquity. The woodlands of the wooded downland of Cranborne Chase are the remnants of the woods of the medieval hunting chase, and many of the woods have names which reflect this history. Both the woodland here and through the Downland Hills between Martin and Whitsbury is

dominated by old coppices. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management in which young tree stems are cut down to near ground level. In subsequent growth years, many new shoots will emerge, and, after a number of years, the cycle begins again and the coppiced tree, or stool, is ready to be harvested again. Coppices were an important economic resource and were used for fuel, including charcoal production, for making hurdles and wattle and thatching spurs.

Similarly the woodland around Penselwood may be derived from the medieval hunting forest previously found in this area.

The fact that the pre 1800 woodland is much more scattered through the Vale of Wardour suggests that this woodland was subject to considerable early assarting and clearance, maybe due to population pressure in this area.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This woodland is dominated by native broadleaf species, ancient coppicing and semi-natural habitats. The woodland blocks are irregular in shape and are often associated with woodland banks and boundaries. These boundaries can sometimes also form the boundaries of parks, parishes and counties. The extent and form of this woodland has fluctuated quite significantly over time.



### **Rarity**

Pre 1800 woodland occurs occasionally in the AONB and tends to be concentrated in large woodland blocks.

### **Survival**

At least 30% of this woodland has been replanted, especially with coniferous species, since 1800. In addition over 1,200 hectares has been cleared since 1800. Despite this, large blocks of woodland with semi-ancient natural habitats survive especially within the Chase woodlands.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

In areas where replanting has not occurred the woodlands are dominated by old coppicing, ancient trees and semi-natural habitats. In addition the woodlands also contain a wealth of archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity much of which may lie hidden and unrecognised.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types including ancient common land, open unimproved grass and older assarts and enclosures. These all represent surviving remnants of older medieval and early post-medieval landscapes.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Only a small percentage of this type contains evidence for previous land uses, suggesting the longevity of these woodlands. This evidence tends to be medieval deer parks and archaeological evidence discussed earlier which has affected the morphology of these later woodlands.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB. Woodlands are often situated on higher areas and therefore can dominate many of the major views in the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	8,168 hectares, 8.29% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 382 polygons, 8.61% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 12 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Occasional
Previous Coverage:	9,469 hectares, 9.62% of AONB was pre 1800 Woodland at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 10,327 hectares, 10.49% of the AONB

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[3 Woodland](#)

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 4 WATER AND  
ASSOCIATED FEATURES**



## Contents

<b>Lakes, Ponds and Water in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	215
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	216
<b>Type 4 Water and Associated Features</b> .....	217
Type 4.1 Man-made Lakes and Ponds.....	220
Type 4.2 Fishponds and Hatcheries.....	223
Type 4.3 Watercress Beds.....	226
Type 4.4 Wathy Beds.....	229

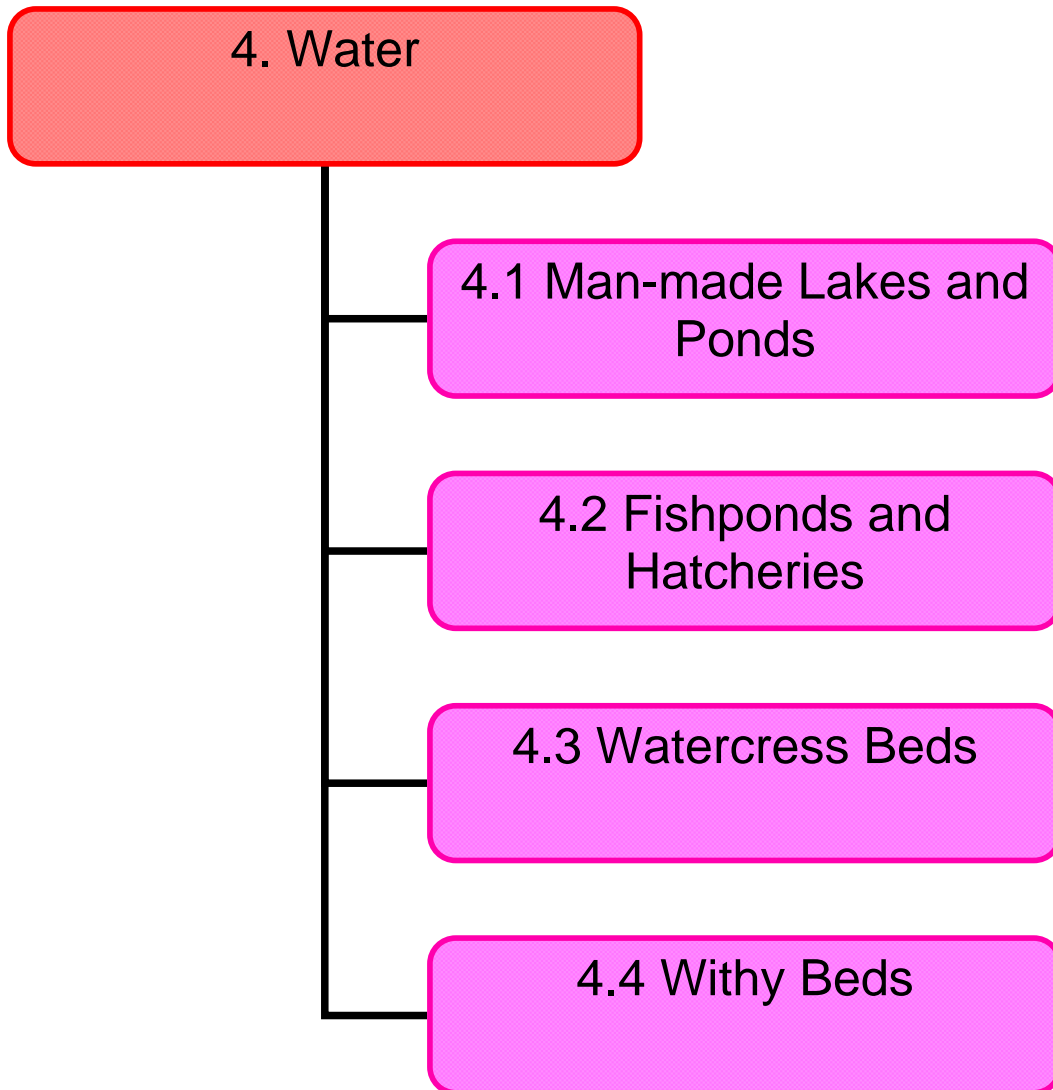
## Lakes, Ponds and Water in the AONB: An Introduction

*“On both flanks of the river, at Horton and in the Crichel villages, the Sturts lavished their wealth on the improvements that the eighteenth and nineteenth century favoured – the construction of large ornamental lakes, and the demolition and rebuilding of churches and rectories. The great lake at Horton covering 280 acres and more than a mile long, well stocked with carp and reputed to yield an annual catch weighing 16000 pounds, is now dry land; but the comparable lake at Crichel survives and contains a discarded rectory somewhere beneath its placid surface”*

(From Hawkins, D. (1980) Cranborne Chase. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. Pg 114)

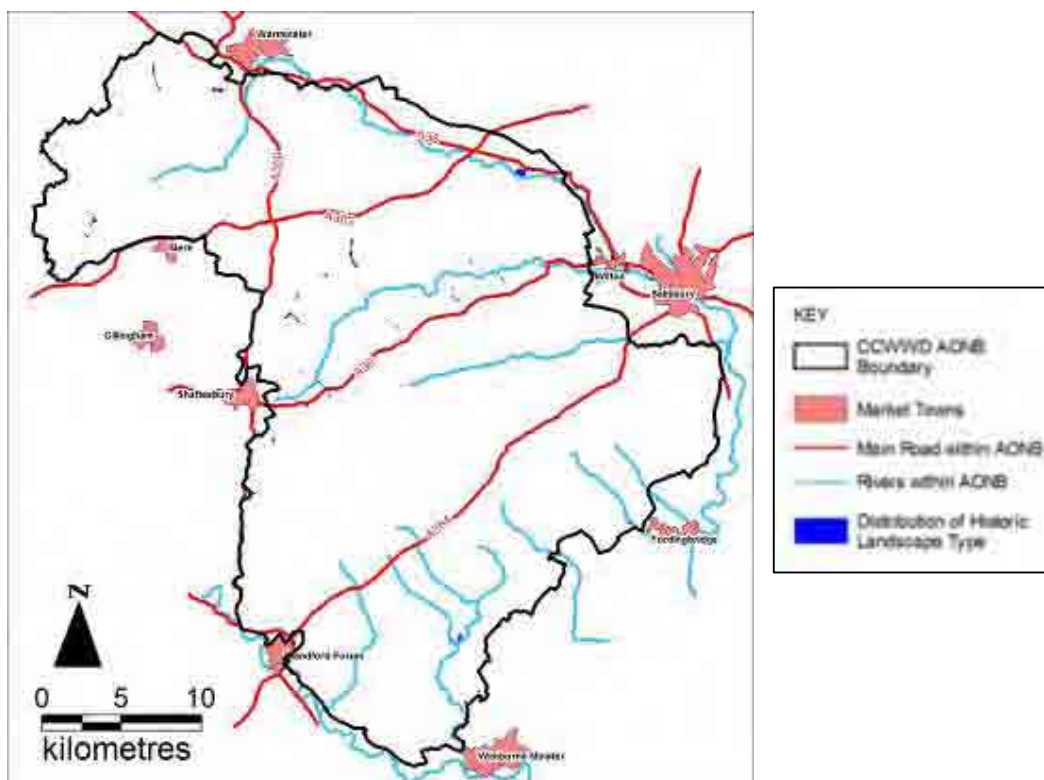
The chalk river systems of the AONB are one of its most characteristic features. These have historically provided natural route ways through the landscape which is attested by the location of settlements which tend to snake down the valleys of the Nadder, Wylye, Ebble, Tarrant and Allan. The creation of features using water such as new lakes and ponds, and smaller scale features such as bed works for growing willow or watercress, have provided features in the landscape which have both aesthetic and economic value. These man-made constructions have the origins in the fish ponds of the medieval period. These features are still enjoyed in the modern day and have great recreational and environmental importance, whether they are found in the setting of formalised 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape parks, as an integral part of settlements, or along the lengths of the many chalk valleys found in the AONB.







## Type 4 Water and Associated Features



### Introduction

The chalk streams and rivers of the AONB and their associated valleys are a major feature in the landscape. The river valleys of the Wylve, Nadder, Ebble, Tarrant and Allen are exceptionally important as natural habitats and have had a major impact on human activity in the area. The dataset has not recorded the natural route of the rivers themselves, only where rivers and streams have been utilised in a variety of ways for both economic and aesthetic reasons. This includes the creation of new man-made lakes, fish ponds, and the channelling of the water into and through watercress beds and withy beds.

Watermeadows can be found in the section on [Enclosed Land in the AONB](#).

### Distribution

Locations where rivers and streams have been utilised by man have a restricted distribution. These tend to cluster along the tributaries of the River Nadder and through the greensand hills. They have dispersed linear distribution in these areas.

### Principal Historical Processes

The evidence that exists in today's landscape of the use of the rivers and streams for economic reasons dates back to the medieval period, or before, with the survival of fish ponds. This tradition continues in the modern day with the occurrence of more industrial scale fish farms in the landscape e.g. in the Deverills or at Damerham.

The earliest evidence of features which used the rivers and streams for the cultivation of specific plants dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This includes the creation of Withered Beds for the growing of willow and new beds for the cultivation of watercress.

There is also a tradition of the creation of man-made lakes and ponds for aesthetic reasons which are linked to the formation of landscaped parks and gardens from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. All of the largest bodies of water in the AONB, such as Fonthill Lake or Shear Water, owe their origins to this trend, with the exception of Langford Lakes. These form major landscape creations.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

These features have varying morphologies but follow natural contours in the landscape. In general the older features, such as the older fish ponds or manmade lakes are irregular in shape with sinuous morphologies, whilst more modern phenomenon, like modern fish farms or watercress beds, are much more regular in form.

### **Rarity**

This type is scarce in the AONB, but is locally common through the Nadder Valley.

### **Survival**

The larger features such as man-made lakes tend to have survived in the landscape while smaller scale features, such as withy beds, have diminished in number.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

The man-made lakes and ponds form major features within the specific locations where they are found.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is often associated with other valley features such as water meadows; most lakes are associated with designed parks.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Less than 7% of this type contains evidence of previous types; these are associated with smaller features of ponds where in their environs traces of the valley bottom fields, from which they were created, survive. Some of the features have gone through several stages of use, for example, there is one fish farm which was originally created as watercress beds in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Features associated with water are rare in general in the AONB, although some of these, especially the man-made lakes, contribute greatly to landscape character. These types have had a greater contribution to the northern half of the AONB.



## Key Statistics

Total Area:	246 hectares, 0.25% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 60 polygons, 1.35% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 4.10 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	246 hectares, 0.25% of the AONB was Water and Associated Features at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 252 hectares, 0.26% of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

[4.1 Man made lakes and ponds](#)

[4.2 Fish ponds and hatcheries](#)

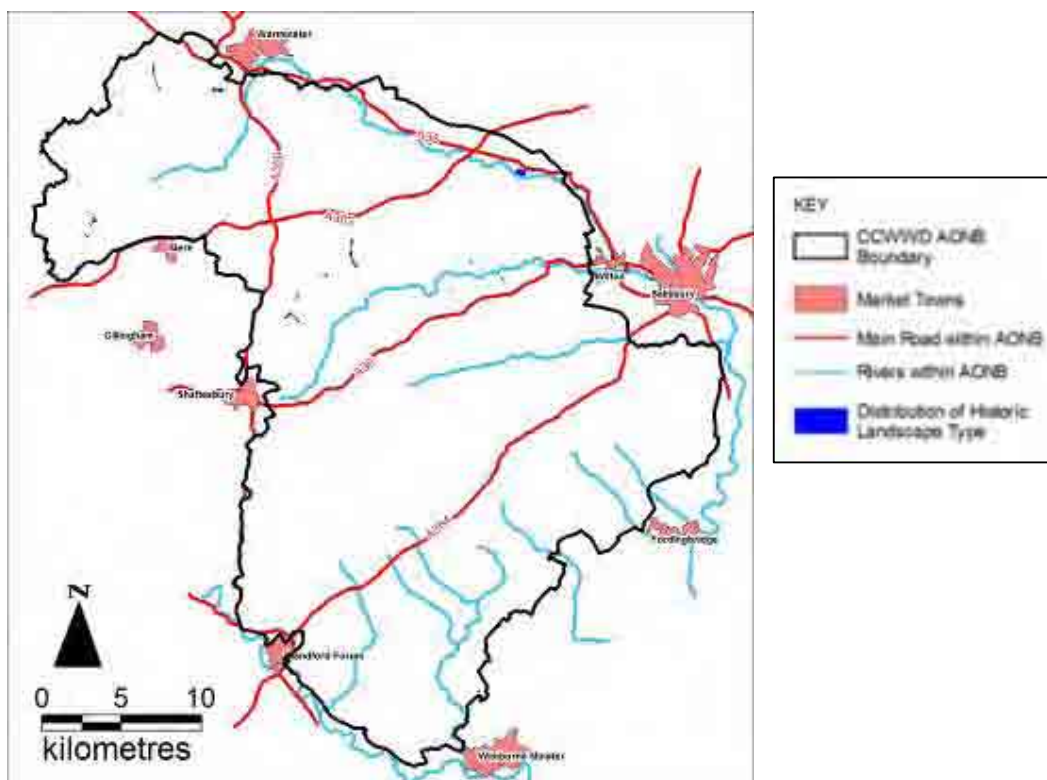
[4.3 Watercress Beds](#)

[4.4 Withy Beds](#)

## Parent Type

None

## Type 4.1 Man-made Lakes and Ponds



### Introduction

Man-made lakes and ponds in the AONB. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey mapping. In the present day they account for 153 hectares or 0.16% of the AONB. The HLC has identified 28 man-made lakes and ponds, these tend to cluster in the greensand hills, in the Vale of Wardour and in the Allen and Wylve Valleys. These do not represent all of the lakes and ponds in the AONB, only those which are at least 1 hectare in size.

### Distribution

This type has a restricted distribution and tend to cluster in the greensand hills, in the Vale of Wardour and in the Wylve Valley. They tend to be in dispersed linear groupings.

### Principal Historical Processes

The creation of artificial lakes and ponds dates back to the medieval period. The ornamental lakes at Wardour Castle, for example, were created from existing stepped medieval fish ponds. The majority of the lakes and ponds identified in the dataset have their origins in the creation of landscaped parks of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, although many of these no doubt have earlier origins. Impressive examples of these ornamental lakes include Fonthill Lake and the lakes at Stourhead. The latter forms the hub of the man-made landscape at Stourhead, as you progress

round the lake you are presented with a series of carefully composed views, of which the lake forms a central part.

The formal lakes within Longleat and Stourhead Parks are depicted on Andrews' and Dury's 1773 Map of Wiltshire, while Shear Water and Fonthill Lakes first appear on the Ordnance Survey 1820s surveyors maps.

Nine of the lakes recorded are 20<sup>th</sup> century in origin though many of these have been created for aesthetic reasons some have more utilitarian origins. Langford Lakes in the Wylde Valley, for example, is the result of gravel extraction.

Today many of the lakes still form a central feature in landscape parks. Many are also valued recreational assets, Shear Water, for example, is now a major fishing lake. Others, such as Langford Lakes, now form the centre of protected nature reserves.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type varies in size but tend to be thin and sinuous in their morphology, often following the natural landform/valley shape. They are often associated with features such as man-made dams, sluices and run offs, and ancillary structures such as fishing platforms, jetties and boat houses.



### **Rarity**

This type occurs rarely in the AONB. In the immediate areas in which they are found they form key characteristics which can enhance the landscape considerably.

### **Survival**

Created lakes and ponds tend to survive in the landscape, though it very easy for these to become quickly neglected.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the smaller ponds may be obscured by tree and scrub growth and infill by encroachment of marginal vegetation. They may also be frequently visited for recreational reasons.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is often associated with historic parks and gardens.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this type preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

The lakes and ponds contribute greatly to the individual settings of the historic parks in which they tend to be found and have great biodiversity and recreational value. However, they do occur very rarely so their contribution to the landscape character of the AONB, as a whole, is fairly low.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	153 hectares, 0.16% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 28 polygons, 0.63% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 5.49 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	153 hectares, 0.16% of the AONB was Man-made Lakes and Ponds at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 153 hectares, 0.16% of the AONB.

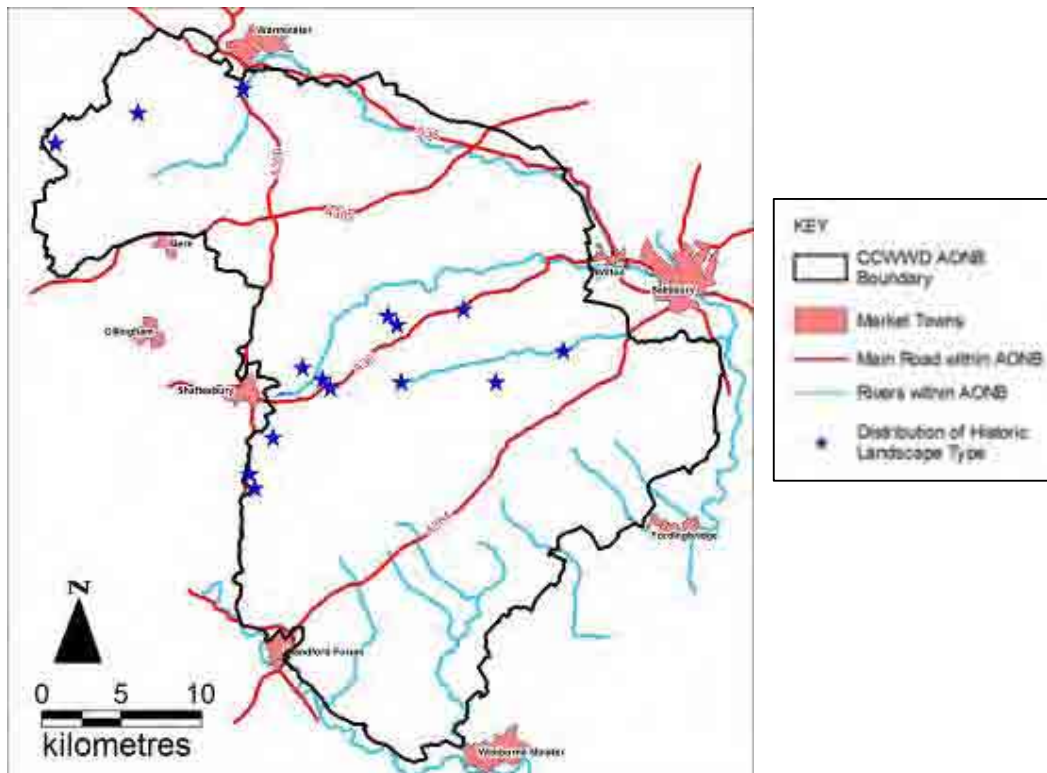
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[4. Water](#)

## Type 4.2 Fishponds and Hatcheries



### Introduction

Fishponds and Hatcheries in the AONB. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey mapping. In the present day they account for 48 hectares or 0.05% of the AONB. The HLC has identified 23 ponds; these do not represent all of the fishponds in the AONB, only those that are at least 1 hectare in size.

### Distribution

Fishponds have a restricted distribution. These tend to cluster in the greensand hills in the northwest AONB and around the Nadder tributaries.

### Principal Historical Processes

The creation of fish ponds in the AONB dates back to the medieval period. This is especially true of those identified in the north west corner of the AONB which appear to be associated with abandoned monastic settlements, for example Witham Friary. The majority of the fish ponds are, however, 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and some of these for example at Brockington Farm near Knowlton in the southern half of the AONB, are commercial farms with formally laid out ponds.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type varies in size and shape, the older ponds are irregular in their morphology. The 20<sup>th</sup> century examples tend to be rectangular in a series of stepped stages, with

sluices in-between extending down the valleys in which they are found. The commercial ponds are often associated with ancillary buildings.



© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 03-6886

### **Rarity**

This type occurs rarely in the AONB but is locally common in the Vale of Wardour.

### **Survival**

Created fish ponds tend to survive in the landscape, though it very easy for these to become quickly neglected and overgrown.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the smaller ponds may be obscured by tree and scrub growth. They may be frequently visited for recreational and commercial reasons.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is often associated with other valley features, such as water cress beds and meadows.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Three of the examples of this type, which today are fish farms/ponds, started life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as watercress beds, an example being the trout farms at Bowerchalke. Three others preserve traces of the valley fields from which they were created in the form of relic boundaries.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

The fish ponds and farms are scattered across the AONB so their contribution to the landscape character of the AONB as a whole is fairly low. There economic impact in a particular area may be quite high as they can attract visitors and trade.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	48 hectares, 0.05% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 23 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.10 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.



Previous Coverage: 48 hectares, 0.05% of the AONB was Fish Ponds and Hatcheries at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 48 hectares, 0.05% of the AONB.

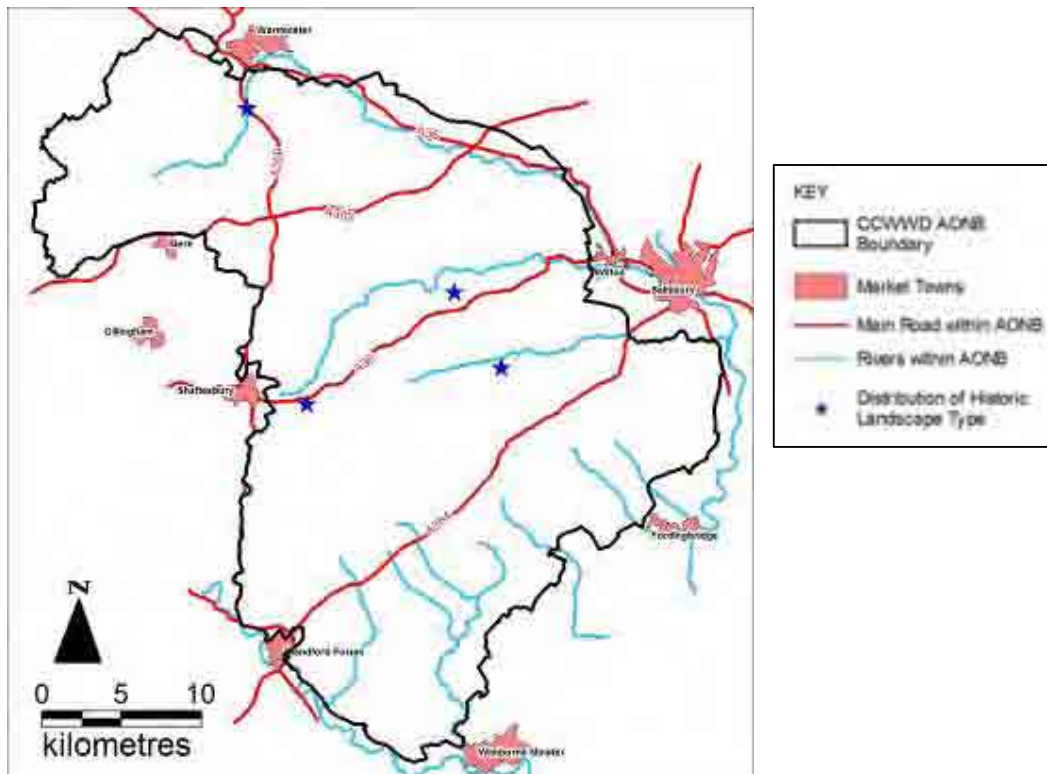
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[4. Water](#)

## Type 4.3 Watercress Beds



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Watercress beds in the AONB. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey mapping. In the present day they account for 16 hectares or 0.02% of the AONB. The HLC has identified 7 potential watercress beds.

### Distribution

These have a restricted distribution and are found on the River Wylde, the River Ebbel, and in the Nadder Valley, and around the Nadder tributaries.

### Principal Historical Processes

Watercress beds first appear at the beginning the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first British watercress farm was opened in 1808 by William Bradbury at Springhead in Northfleet, near Gravesend in Kent. The heyday of Watercress production was the 19<sup>th</sup> century and there is one bed recorded in the AONB that is still in use that can be dated with certainty to this period, at Gurston Meadow in Bowerchalke. Since this period Watercress production has decreased. There are, however, 6 watercress beds in operation in the AONB today; three others have been converted into fish ponds.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Watercress is grown in specially constructed beds and thrives in slightly alkaline water. This type is consistently associated, therefore, with groups of small rectangular beds and associated ancillary buildings at the head of chalk streams



© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 02-8052

### Rarity

This type occurs rarely in the AONB.

### Survival

Watercress beds have slowly been diminishing in number since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their survival is linked to the economic viability of producing and selling the product.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape; the beds required for the cultivation of watercress are a specialist, very distinctive, creation.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is often associated with other valley features, such as fish ponds and meadows.

### Evidence for time-depth

Three of the examples of this type exist only as previous types, being fish farms today which have used and reorganised the beds that were originally created, an example being the trout farms at Bowerchalke. One watercress bed preserves traces of the valley fields from which they were created, in the form of relic boundaries.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

The watercress beds are rare in the AONB so their contribution to the landscape character of the AONB as a whole is fairly low. However, their economic impact in a particular area may be quite high as they can attract visitors and trade.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	16 hectares, 0.02% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 7 polygons, 0.16% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.29 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Rare

Previous Coverage: 16 hectares, 0.02% of the AONB was Watercress Beds at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 16 hectares, 0.02% of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

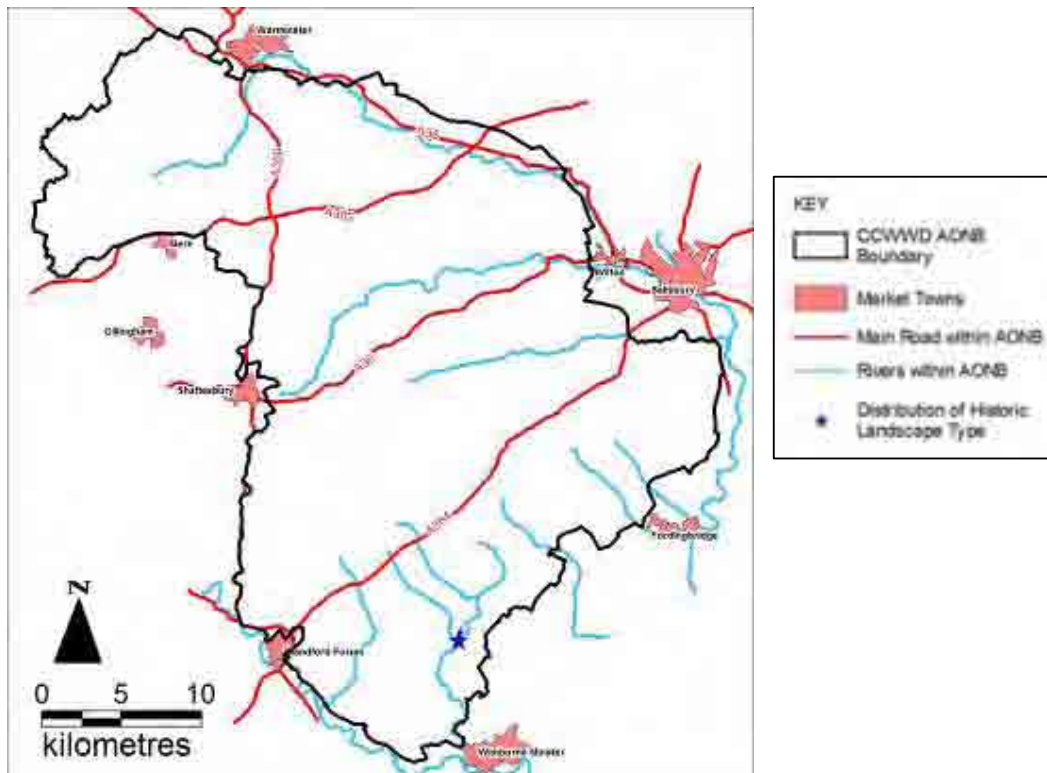
**Parent Type**

[4. Water](#)

**Suggested Sources**

<http://www.watercress.co.uk> [accessed last on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008]

## Type 4.4 Wither Beds



### Introduction

Wither Beds in which rows of willow are purposefully grown and managed in the AONB. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey mapping. In the present day they account for 2 hectares or 0.03% of the AONB.

### Distribution

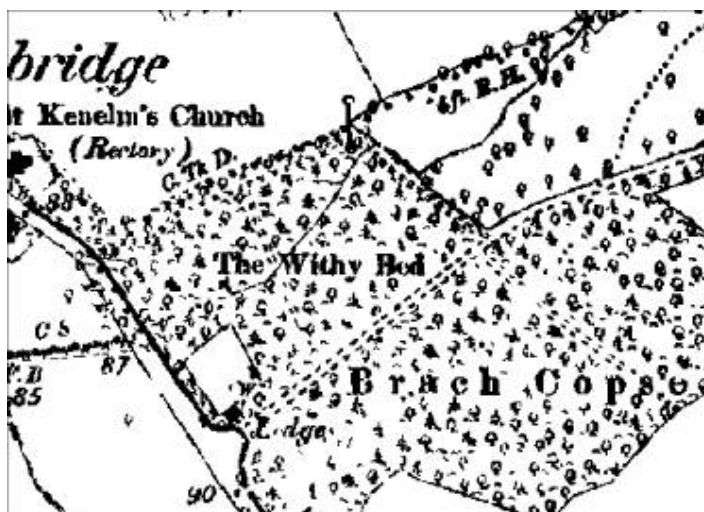
The HLC has identified two potential wither beds; these are found on the River Allen in the southern half of the AONB. They were once much more numerous and several other examples exist as previous types in the dataset.

### Principal Historical Processes

The earliest evidence for wither beds in the AONB dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Willow is planted in wither beds in rows and is cut as rods and wands for weaving and/or basket making every one or two years. The beds are found in low-lying locations as they need a constant water supply. This explains the location of these beds on valleys floor. This method of growing willow is extremely productive. The beds have been identified primarily through place name evidence. Other examples in valleys may not have been recorded as they would not have been distinguished from other natural river side tree and scrub cover.

### Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components

The surviving withy beds are irregular in shape and are associated with man-made channels to facilitate their irrigation. They tend to be in disuse and to be associated with more mixed tree cover today



### Rarity

This type occurs rarely in the AONB and has a low impact on the landscape.

### Survival

Withy Beds have slowly been diminishing in number since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their survival is linked to the economic viability of producing willow. They require regular cutting and retain their distinctive form and productivity.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would not be very recognisable in the landscape; as the beds are in a much degraded state.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is often associated with other valley features, such as water meadows, with which they appear to have shared water channels in the past.

### Evidence for time-depth

Two of the examples of this type exist only as previous types, as today they are 20<sup>th</sup> century modern woodland which has replaced the willow. None of the existing relic beds preserves traces of previous uses.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

The Withy Beds are rare in the AONB so their contribution to the landscape character of the AONB as a whole is fairly low, especially due to their degraded character.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	28 hectares, 0.03% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 13.95 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Rare

Previous Coverage: 32 hectares, 0.03% of the AONB was Withy Beds at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 34 hectares, 0.03% of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[4. Water](#)





**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 5 SETTLEMENT**



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## CONTENTS

<b>Settlement in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	235
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	236
<b>Type 5 Settlement</b> .....	237
Type 5.1 Pre 1800 Century Settlement.....	240
Type 5.1.1 Pre 1800 Linear Settlement.....	243
Type 5.1.2 Pre 1800 Nucleated Settlement.....	246
Type 5.1.3 Pre 1800 Planned Nucleated Settlement.....	249
Type 5.1.4 Pre 1800 Farm Complex.....	252
Type 5.1.5 Pre 1800 Historic House.....	255
Type 5.2 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Settlement.....	258
Type 5.3 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Settlement.....	261
Type 5.4 Churches, Cemeteries and Graveyards.....	264

## Settlement in the AONB: An Introduction

***“I was, therefore, somewhat filled with curiosity to see this Steeple Langford again; and indeed, it was the recollection of this village that made me take a ride into Wiltshire this summer. I have, I dare say, a thousand times talked about this Steeple Langford and about the beautiful farms and meadows along this valley”***

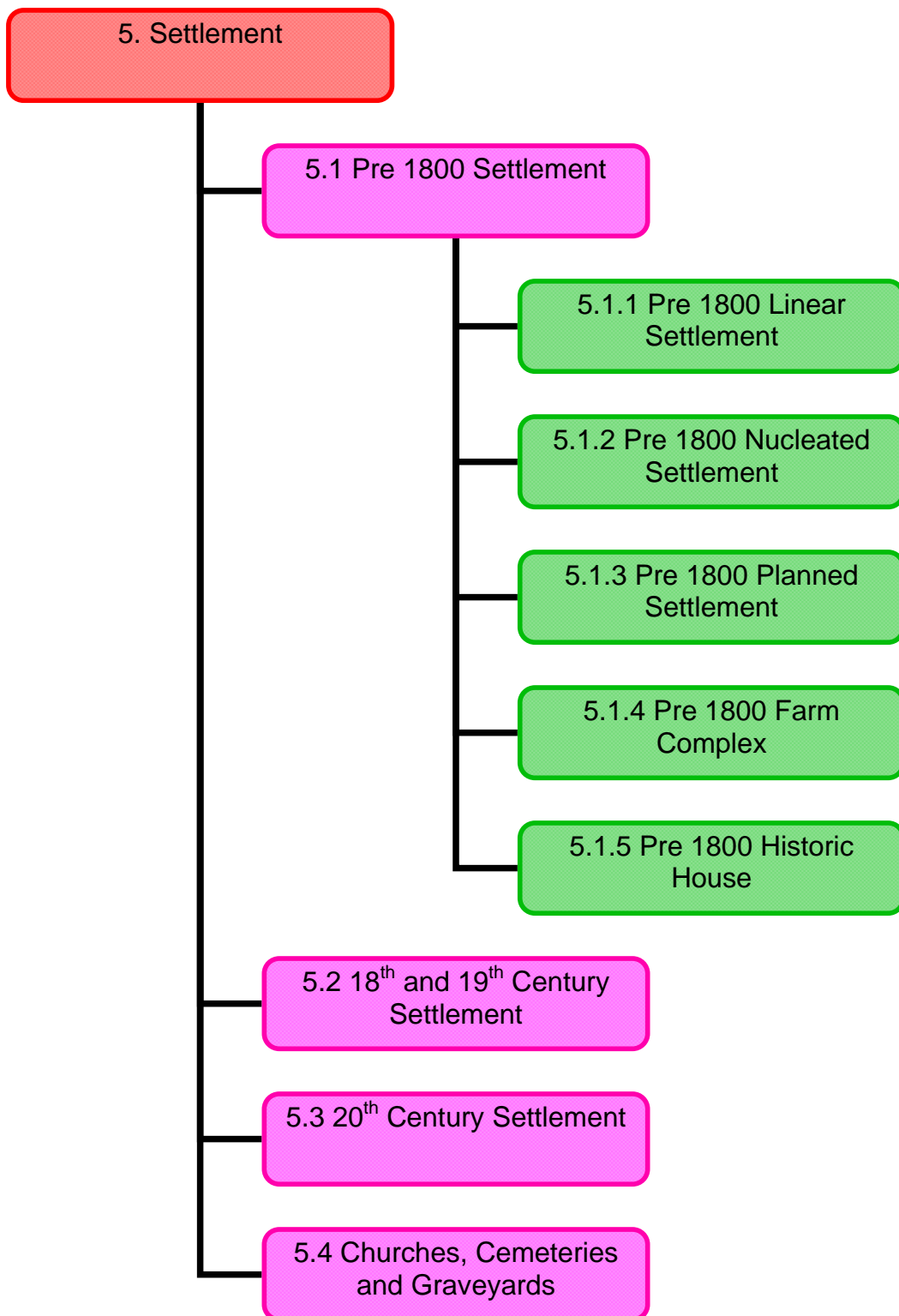
(From William Cobbett (reprinted 1932), Rural Rides Letchworth.)

As this quote from William Cobbett's 1836 Rural Ride between Salisbury and Highworth proves, villages and settlement in the landscape can be evocative places through which people view the wider landscape. They form crucial hubs in which people live and work, and their relationship with the surrounding fields and villages is all important. Nearly all the main villages and hamlets in the AONB are at least pre 1800 date and many have Medieval or even Saxon roots. The historic elements of these villages remain highly visible and central to the character of these settlements, which often have highly distinctive and localised vernacular architectural styles. Several of these settlements are undergoing great change and expansion, a process that has been escalating since the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The AONB is also characterised by large historic houses with their associated grounds and parkland which often still form focal points in the landscape.

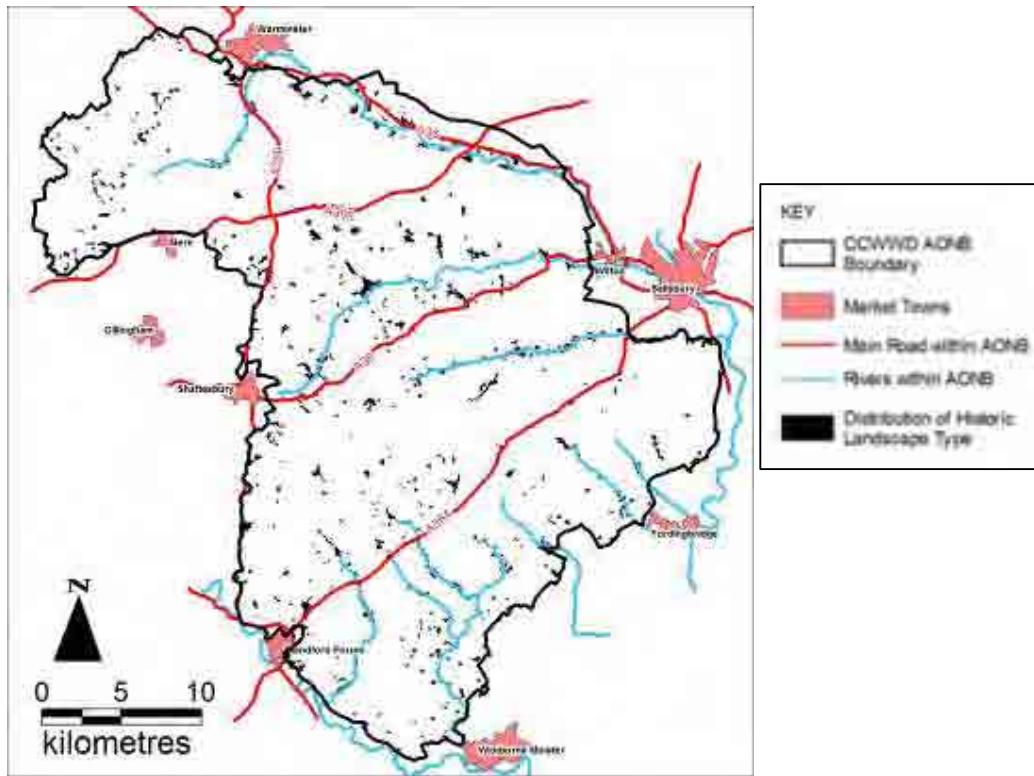


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Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## Type 5 Settlement



### Introduction

Settlement in the AONB which is over 1 hectare in size. This includes villages, hamlets, and clusters of farm buildings. This settlement has been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey maps while its history and growth has been identified by comparison with historic Ordnance Survey maps and historic county maps.

The remains of Deserted Medieval Villages can be found under [Section 12, Archaeology](#).

### Distribution

Settlements are widely distributed across the AONB in scattered groupings. There are four major voids in the distribution of settlement, on the West Wiltshire Downs, in the area between the Ebble Valley and the A30, south of the Ebble Valley, and to the north of Mere. Clear linear distributions can be seen in some areas especially along the river valleys and along the greensand terrace between Warminster and Mere. The Vale of Wardour is associated with larger nucleated settlement, while through the wooded chase downland settlement is more scattered.

### Principal Historical Processes

The central focus to most settlements in the AONB is the pre 1800 settlement pattern which in most instances have Medieval or Saxon roots. These tend to form nuclear or linear settlement, but there are also pre 1800 farms scattered across the AONB, often associated with pre 1800 estates and parkland. The nuclear settlements are

often clustered around a common focus, usually a church or manor house, while the linear settlements are focused on rivers or ancient routeways. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the main expansion of settlement was away from the villages and in the surrounding countryside linked to the enclosure of previously open downland areas. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the main settlement expansion occurred around existing pre 1800 settlements, most dramatically in the Vale of Wardour.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Settlement in the AONB takes a number of forms including large historic houses surrounded by parkland and extensive grounds, clusters of farms and farm buildings set away from the main villages, nucleated settlements often with historic cores featuring pre 1800 houses, and linear settlements stretched out along routeways. All of these settlement types tend to



be associated with local vernacular styles of architecture villages such as Chilmark, Teffont Magna and Fonthill Bishop. All used the locally available Chilmark stone.

### **Rarity**

Settlement as a group are uncommon in the AONB, though this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB. Despite this, however, it represents a significant feature of the AONB, forming key focus points through which people experience and influence the surrounding countryside.

### **Survival**

Settlement patterns in the AONB show continuity over time within the AONB. Existing pre 1800 settlement was not heavily modified until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. The subtleties of the settlement form and history can only be understood through detailed study of maps.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the surrounding farmland and woodland.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Only a small fraction of settlement preserves traces of previous land uses, mostly where settlement has expanded into older fields, and the boundaries of these still exist.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the settlement patterns in the AONB contributes greatly to the landscape character of the AONB.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	2,273 hectares, 2.31% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 796 polygons, 17.94% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.85 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	2,273 hectares, 2.31% of AONB was Settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 2,326 hectares, 2.36% of the AONB.

### Constituent Types

[5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement](#)

[5.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Settlement](#)

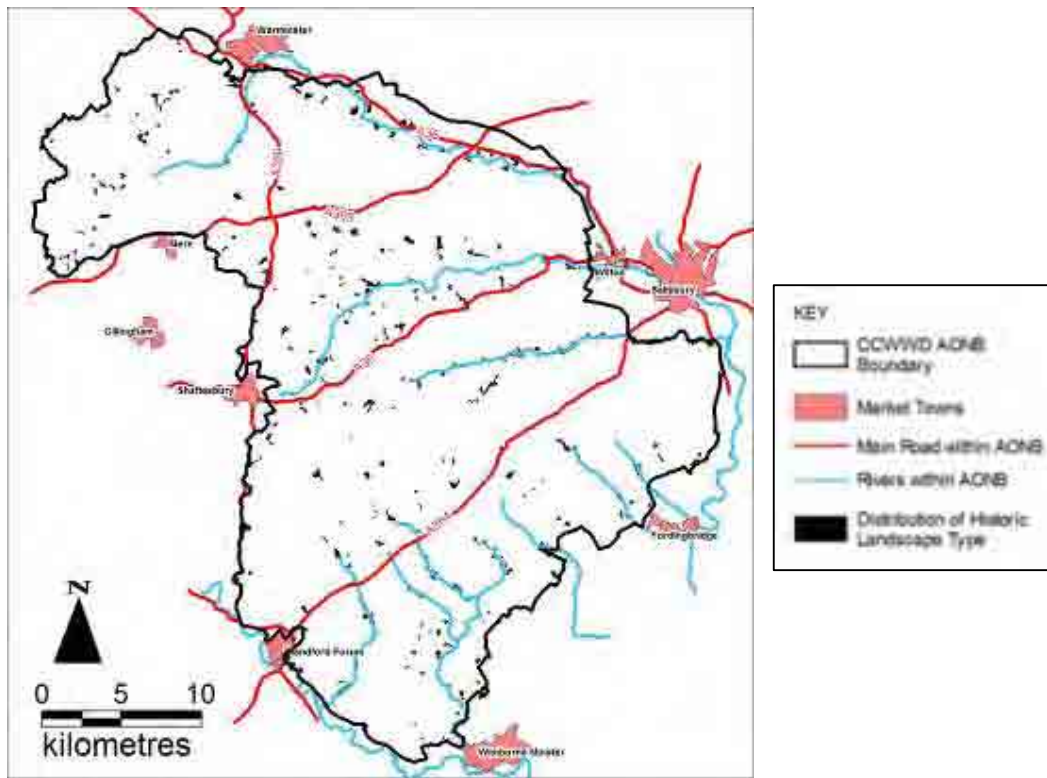
[5.3 20<sup>th</sup> Century Settlement](#)

[5.4 Churches, Cemeteries and Graveyards](#)

### Parent Type

None

## Type 5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement



### Introduction

Settlement, or parts of settlement, dating primarily to before 1800AD. This settlement is primarily comprised of small villages and hamlets, but also consists of groups of farms and farm buildings, and historic houses. These settlements have been identified on the 1820s historic Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps and also on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map. These two maps indicate that there was settlement present at this date; however, settlement morphology can only be identified with confidence on the 1880s Ordnance Survey maps.

### Distribution

These settlements are found scattered across the AONB but are mostly absent from the West Wiltshire Downs. There are clear linear distributions along the river valleys and on the greensand terrace between Warminster and Penselwood. The majority of settlements are nucleated in form, though linear settlements also occur, especially either side of the Nadder Valley and along the Ebble.

### Principal Historical Processes

These settlements are pre 1800 in date and in many cases have Medieval or Saxon roots. The linear settlements have grown up along the path of rivers in some cases, but in the majority of cases they have evolved along the edges of ancient routeways. The more nucleated settlements have grown up around central foci, such as churches, manor houses or more rarely greens and open spaces. The pre 1800 farms are often associated with areas of parkland or in relation to old manor houses.



The nucleated settlements have, in some instances, grown and expanded dramatically in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the Vale of Wardour, meaning that the original pre 1800 village now forms an historic core. There is one example of a planned pre 1800 settlement at Hindon.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Dating to before 1800 these settlements are often associated with pre 1800 houses and distinctive forms of vernacular architecture. The form of this settlement varies widely. For example, the clusters of farm buildings are dispersed throughout the AONB, while the nucleated settlements often formed around a central focus, for example.



### **Rarity**

Pre 1800 settlement as a group is uncommon in the AONB, though this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB in general. Despite this, however, they often form important foci in the landscape, being found along key communication routes and forming the heart of most settlements in the AONB.

### **Survival**

The pre 1800 form of settlements survived mostly intact until the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the majority of these settlements saw at least some growth. This has been most dramatic in the Vale of Wardour, but has also had a more subtle impact in areas like the Ebble Valley, where there has been infilling between existing linear settlements.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its dispersed form would be obvious to most observers, though the history of this settlement can only be elucidated through detailed study of maps.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types, especially surviving pre 1800 fields, many of the pre 1800 settlements in the AONB are associated with large estates and their associated parkland.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the pre 1800 settlement patterns contributes greatly to the landscape character of the AONB.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	1,314 hectares, 1.33% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 379 polygons, 8.54% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 3.46 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	1,338 hectares, 1.36% of AONB was pre 1800 settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1,353 hectares, 1.37% of the AONB.

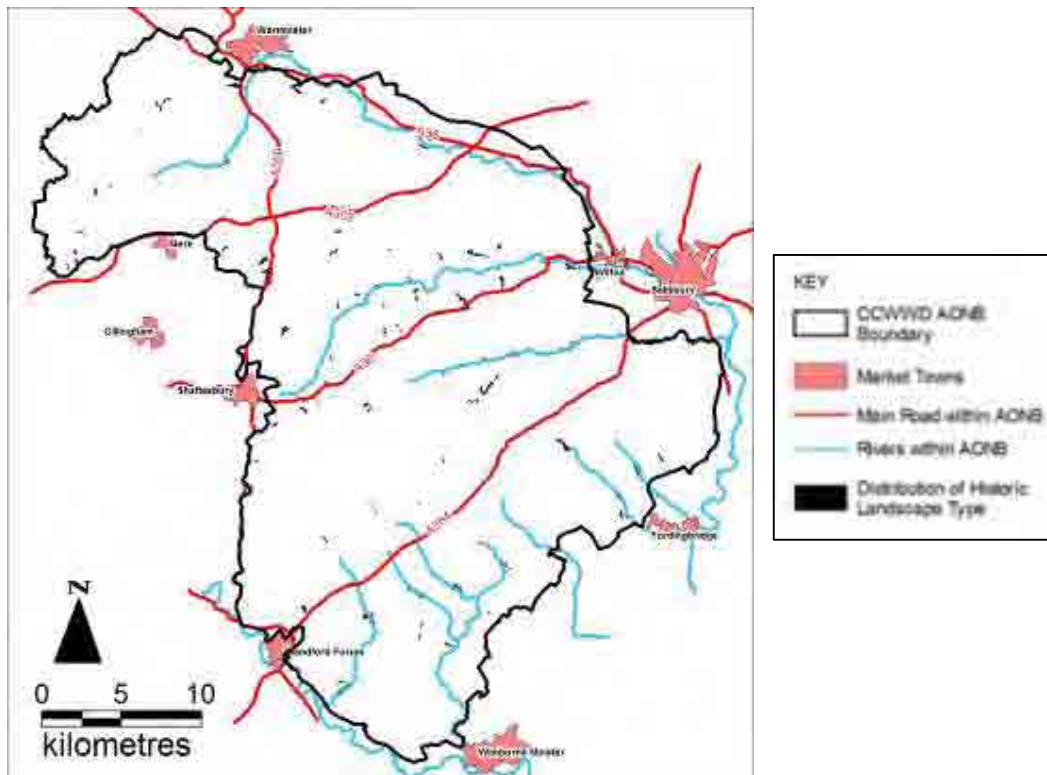
### Constituent Types

- [5.1.1 Pre 1800 Linear Settlement](#)
- [5.1.2 Pre 1800 Nucleated Settlement](#)
- [5.1.3 Pre 1800 Planned Settlement](#)
- [5.1.4 Pre 1800 Farm Complex](#)
- [5.1.5 Pre 1800 Historic House](#)

### Parent Type

- [5 Settlement](#)

## Type 5.1.1 Pre 1800 Linear Settlement



### Introduction

Linear settlements, or parts of settlements, in the AONB that are pre 1800 in date. These are all comprised of small villages or hamlets. These have been identified on the 1820's historic Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps and also on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map. These two maps indicate that there was settlement present at this date; however, settlement morphology can only be identified with confidence on the 1880s Ordnance Survey maps. These settlements tend to be formed by nucleated rows, although there are a few instances of these settlements forming interrupted rows, especially in the area around Horningsham and Kilmington in the north-west corner of the AONB

### Distribution

These settlements are found across the AONB but are mostly absent from the West Wiltshire Downs and wooded downland of the Cranborne Chase. They tend to be concentrated along river valleys such as in the Ebbles Valley or in the upper reaches of the Wylde Valley. They are also spread across the Vale of Wardour. There is a notable linear distribution running north to south along the greensand terrace between Warminster and Penselwood.

### Principal Historical Processes

These settlements are pre 1800 in date and in many cases have Medieval or Saxon roots. The settlements have grown up along the path of rivers in some cases, but in the majority of cases they have evolved along the edges of ancient routeways. In

general, the form of these settlements has not been significantly altered by more recent settlement growth, although in some cases the distinctions between separate settlements has become blurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as new buildings have been created along the routeways joining these settlements. This is most notable in the Ebble Valley.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Linear settlements dating before 1800 are often associated with old buildings and distinctive local forms of vernacular architecture. The majority of this type of settlement is comprised of concentrated settlement focussing along a road or in some cases a river course, which is regularly planned. In a few instances this settlement is more interrupted in form along the line of a routeway.



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In some locations in the AONB, for example in the Ebble and Allan Valleys, linear settlement is the dominant form of pre 1800 settlement. More commonly it is interspersed with nucleated villages.

### **Rarity**

Pre 1800 linear settlements as a group are scarce in the AONB, though this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB in general. Pre 1800 linear settlements are just as scarce as pre 1800 nucleated settlement.

### **Survival**

The pre 1800 linear pattern of these villages has survived mostly intact over the last 200 years. The distinction between these villages is becoming increasingly eroded as the spaces between them are infilled by 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its linear form would be obvious to most observers.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types, including old enclosure patterns and ancient woodland. They tend to be interspersed by pre 1800 nucleated settlements.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the pre 1800 linear settlement patterns contributes greatly to the landscape character of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	432 hectares, 0.44 % of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 128 polygons, 2.88% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 3.38 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	432 hectares, 0.44 % of AONB was Pre 1800 Linear Settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 432 hectares, 0.44 % of the AONB.

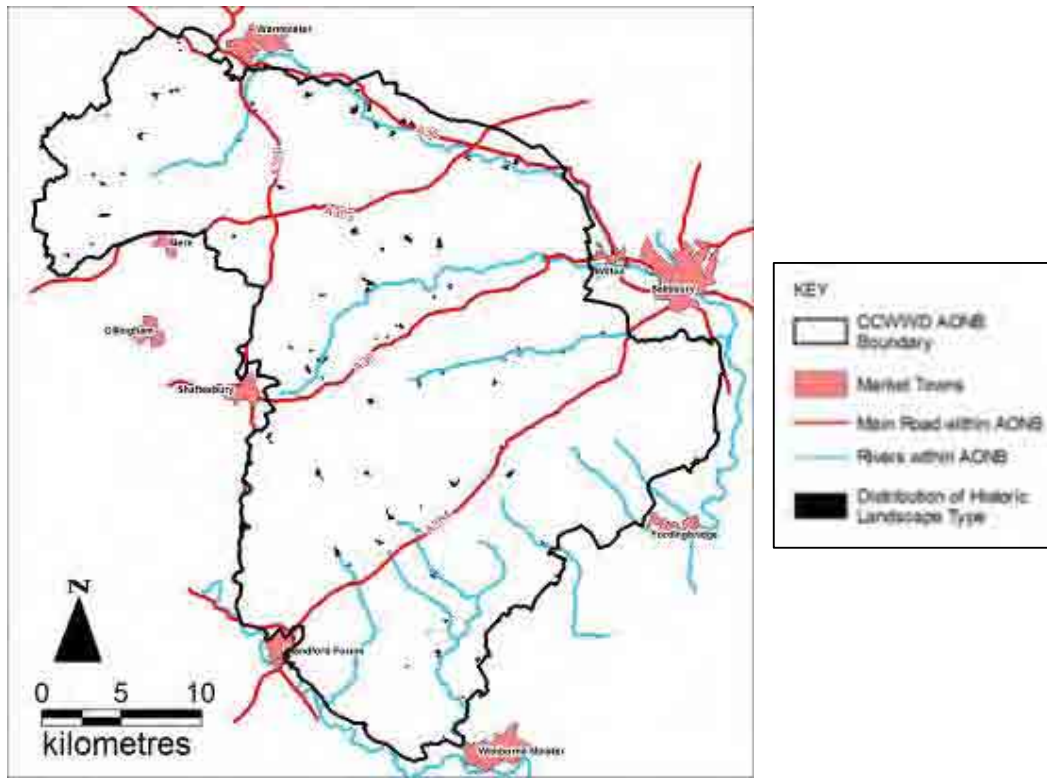
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

#### [5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement](#)

## Type 5.1.2 Pre 1800 Nucleated Settlement



### Introduction

Nucleated settlements, or the nucleated core of settlements, in the AONB that are pre 1800 in date. These are mostly comprised of small villages or hamlets but in some cases these are larger villages such as Tisbury in the Nadder Valley. These have been identified on the 1820s historic Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps and also on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map. These two maps indicate that there was settlement present at this date; however settlement morphology can only be identified with confidence on the 1880s Ordnance Survey maps. These settlements are formed by nucleated clusters of settlement, although approximately 10% are more linear in form.

### Distribution

These settlements are found across the AONB. There are notable linear distributions along the Wylde Valley, along the edge of the greensand terrace in the north west of the AONB, and dispersed along the Ebbel Valley. This settlement type is present on the West Wiltshire Downs and across the wooded chalk downland of the Cranborne Chase, where as pre 1800 linear settlement is not found here.

### Principal Historical Processes

These settlements are pre 1800 in date and in many cases have Medieval or Saxon roots. The settlements have grown up around central foci such as churches, manor houses or more rarely greens and open spaces. In general the form of these settlements has not been significantly altered by more recent settlement growth,

although in approximately half the cases there has been expansion of these settlements in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, creating historic cores in large villages, examples of this include Tisbury, Zeals and Iwerne Minister.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Pre 1800 nucleated settlements are often associated with old buildings and distinctive local forms of vernacular architecture. The majority of this type of settlement is comprised of concentrated settlement focussing around a single point in a compact gird, radial or cluster plan. In some locations in the AONB, for example in the West Wiltshire Downs, nucleated settlement is the dominant form of pre 1800 settlement; more commonly it is interspersed with nucleated villages.



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### **Rarity**

Pre 1800 nucleated settlements as a group are scarce in the AONB, although this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB. Pre 1800 nucleated settlements are just as common as pre 1800 linear settlement.

### **Survival**

The pre 1800 nucleated pattern of these villages has survived mostly intact over the last 200 years. The edges of these villages are becoming increasingly blurred as they are expanded by 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its nucleated form would be obvious to most observers, as would its central point.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other pre 1800 types, including old enclosure patterns and ancient woodland. They tend to be interspersed by pre 1800 linear settlements.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the pre 1800 nucleated settlement pattern contributes greatly to the landscape character of the AONB.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	586 hectares, 0.60 % of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 121 polygons, 2.73% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 4.83 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	586 hectares, 0.60 % of AONB was Pre 1800 Nucleated Settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 586 hectares, 0.60 % of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

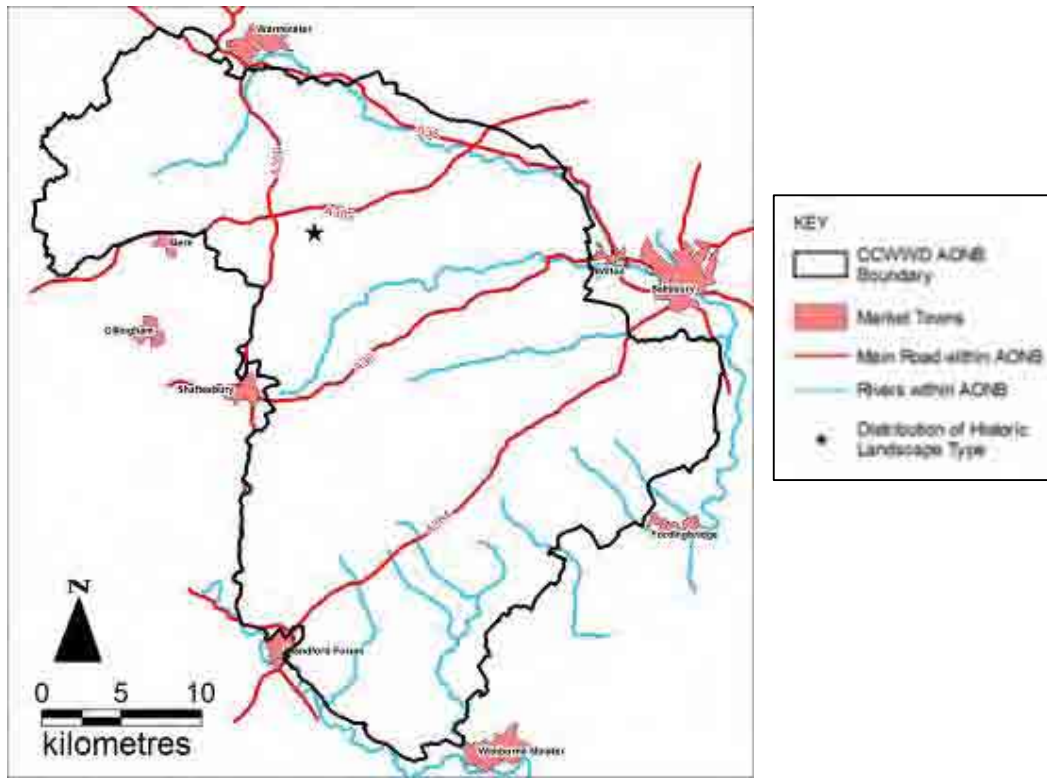
None

## Parent Type

[5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement](#)



### Type 5.1.3 Pre 1800 Planned Nucleated Settlement



#### Introduction

Pre 1800 planned settlement at Hindon, which has been identified on the 1820s historic Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps and also on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map. These two maps indicate that there was settlement present at this date; however settlement morphology can only be identified with confidence on the 1880s Ordnance Survey maps. This settlement has also been identified as a planned village through well documented historic evidence.

#### Distribution

Only one pre 1800 planned settlement has been identified in the AONB at Hindon, to the south of the A303.

#### Principal Historical Processes

This settlement dates to 1219 when Bishop des Roches of Winchester set out a borough along the Salisbury to Taunton Road. The core of the village is dominated by regularly spaced tenements with associated narrow Burbage plots. This pattern remained relatively undisturbed until the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the settlement expanded around the original tenements, creating an original historic core surrounded by more recent houses.

### **Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

This planned settlement is associated with regularly spaced tenements and narrow Burbage plots aligned along a central road. The village was subject to a devastating fire in 1754 so few buildings survive that are earlier than this event.



### **Rarity**

Pre 1800 planned settlements as a group are very rare in the AONB, and Hindon is the only example identified.

### **Survival**

The pre 1800 planned pattern of this village has survived mostly intact since its creation. It now forms an historic core surrounded by more recent settlement

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its nucleated regular form would be obvious to most observers, but its origins as a planned medieval town would only be obvious to experts.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is surrounded by pre 1800 fields and more modern fields, created from previous open downland.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This example of pre 1800 planned settlement in the AONB contributes greatly to the local character of the area around Hindon, but as a sole example contributes less to the landscape character of the AONB as a whole.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	4.86 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygon, 0.01% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 4.83 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Very Rare.

Previous Coverage: 4.86 hectares, 0.01 % of AONB was Pre 1800 Planned Settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 4.86 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

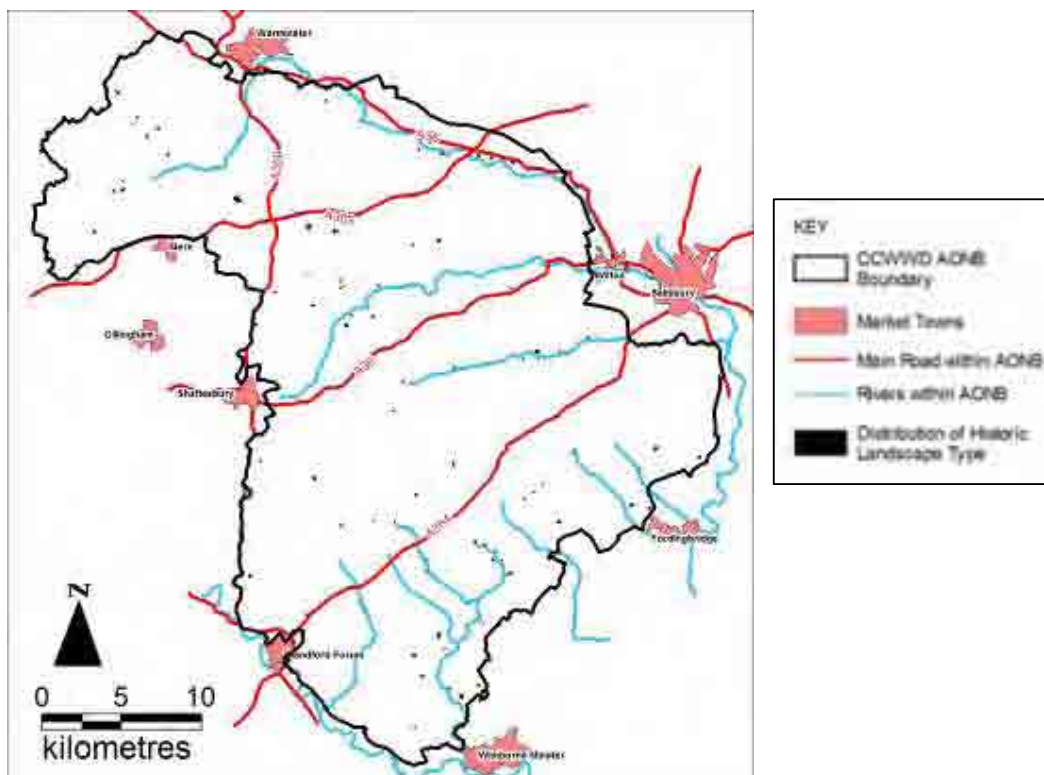
**Parent Type**

[5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement](#)

**Suggested Sources**

Marshman, M. 1987. The Wiltshire Village Book. Countryside: Berkshire.

## Type 5.1.4 Pre 1800 Farm Complex



### Introduction

Groups of farm buildings, at least 1 hectare in size, dating to before 1800 AD. These have been identified on the 1820s historic Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps and also on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map. Only farms over 1 hectare in size have been identified.

### Distribution

These complexes of farms are found across the AONB with notable concentrations along the Tarrant Valley, on the greensand terrace between Horningsham and Penselwood, and in the Vale of Wardour. In the river valleys of the Ebble and Wylye they tend to be evenly distributed between the main areas of settlement, while in the Vale of Wardour and Allen Valley they are more isolated.

### Principal Historical Processes

These farms are pre 1800 in date and in many cases have medieval roots. They are often associated with historic farm buildings with important local vernacular styles. Their location is often positioned relative to old manor houses or areas of parkland, as indicated by indicative place names.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Groups of farm buildings, dating to before 1800, often associated with more than one dwelling, which cover an area greater than 1 hectare.

## Rarity

Pre 1800 farm clusters as a group are rare in the AONB, though this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB in general. These farms cover a total combined area similar to other pre 1800 linear and nucleated settlement types, suggesting the historic importance of these more isolated dwellings in the landscape of the AONB.



## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its form would be obvious to most observers, but its origins as a pre 1800 settlement form may be obvious only to experts.

## Past interaction with other types

This type is surrounded by a range of enclosure types. In some areas especially the Ebble and Wylde Valley, it is regularly interspersed with larger agglomerated settlements.

## Evidence for time-depth

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the pre 1800 patterns of farm complexes contributes greatly to the landscape character of the AONB.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	246 hectares, 0.25% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 105 polygons, 2.37% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.43 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	246 hectares, 0.25% of AONB was Pre 1800 Farm Complexes at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded  
Coverage:

The total recorded coverage of this type  
is 246 hectares, 0.25% of the AONB.

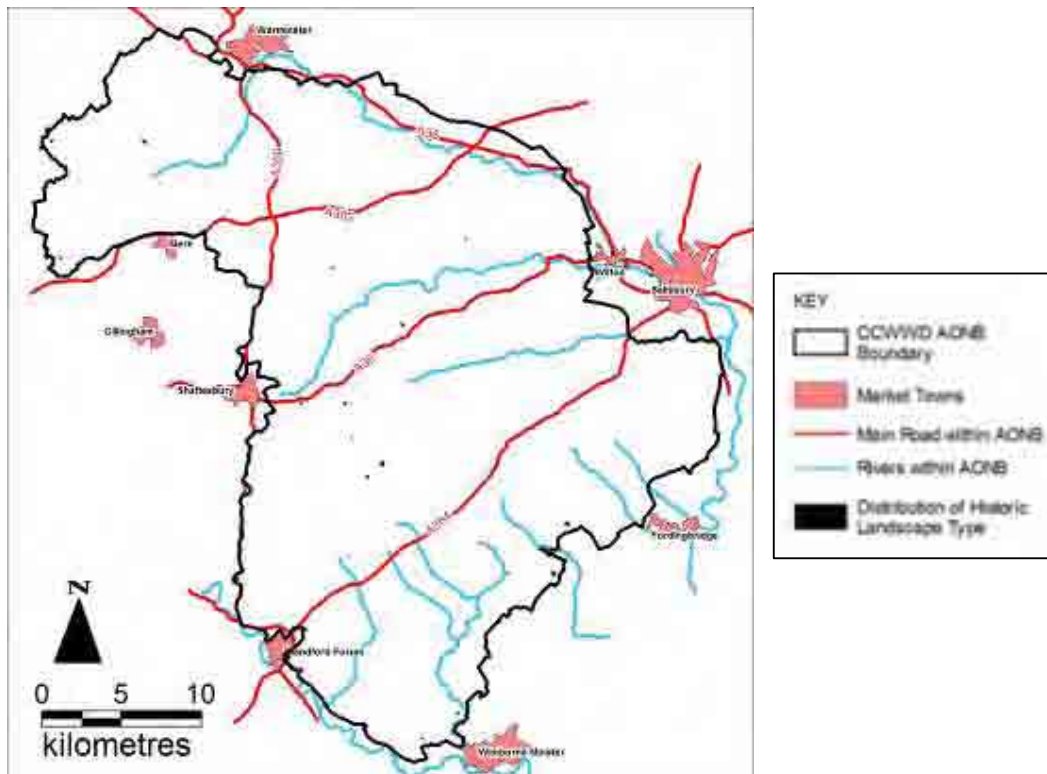
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement](#)

## Type 5.1.5 Pre 1800 Historic House



### Introduction

Pre 1800 large historic houses, associated with ancillary buildings and formal buildings, which are at least 1 hectare in size and have a recognisable formal plan. These have been identified on the 1820s historic Ordnance Survey surveyor's maps and also on the relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century county map. Only prominent historic houses over at least 1 hectare have been identified, though some are not included in this dataset as they have been subsumed within the larger historic park in which they sit.

### Distribution

Historic houses are found across the AONB with a notable concentration around the village of Cranborne on the south-east edge of the AONB and in the area around Ashcombe on the Cranborne Chase.

### Principal Historical Processes

These houses date to at least 1800 and in many cases there has been an important house on the site since the Medieval period, as for example with Cranborne Manor. Others were created on new sites as the focus of newly created landscape parks, as with New Wardour House.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Large historic houses which are often listed buildings. These are associated with formal gardens and drives, with many ancillary buildings, including stable blocks and coach houses.

## Rarity

Pre 1800 historic houses as a group are rare in the AONB.



## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its form would be obvious to most observers, even if the individual history of each site is not fully appreciated. Many of these houses are open to the general public.

## Past interaction with other types

This type is often associated with historic parks and gardens.

## Evidence for time-depth

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, historic houses form crucial focus points in the landscape of the AONB.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	71 hectares, 0.07% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 24 polygons, 0.54% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.99 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	71 hectares, 0.07% of AONB was Pre 1800 Historic Houses at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 71 hectares, 0.07% of the AONB.



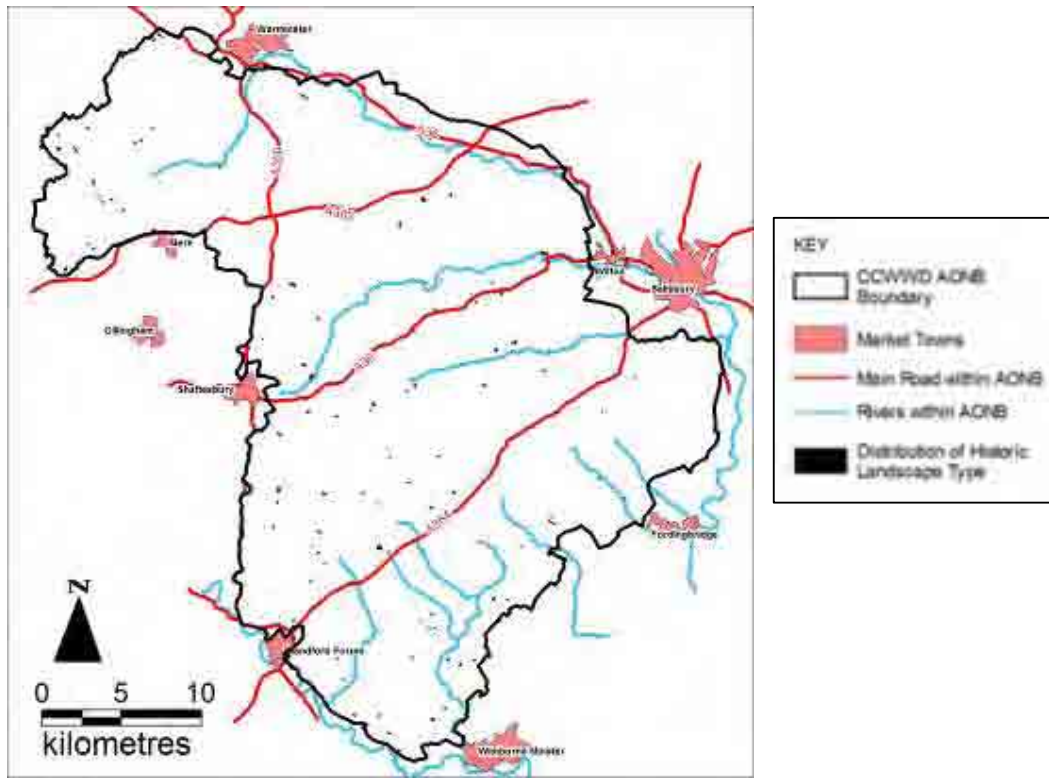
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[5.1 Pre 1800 Settlement](#)

## Type 5.2 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Settlement



### Introduction

Settlement dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century. This settlement is primarily comprised of small hamlets and groups of houses located away from existing pre 1800 settlement's although in some cases the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement extended the plan of existing villages. These settlements are present on the 1880s historic Ordnance Survey maps but not on the historic county maps, they are often present on the 1820s Ordnance Survey surveyors maps.

### Distribution

These settlements are found scattered across the AONB but are mostly absent from the West Wiltshire Downs and the chalk river valleys.

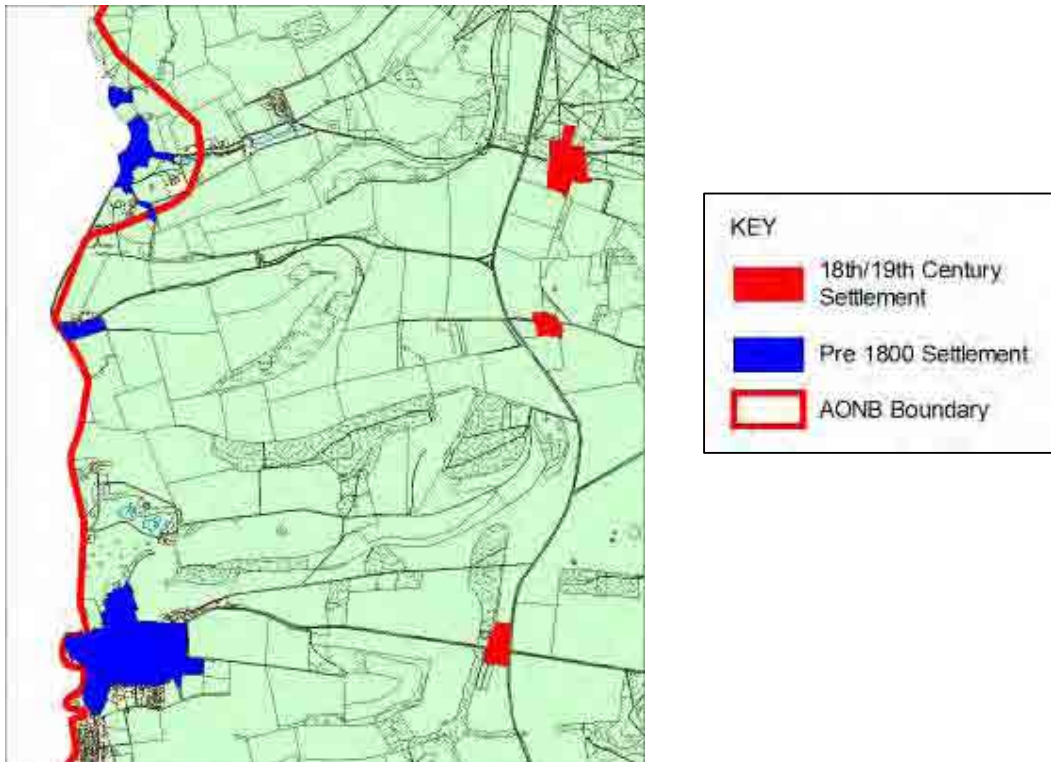
### Principal Historical Processes

These settlements date primarily to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, over half of the examples identified are clusters of new farms which can be linked to the acceleration of the process of enclosure in this period and the intensification of farming. A few examples extend the footprint of existing villages but the majority of the settlement is located in new areas removed from existing settlement.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Isolated dwellings and clusters of buildings found alongside old routeways but often located away from existing villages. In some instances the lines of these new

settlements mirror the locations of existing settlement, as can be seen in this example from the west of the AONB. The new farms created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century are evenly spaced on the escarpment above the existing pre 1800 settlement in the valley below.



### Rarity

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> settlements as a group are scarce in the AONB, though this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB in general. Despite this, however, it represents a fairly rapid increase in the amount of settlement in the AONB compared with the gradual growth of the nucleated and linear agglomerated settlements, which had been common up until this point.

### Survival

The 19<sup>th</sup> century dispersed pattern of these new farms and small settlements has survived mostly intact over the last 100 years, with the main impact of 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement being placed upon the pre 1800 villages.



### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its dispersed form would be obvious to most observers, though the history of this settlement can only be elucidated through detailed study of maps.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other 19<sup>th</sup> century types especially the new enclosure which was created at this point.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement patterns contributes greatly to the landscape character of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	250 hectares, 0.25% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 124 polygons, 2.79% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	299 hectares, 0.30% of AONB was 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 301 hectares, 0.31% of the AONB.

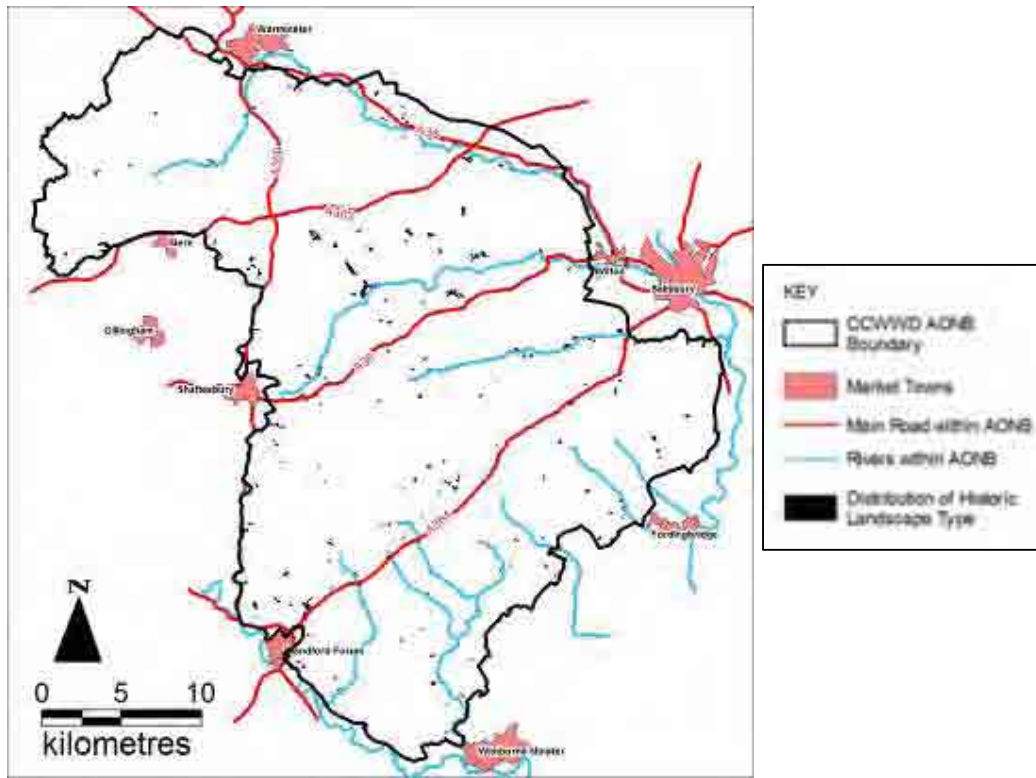
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[5 Settlement](#)

## Type 5.3 20<sup>th</sup> Century Settlement



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Settlement dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This settlement is primarily comprised of extensions to existing settlement and in the southern half of the AONB as new groups of houses located away from existing settlements. These settlements are present on the modern day Ordnance Survey map but not the historic epoch 1 Ordnance Survey maps from the 1880s. In some instances settlement has been identified as early 20<sup>th</sup> century on the 1930s epoch 3 maps, however these do not have a complete coverage over the whole AONB so it is not possible to get an indication of the total impact of settlement change in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Distribution

These settlements are found scattered across the AONB but are mostly absent from the West Wiltshire Downs and the wooded greensand hill stretching between Warminster and Penselwood.

### Principal Historical Processes

This settlement dates to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and marks the increase of populations in villages across the AONB in the last 100 years. The most dramatic impact has been in the Vale of Wardour where settlements, such as Tisbury, have nearly doubled in size. In this area this process can be traced back into the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly in the river valleys the existing settlements have been extended and enlarged, apart from in the Ebbles Valley where there has been infilling between exiting settlements. New small blocks of settlement have also been created to the

north of Blandford Forum. In the southern half of the AONB there has been an increase in the number of farms partially linked to the enclosure of formerly open downland.

### **Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

Modern houses created alongside older settlement. The blocks of settlement often have a very regular plan and form which contrasts with the more organic layout of the older settlements.



© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 02-8066

### **Rarity**

20<sup>th</sup> century settlement as a group is scarce in the AONB, though this mostly reflects the low population levels in the AONB in general. Despite this, however, it represents a fairly rapid increase in the amount of settlement in the AONB. In the last 100 years the amount of settlement in the AONB has increased by 40%.

### **Survival**

The main impact of 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement has been upon the pre 1800 villages, which has enlarged these settlements, as population numbers in the AONB are increasing it is likely that this trend will continue over the next few years.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Modern houses are obvious to most observers, though their impact on the historic form of settlements may not be so obvious.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other settlement types such as pre 1800 settlement.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Approximately 10% of this settlement preserves traces of previous land uses, mostly in the form of place name evidence and the effect the previous land uses such as enclosed fields, has on the morphology of the settlement.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Despite its low occurrence in the AONB in general, the creation of new houses in the 20<sup>th</sup> century has had a fairly large impact on the landscape of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	654 hectares, 0.66% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 281 polygons, 6.33% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.32 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	654 hectares, 0.66% of AONB was 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Settlement at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 654 hectares, 0.66% of the AONB.

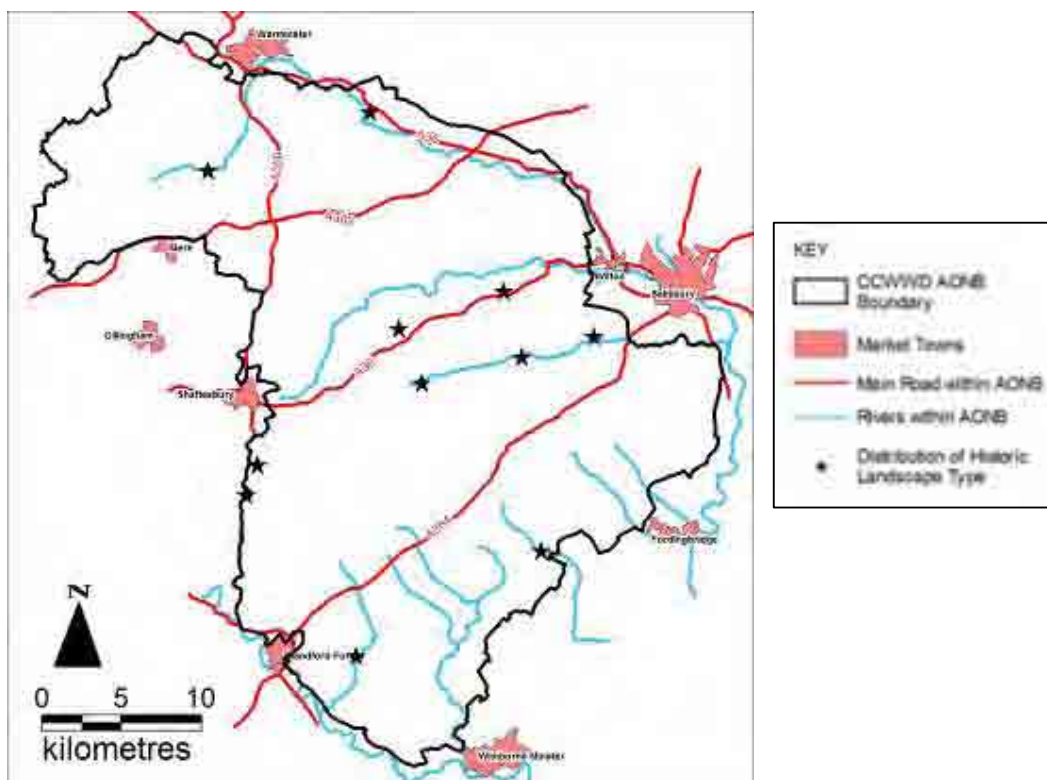
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[5 Settlement](#)

## Type 5.4 Churches, Cemeteries and Graveyards



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Cemeteries and graveyards which often are centred round a central church or chapel. These do not represent every instance of cemeteries and graveyards in the AONB but only those that are over 1 hectare or that form a central focus in villages have been recorded.

### Distribution

This type are found scattered across the AONB there is a small concentration spread through the Ebbw Valley.

### Principal Historical Processes

Some of the areas recorded represent the churchyards or wider precincts around which a village has grown and therefore date back to the medieval period even if the church itself is more recent in form. Examples of this can be found at Kingston Deverill and Upton Lovell in the Wylye Valley, at Swallowcliffe and finally at Bishopstone.

The second process being recorded is the creation of new cemeteries on the edge of villages in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for example at Compton Chamberlyne.



### **Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

The boundary of the churchyards or church precincts, which form central foci in many of the villages of the AONB are often curving and have a sub-circular form with a central church. They are associated with gravestones but these may only cover a small fraction of their former area. In contrast the more recent cemeteries are



much more regular in form and are only associated with small chapels of rest, being set apart from the main area of settlement.

### **Rarity**

Churchyards and Cemeteries are very common in the AONB. Every settlement is normally associated with a church and associated churchyard, with larger settlements, such as Tisbury, being associated with several. However, in the dataset itself the occurrence of churchyards is rare as only a few examples have been recorded.

### **Survival**

The majority of churchyards and cemeteries in the AONB are still consecrated places of worship.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape. Its form would be obvious to most observers, though the history of the individual can only be elucidated through detailed study of maps.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Churchyards in the centre of villages are associated with the pre 1800 settlement form which has grown up around them.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this settlement type preserves traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Churches and their associated churchyards form central focus in most settlements in the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	28 hectares, 0.03% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 24 polygons, 0.27% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 1.17 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare (in the dataset)
Previous Coverage:	30.83 hectares, 0.03% of AONB was Cemeteries and Graveyards at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 30.83 hectares, 0.03 % of the AONB

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[5 Settlement](#)

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

# HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE DESCRIPTION:

## TYPE 6 DESIGNED AND ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPES



## CONTENTS

<b>Designed and Ornamental Landscapes in the AONB: An Introduction.....</b>	<b>269</b>
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	270
<b>6. Parkland and Designed.....</b>	<b>271</b>
6.1 Formal Gardens.....	274
6.2 Designed Landscape Gardens and Parks.....	277
6.3 Deer Park.....	280

## Designed and Ornamental Landscapes in the AONB: An Introduction

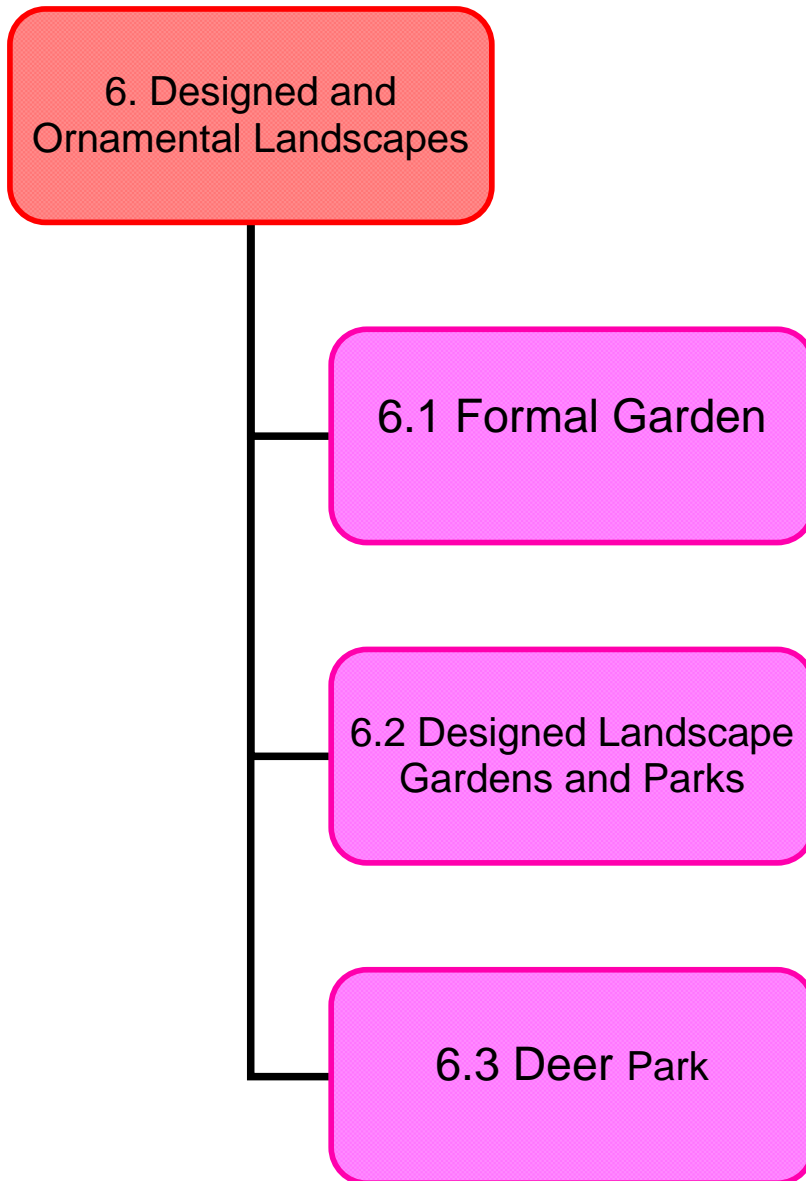
*“The gardens are very beautifully laid out, in a serpentine river, pieces of water, lawns &c., and very gracefully adorn'd with wood. One first comes to an island in which there is a castle, then near the water is a gateway, with a tower on each side, and passing between two waters there is a fine cascade....There is a most beautiful grotto by Mr Castles of Marlybone; it consists of a winding walk and an anti-room.. The park also is very delightful”*

(Bishop Pococke 1754 quoted in Mowl T. (2003) Historic Gardens of Dorset.)

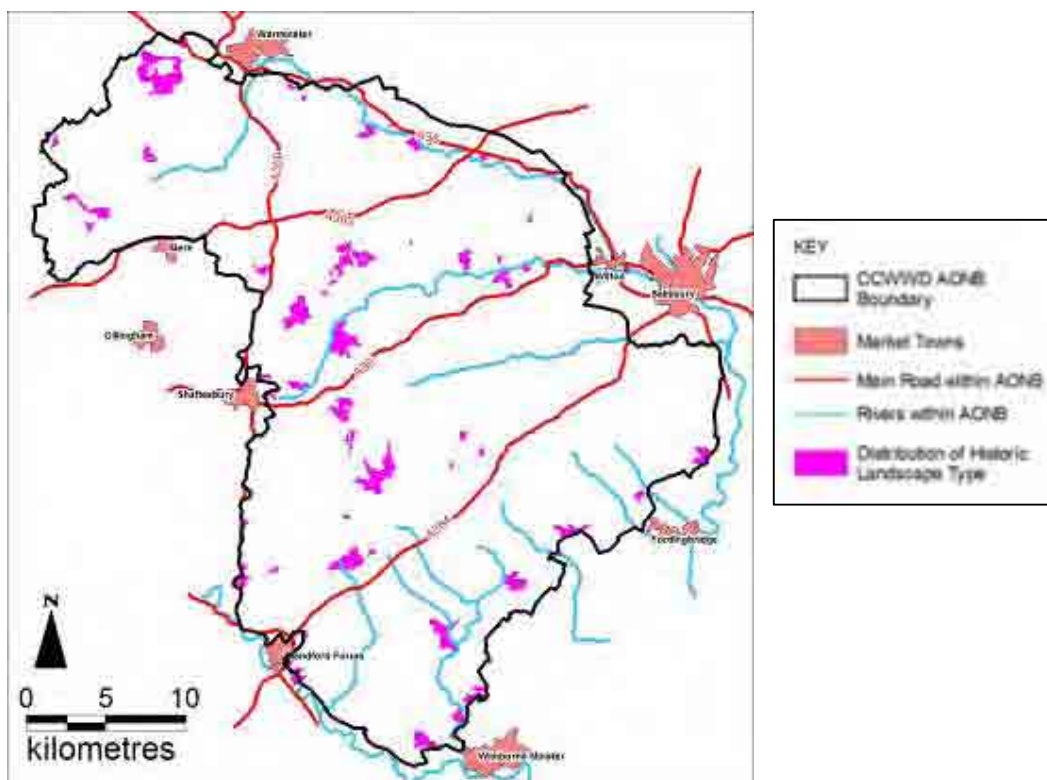
The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is, by and large, a landscape owned by estates both great and small. It is, therefore, dotted with landscape parks and historic gardens often associated with great houses. Some of these, such as Longleat and Stourhead, are of national renown and are widely visited; others are only known locally. All form important focal points in the landscape, and form areas which are not just pleasing to the eye but are also mentally stimulating and challenging. Many are also associated with the remnants of older parkland features such as medieval deer parks; these are intrinsically linked with the medieval chase which forms such an integral part of the AONB.



Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## 6. Designed and Ornamental landscapes



### Introduction

Created and designed primarily ornamental landscapes, gardens and parks in the AONB often associated with large country houses. These have been identified from modern Ordnance Survey mapping and comparison with historic Ordnance Survey maps. The project was also able to draw on the AONB Deer Park Survey, English Heritage register of parks and gardens and local lists drawn up by the relevant county based Gardens Trust. The rural nature of the AONB means that there are no large scale designed public spaces maintained by local authorities.

It is important to note that many smaller historic gardens were too small to be recorded individual or have been subsumed with the historic houses too which they are adjacent. This is especially the case with small country residences such as manor houses and vicarages.

### Distribution

This type is widely distributed across the AONB, with clusters in the Vale of Wardour and linear distributions across the south-eastern edge of the AONB, and the greensand terrace in the north-west corner of the AONB. There are voids in the distribution, notably across the core of the West Wiltshire Downs, and in the Ebble Valley.

## Principal Historical Processes

The earliest traces of parkland in the AONB are medieval deer parks which exist as previous types in the dataset as their outlines and boundaries often influence subsequent land use. However, the majority of ornamental landscapes in the AONB were created in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, as landscaped parks, featuring carefully crafted vistas, planting and ornamental features.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

The designed landscapes of the AONB consist of three main elements: -

- Remnants of deer parks, including park pales and boundaries
- Landscaped parks designed with a great house at its focus. They were often created around walked circuits, extensive views, carriage drives, or water features and often consist of carefully crafted views. They consisted of large areas of grassland interspersed with individual and clumps of trees.
- Formal gardens with geometric layouts, these are often walled.

Some of the larger estates in the AONB will contain all three elements, while some of the small estates just one or two.

## Rarity

Designed landscapes group are uncommon in the AONB by area, but form important focal points in the landscape.



## Survival

Many of the parks and gardens in the AONB declined in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to the increasing cost of maintenance, for example, Wardour Park. However several of the larger examples are maintained as visitor attractions, such as Longleat, Stourhead and a few still form the focus of large private estates, such as at Fonthill.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable in the landscape; several are visited by large numbers of people. It takes expert knowledge, however, to appreciate the finer nuances in the differences between the different parks and gardens.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with historic houses. In addition, as centres of great estates the parkland often formed a focal point which then exerted great influence on the surrounding countryside.



### **Evidence for time-depth**

The parks and gardens of the AONB often evolved through several stages and often retain evidence of medieval activity.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB, which belies the small area which this type covers. It also adds immensely to the aesthetic value of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	2,960 hectares, 3.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 118 polygons, 2.66% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 25.08 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	3,554 hectares, 3.61% of AONB was Designed and Ornamental Landscapes at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 4516 hectares, 4.59% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

[6.1 Formal Garden](#)

[6.2 Designed Landscaped Gardens and Parks](#)

[6.3 Deer Park](#)

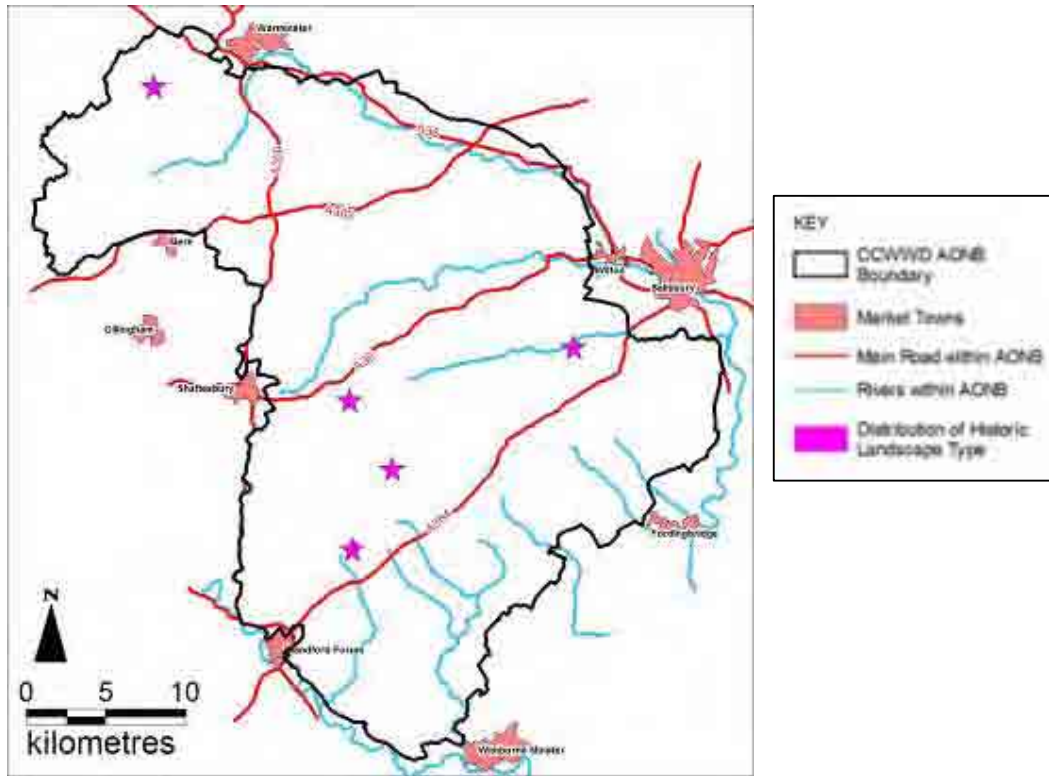
### **Parent Type**

None

### **Suggested Sources**

Barker, K (2006) Medieval Deer Parks of Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. CCWWD AONB: Cranborne.

## 6.1 Formal Garden



### Introduction

Historic formal gardens often associated with historic houses. These are smaller scale features than the designed landscaped parks with their associated gardens. Many of these do not feature on the English Heritage register of parks and gardens, but may be listed on the relevant county based Garden Trust local list. These have been identified on modern day Ordnance Survey and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey maps.

**The identification of historic gardens in the Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset is limited by the scale of the project. The dataset does not include all historic gardens because many are too small to be recorded at this scale or have been recorded as part of the footprint of an historic house. This includes many of the gardens associated with manor houses, especially in the valley bottoms of the AONB. The fact that map based sources has been used means that the majority of gardens identified at this scale have a formal layout.**

### Distribution

Historic gardens have been recorded across the central section of the AONB and one example in the north-east corner. The gardens recorded are as follows: -

- Walled garden at Longleat
- Garden associated with Faulston House
- Formal gardens associated with Ferne House

- Walled garden at Rushmore
- Formal gardens at Eastbury Park
- Formal gardens at Steepleton House

**Of course this represents a fraction of the historic gardens which exist in the AONB but which have been subsumed under other types, including important gardens at Breamore, Boveridge House, Breamore, Chettle, Cranborne Manor, Gardens Edmondsham, Gaunts House, Kingston Lacy, Wimborne St Giles, and the walled garden at Pythouse.**

The best source of information on these is the relevant county based Garden Trust local list.

### **Principal Historical Processes**

The majority of these gardens date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century; several such as Longleat and Rushmore are situated away from the main houses and grounds suggesting they may be walled kitchen gardens. Others form traditional formal gardens with geometric beds and pathways and water features. This is a tradition which is continuing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the creation of an area of formal gardens at Ferne House and also at Shute House.



### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Gardens with a formal layout, including a geometric design, water features and gravel paths. Many of the examples recorded are walled.

### **Rarity**

Formal gardens are rare in the AONB especially when compared against the larger and more common landscaped parks and gardens.

### **Survival**

The footprint of these formal gardens often survives more than the features within it.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape due to its formal layout, but is quite small in scale.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with landscaped parks and historic houses.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The creation of formal gardens removes traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has a small influence on the landscape character of the AONB, they exist as intimate spaces which can only be fully appreciated within their immediate settings.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	47 hectares, 0.05 % of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 7 polygons, 0.16% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 6.75 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare
Previous Coverage:	58.44 hectares, 0.06 % of AONB was Formal Gardens at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 67.64 hectares, 0.07 % of the AONB

### **Constituent Types**

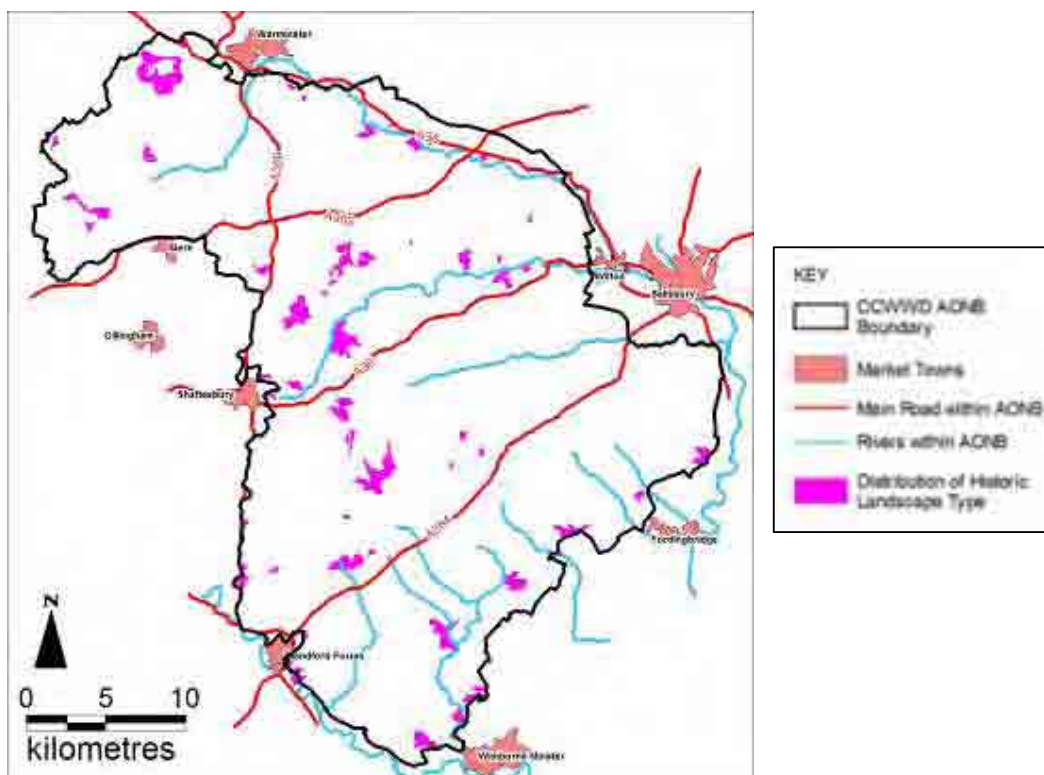
None

### **Parent Type**

[6 Designed and Ornamental Landscapes](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

## 6.2 Designed Landscape Gardens and Parks



### Introduction

Deliberately and carefully created landscapes and parkland commonly associated with large country houses created primarily in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These have been identified from modern Ordnance Survey maps and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey maps. Some of these are recorded on the English Heritage register of parks and gardens and also on the relevant county Gardens Trust local lists.

### Distribution

These occur across the AONB with notable clumped distributions through the Vale of Wardour. Linear distributions along the south western edge of the AONB and along the greensand terrace in the north western edge of the AONB. There are notable voids in the distribution across the core of the West Wiltshire Downs, through the Ebble Valley, and between Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum.

### Principal Historical Processes

The majority of designed landscape gardens and parklands in the AONB were created in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with a great house at their focus. Several of the designed parklands in the AONB are associated with known designers, such as Capability Brown at Longleat, while others were designed by the park owners.

The elements within these parklands are carefully composed with carefully planted avenues and clumps of trees, and ornamental features such as grottos, temples and

statues. This is most elegantly demonstrated by the Arcadian landscape of Stourhead, designed by the owner Henry Hoare II, which consists of a series of deliberately constructed views as the circuit of the garden is taken.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the emphasis shifted towards laying out gardens with specimen trees and exotic plants, such as the arboretum in the park at Wimborne St Giles, or public pleasure grounds, as at the Larmer Tree.

Many areas of parkland declined in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to increasing maintenance costs. This means that some of the parkland in the AONB today is in a neglected or eroded state. In some cases the woodland which forms part of their design has grown up obscuring both wide and focused views. For example the landscape park at Wardour Castle now forms farmland and the swan shaped lake created in the shadow of the old castle has been partially backfilled. Many of the historic parks and gardens are now open to the public and are maintained as visitor attractions, examples include Stourhead, Longleat, Chettle, and Dinton Park. Several of these are owned by the National Trust, but many are also in private hands.

The process of creating designed parkland landscapes is also continuing to this day, with the redesign of the park at Ferne House.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Eighteenth century parkland was designed with the great house as its focus. They were often created around walked circuits and carriage drives, or water features such as created serpentine lakes, streams and waterfalls. They are also associated with a host of secondary features which are particular to these landscapes, including garden features, grottos and follies, ha-has, summer houses, green houses, and walled gardens.



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### **Rarity**

Designed and ornamental parks and gardens are uncommon within the HLC dataset by area. However, these landscapes, and their associated house, form important foci in the landscape of the AONB.

### **Survival**

Nearly all the large designed parks of the AONB survive today. They are in a differing condition depending on whether they are being actively managed or used as farmland.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable in the landscape; however, the complex meanings and layout of these landscapes cannot be fully appreciated without some expert knowledge.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with historic gardens, recent woodland, man-made lakes, and historic great houses.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Many of these designed landscapes preserve evidence of previous phases of parkland and of former medieval deer parks.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type has had a considerable influence on the landscape character of the AONB. They form key foci within the landscape and many of them are some of the most visited locales in the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	2881 hectares, 2.93% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 109 polygons, 2.46% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 26.43 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Uncommon.
Previous Coverage:	3884 hectares, 3.44% of AONB was Designed Landscapes at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 3847 hectares, 3.91% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

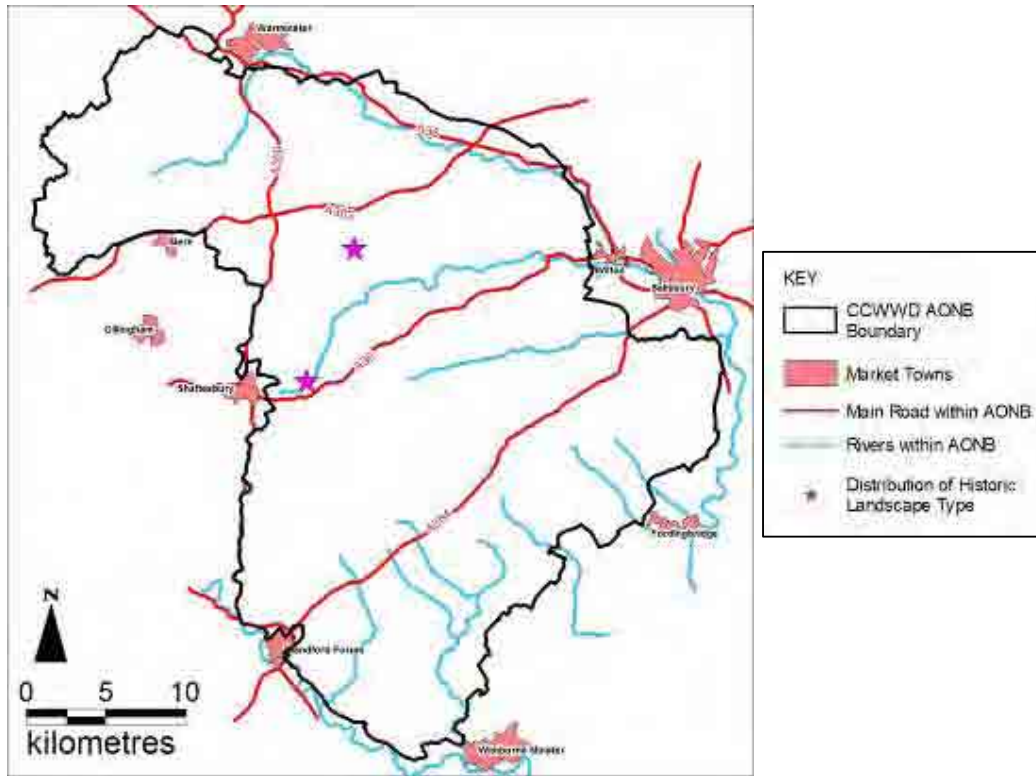
#### [6 Designed and ornamental landscapes](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

Mowl, T. (2003) Historic Gardens of Dorset. Tempus Ltd: Stroud

Mowl, T. (2004) Historic Gardens of Wiltshire. Tempus Ltd: Stroud

## 6.3 Deer Park



### Introduction

Areas of parkland used for the rearing and management of deer. The two surviving examples in the AONB, recorded as present types, are relic deer parks which maintain the footprint of two deer parks which existed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This is a much more restricted distribution than known locations of all deer parks. The majority of the evidence for deer parks survives as previous types in the HLC dataset and date to the medieval period. These have been identified through comparison with historic ordnance maps. Deer parks are only recorded in this dataset where their form and morphology still affects land use and the morphology of the land in the present day.

The AONB is fortunate that it was able to commission a study of the deer parks in the landscape by Katherine Barker, which the HLC project was also able to use.

### Distribution

The first surviving relic park exists within the boundary of Fonthill Park in the Vale of Wardour. It is identified as a deer park on the Epoch one historic Ordnance Survey map 1843-1893 and its boundaries exist today. The second relic park exists at Donhead Hall; this is identified as a deer park on the epoch three historic Ordnance Survey map (1904-1939).

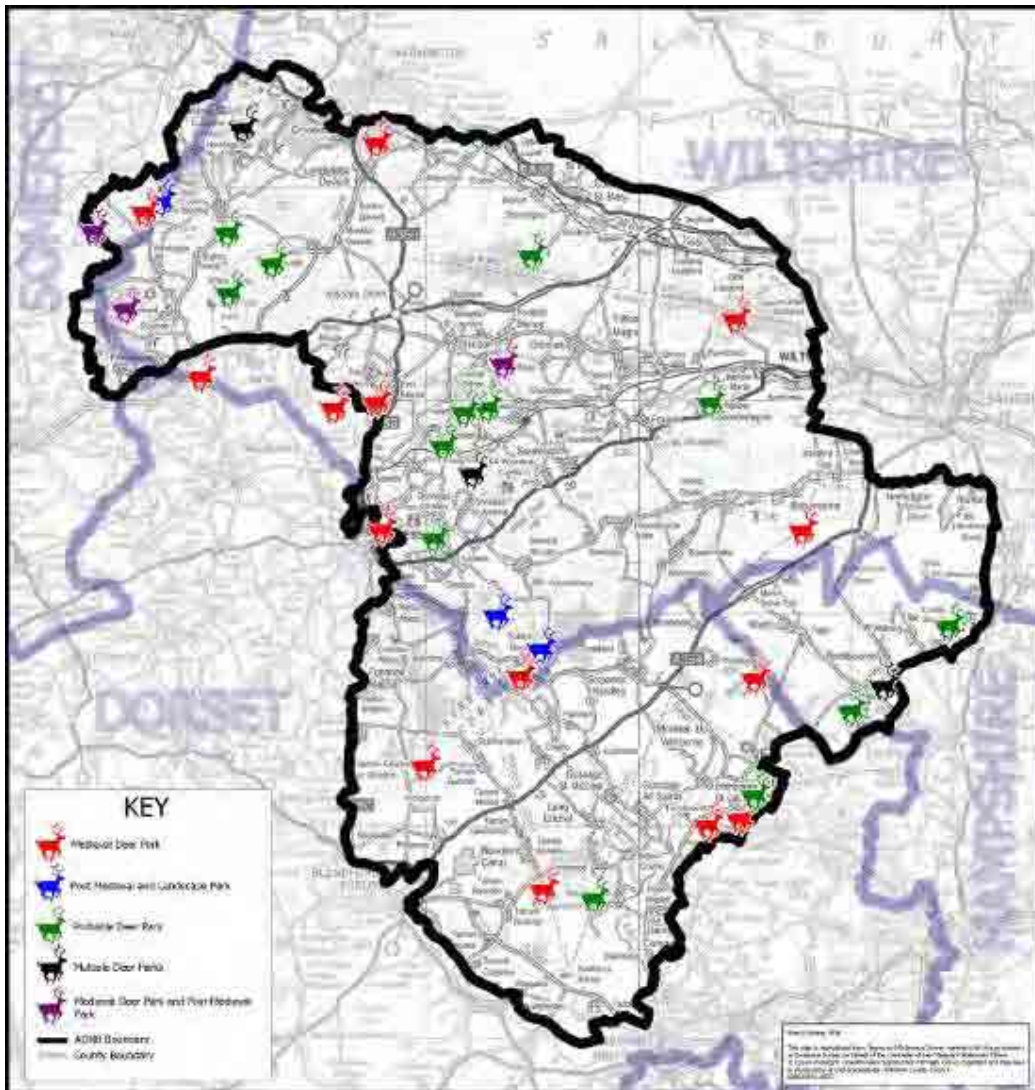


Formerly deer parks existed across the whole AONB (see figure 26 below) but there appears to have been voids in the distribution, notably through the Wylde and Ebbel Valleys and in the area centred on Gussage St Michael.

### Principal Historical Processes

The peak time for the creation of deer parks was the medieval period. The primary function of these parks was as game reserves and hunting grounds, but they also contributed to the wider medieval economy and as areas of contemplation and recreation (Liddiard 2003). A desk based survey, using published sources, has been undertaken of the medieval deer parks of the AONB (Barker 2006), which gives a brief report on each site. Some of these deer parks continued into the post medieval period, and were incorporated into the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped park. Seven parks are identified as previous types in the dataset, including the parks of Wardour, Longleat and Harbins Park.

**Figure 26: Location of known deer parks in the AONB**



In reference to the deer parks recorded as current types in the dataset, Katherine Barker's study indicates that the park at Donhead Hall included in 1840 '12 acres in High Park and 19 acres in Low Park'. It is possible that this is an 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping of an earlier medieval deer park (Barker 2006: 32). With regard to the deer park at Fonthill, it is still shown on the current OS map west of Fonthill House and is identified on historic 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping as a remnant of the much older medieval deer parks which existed here. By 1715 there was no deer left at Fonthill as the wall of the park had fallen into disrepair (Barker 2006: 35)

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

In contrast to medieval hunting forests or chases medieval deer parks cover relatively compact areas, sometimes as small as 40 hectares. They were strongly enclosed by earthworks, paling fences, hedges and walls. Features associated with deer parks, and often still associated with indicative place names, include; kennels, lodges, hunting stands, warrens, fishponds, quarries, gardens and barns. Common place names associated with deer parks include park, hay, hatch, and lawn (Muir 2000).



### **Rarity**

Deer parks occur rarely in the AONB dataset but that is because they are only recorded where they affect land use in the modern day. Evidence for them is more common in the landscape of the AONB than this dataset suggests.

### **Survival**

The surviving relic deer parks recorded represent a small percentage of the number of deer parks in the AONB, many of which have been recorded as previous types.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

Small sections of the boundaries of these parks often survive, with some even being fossilised intact in the landscape, as at Harbins Park.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is commonly associated with ancient woodland and areas of ancient assarting. They are often replaced by 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped parks.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The deer parks often represent the earliest phase of land use surviving in today's landscape.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This type adds important historical depth to the landscape of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	32 hectares, 0.03% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 16.03 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	955 hectares, 0.87 % of AONB was Deer Parks at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1049 hectares, 1.07 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[6 Designed and Ornamental Landscapes](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

Barker, K (2006) Medieval Deer Parks of Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB. CCWWD AONB

LIDDIARD, R. (2007) The Medieval Park New Perspectives. Windgatherer Press: Cheshire.

Muir, R (2000) The NEW Reading the Landscape. University of Exeter Press.



**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 7 RECREATION**



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## CONTENTS

<b>Recreation in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	287
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	288
<b>Type 7 Recreation in the AONB</b> .....	289
Type 7.1 Holiday Village.....	292
Type 7.2 Safari Park.....	295
Type 7.3 Camping and Caravan Park.....	298
Type 7.4 Race Course.....	301
Type 7.5 Playing Field.....	304
Type 7.6 Golf Course.....	307

## Recreation in the AONB: An Introduction

***“Those who made their way to the seeming obscurity of Tollard Royal and nearby Farnham could certainly look forward to a day of varied pleasures. If they wanted to picnic in one of the arbours at the Larmer Tree the General provided crockery, knives and forks, tables and chairs, and even cooking stoves and utensils. German skittles, bowls and swings were available in the shrubbery”***

(From Hawkins, D. (1980) Cranborne Chase. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. Pg 143)

Since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB has been the focus for organised public recreational activity. The modern military camp at Blandford is situated upon the footprint of an 18<sup>th</sup> century racecourse, and, as described above, there were publicly open pleasure gardens at the Larmer Tree which people flocked to from 1880 onwards.

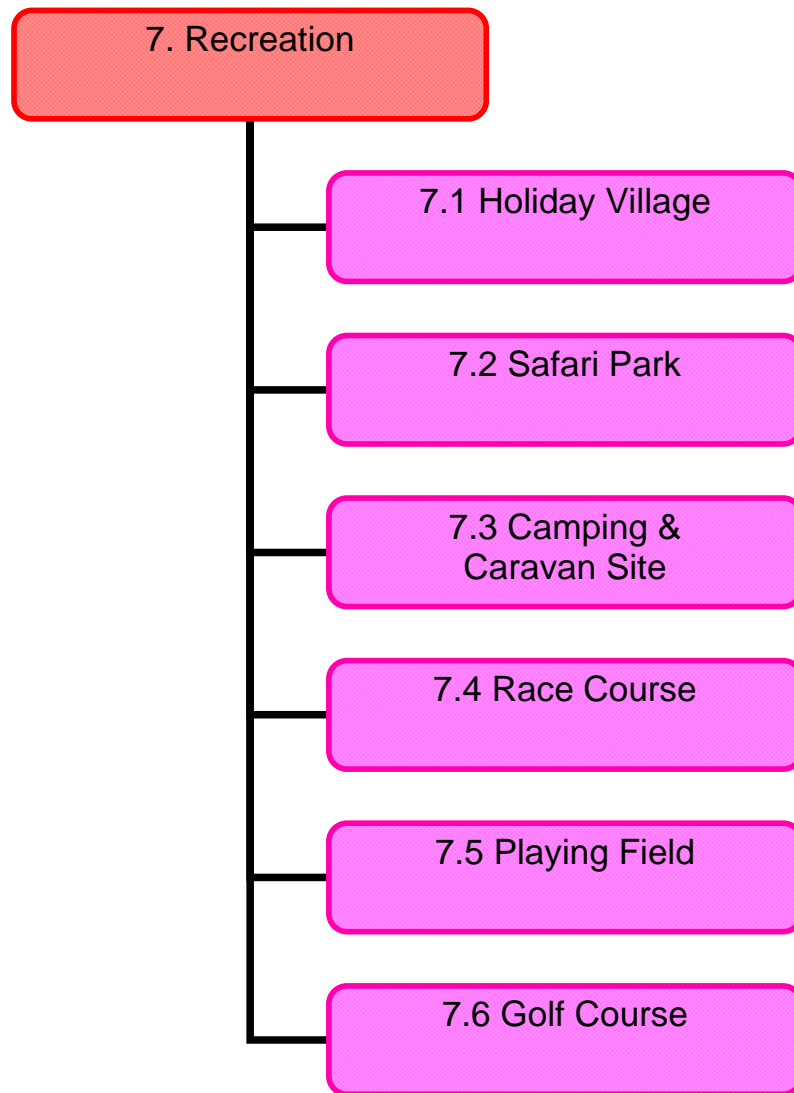
It is not until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, that the history of creating areas for purely recreational purposes has had a landscape scale impact upon the AONB. The creation in the modern era of a suite of recreational facilities, including holiday villages, safari parks, golf courses, caravan sites and playing fields has, in some respects, transformed the way that many people, especially visitors, interact with the landscape of the AONB.

The impact of these new types of facilities, however, is low as they tend to be small scale and scattered across the AONB. The exception is the complex of attractions that are focused on Longleat in the north-west corner of the AONB, where the creation of a landscape for public enjoyment is well under way. This process is built upon the establishment of the less egalitarian landscaped park, created there in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



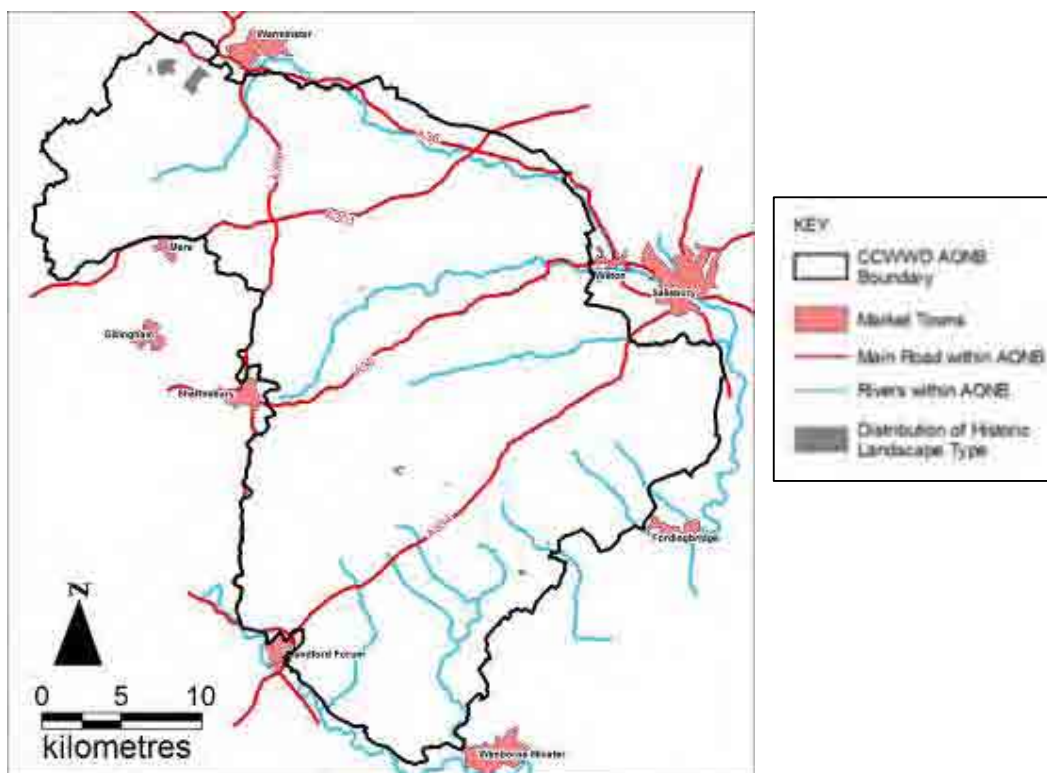
Ansty Band

Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types





## Type 7 Recreation in the AONB



### Introduction

Land created for recreational purposes within the AONB. These have to be of sufficient scale to be included within this survey and have to include features which have had a significant impact on the landscape. They account for 313 hectares, or 0.32%, of the AONB. The types of recreational uses which have been recorded include holiday accommodation (camping, caravan, purpose built villages), sport facilities (golf courses, playing fields, tourist attractions e.g. Longleat Safari Park). These all date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. These are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey map and aerial photographs.

The one exception to this pattern is the disused 18<sup>th</sup> century racecourse at Blandford Camp which has been recorded as a previous type only, due to its concurrence with the position of the modern military camp.

The nature of the HLC dataset means that linear routeways are not included. This section does not therefore document the recreational Rights of Way in the AONB which were created from local routes across the landscape after the passing of the 1968 Countryside Act.

### Distribution

This type has a very limited but widespread distribution. In general, recreational land is small in size and is spread throughout the AONB, often adjacent to villages. However, there is a cluster of recreational land centred around the historic Longleat Park.

## Principal Historical Processes

These are landscapes created for the primary purpose of recreation. Some of them represent very modern phenomena, such as holiday villages and safari parks, while some have a longer more established history, such as golf courses or race courses. In general terms, the creation of areas set apart for recreation is a relatively recent phenomenon which charts a change in the way that people view and interact with the landscape.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Recreational land often completely transforms the landscape introducing alien or unfamiliar features such as bunkers and winding route ways. They are usually physically separated and divorced from the wider landscape through the establishment of high fences and hedges, though this also means that they are often shielded from view. They are places which can only



© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 03-6919

be accessed by certain people through membership of a club or society, or through payment of a fee. There is a strong tendency for recreational land to be associated with ancillary buildings, such as kiosks and club houses.

## Rarity

These are scarce within the AONB and are also scarce nationally.

## Survival

This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable and has highly legible forms which are not specific to the AONB. Most are still operational and therefore well-maintained.

## Past interaction with other types

These tend to be new impositions on the landscape, with a new layout and form. They are often associated with villages, but often show no interaction with other types. The one exception is in the area of Longleat where the Safari Park, Centre Parcs, Holiday Village, the Camping and Caravan Park, along with the historic house, gardens and 18<sup>th</sup> century Landscape Park, all form a large and integrated recreational complex.

## Evidence for time-depth

This type can contain some vestiges of previous land uses especially in the retention of ground cover or trees. For example, Longleat Safari Park retains aspects of the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park within which it is constructed. The boundaries of these areas can also respect earlier land uses, as is the case with Broad Chalke playing fields which have been created within the boundaries of a pre 1800 field.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

This type can have a detrimental effect on the landscape character as recreational land is often divorced from its surroundings, and involves the imposition of unfamiliar features and the creation of ancillary buildings and other features such as car parks. They have a tendency to attract large number of people into the landscape. In general however they are low impact features which are spread throughout the landscape and are very small in size, as for example with playing fields associated with individual villages. Only in the area around Longleat has recreational land use had a large scale impact on the landscape.

In terms of landscape being a function of perception, it can also be suggested that these recreation complexes are the means by which large numbers of people enter, experience and enjoy the wider landscape of the AONB. They therefore contribute to the landscape's appreciation and increase the extent to which it is valued.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	313.93 hectares, 0.32% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 13 polygons, 0.29% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 24.15 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	313.93 hectares, 0.32 % of AONB was Recreational Land at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 566.77 hectares, 0.58 % of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

[7.1 Holiday Village](#)

[7.2 Safari Park](#)

[7.3 Camping and Caravan Site](#)

[7.4 Race Course \(previous type only\)](#)

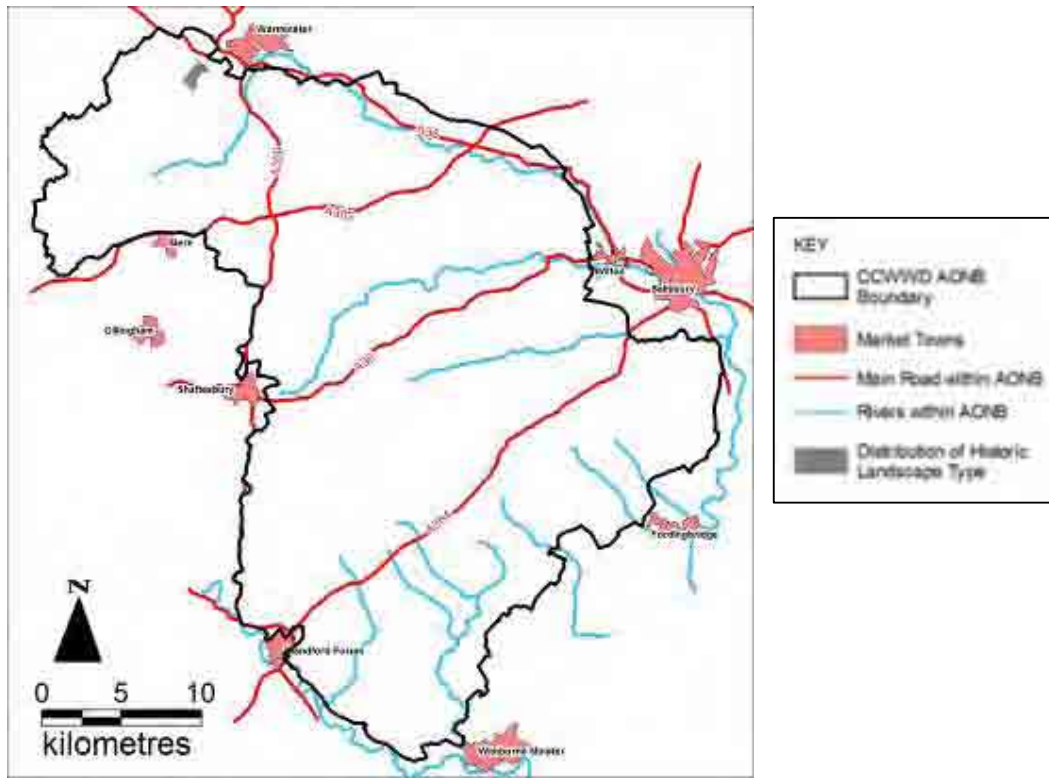
[7.5 Playing Field](#)

[7.6 Golf Course](#)

## Parent Type

None

## Type 7.1 Holiday Village



### Introduction

Holiday Village created in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey. Centre Parcs, Longleat is the only holiday village present in the AONB and covers an area of 133 hectares or 0.14% of the AONB.

### Distribution

This type is only found in one location, immediately to the west of Longleat Park in an area which was formerly 19<sup>th</sup> century woodland.

### Principal Historical Processes

This village forms part of a new 20<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon of purpose built recreational escapes. It allows people to access the great outdoors, the countryside and take part in outdoor leisure activities in a controlled and sanitised manner. The concept was conceived in 1967 by Diet Derksen as a “villa in the forest” offering an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and an escape back to nature. This particular Centre Parcs at Longleat was opened in July 2004 and can now accommodate up to 3956 guests per break (i.e. at any one time). This potentially could swell the population of the AONB by around 13% in the summer season.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

The Holiday Village has a formalised layout. It is set in an area of woodland with winding tracks, dispersed through the area there are a series of 713 villas and 60 apartments. The site features a water sports lake, and a central area with restaurants and shops. Many of the areas are themed and these are often alien and divorced from the surrounding landscape.

### Rarity

This is the only complex of its kind within the AONB and is rare.

### Survival

This type represents one of the most recent phases of activity in this area in the landscape. It is operational and well maintained.



### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable and has a highly legible form.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is divorced from its surroundings, and with the history of landscape in this area. From a distance, however, the area maintains much of its 19<sup>th</sup> century wooded characteristics and place names such as “hanger” do survive.

### Evidence for time-depth

This type preserves evidence for previous land uses, including the new woodland which was planted here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

This type has a detrimental effect on the landscape character as it is divorced from its surroundings. However, this is mitigated by the fact that the Holiday Village is hidden in the trees and is not observable from the outside.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	133 hectares, 0.14% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygon, 0.02% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 133.39 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Rare.

Previous Coverage: 133 hectares, 0.14 % of AONB was Holiday Village at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 133 hectares, 0.14 % of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

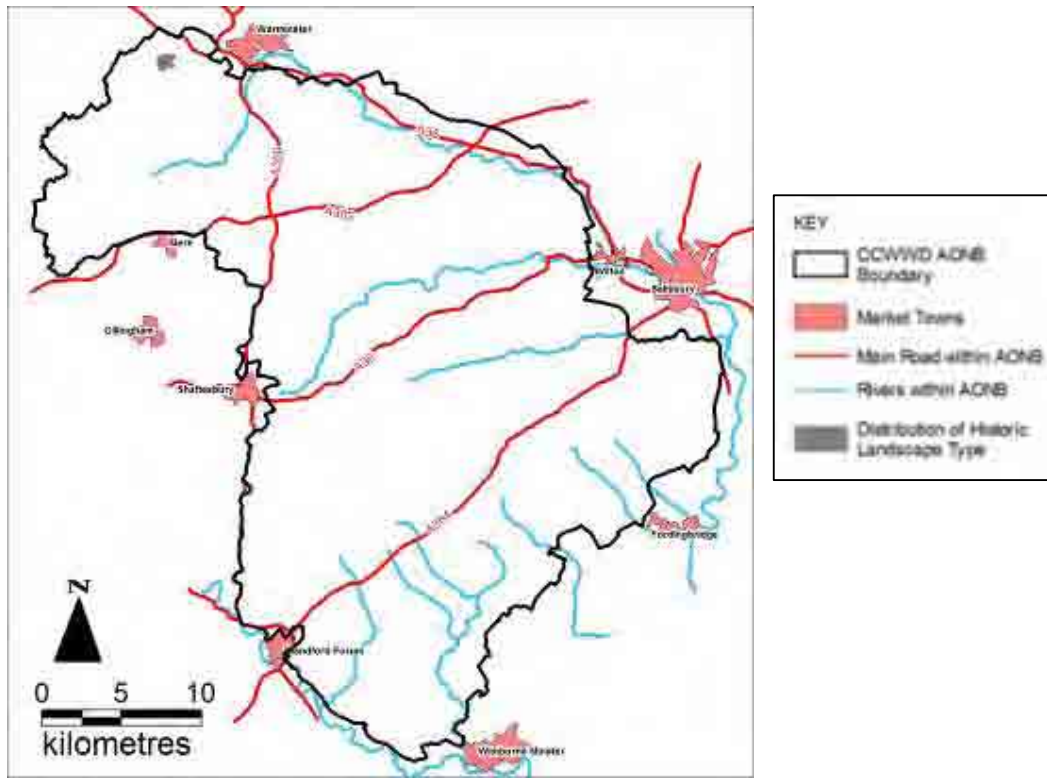
**Parent Type**

[7. Recreation](#)

**Suggested Sources**

Centre Parcs Website <http://www.centreparks.co.uk> [last accessed 31.03.2008]

## Type 7.2 Safari Park



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Safari Park created in the 1960s documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey map and aerial photographs. It is the only Safari Park present in the AONB and covers an area of 102 hectares or 0.10% of the AONB.

### Distribution

This type has a very limited distribution and is only found in the grounds of Longleat Park.

### Principal Historical Processes

Longleat Safari Park was opened in 1966 and was the first drive-through safari park opened outside of Africa. This Park therefore holds a unique place in the history of zoological collections', marking a significant change in the way that captive animals were kept. This was linked to the greater emphasis placed on wildlife conservation by zoological parks in the modern era. The Park features over 500 different animals and forms part of a suite of leisure attractions centred on Longleat House. These attract on average 450,000 visitors a year. The Safari Park itself has had the biggest impact on the designed 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park within which it was built, although characteristics belonging to the landscape park do remain.

## **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

The Safari Park has a formalised layout. It consists of a series of snaking tarmac roads which crisscross through a series of fenced animal enclosures. These contain various exotic mammals and birds. The animal compounds are associated with ancillary buildings, including accommodation for the animals' kiosks and shops. The grass parkland in which the Park is constructed maintains vestiges of the original 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped park.



## **Rarity**

This is the only complex of its kind within the AONB and is rare. It is also rare nationally.

## **Survival**

This is a very robust type representing the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. It is operational and well maintained.

## **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type is very recognisable and has a highly legible form.

## **Past interaction with other types**

The type is divorced from its surroundings, and with the history of landscape in its area. However, it is within an area of 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park which would have traditionally been enjoyed by taking a carriage ride and enjoying the curiosities within it, a past time which in some respects continues unabated today, although now the numbers who enjoy the attractions are vastly greater than the household and guests who once enjoyed the country park.

## **Evidence for time-depth**

This type preserves evidence for previous land uses, including features such as stands of trees which form part of the landscape park within which the Safari Park sits.

## **Contribution to the present landscape character**

In some respects this type has a detrimental effect on the landscape character as it is divorced from its surrounding. It attracts large numbers of visitors per year. However, the Safari Park is not visible from outside the confines of the landscaped park as a whole, and is surrounded on all sides by belts of woodland. Many people who visit Longleat also explore parts of the AONB. It, therefore, contributes to communal perceptions of the wider area.



### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	102 hectares, 0.10% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 50.78 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	102 hectares, 0.10 % of AONB was Safari Park at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 102 hectares, 0.10 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

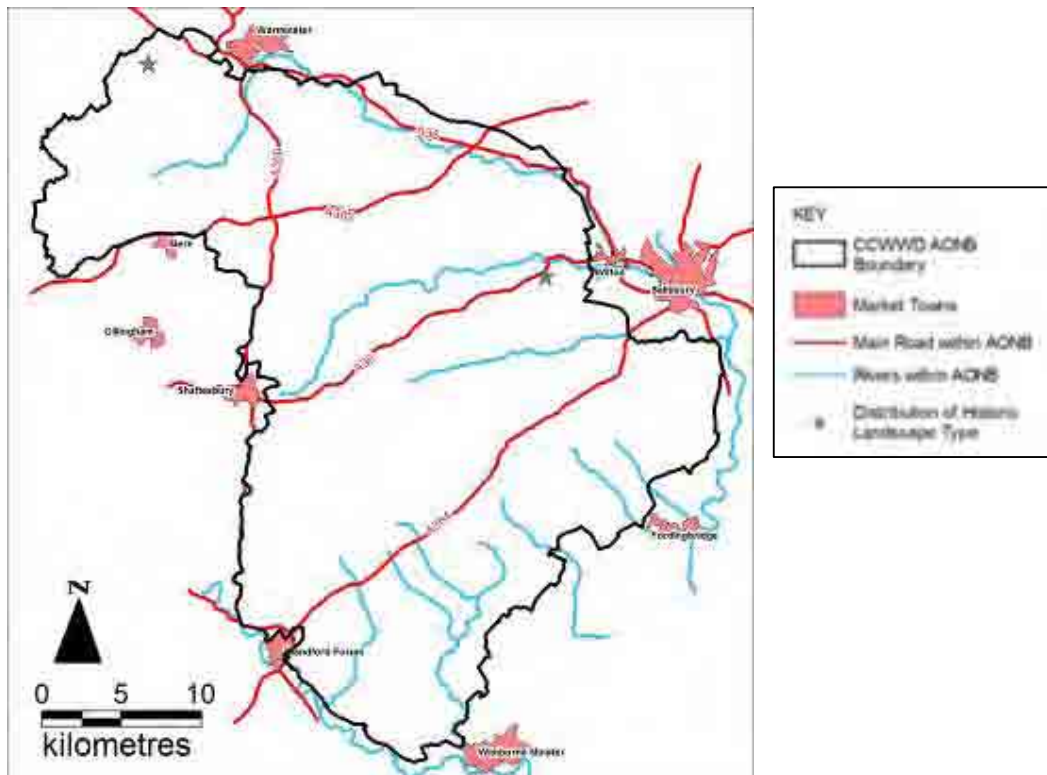
### **Parent Type**

### [7. Recreation](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

Longleat Website <http://www.longleat.co.uk/safari-park.html> [last accessed 31.03.2008]

## Type 7.3 Camping and Caravan Park



### Introduction

Camping and caravan parks within the AONB, including mobile home parks. These have to be of sufficient scale to be included within this survey and have to include features which have had a significant impact on the landscape. Only two caravan sites are included here, which cover an area of 17.46 hectare or 0.02% of the AONB. They are all late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey map and aerial photographs.

### Distribution

This type has a very restricted but widespread distribution.

### Principal Historical Processes

The first park recorded is Heath Farm Mobile Home Park which consists of 70 mobile homes and associated ancillary buildings. These are permanently occupied and form a retirement village exclusively for the over 40's. In contrast, the other site recorded at Longleat has no permanent occupation but consists of over 50 temporary pitches for caravans, motor home and tents. Both of these are late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and offer an affordable escape to the country. These are not the only camping and caravan parks within the AONB but are the only two which are sufficiently large to make an impact on the AONB at a landscape scale.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

These typically consist of an enclosed area within which is a network of tarmac roads, with hard concrete standings and associated amenity points. Such sites are associated with ancillary buildings which provide additional amenities, such as shops, leisure facilities and washing facilities.



© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 03-6920

Other campsites and caravan parks within the AONB are much smaller and more transitory. These include Summerlands Caravan Park in Coombe Bissett, the camping facilities at the Larmer Tree and the camping site at Sixpenny Handley. These maintain the main features of the fields in which they are situated.

### Rarity

These are rare within the AONB.

### Survival

This is a very robust type representing the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable and has a highly legible form.

### Past interaction with other types

Both of the recorded examples are divorced from their wider landscape, separated by a boundary. They contain little trace of previous land uses.

### Evidence for time-depth

This type preserves no evidence of previous land uses, beyond grassy landcover inherited from previous farmland.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

In some respects this type has a detrimental effect on the landscape character as it is divorced from its surroundings. The area that they cover, however, is relatively small so they have no large scale impact on the landscape. Presumably many people who stay in such complexes do so in order to explore parts of the AONB. They, therefore, contribute to generally positive communal perceptions of the wider area.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	17.46 hectares, 0.02% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 8.73 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	17.46 hectares, 0.02% of AONB was Camping and Caravan Parks at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 17.46 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

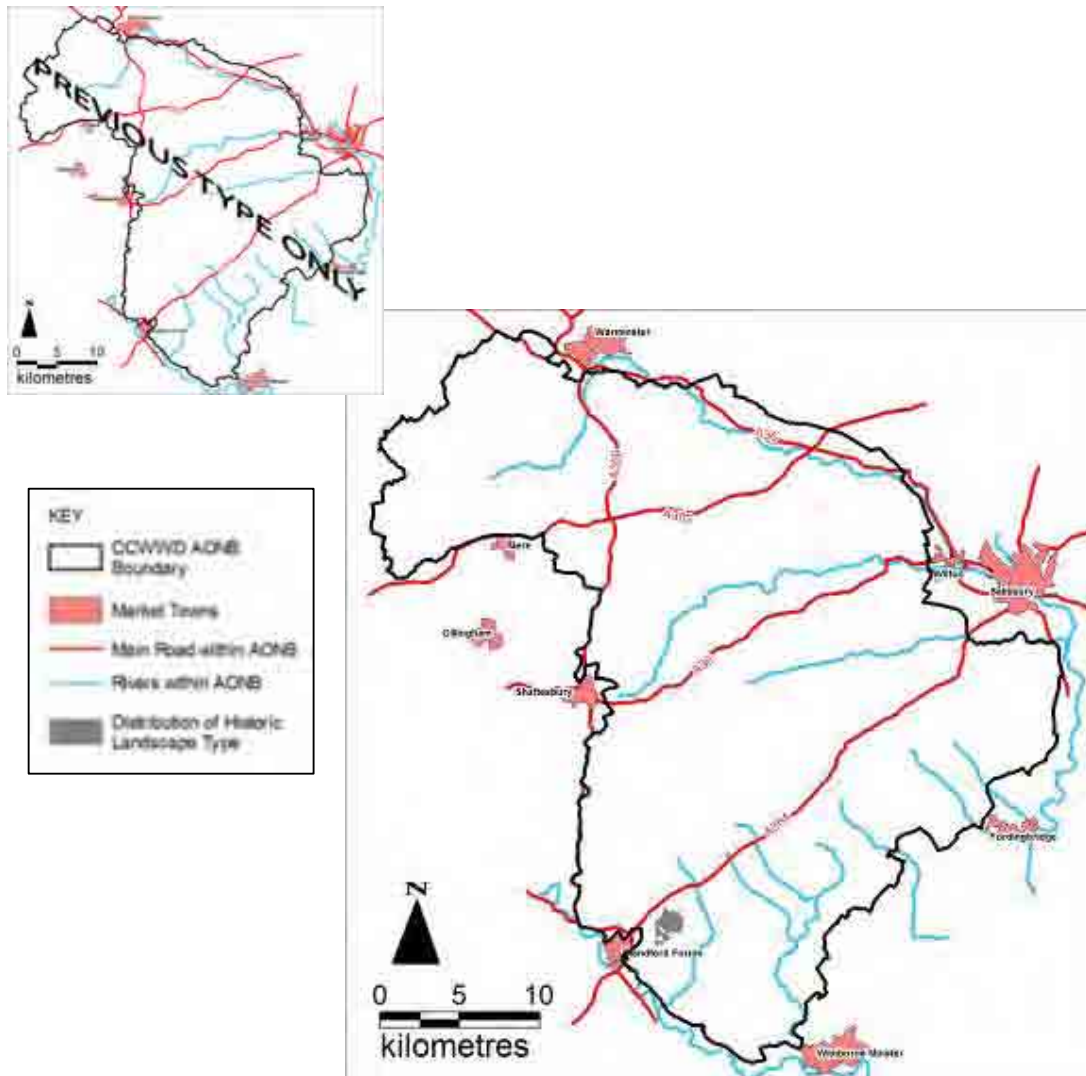
### **Parent Type**

[7. Recreation](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

For details of the Longleat Camp Site see the Caravan Club Website <http://www.caravanclub.co.uk/> [last accessed 31.03.2008]

## Type 7.4 Race Course



### Introduction

This type occurs only as previous type, meaning that it does not survive intact in the present day landscape. It represents an area of land which was previously a race course in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is marked as disused on the 1880s Ordnance Survey Map, but forms the area within which the military camp near Pimperne is now situated.

### Principal Historical Processes

The area of Blandford Camp follows the circuit of what was originally an 18<sup>th</sup> century race course. The history of organised, modern horseracing in Britain dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and enjoyed considerable royal patronage. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century horseracing became the first regulated sport, with the formation of the Jockey Club in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The race course was disused by the 1880s.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

The only traces left of this type are that it has influenced the position and shape of the military camp in Blandford.



The picture is a snapshot from the 1880's Ordnance Survey map which shows the location of the race course while the red line shows the location of the camp today. The map shows that there was already a rifle range across the centre of the race course by this date.

### Rarity

This is the only example in the AONB of an 18<sup>th</sup> century race course effecting later land use. There is another 18<sup>th</sup> century race course just outside the AONB boundary at Salisbury that is still in use today.

### Survival

N/A

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

N/A

### Past interaction with other types

This previous type is intrinsically linked with the more recent types which have led to its preservation.

### Evidence for time-depth

The race course at Race Down was intrinsically linked to the open chalk downland upon which it was made. When created it was in open downland near an important local town, with its inns presumably benefiting from the patronage of race-goers.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

N/A

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: N/A

No. of Polygons: N/A

Av. Polygon Size: N/A

Occurrence: N/A

Previous Coverage: 252.8 hectares, 0.26% of AONB preserves traces of this type at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total previous recorded coverage of this type is 252 hectares, 0.26 % of the AONB.

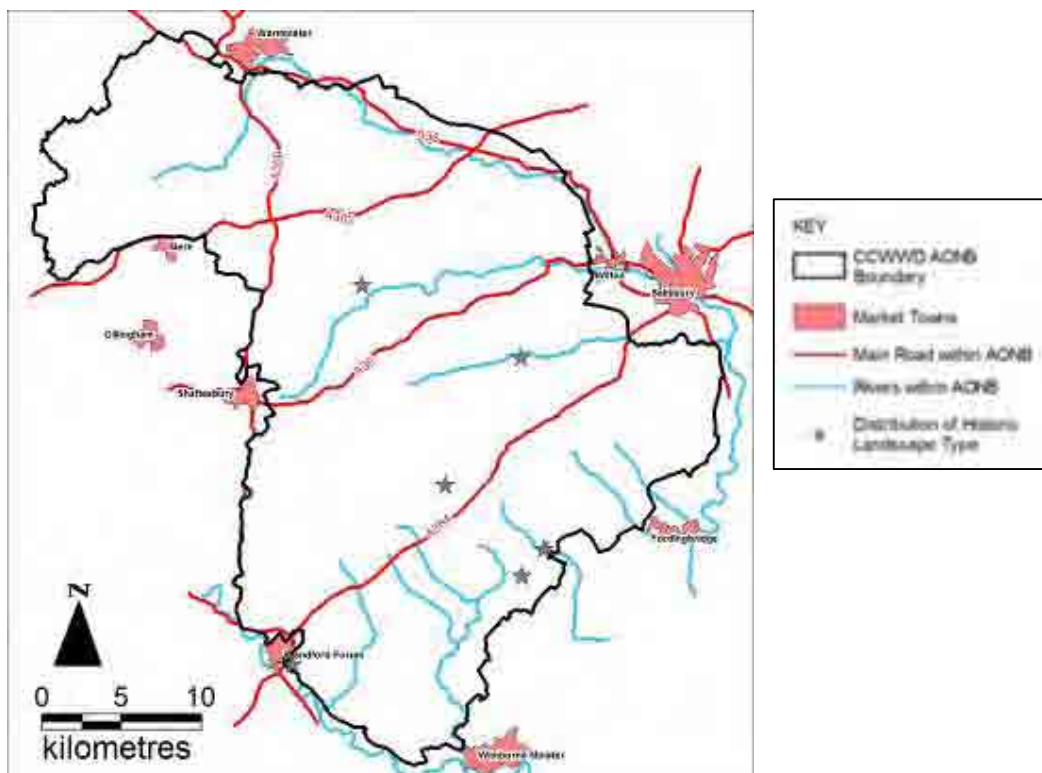
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[7. Recreation](#)

## Type 7.5 Playing Field



### Introduction

Playing Fields created for recreational purposes, including for football and rugby, and used by a wide cross section of the community, including schools. These have to be of sufficient scale to be included within this survey and have to include features which have had a significant impact on the landscape. Six playing fields are included here, which cover an area of 40.11 hectares or 0.04% of the AONB. They are all late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey map and aerial photographs. Some playing fields, especially those belonging to schools, will have been subsumed into other types.

### Distribution

The type has a restricted but widespread distribution. The playing fields identified are situated at Broad Chalke; Cranborne; the edge of Blandford, Sixpenny Handley; Tisbury; and Wimborne St Giles. They are all late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey map and aerial photographs.

### Principal Historical Processes

These playing fields were created for recreational use in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority are associated with schools but some form part of wider village based amenities.



## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

These are typically rectangular in shape and are associated with wire fences and football and rugby posts. They often have ancillary features such as tennis courts, a club house or pavilion, and car parking.



### Rarity

These are rare within the AONB.

### Survival

This represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type is very recognisable and has a highly legible form.

### Past interaction with other types

These tend to be new impositions on the landscape, with a new boundary and form. They are often associated with other new 20<sup>th</sup> century types such as settlement.

### Evidence for time-depth

A few examples preserve evidence for the previous land uses. The playing field at Wimborne St Giles has been situated within the former landscape park while the playing field at Broad Chalke is situated in an area which was formerly pre 1800 fields.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

This type can have a detrimental effect on the landscape character as it is often divorced from its surroundings, although it is often considered to be a typical adjunct of modern settlement. The area that they cover, however, is relatively small so they have no large scale impact on the landscape.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	40.11 hectares, 0.04% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 6 polygons, 0.14% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 6.69 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Rare.

Previous Coverage: 40.11 hectares, 0.04 % of AONB was Playing Fields at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 40.11 hectares, 0.04% of the AONB.

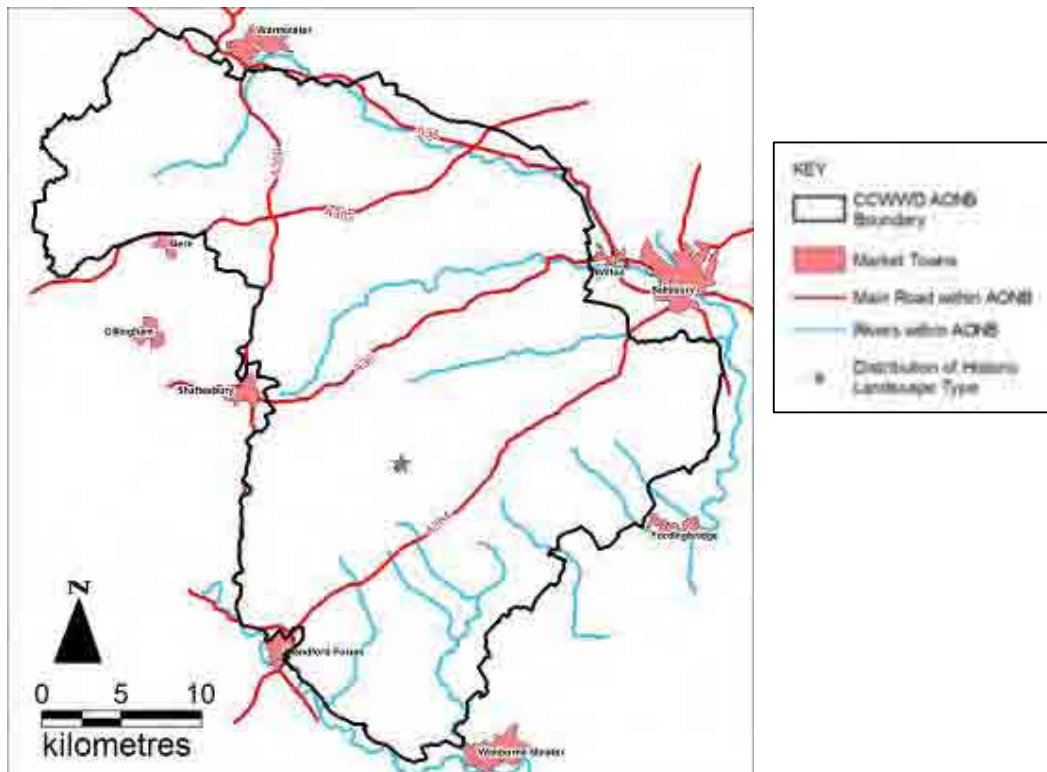
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[7. Recreation](#)

## Type 7.6 Golf Course



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Golf courses created for recreational purposes. These have to be of sufficient scale to be included within this survey and have to include features which have had a significant impact on the landscape. One golf course is included here, which covers an area of 21.42 hectares or 0.02% of the AONB. This is situated at Rushmore on the outskirts of Tollard Royal, and is late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. There is one other golf course in the AONB at Ashley Wood which dates from 1896, but does not have such a large impact on the landscape and so has not been recorded. These are documented on the modern day Ordnance Survey map and aerial photographs.

### Principal Historical Processes

This golf course was created for recreational use in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

These are created landscapes for the sole purpose of playing golf. They consist of grass drives and tees and are associated with bunkers, created water features and new areas of planting. They tend to be associated with ancillary features such as club houses and parking.

### **Rarity**

These are rare within the AONB.

### **Survival**

This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**



This type is very recognisable and has a reasonably legible form, though the one at Ashley Wood is not sufficiently visually dominant to be recorded as such.

### **Past interaction with other types**

These tend to be new impositions on the landscape, with a new layout and form. This divorces it from its surroundings. Most golf courses do retain fragments from the previous landscape e.g. some trees or fragments of hedgerows.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The Rushmore golf club is built within an area which was previously open land, covered in furze, with an area of common land. The rough ground on the edge of the golf course preserves some of the characteristics of this rough grazing.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

In some respects this type has a detrimental effect on the landscape character as it is divorced from its surroundings. The area that they cover, however, is relatively small so they have no large scale impact on the landscape.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	21.42 hectares, 0.02% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 10.71 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	21.42 hectares, 0.02 % of AONB was Golf Courses at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 21.42 hectares, 0.02 % of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[7. Recreation](#)



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

# HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE DESCRIPTION:

## TYPE 8 INDUSTRY



## Contents

<b>Industry in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	313
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types .....	314
<b>Type 8 Industry</b> .....	315
Type 8.1 Extraction Sites.....	318
Type 8.2 Commercial.....	321
Type 8.2.1 Industrial Estate and Business Units.....	324
Type 8.2.2 Other Commercial.....	327
Type 8.2.3 Game Farm.....	330
Type 8.3 Manufacturing.....	333



## Industry in the AONB: An Introduction

***“The reason why these churches are built of stone instead of the usual flints becomes apparent to us when we see the quarries, a mile to the south of the road between Teffont and the next village westward, Chilmark. They are very ancient and very famous, were probably known to the Romans, and certainly supplied the stone for Sarum Cathedral”***

(From Hutton, E. (1917) Highways and Byways in Wiltshire. London: Macmillan and Co. Ltd. Pgs 185-86)

Industry in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Down AONB has tended to be small scale and local as befits a predominantly rural area, utilising local geology and materials. Several quarries are still operational today providing greensand stone, chalk and the famous Chilmark stone mentioned by Hutton back in 1917. Several other relic quarries survive, including the Pen Pits found to the west of Zeals which may well have prehistoric origins. These relic quarries are accompanied by the footprint of a disused brick and tile factory to paint a picture of small scale local industry serving local villages and farms and the surrounding market towns. These have had minimal impact on the landscape of the AONB and those that remain are an important source of traditional building materials.

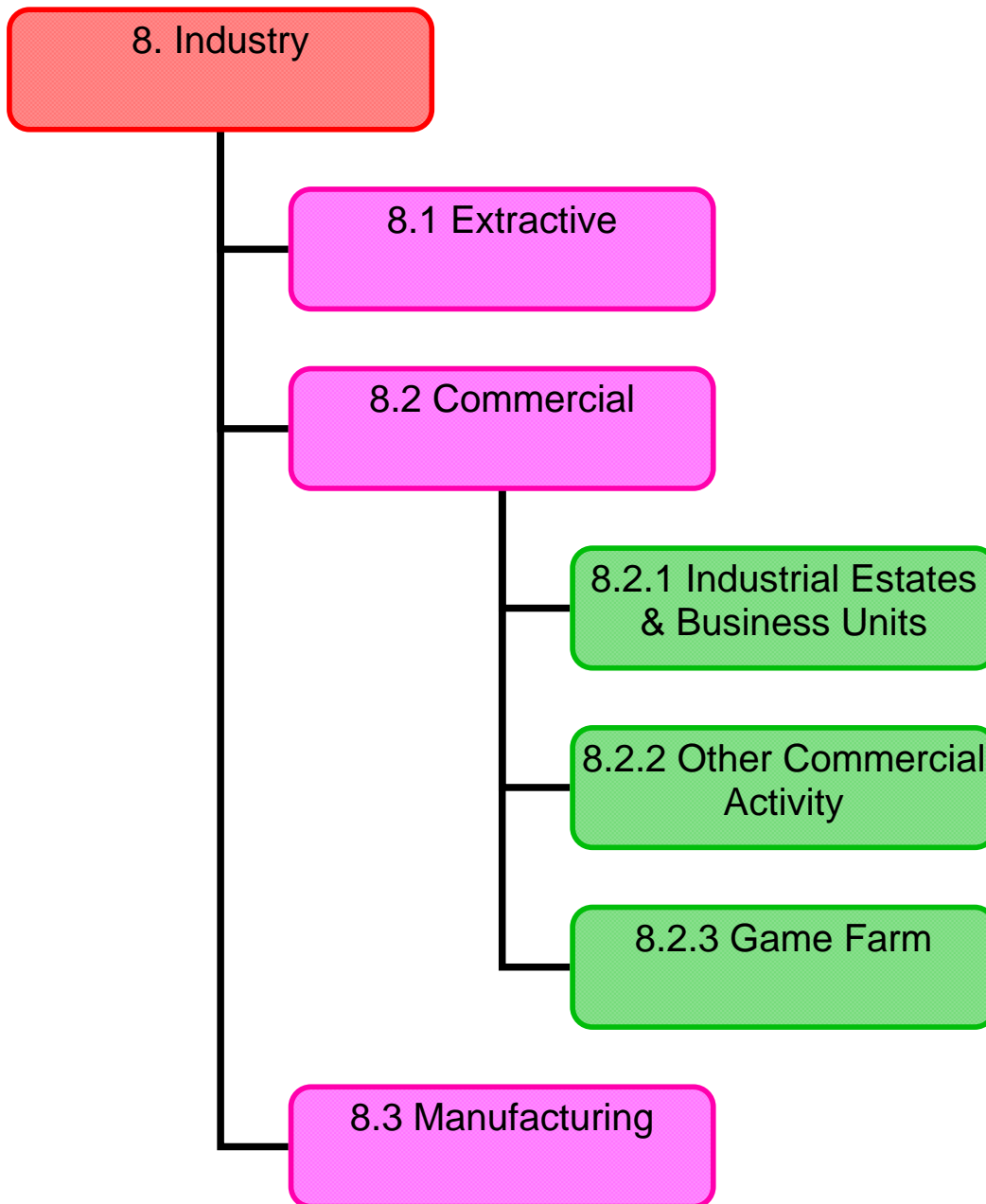
The industrial development of the AONB in the 20<sup>th</sup> century has followed a slightly different course, with the expansion of small scale commercial endeavours situated away from villages and farm complexes. This includes a wide range of activities including modern telecommunications, game farms, granaries and commercial chicken farming. Military activity is dealt with in a separate section.

The greatest impact has been from the creation of purpose built trading estates, business units and distribution centres with the importation of associated urban infrastructure, including new traffic systems, street lighting and signage. Examples can be found at Dinton and on the outskirts of Blandford.

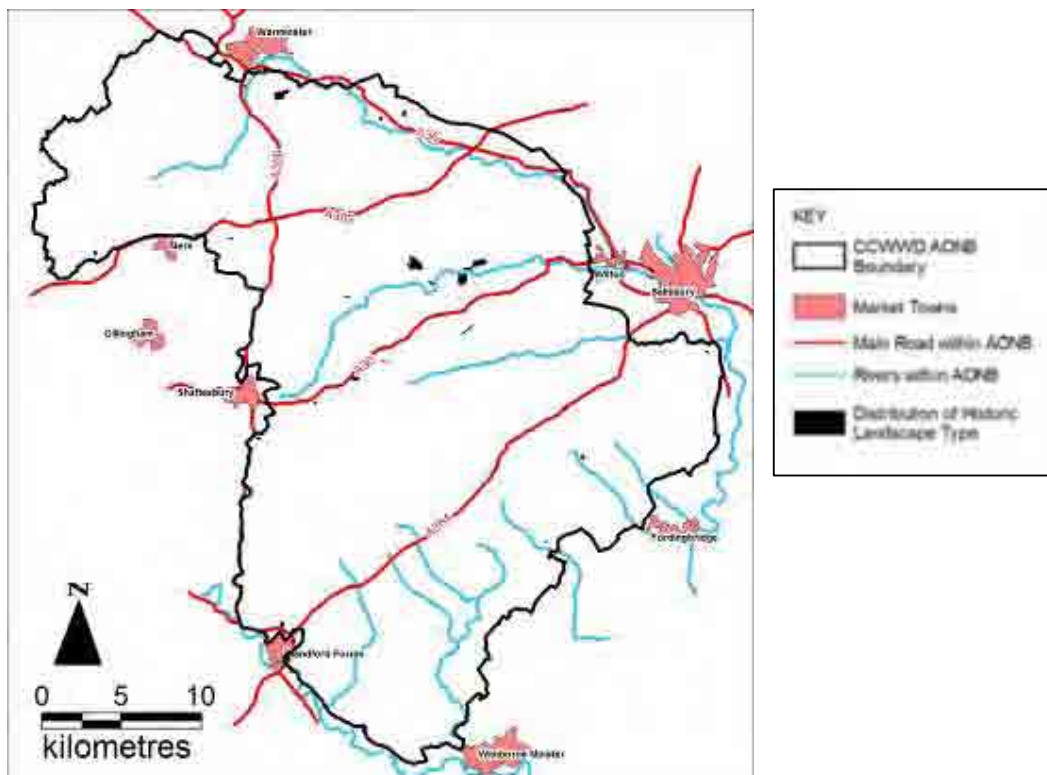


© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 02-8119

Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## Type 8 Industry



### Introduction

Areas set aside, or used in the past, for Industry. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs. In the present day they account for 229 hectares or 0.22% of the AONB. They include sites for extraction, manufacturing and commercial ventures such as industrial estates. This project has only recorded those sites which are over 1 hectare so the individual location of smaller sites, such as disused lime kilns for example, would not have been recorded. In addition, only those sites which are clearly industrial have been recorded. For example, farm barns being used for industrial purposes would not be identified using this method, and would only be identified through ground truthing.

### Distribution

The identified industrial sites have restricted distributions, and tend to cluster in the Nadder and Wylve Valleys, or are sited along the routes of major roads, such as the A30.

### Principal Historical Processes

Some of the industry recorded in the AONB has a well established history. There is a long tradition of quarrying in the area and the majority of recorded quarries tending to be as early as post medieval in date and some even earlier. Other sites, such as industrial estates, are linked to a process of increasing industrialisation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and can be seen as a purely modern phenomenon.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type features a wide range of morphologies but within each class there are similarities. The quarries, for example, are all associated with similar features that include disturbed ground and exposed stone faces. The more modern commercial sites are more varied, but are often associated with new roadways and other urban infrastructure, such as street lighting and power lines.



### Rarity

This type is scarce in the AONB and has a low impact on the landscape. Its impact in individual localities, however, can be high.

### Survival

The majority of the industry in the AONB is 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, and it represents an ongoing process. There are exceptions, such as the brick works near Dinton, which represent a previous type only.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the exact uses of some of the industrial sites may be unclear.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the modern edges of villages, and communication routes, including the river valleys, main roads and train lines. The location of extractive industry is also determined, of course, by the location of the stone or clay that is being worked.

### Evidence for time-depth

Just over half of the industrial sites retains traces of previous land uses. This would typically be on the edge of these sites and involved the survival of woodland or relic field boundaries. Traces of 10 relic quarries have also been recorded.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

The current level of impact of the industry in the AONB is currently very low.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	229 hectares, 0.23% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 30 polygons, 0.68% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 7.66 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	229 hectares, 0.23% of AONB was Industrial at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 287 hectares, 0.29 % of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

[8.1 Extractive](#)

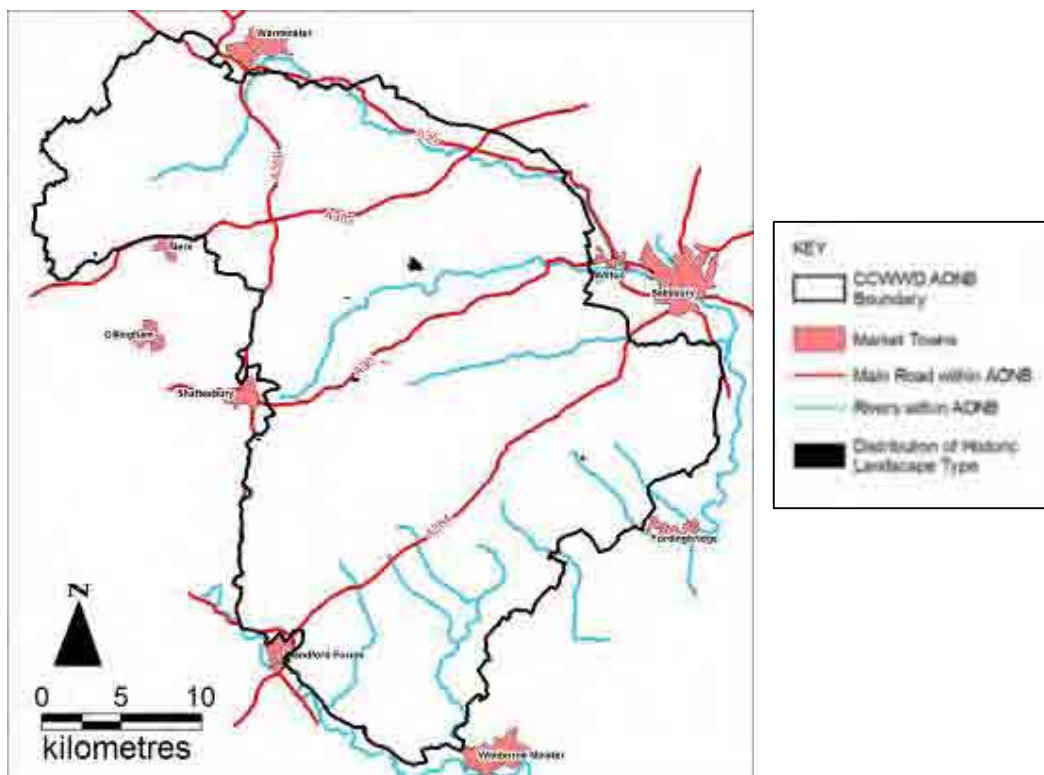
[8.2 Commercial](#)

[8.3 Manufacturing](#)

## Parent Type

None

## Type 8.1 Extraction Sites



### Introduction

Areas set aside for the extraction of limestone, greensand and chalk. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs. In the present day they account for 76.25 hectares or 0.08% of the AONB. The HLC has identified 3 locations where quarrying is ongoing, a group at Chilmark, at Mere and near to Melbury Abbas, and a further 5 disused quarries. The majority of these are less than 1 hectare in size, the exception being the Chilmark stone quarry which covers an area of 45 hectares.

### Distribution

Quarries or extraction sites have a very restricted distribution. They are primarily concentrated in the Vale of Wardour.

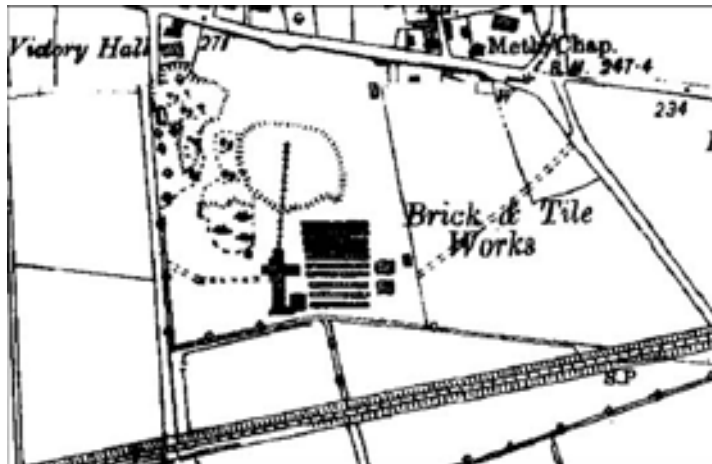
### Principal Historical Processes

There is a long history of small scale extraction in the area. This has traditionally been, and remains to this day, very low impact. The largest groups of quarries at Chilmark are very restricted in their activities today and are also an important source of local traditional building materials. Chilmark stone is being used in ongoing restoration at Salisbury Cathedral. Similarly, the greensand stone quarry at Manor Farm near Melbury Abbas also provides a source of another traditional building material. There is a long tradition of quarrying in the area, the Pen Pits to the west of Zeals are collapsed pits covering 700 acres and are accepted as being pre-Norman quern quarries, probably of more than one period, extending back to the Iron Age

(Somerset HER Record 54382). The other recorded quarries tend to be at least as early as medieval in date and some, especially the flint and chalk pits, may be earlier. Further traces of 10 more quarries have been recorded as previous types which are now areas of woodland or settlement. Their locations follow the trend for these small quarries, located in the Vale of Wardour or on the greensand terrace, showing the importance placed on the local extraction of Chilmark stone and greensand stone in the past. This is supported by the high numbers of stone buildings in the Vale of Wardour. They also demonstrate the former importance of chalk quarries for the extraction of raw chalk and for the production of quick lime. This was an important resource which was used to counteract acidity on agricultural land. Finally, in the Wylve Valley the nature reserve of Langford Lakes came into existence as a result of gravel extraction at this location.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type demonstrates some variety in size but the morphology is very similar, typical features include disturbed ground and exposed stone faces. The active quarries will feature heavy machinery, spoil heaps, access routes for HGVs and ancillary buildings. Disused quarries may be obscured by trees, scrubs and undergrowth.



### **Rarity**

This type occurs rarely in the AONB and has a low overall impact on the landscape. The extracted material is for local use only. It has a large impact on its immediate surroundings.

### **Survival**

Quarrying is an ongoing business in the AONB, with specialist and fairly secure markets, so it is likely that the remaining quarries will remain open in the near future.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the relic quarries may be obscured by tree and scrub growth. Access would be limited for health and safety reasons.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with other evidence of industrial activity in the landscape, including lime kilns and other manufacturing centres. They would have been historically important sources of raw material for construction in the surrounding villages and farms. This is demonstrated by the area known as The Quarry in Tisbury, which settlement has subsequently expanded into.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Just under half of the quarry areas retain traces of previous land uses. This would typically be on the edge of the quarrying activity or affecting the siting of the quarrying and includes evidence of previous open land, woodland and even older pre 1800 fieldscapes.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

The current level of extraction in the AONB is primarily for local use, the quarries do have a large impact to the areas surrounding them. The three active quarries provide an important source of traditional locally sourced building materials, reflected to a degree in the forms of buildings found in local settlements, and so making a direct link between extractive industry and local landscape character.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	76.25 hectares, 0.08% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 10 polygons, 0.23% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 7.63 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	107.07 hectares, 0.11% of AONB was Quarries at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 129.9 hectares, 0.13 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

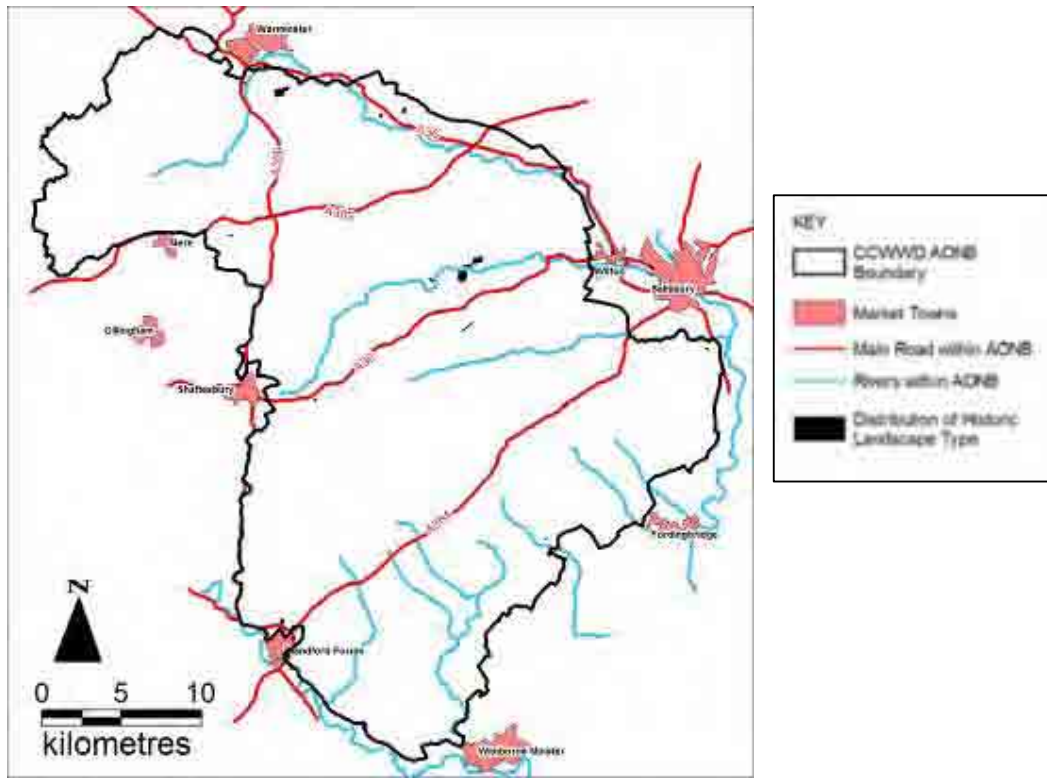
None

### **Parent Type**

[8. Industry](#)



## Type 8.2 Commercial



### Introduction

Areas created for commercial enterprises in the AONB, some of these sites derive from earlier MOD and farm use. These consist of business units, storage complexes, light industrial facilities, granaries, and high intensity farming practices. These all date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and 19 sites have been recorded across the AONB. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs. The majority of these sites are very small, less than 3 hectares, but there are two larger sites, one at Dinton and the other on the outskirts of Sutton Veny.

### Distribution

This type has a very restricted distribution occurring primarily in the Nadder and Wylye Valleys.

### Principal Historical Processes

These commercial sites are linked to a process of increasing industrialisation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They are often a direct result of the planning system and the zoning of activity within specific areas. They mark a departure from the historical pattern which would have seen small scale commercial endeavours occurring within villages or within existing farm complexes.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

These demonstrate a range of morphologies but are often associated with new roadways and other urban infrastructure such as street lighting and power lines. Components include large standardised buildings, yards and parking areas.



### Rarity

This type is scarce in the AONB and has a generally low overall impact on the landscape. It can have a high local impact.

### Survival

These commercial ventures represent one of the most recent Historic Landscape Types in the AONB.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the exact use of a site may be unclear.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is often associated with other 20<sup>th</sup> century features, such as settlement, as well as other industrial types.

### Evidence for time-depth

Over 55% of the sites recorded maintain traces of previous land uses. These tend to be evidence for enclosed land or woodland. This represents evidence on the fringes of these sites, through the retention of old boundaries.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

In general this type has a negative impact on landscape character, introducing urban phenomenon into an otherwise rural setting.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	147 hectares, 0.15% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 19 polygons, 0.48% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 7.75 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Scarce.

Previous Coverage: 147 hectares, 0.15% of AONB was Commercial at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 147 hectares, 0.15 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

[8.2.1 Industrial Estate and Business Units](#)

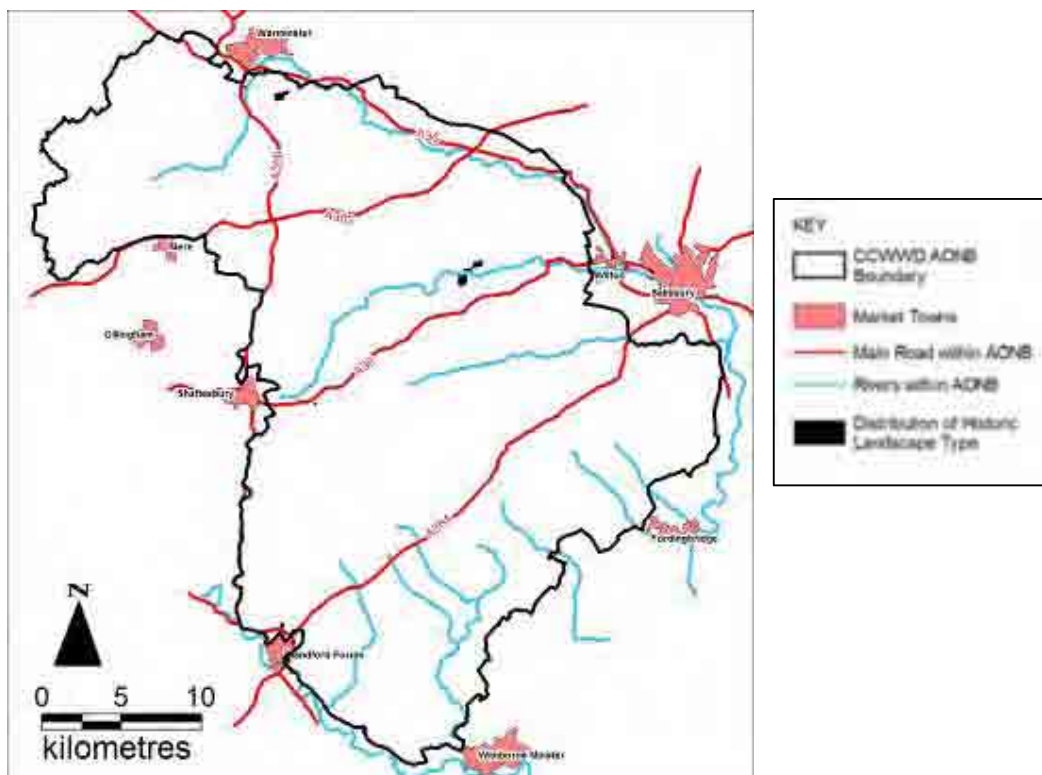
[8.2.2 Other Commercial Activity](#)

[8.2.3 Game Farm](#)

### **Parent Type**

[8. Industry](#)

## Type 8.2.1 Industrial Estate and Business Units



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Areas set aside for the creation of business units, storage complexes and light industrial facilities, some of which have been created on MOD land. These all date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and 7 sites have been recorded across the AONB. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey and aerial photographs. The majority of these units are very small, less than 2 hectares, but there are two large facilities one at Dinton and the other on the outskirts of Sutton Veny.

### Distribution

This type has a very restricted distribution, only occurring in 7 locations across the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

The creation of purpose built areas for light industry and business units is a late 20<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon in the AONB. They are a direct result of the planning system and the zoning of activity within specific areas. The creation of industrial estates occurs because they are seen as presenting the opportunity for new business opportunities, local employment, and the reuse of redundant sites, and allow for the provision of dedicated infrastructure.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Typical components include new evenly spaced buildings, new roadways and other urban infrastructure, such as street lighting and power lines.



### Rarity

This type is scarce in the AONB and has a general low impact on the landscape, apart from in the environs of Dinton where it has an obvious presence.

### Survival

Industrial Estates are modern phenomena and represent one of the most recent phases of land use history in the landscape of the AONB.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although usually would only be visited by workers and customers.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with other modern industrial phenomenon, including other types of commercial activity.

### Evidence for time-depth

Over half of the industrial estates/business units recorded maintain traces of previous land uses. This may be preserved in the area within which these units are sited, and through the retention of old boundaries. These traces include pre 20<sup>th</sup> century fields and woodland, and evidence for earlier industrial activity.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

In general this type has a negative impact on landscape character, introducing urban phenomenon into an otherwise rural setting.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	118 hectares, 0.12% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 10 polygons, 0.23% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 11.82 hectares in size.

Occurrence: Scarce.

Previous Coverage: 118 hectares, 0.12% of AONB was Industrial Units at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 118 hectares, 0.12% of the AONB.

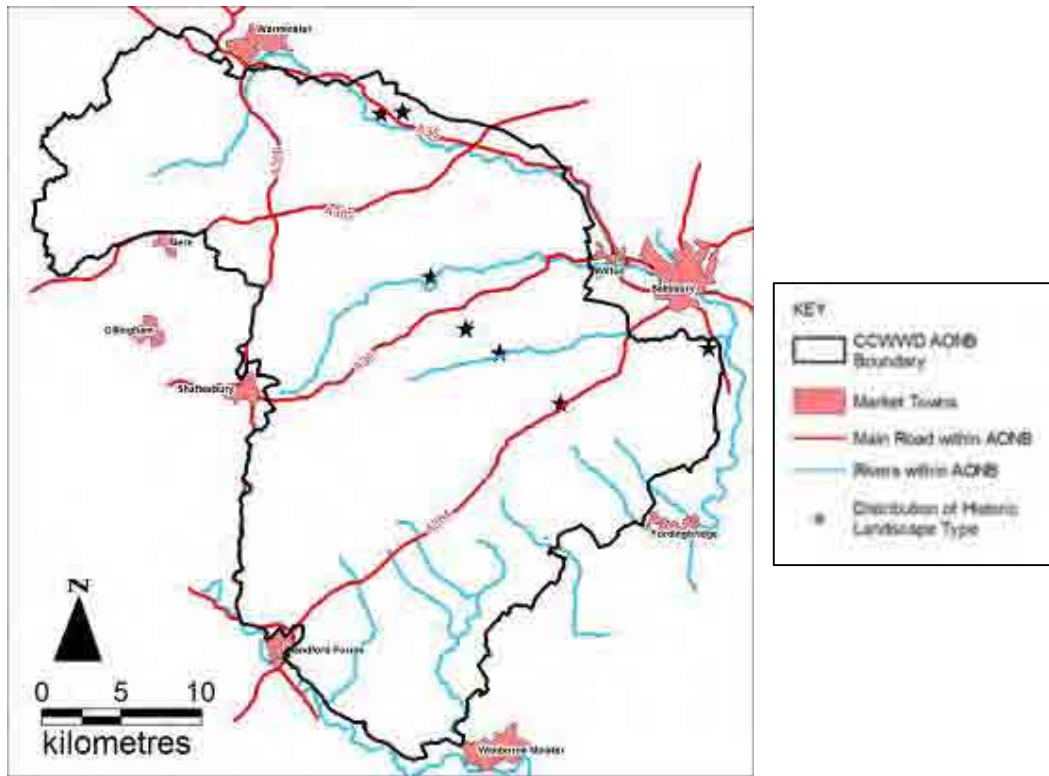
**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[8.2. Commercial](#)

## Type 8.2.2 Other Commercial Activity



### Introduction

Commercial activity in the AONB, but which cannot be characterised as forming a purpose-built multi-occupancy business unit or industrial estate, with 8 sites being identified across the AONB. They have a broad spectrum of uses, including intensive chicken farming, crop research areas, large scale granaries and areas set aside for the erection of phone masts and other telecommunications infrastructure. The majority of these date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, though one is early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. These have been identified on the modern day Ordnance Survey, modern aerial photographs and through comparison with historic Ordnance Survey mapping.

### Distribution

This type has a very limited distribution but occurs to the North and East of the AONB alongside major roads or rivers.

### Principal Historical Processes

These commercial sites are linked to a process of increasing industrialisation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They mark a departure from the historical pattern which would have seen small scale commercial endeavours occurring within villages or within existing farm complexes.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Typical components include non residential buildings, hard standing for vehicles, new tracks and roads and other modern infrastructure, such as lighting and masts.



### Rarity

This type occurs rarely in the AONB and has a general overall low impact on the landscape; it has the potential to have a high impact in the immediate surroundings of where it is sited.

### Survival

These commercial ventures are a modern phenomenon and represent one of the most recent phases of land use in the landscape.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape in the sense that it would present itself as a commercial venture; its exact use may be unclear.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is often associated with older farm complexes but tends to be situated away from the edges of settlement.

### Evidence for time-depth

Only one of these commercial sites preserves traces of previous land uses, occurring within a parliamentary field, the boundaries of which are preserved. The rest mark a departure from earlier land uses.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

In general, this type has the potential to have a negative impact on landscape character, introducing urban phenomena into a rural setting.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	27.09 hectares, 0.03% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 8 polygons, 0.18% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 3.39 hectares in size.



Occurrence: Rare.

Previous Coverage: 27.09 hectares, 0.03 % of AONB was Commercial Units at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 27.09 hectares, 0.03 % of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[8.2. Commercial](#)



## Survival

This is a modern commercial venture and is likely to remain a feature of the landscape of the AONB for the foreseeable future.



## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape in the sense that it would present itself as a commercial venture; its exact use may be unclear to outsiders.

## Past interaction with other types

This type has no interaction with other types.

## Evidence for time-depth

This type has no time depth and is a new imposition on the landscape.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

In general this type has a negligible impact on landscape character being very small in scale.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	1.92 hectares, less than 0.01% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygon, 0.02% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 1.92 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Very Rare.
Previous Coverage:	1.92 hectares, less than 0.01% of AONB was Game Farm at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1.92 hectares, less than 0.01 % of the AONB.

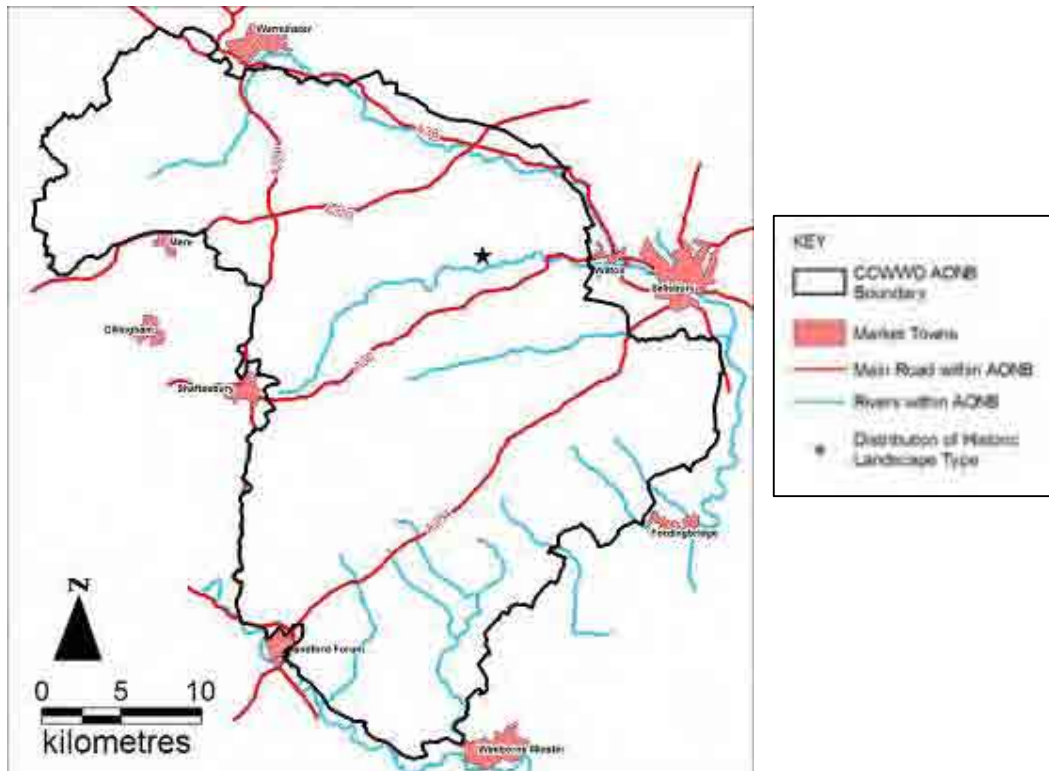
## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

### [8.2. Commercial](#)

## Type 8.3 Manufacturing



### Introduction: Defining/distinguishing Criteria

Footprint of old brickworks on the outskirts of Dinton used today for light industrial purposes.

### Principal Historical Processes

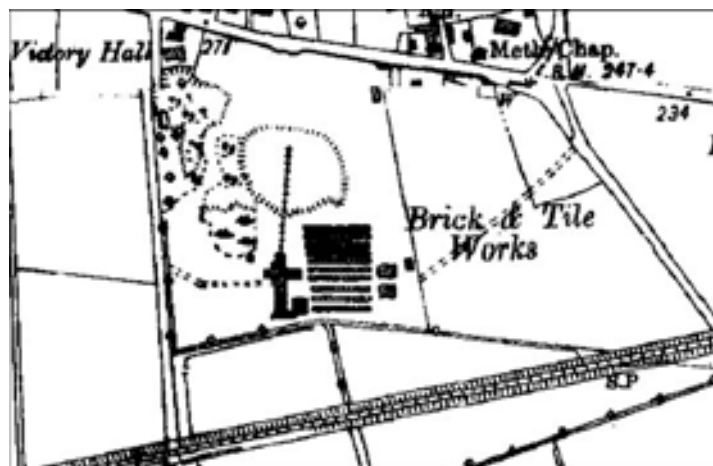
This surviving footprint of early 20<sup>th</sup> century relic brickworks is the only trace of large-scale manufacturing recorded in the dataset.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

Industrial units, buildings and hard standing on the footprint of former brickworks with associated clay pit.

### Rarity

This type occurs rarely in the AONB and has a general low impact on the



landscape as it is very fragmentary, and today forms part of the wider Dinton Industrial Estate.

### **Survival**

The remains of the former brickworks are very fragmentary and are being obscured by modern commercial activity on the site.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape in the sense that it would present itself as a commercial venture; its exact use may be unclear to outsiders.

### **Past interaction with other types**

This type has no interaction with other types.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

This type has no time depth and is a new imposition on the landscape.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

In general this type has a negligible impact on landscape character, being very small in scale.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	6.21 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygon, 0.02% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 6.21 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	6.21 hectares, 0.01 % of AONB was Brick Works at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 6.21 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[8. Industry](#)

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 9 INLAND  
COMMUNICATION**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Roads, Railways and Routeways in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	337
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	338
<b>Type 9 Inland Communications</b> .....	339
Type 9.1 Roads.....	342
Type 9.2 Railways.....	344
Type 9.3 Car Park.....	347



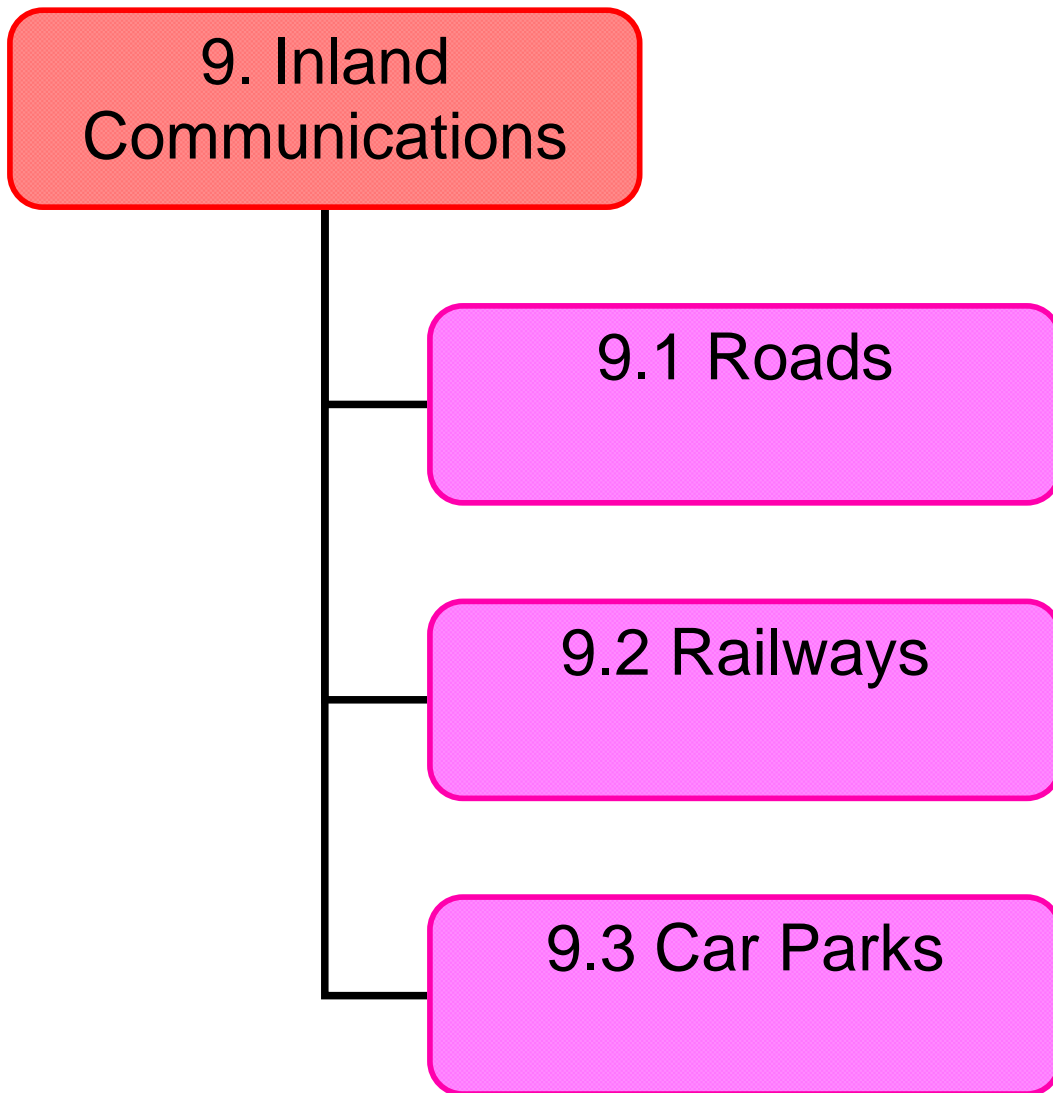
## Roads, Railways and Route Ways in the AONB: An Introduction

***“The coming of the Railway revolutionized the life of the Chase in many ways but it was not a physical presence as the horsedrawn coach had been. It brought paradoxically a greater stillness to the heartland of the Chase as the tollgates were abandoned and the coaching inns closed their doors.”***

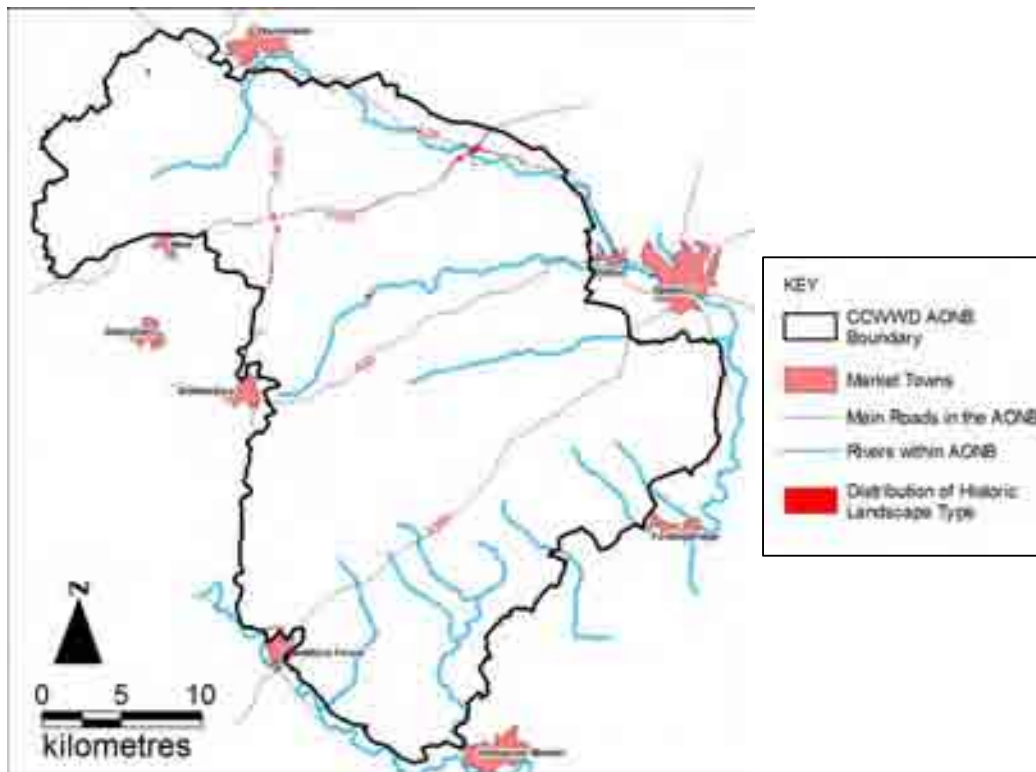
(From Hawkins, D. (1980) Cranborne Chase. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. Pg 102)

The communication network of the AONB forms a major part its historic character of as well as a living and working part of the countryside. In addition, the modern communication network forms a crucial medium through which people first experience the landscape itself. Historically the river valleys of the AONB were fairly isolated, with the major networks of roads following higher ground and the chalk downland. Unlike some areas of chalk landscape in the country the Roman Roads do not underlie the modern road network; instead the historic droveways and carriage roads snaked across the AONB from east to west. These routes were in different locations from the main roads of today, with the exception of the A354 which follows the Great Western Turnpike and a section of the A303 which follows the Northern Ox Drove. Not to be confused with the other Ox Drove in the AONB, also running from east to west, but passing by Wyn Green to the south of the Vale of Wardour. It was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that a major north-south route became a feature of the AONB. The turnpike roads were a major feature of this landscape in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, the coming of the railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century meant that many of the settlements which were found along their length, such as Hindon, lost their former importance, while other settlements, such as Tisbury, rose in importance. The rural nature of the AONB means that the area has largely escaped the need for major new road infrastructure associated both with the roads themselves and also with the car parks related to tourist attractions and retail complexes. That is with the exception of the junction between the A36 and A303, which is a noticeable feature in the HLC dataset.





## Type 9 Inland Communications



### Introduction

Inland communications refers to the transport network present in the AONB and includes roads, rail links and other infrastructure, such as car parking. The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project has split the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB into individual parcels of lands, one of the weaknesses of this approach is that it is not able to record linear routes in the landscape. The project has recorded areas where there has been larger scale provision of infrastructure in the landscape with, for example, the construction of major road junctions or the construction of railway stations.

Some routeways can be seen implicitly in the dataset. This is the case, for example, with the Roman Road running between Sarum and Badbury Rings. At its southern extent the course of the Roman Road marks a clear boundary with different histories of land uses occurring on either side.

### Principal Historical Processes

The creation of linear lines in the landscape can be traced into the prehistoric period in the AONB with the creation of features such as the Ackling Dyke and the Dorset Cursus. Historically, since the post medieval period, the communication routes across the AONB have run east to west, many of these were ancient drove ways such as the Ox Drove. The route of the A354 came into being in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as the Great Western Turnpike road and there was another major turnpike in the northern half of the AONB running through Hindon, which ran between London and Exeter. The importance of these routes waned in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the coming of

the railways, which increased the importance of villages such as Tisbury. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century new highways have come to dominate the transportation network in the AONB with the A350, and A303 being especially busy, and important routes

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

The HLC has recorded infrastructure associated with communication routes in the AONB, this includes road junctions, car parks, railway stations, sidings and yards.



### **Rarity**

This type occurs rarely in the HLC dataset but transportation routes are a major feature of the historic character of the AONB.

### **Survival**

The main transportation routes in the AONB today are the five A roads and two train lines. These follow different courses to the main routes used before the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the evidence for disused railways or ancient track ways may not be so easily appreciated.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the settlements that it links. In some cases, as with the railways or the eastern stretch of the A303, new routes were imposed on the landscape, regardless of previous land uses.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of this type preserves traces for previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

The communication network is a major feature of the historic character of the AONB, and provides the method through which most people appreciate the landscape of the AONB. In some areas these features have a negative impact on landscape character, for example, at the junction of major roads.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: 138.82 hectares, 0.14% of the AONB

No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 20 polygons, 0.45% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 6.91 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	138.82 hectares, 0.14% of AONB was Inland Communications at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 141 hectares, 0.14% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

[9.1 Roads](#)

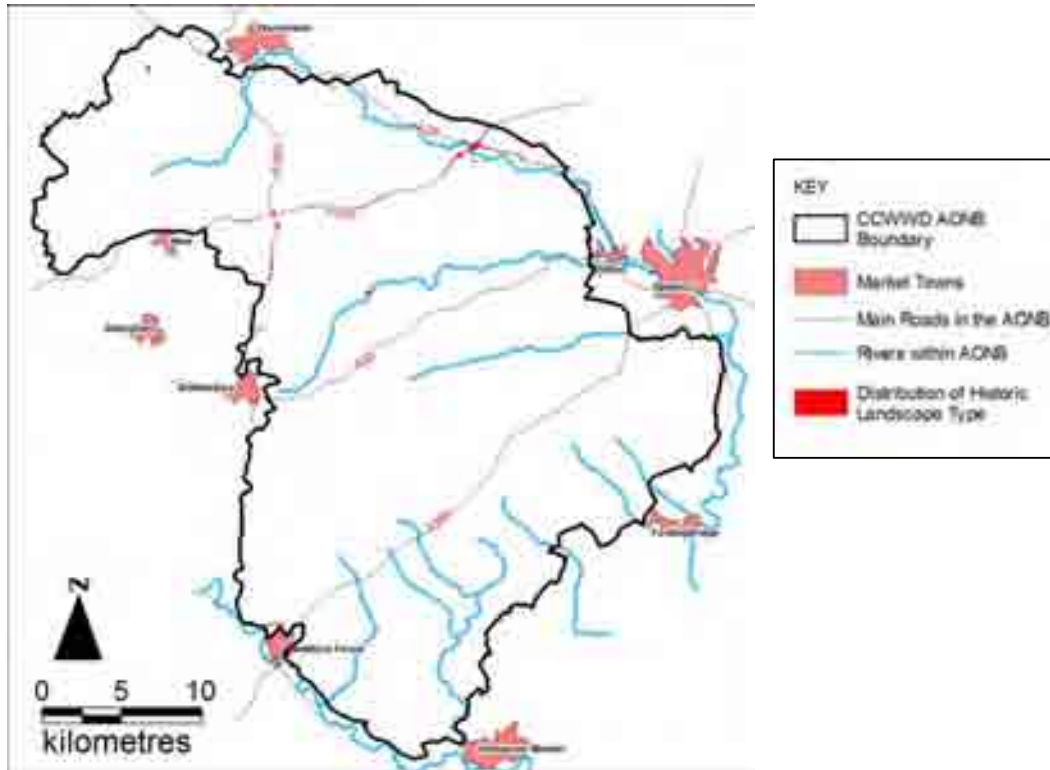
[9.2 Railways](#)

[9.3 Car Parks](#)

### **Parent Type**

None

## Type 9.1 Roads



### Introduction

The Historic Landscape Characterisation did not record the routes of major roads in the AONB but did record where these routes had a major impact in a particular place, for example, where there were stretches of dual carriageway or major road junctions. The dataset does not reflect how busy an individual road is.

### Distribution

The HLC has recorded stretches of the A36 (Salisbury to Warminster), A303 (Mere to Winterborne Stoke) and A350 (Blandford Forum to Warminster).

### Principal Historical Processes

The development of the A36, A303 and A350 occurred in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the engineering of the highways in question.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is comprised of engineered junctions and stretches of dual carriageway.

### Rarity

Roads and highways are a crucial element of the AONB, though their occurrence in the HLC dataset is rare.

## Survival

Roads represent a major component of the engineered infrastructure present in the AONB.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, the junction between the A36 and A303 has a large scale landscape impact.



© Countryside Agency - Photographer: Nick Smith 03-6770

### Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the settlements which it serves.

### Evidence for time-depth

None of this type preserves traces of previous land uses.

### Contribution to the present landscape character

The transportation network is a major feature of the historic character of the AONB, and provides the method through which most people appreciate the landscape of the AONB.

### Key Statistics

Total Area:	118.92 hectares, 0.12% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 13 polygons, 0.29% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 39.64 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	118.92 hectares, 0.12% of AONB was Roads at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 118.92 hectares, 0.12% of the AONB.

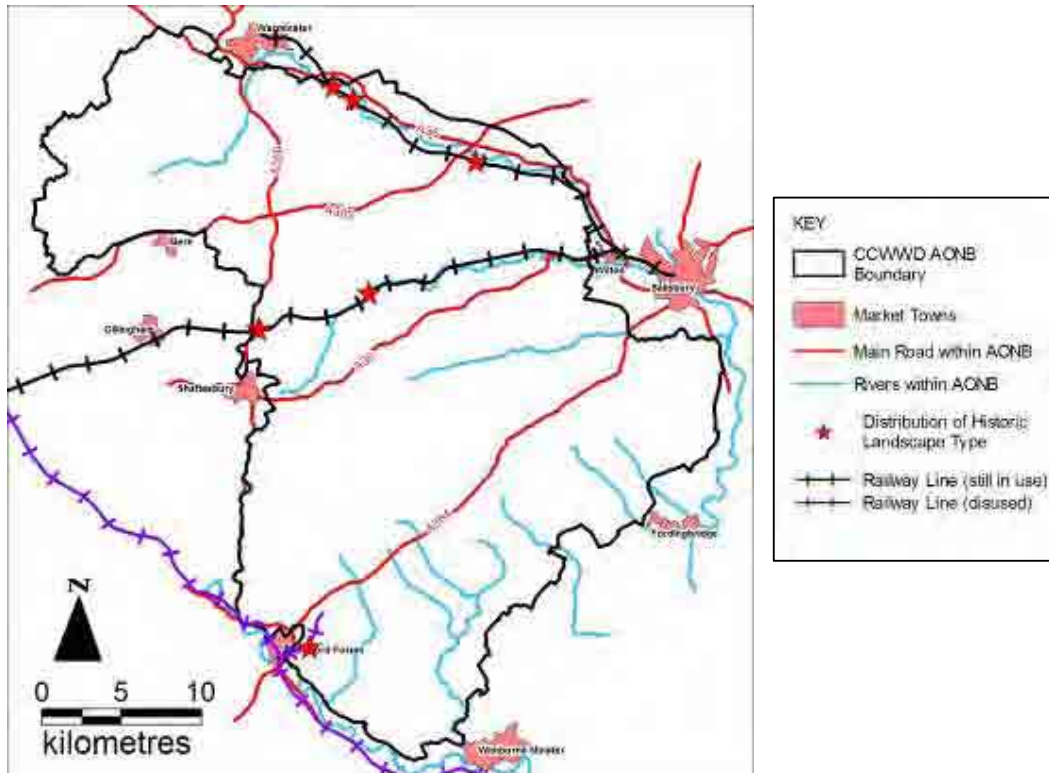
### Constituent Types

None

### Parent Type

## [9. Inland Communications](#)

## Type 9.2 Railways



### Introduction

The HLC is based on polygons so the path of the railways in the AONB is not explicitly recorded, except where the line has a larger scale landscape impact in a particular area, through the provision of dedicated infrastructure. This includes sidings, station houses, signal boxes and yards, railway cottages and junctions.

### Distribution

Railway infrastructure has been recorded along the two surviving railway lines in the AONB between Warminster and Salisbury, and Salisbury and Gillingham. The remnants of a cutting have also been recorded on the short lived Blandford Camp line.

### Principal Historical Processes

Three railways were built across the AONB in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: -

1. Westbury to Salisbury Branch of the Great Western Railway commencing with an Act of Parliament in 1845 and completed in 1856. This line is still open today.
2. Salisbury & Yeovil Railway was begun in 1856 with support from the London and South Western Railway and was finished in 1860. This line is still open today



3. Somerset and Dorset Railway begun in 1871 and finished in 1874. This line was finally closed in the 1960s. Part of the line brushes the edge of the AONB in the region of Blandford, but no part of this has been recorded in the dataset.

The creation of the railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century had a major impact on the settlements of the AONB, with, for example, the lessening of the importance of Hindon with the dwindling of the London Exeter coach road, and the rise in the importance of Tisbury.

The fourth major railway in the AONB was the short-lived Blandford Camp line, a branch railway to take personnel to the camp from Blandford Forum during the First World War. In use for only a year the HLC dataset has recorded evidence for a small cutting marking the former use of this land.

The fifth railway in the AONB was also constructed during the first world war and ran to the military camps at Fovant.

Finally there were three short lengths of track used for military purposes in the 20<sup>th</sup> century off of the Salisbury & Yeovil Railway. The first running south from Dinton was dismantled by the 1940s, the second at Hams Cross, to the east of Tisbury, was used as an ammunition depot at RAF Chilmark, but is now disused.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

Typical features include the station buildings at Tisbury, relic station buildings, disused railway sidings and yards, and cuttings.

### **Rarity**

This type has been recorded rarely in the AONB but the two surviving railway lines form important communication routes across the AONB. These routes can only be accessed within the AONB at Tisbury due to the closure of other stages.

### **Survival**

The two surviving railways still operate full services and provide important transport links between London, the South Coast, Wales and the South-west.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, although the relic elements, such as sidings and yards, may be obscured by tree and scrub growth or be now used for other purposes.



© Countryside Agency - Photographer Nick Smith 02-8103

### **Past interaction with other types**

Railways were imposed across the landscape depending on topography and cut across existing fields and field boundaries. They did, however, stimulate the growth of settlements along their length.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

None of the areas recorded that are associated with railway infrastructure preserve traces of previous land uses.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

The railways lines provide many people with key views of the AONB along the River Nadder and River Wylye.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	14.26 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 6 polygons, 0.13% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 2.37 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	16.78 hectares, 0.02 % of AONB was Railways at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 16.78 hectares, 0.02 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

#### [9. Inland Communications](#)

### **Suggested Sources**

Awdry (1990) Encyclopaedia of British Railway Companies. Patrick Stephens Ltd.

Thomas, D (1981) Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain Volume 1. The West County. David & Charles Ltd.



## **Survival**

Dedicated car parking spaces are directly linked to people's reliance on cars to visit places on the AONB.

## **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape; a number of smaller car parks exist in the AONB associated with other visitor attractions such as Stourhead or with settlements such as Tisbury.

## **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the tourist attractions it serves, including Longleat House, Park and Safari Park.

## **Evidence for time-depth**

This type does not preserve traces of previous land uses.

## **Contribution to the present landscape character**

This is the only example of a large car park recorded in the AONB and therefore has a small scale impact on landscape character.

## **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	5.64 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygons, 0.56% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 5.64 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	5.64 hectares, 0.01 % of AONB was Car Parks at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 5.64 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.

## **Constituent Types**

None

## **Parent Type**

[9. Inland Communications](#)

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

# HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE DESCRIPTION:

## TYPE 10 MILITARY



## CONTENTS

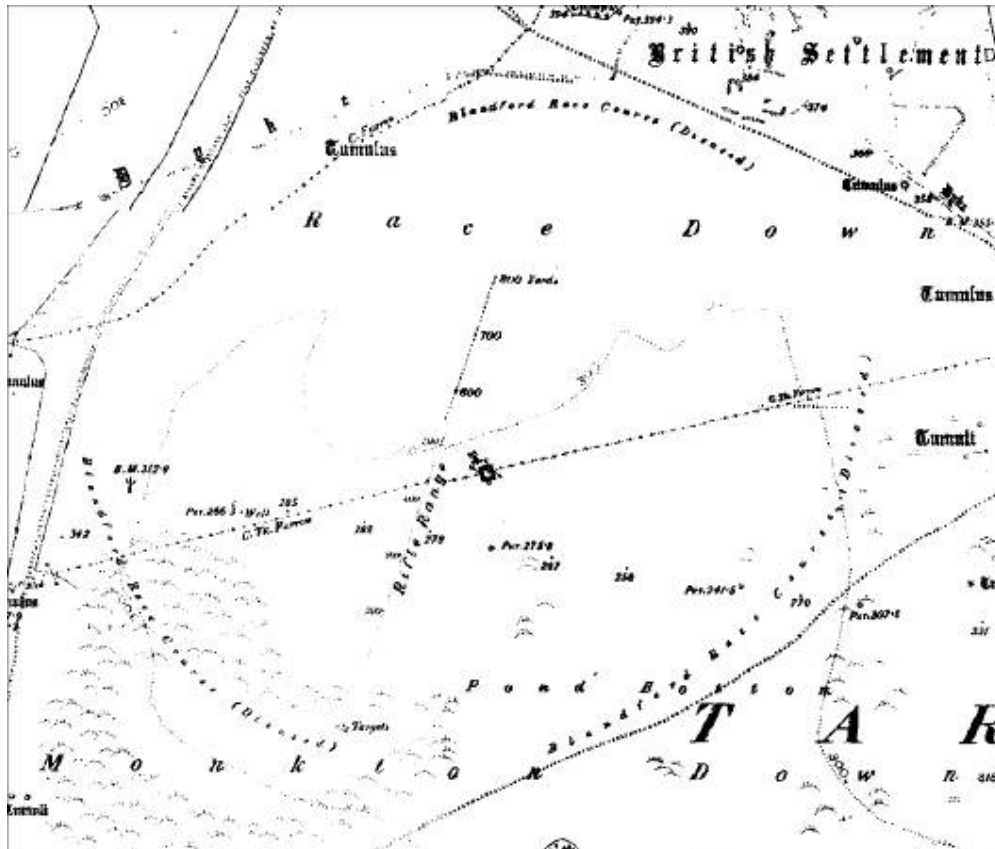
<b>Military Activity in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	351
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types.....	352
<b>Type 10 Military</b> .....	353
Type 10.1 Military Camps.....	356
Type 10.2 Rifle Ranges.....	359

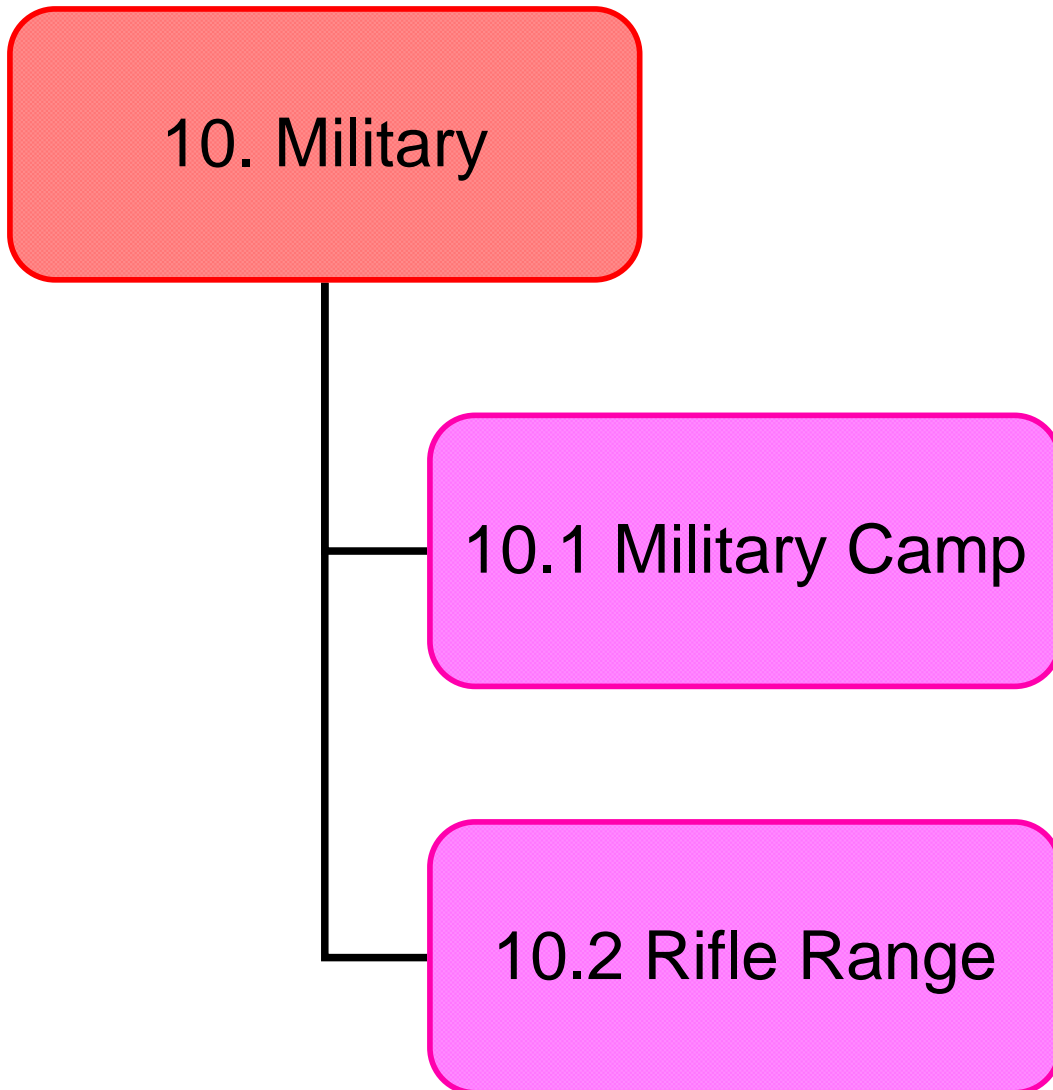
## Military Activity in the AONB: An Introduction

*"In April 1944 the first of five US Army hospitals was established in the camp [at Blandford] ready to receive the wounded from the invasion of Europe, These hospitals were closed after VE Day, having treated some 20'000 patients."*

(From [http://www.army.mod.uk/royalsignalsmuseum/blandford\\_camp.htm](http://www.army.mod.uk/royalsignalsmuseum/blandford_camp.htm))

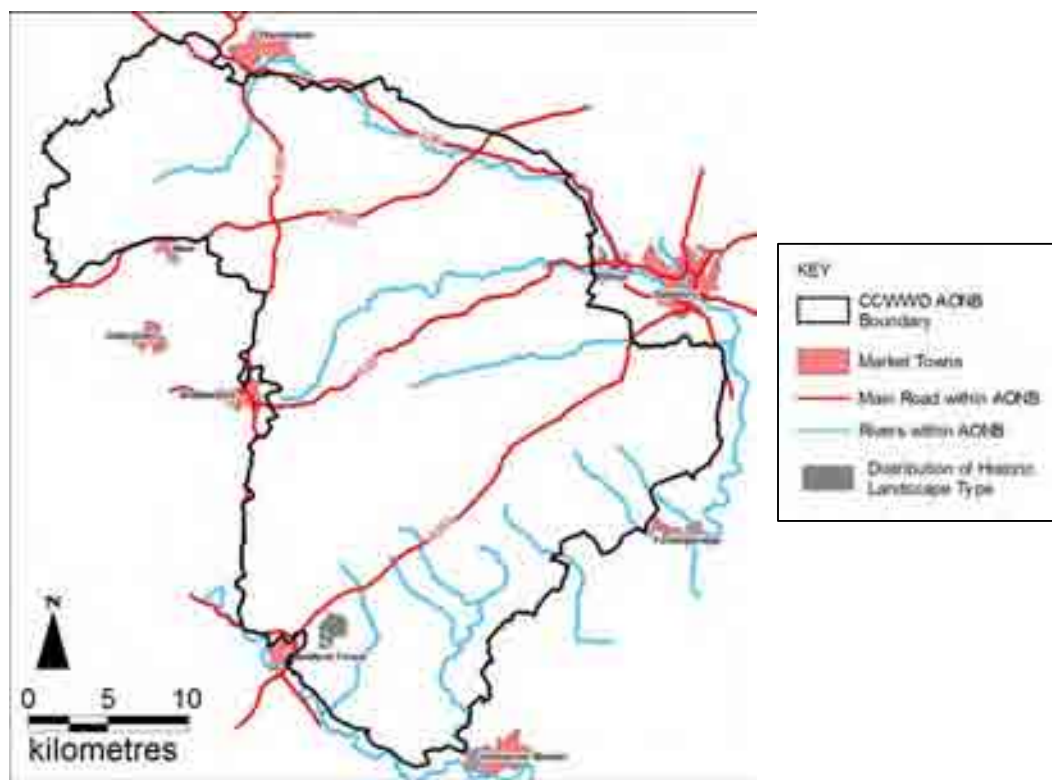
The picture below illustrates the footprint of Blandford Race Course, which was transformed into Blandford Camp in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Along with the smaller Knook Camp in the north of the AONB, Blandford Camp represents the only large scale military presence remaining in the AONB. This contrasts greatly with the large and permanent military activity which occurs on the Salisbury Plain military training area, just beyond the northern boundary of the AONB. The military has not always been inactive in the AONB. Several former bases, for example RAF Chilmark, are today used as private industrial estates or business units. The First and Second World Wars saw the establishment of several temporary airfields and bases across the AONB, notably at Fovant. Finally, former rifle ranges have often been incorporated into modern field boundaries.







## Type 10 Military



### Introduction

The Historic Landscape Characterisation project has only recorded evidence of military activity that has a landscape scale contribution to the historic character of the AONB. This includes the two military camps which are still in use and three locations where former rifle ranges has affected the morphology of later land use.

More transitory military camps also existed in the landscape of the AONB, especially relating to the First and Second World Wars but these have not been captured by the project as they did not contribute to the historic character of the landscape as seen today. Further discussion of the Fovant Badges can be found in Section 12. In addition, more ephemeral evidence of military activity, such as anti tank blocks or pill boxes, is too small to be recorded in this project but information on features such as these can be accessed on the Council for British Archaeology Defence of Britain database at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/projects/dob/index.html> [last accessed May 2008].

### Distribution

Current military activity has been recorded to the east of Blandford Forum, and on the northern edge of the AONB.

## Principal Historical Processes

The military activity recorded dates primarily to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, though evidence for former rifle ranges has also been recorded. Several former military camps have been transformed into business and industrial units, and these are dealt with in Section 8 Industry.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type primarily comprised of fenced compounds with heavy security. They commonly feature huts, offices, bunkers, banks, bunds, training areas and ancillary buildings.



## Rarity

Military activity is scarce in the AONB, especially when compared with the level of activity on the Salisbury Plain Military Training Area.

## Survival

The majority of the military evidence recorded relates to military camps which have been in existence in their present form for approximately 50 years.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape; however they cannot be experienced by most people due to the security which surrounds them.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is often imposed on the landscape regardless of previous land use when required.

## Evidence for time-depth

The largest concentration of military activity at Blandford Camp is built on the footprint of a 18<sup>th</sup> century race course.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Modern day military activity is scarce in the AONB so it has a small contribution to present day landscape character, especially when compared against the scale of the military activity on Salisbury Plain. In addition much of the former military presence in the area was temporary in nature. For example, at Fovant during the First World War

there was a hospital, railway line and range, but only the Fovant Badges remain today.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	268.77 hectares, 0.27% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 134.87 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	268.77 hectares, 0.27 % of AONB was Military at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 277.55 hectares, 0.28 % of the AONB

### **Constituent Types**

[10.1 Military Camps](#)

[10.2 Rifle Ranges](#)

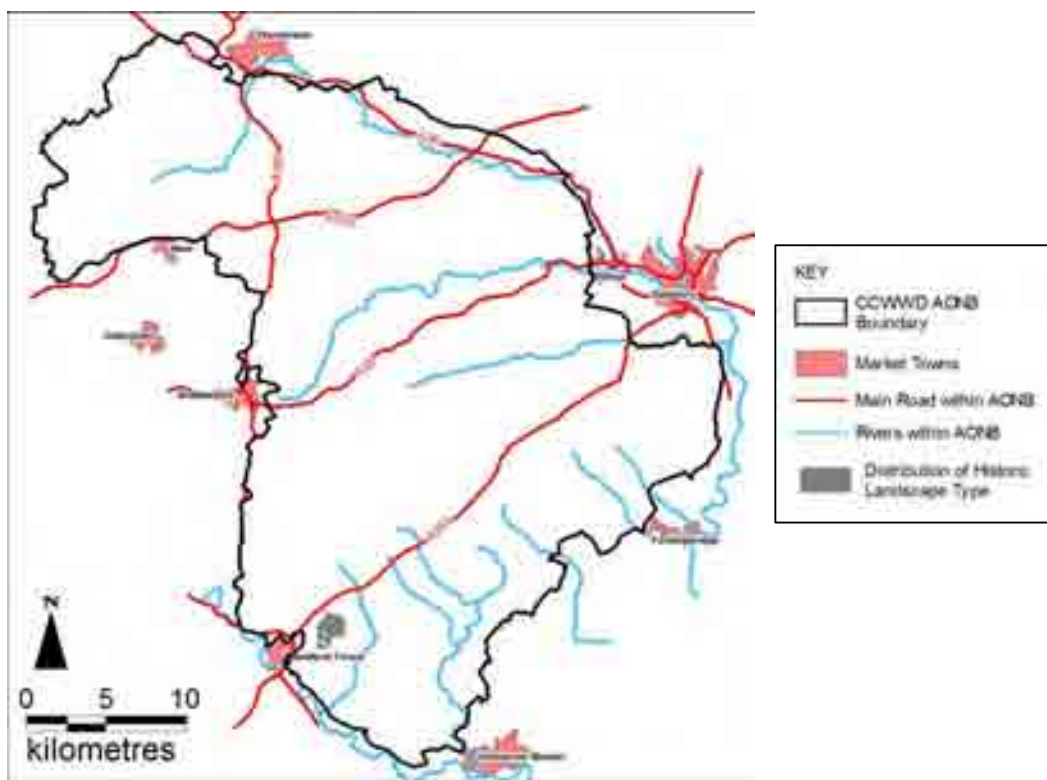
### **Parent Type**

None

### **Suggested Sources**

Fovant Badges Society Website <http://www.fovantbadges.com> [last accessed 01.06.08]

## Type 10.1 Military Camps



### Introduction

Military camps in the AONB. There are 2 military camps in use today that both feature on modern Ordnance Survey maps. More transitory military camps also existed in the landscape of the AONB, especially relating to the First and Second World Wars but this has not been recorded in this dataset for two reasons. Firstly it is not captured by the available historic mapping and, secondly, it did not have an impact on the history of land use in the present day. Several former military camps have been transformed into business and industrial units, and these are dealt with in Section 8 Industry.

### Distribution

The first Military Camp recorded is Blandford Camp to the east of Blandford Forum, the second Knook Camp on the Northern edge of the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

Blandford Military Camp is the home of the Royal Signals. It is a large camp. The first military use of the site dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when local volunteer units used it as a training ground; at this time it also served as a race course. The first time the camp appears on the maps available to this project is on the modern day Ordnance Survey maps. However, a rifle range was marked on both the Epoch 4 (1919-1939) and Epoch 3 (1904-1939) historic Ordnance Survey maps. The site was, however, used as a depot and camp temporarily during the First World War, alongside a POW

camp. Again, in the Second World War the site was in use when a US army hospital was established. This was removed after VE day. The camp which can be seen today dates from 1946 onwards.

Knook Military Camp is smaller than Blandford and is a transit camp mostly used by the Territorial Army and Army Cadets. It is located on the edge of the Salisbury Plain Military Training Area. It is situated in an area which was formerly Parliamentary Enclosure and the edge of the camp follows the enclosure boundary. The camp first appears on the Epoch 3 Historic Ordnance Survey OS so has been dated to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is comprised of fenced compounds with heavy security. They commonly feature accommodation, offices, bunkers, sports fields, training areas and ancillary buildings. Knook Camp primarily consists of older, more temporary, brick and wooden huts.



### **Rarity**

Military camps are scarce in the AONB.

### **Survival**

The future of Blandford Camp is uncertain.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape; however they cannot be experienced by most people due to the security which surrounds them.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is often imposed on the landscape when required.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Blandford Camp is built on the footprint of a 18<sup>th</sup> century racecourse, where as Knook Camp is situated within an area of former 19<sup>th</sup> century Parliamentary Enclosure.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Military camps are rare in the AONB so have a small contribution to present day landscape character, especially when compared against the scale of the military activity on Salisbury Plain.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	268.77 hectares, 0.27% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 2 polygons, 0.05% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 134.87 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	268.77 hectares, 0.27% of AONB was Military Camps at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 277.55 hectares, 0.28 % of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

None

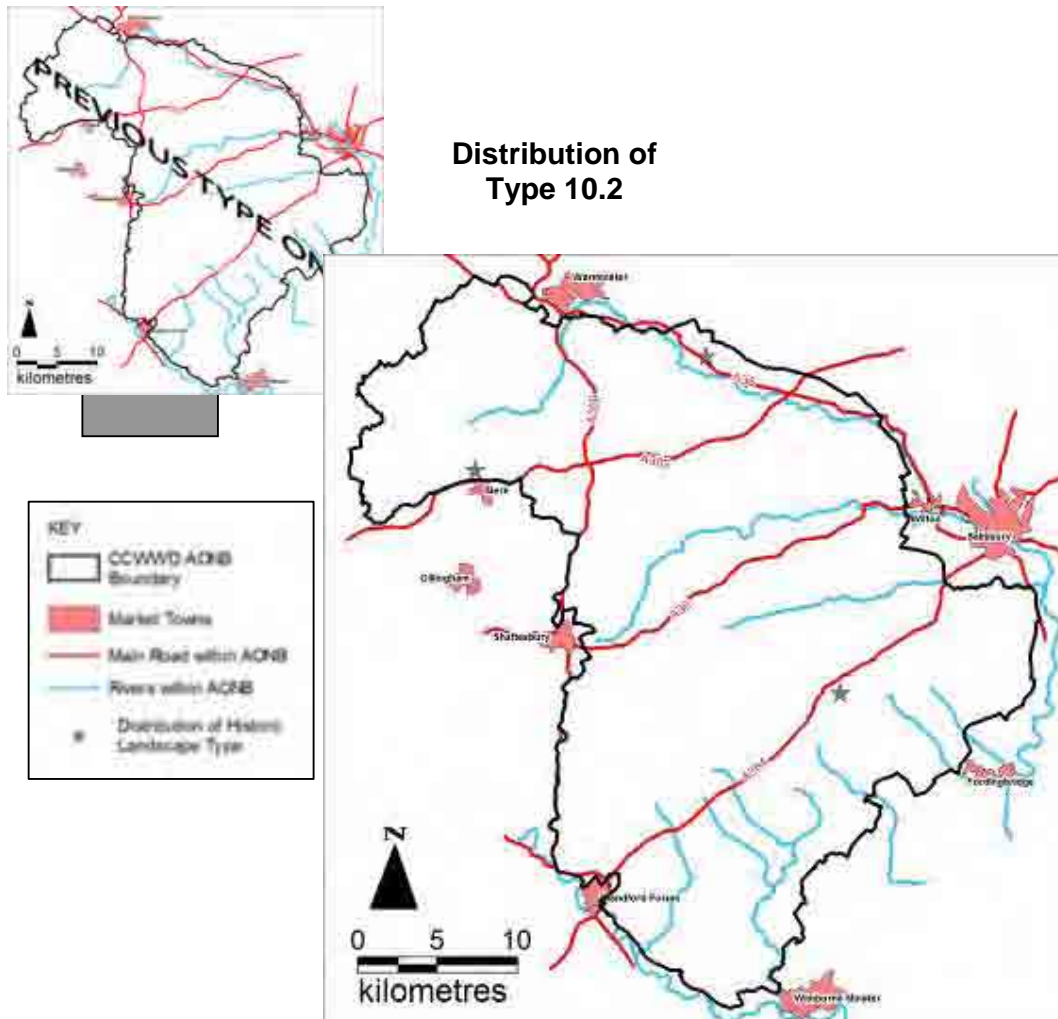
## Parent Type

[10. Military](#)

## Suggested Sources

Website of the Royal Signals Museum for information on Blandford Camp - <http://www.army.mod.uk/royalsignalsmuseum/> [last accessed 21.05.08]

## Type 10.2 Rifle Ranges



### Introduction

Evidence for the presence of former rifle ranges in the AONB which have affected later land use. This distribution does not show the location of all former rifle ranges, only where this military activity has affected later land use.

### Distribution

The former rifle ranges are widely distributed across the AONB, near Knook, Mere and on Martin Down.

### Principal Historical Processes

The former rifle range 2 km south east of Knook dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the footprint of which was incorporated within new 20<sup>th</sup> century field boundaries. The former range at Mere is early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, and was also incorporated within 20<sup>th</sup> century field boundaries. The rifle range at Martin Down dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century

and has a strong influence on the survival of unimproved grassland in this area which today is a National Nature Reserve.

### **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components**

This type is indicated on historic Ordnance Survey maps as consisting of a line with marked distances. This line is then incorporated in the boundary of new 20<sup>th</sup> Century fields at Knook and Mere.

This map shows the Epoch One Historic Ordnance Survey Map superimposed with the boundary of the modern field which incorporated the line of the rifle range.



### **Rarity**

There are only three rifle ranges incorporated into the HLC dataset. They do feature on historic mapping more commonly, but do not tend to be reflected in subsequent land use.

### **Survival**

No rifle ranges remain in the AONB.

### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would not be recognisable in the landscape without reference to historic mapping.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is often imposed on the landscape when required.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

This type exists only as a previous type.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

There are only three examples of rifle ranges influencing later landscape character, so it has had a low impact on landscape character.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: N/A



No. of Polygons:	N/A
Av. Polygon Size:	N/A
Occurrence:	N/A
Previous Coverage:	4.45 hectares, 0.01% of AONB was Rifle Ranges at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 4.45 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.

**Constituent Types**

None

**Parent Type**

[10. Military](#)



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

# HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE DESCRIPTION:

## TYPE 11 CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE



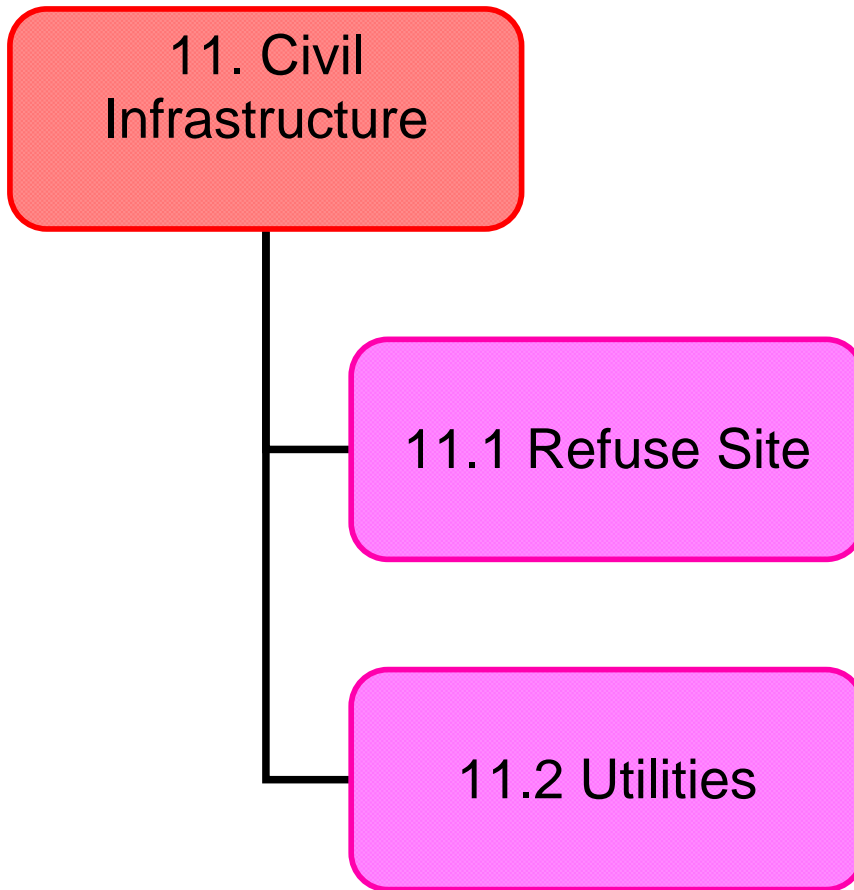
## CONTENTS

<b>Civil Infrastructure in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	365
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types .....	366
<b>Type 11 Civil Infrastructure</b> .....	367
Type 11.1 Refuse Site.....	370
Type 11.2 Utilities.....	372

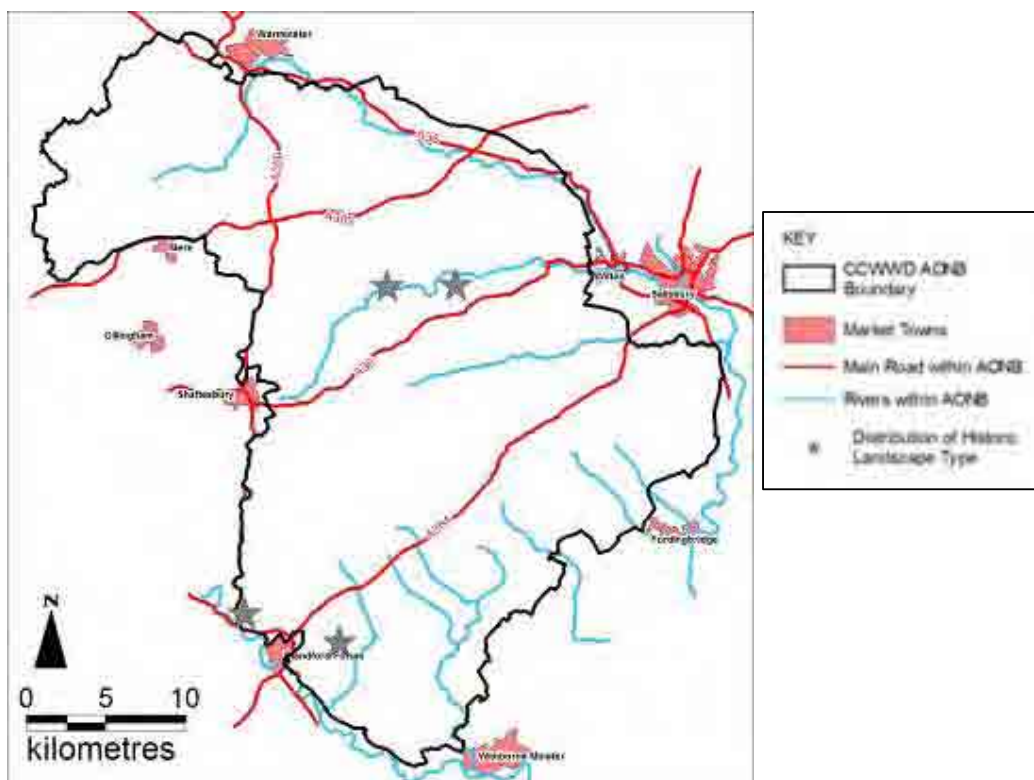
## **Civil Infrastructure in the AONB: An Introduction**

All communities and settlements in the UK are supported by engineered civil infrastructure such as sewage works and electrical substations. The rural nature of the AONB means that the impact of this infrastructure is small scale and low key, as indicated by the small number of examples recorded in the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.

Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types



## Type 11 Civil Infrastructure



### Introduction

Engineered civil infrastructure such as landfill sites and sewage works, recorded from the modern day Ordnance Survey maps.

These sites need to be at least 1 hectare to be recorded. Therefore, the dataset does not show every location where civil infrastructure exists.

### Distribution

The HLC has recorded civil infrastructure along the Nadder Valley and around Blandford Forum.

### Principal Historical Processes

Civil infrastructure was developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to serve the expanding settlements of the AONB, and to produce a better standard of living.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is comprised of dedicated specialist engineering and ancillary buildings and service roads.

## Rarity

Civil Infrastructure is a crucial engineered element in the landscape for the communities in the AONB, though their occurrence in the HLC dataset is rare due to their scale.

## Survival

Utilities represent a major component of the infrastructure supporting the modern settlements of the AONB

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the settlements which it serves.

## Evidence for time-depth

None of this type preserves traces of previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

The individual examples of civil infrastructure recorded are very small in scale in relation to this study, although at individual locations their impact may be appreciable.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	13.77 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 4 polygons, 0.09% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 3.44 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	13.77 hectares, 0.01 % of AONB was Civil Infrastructure at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 13.77 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.





## **Constituent Types**

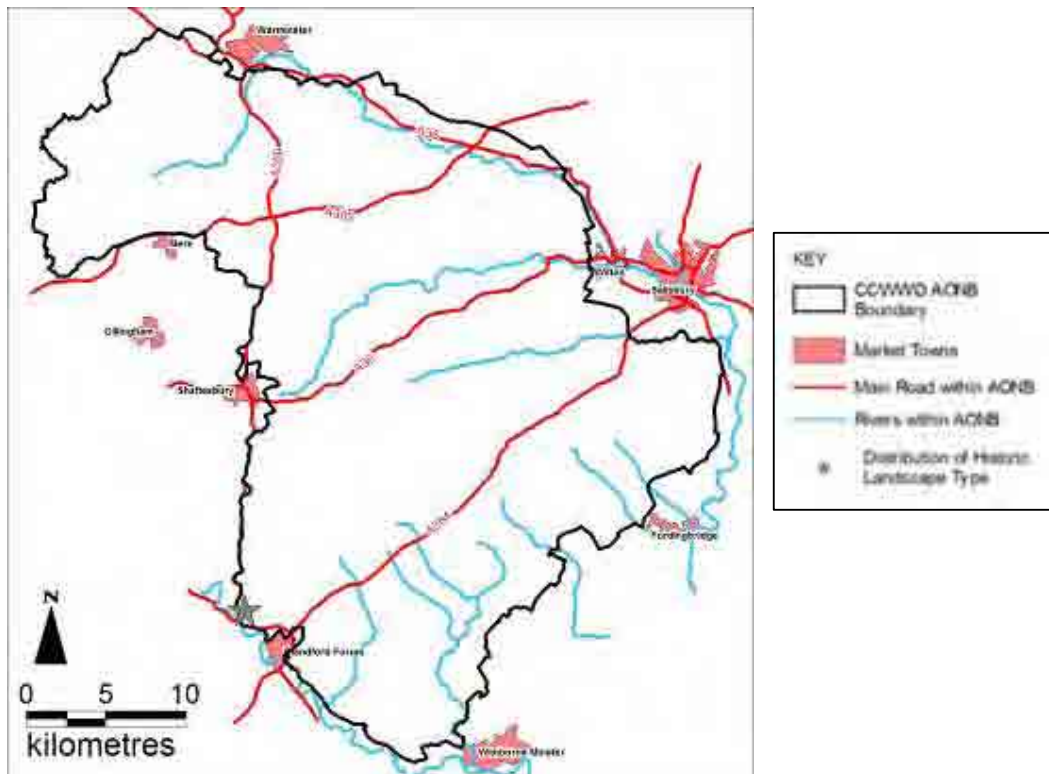
[11.1 Refuse Sites](#)

[11.2 Utilities](#)

## **Parent Type**

None

## Type 11.1 Refuse Site



### Introduction

Site for the deposition of refuse as identified on modern Ordnance Survey mapping, possibly now backfilled.

### Distribution

The refuse site recorded in the dataset was a civic amenities tip located on the edge of Stourpaine in the southern half of the AONB, which is now closed.

### Principal Historical Processes

The refuse site dates from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is comprised of rubbish deposited in a large pit, which is then backfilled.

### Rarity

Landfill sites, even small scale, are rare in the AONB such facilities are normally located outside the boundaries of protected areas.

## Survival

Refuse sites represent a small component of the engineered infrastructure present in the AONB.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the locality in which it was being created.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the settlements which it serves.



## Evidence for time-depth

None of this type preserves traces of previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

Although a refuse site is a possible detractor from landscape character, in this instance its small scale means that it only has a small impact.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	8.12 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 1 polygons, 0.02% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 8.12 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare
Previous Coverage:	8.12 hectares, 0.01 % of AONB was Refuse Sites at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 8.12 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.

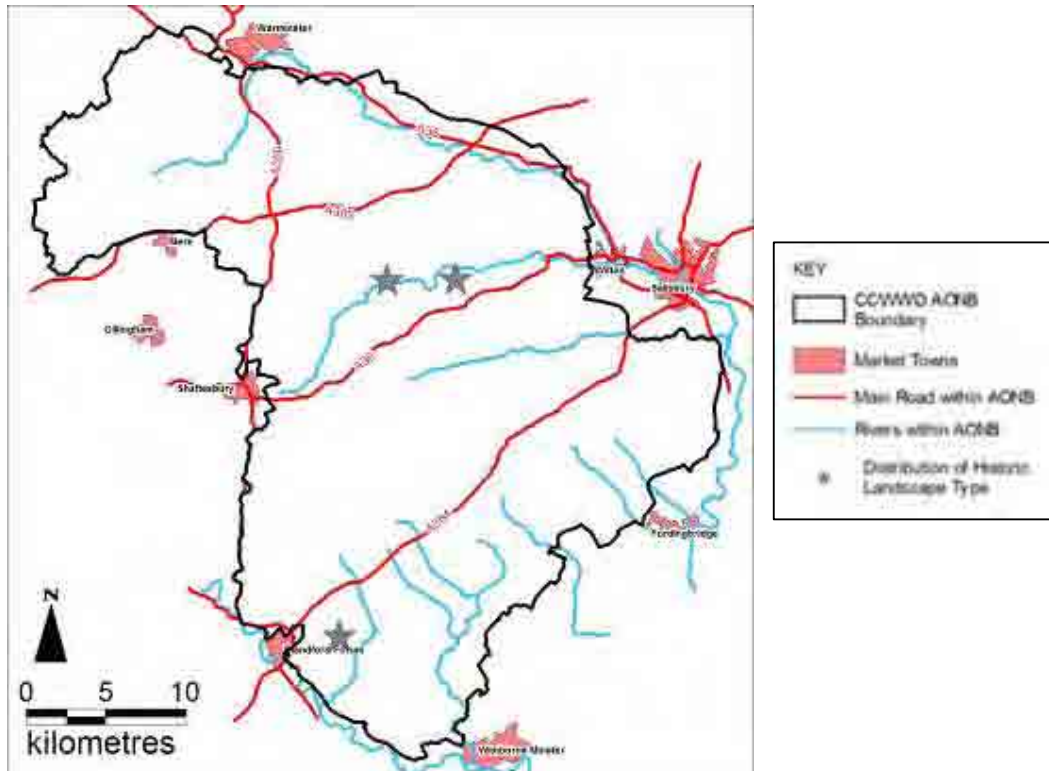
## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

[11 Civil Infrastructure](#)

## Type 11.2 Utilities



### Introduction

The Historic Landscape Characterisation recorded modern civil infrastructure, such as electricity sub stations and sewage works, from modern Ordnance Survey maps, if they were above 1 hectare in size and had a landscape scale impact on the AONB. The dataset does not, therefore, show every location where there are utilities in the AONB.

### Distribution

The HLC has recorded just three sewage works that are of sufficient size, two in the Nadder Valley outside Tisbury and Dinton, and one on the edge of Blandford Camp.

### Principal Historical Processes

This infrastructure dates to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to serve the expanding settlements of the AONB, and to produce a better standard of living.

### Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is comprised of sewage works associated with ancillary buildings.

### Rarity

Modern utilities are a crucial element of the AONB, though their occurrence in the HLC dataset is rare.

## Survival

Utilities represent a major component of the infrastructure supporting the modern settlements of the AONB.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, but are only small scale features.

## Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the settlements which it serves.



## Evidence for time-depth

None of this type preserves traces of previous land uses.

## Contribution to the present landscape character

The individual examples of utilities recorded are very small in scale in relation to this study, although at individual locations their impact may be appreciable.

## Key Statistics

Total Area:	5.65 hectares, 0.01% of the AONB
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 3 polygons, 0.07% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 1.88 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	5.65 hectares, 0.01 % of AONB was Utilities at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 5.65 hectares, 0.01 % of the AONB.

## Constituent Types

None

## Parent Type

[11 Civil Infrastructure](#)

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTION:**

**TYPE 12 ARCHAEOLOGY**



## CONTENTS

<b>Archaeology in the AONB: An Introduction</b> .....	377
Organisation Chart illustrating nested Historic Landscape Types .....	379
<b>Type 12 Archaeology and the HLC</b> .....	380
Type 12.1 Archaeological Attractions.....	383
Type 12.2 Iron Age Hillforts.....	387
Type 12.3 Other Archaeological Earthworks.....	390



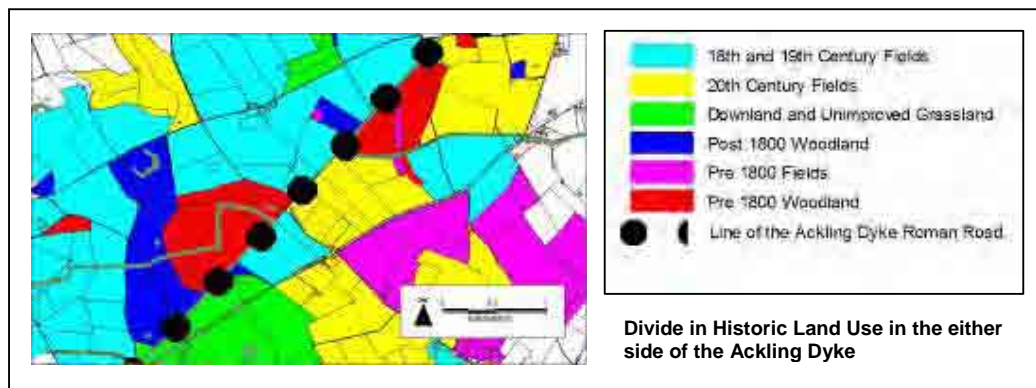
## Archaeology and the HLC: An Introduction

*“Still one cannot but experience a shock on seeing the plough driven through an ancient, smooth turf, curiously marked with barrows, lynchets, and other mysterious mounds and depressions, where sheep have been pastured for a thousand years without obscuring these chance hieroglyphs scored by men on the surface of the hills”*

(From Hudson, W.H. (1987) *An Illustrated Shepherds Life*. Savitri Books Ltd. Pg 102)

The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project seeks to supplement and add to information already held on archaeological sites in the county based Sites and Monuments and Historic Environment Record. It does not, therefore, contain a record of every archaeological site in the AONB. Rather the Historic Landscape Characterisation is interested in the impact of archaeological features on the present day historic landscape character.

The AONB is blessed with a wealth of landscape scale archaeological features. These are relevant to the historic character of the AONB due to the affect that they have had on later land uses. Some such as Bokerly Dyke (a Saxon boundary with possible Bronze Age origins) or the Ackling Dyke (the line of a Roman Road) formed barriers across the landscape, which were respected long after they were abandoned for their original purpose. This can be seen the example below, where the history of land use remaining in the present day is markedly different to the north and south of the Ackling Dyke.



**Others earthworks due to their scale affected the form of later land uses that were economic or practical.** A key example is Iron Age Hillforts which are dotted across the AONB. These have distinctively shaped the patterns of fields and woodland that were imposed upon them. **It is these kinds of processes that are explored in more depth here.**

Hudson’s comment from the beginning of the 20th century demonstrates that many archaeological earthworks have been lost to the plough. However, their very presence affected and shaped the later historic character of the AONB. The area pictured, for example, was one of the last areas on the West Wiltshire Downs to be enclosed due to the intensity of prehistoric activity in this location.

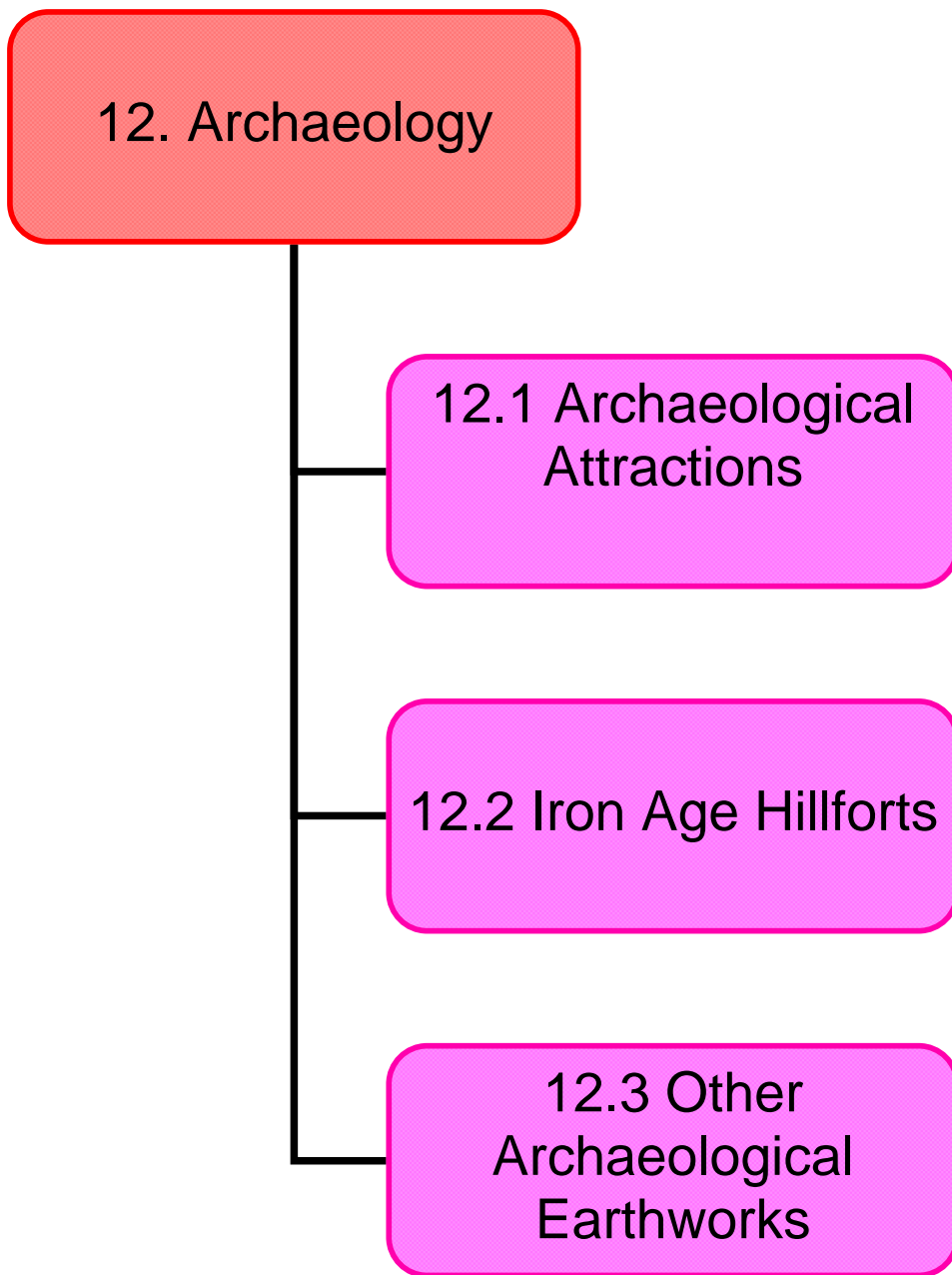


**Archaeological features often, therefore, contributed to the late enclosure of an area.**

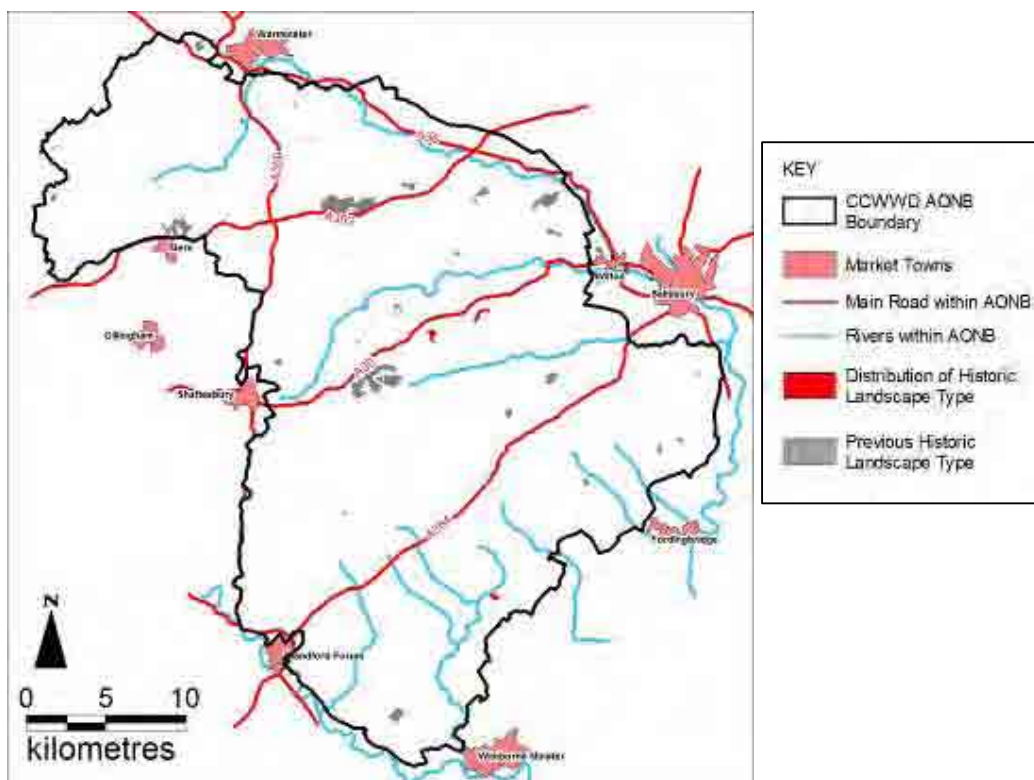
**Conversely, some later historic lands uses have led to the survival of archaeological sites and monuments.** For example, the late enclosure and ploughing of much of the open chalk grassland across the AONB means that across the Southern Chalk Downland Belt there is a strong correlation between the distribution of Round Barrows and areas in the HLC dataset which are recorded as having previously been open unenclosed downland.

Another key landscape scale archaeological influence on the landscape of the AONB is the fact that four county boundaries cross the AONB, those of Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. **These historic borderlands are a crucial feature in the AONB.** They once formed marginal land often subject to late enclosure, with the survival of common land and ancient woodland. This subject is currently being researched in more depth by The Dorset County Boundary Survey.

**Finally some archaeological sites remain in the landscape of the AONB as focal points, which are visited and explored in their own right.** Those sites which have been enhanced and modified to accommodate those visits, for example Rockbourne Roman Villa, exist as present day and current areas of land use in the Historic Landscape Characterisation map.



## Type 12 Archaeology



### Introduction

There is wealth of archaeology in the AONB, but describing this does not come under the scope of this project.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation is interested in archaeological sites for two reasons: -

1. Large scale archaeological sites or groups of features which have affected the morphology and land use history of later Historic Landscape Types.
2. Archaeological and historical sites which have been transformed into visitor attractions in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Information relating to these two criteria has been recorded from both modern and historic Ordnance Survey maps. Sites which have been identified as contributing to current day Historic Landscape Types include Deserted Medieval Villages, ancient fields systems and Iron Age Hillforts.

**This dataset, therefore, does not represent the location of archaeological sites in the AONB. This information can be accessed from the relevant county Sites and Monument Record or Historic Environment Record.**

## Distribution

Archaeological sites that contribute to current Historic Landscape Types have been recorded across the AONB, but with distinct concentrations being notable on the greensand terraces and the chalk downland.

## Principal Historical Processes

Four archaeological sites in the AONB have been transformed into visitor attractions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Wardour Castle, Rockbourne Roman Villa, The Fovant Cap Badges, and Knowlton Church and Henge. These are identified as red on the distribution map, on page 380, as they still contribute to the current historic landscape character of the AONB.

Those areas coloured grey only exist as previous types as they have affected the later morphology and land use history of the present day historic landscape type recorded in this area. These areas tend to be associated with older historic landscape types, such as old woodland or open downland; in some instances their presence delayed the process of enclosure into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition the distinctive form of Iron Age Hillforts created noticeable and distinguishing morphologies in the subsequent historic landscape types.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

This type is comprised of remnant earthworks or more commonly sites which exist only as cropmarks, where buried remains effect the growth of crops in fields.

The sites which now form visitor attractions are associated with dedicated infrastructure, such as specially created paths, car parks and visitor facilities.

## Rarity

Archaeological earthworks are scarce in the HLC dataset, but represent a fraction of the sites recorded in the relevant county based HER/SMR.

## Survival

The majority of these sites are now under plough, however, many of the Iron Age Hillforts survive as earthworks and there is a high proportion of extant earthworks associated with open downland, semi-open chalk escarpments, and old woodland.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

Many of the surviving examples of this type would be very recognisable, especially those which are kept as cultural attractions or those situated on open downland.



### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the later historic landscape types whose morphology it has affected.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

Many of the examples of this type represent some of the earliest evidence of human activity in the landscape.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Many of these archaeological sites form important focal points in the landscape.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	77.3 hectares, 0.11% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 5 polygons, 0.11% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 15.46 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Scarce.
Previous Coverage:	958.72 hectares, 0.97% of AONB was Archaeology at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 1152.95 hectares, 1.17% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

[12.1 Archaeological Attractions](#)

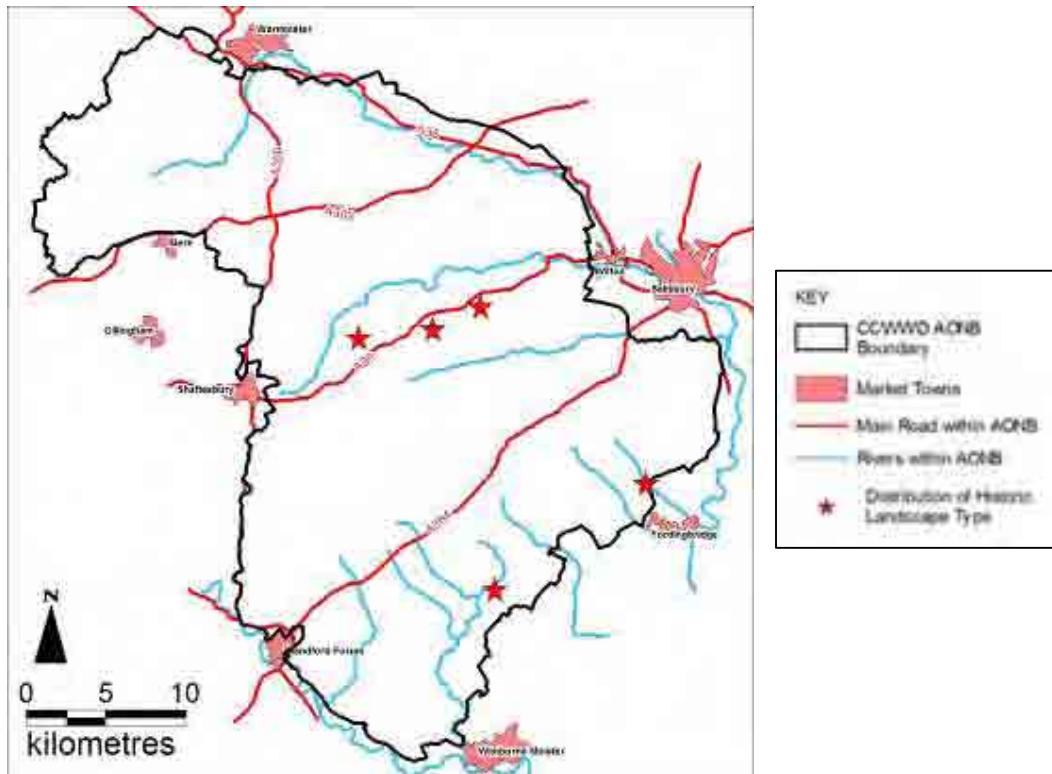
[12.2 Iron Age Hillforts](#)

[12.3 Other Archaeological Earthworks](#)

### **Parent Type**

None

## Type 12.1 Archaeological Attractions



### Introduction

Four Archaeological and Historical features that are used in the modern day as cultural attractions and are visited by relatively large numbers of people. These are: -

- Chalk carvings known as the Fovant Cap Badges
- Medieval Wardour Castle
- Rockbourne Roman Villa
- Knowlton Church and Henge

These are in addition to historic houses, gardens and parks.

### Distribution

The Fovant Cap Badges were created along the chalk escarpment to the south of the village of Fovant. Wardour Castle is in the Nadder Valley to the south of Tisbury, while Knowlton and Rockbourne Roman Villa are in the southeast of the AONB.

### Principal Historical Processes

Two of the identified archaeological sites, Wardour Castle and Knowlton Church and Henge, are Scheduled Ancient Monuments which are managed as cultural attractions by English Heritage.

Old Wardour Castle was built in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century by John Lord Lovel. It was besieged and damaged in the English Civil War. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the castle was incorporated into the landscaped grounds built by Lord Arundell.

Knowlton Church and Henge consist of a ruined Medieval church at the centre of a Neolithic Henge.

Rockborne Roman Villa is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument but is maintained by Hampshire County Council. The largest Roman Villa in the area, the site includes bath houses, living quarters, farm buildings and workshops.

The Fovant Cap Badges date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the First World War Fovant was the site of a transit and training camp. Many of the regiments which were at some point stationed at Fovant carved replicas of their cap badges into the hills. At the end of the war twenty of these survived, but were allowed to grass over during the Second World War. Due to the voluntary efforts of the Fovant Badges Society eight of the military crests have recently been restored and these are still admired from the A30.

### **Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components**

This type is comprised of archaeological earthworks and historic buildings managed as attractions. They are accompanied by gravel paths, fences, ancillary buildings and dedicated parking.



The Fovant Badges, in contrast, consist of symbols carved into the chalk, which have to be maintained to still be seen. The facilities accompanying them, include a viewing point at the side of the A30, are situated away from the badges themselves, as they can only be appreciated from a distance.

### **Rarity**

Cultural attractions of this kind occur rarely in the AONB, but they should be counted alongside the historic parks and gardens which also attract large visitor numbers.

### **Survival**

In the case of the Fovant Badges only eight of the original cap badges remain and these require annual maintenance to survive. Wardour Castle and Knowlton Henge are owned and managed by English Heritage, who has a duty to maintain them. Rockbourne Villa is maintained by Hampshire County Council.



### **Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components**

This type would be very recognisable in the landscape, however they are not as well known as other archaeological attractions in the region.

### **Past interaction with other types**

Old Wardour Castle is associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaped park, which was designed around the ruin.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The Fovant Badges are intrinsically linked with the open chalk escarpment on which they were created and are a relatively recent phenomenon.

In contrast Knowlton Henge represents some of the oldest evidence of human activity in the landscape. This site, along with Wardour Castle and Rockborne Villa preserves a wealth of evidence of past human activity in the landscape.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Although these features cover a small area, they represent archaeological and historical features in the landscape of the AONB of national importance.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	77.3 hectares, 0.08% of the AONB.
No. of Polygons:	This Subtype is comprised of 5 polygons, 0.11% of the total number of polygons digitised.
Av. Polygon Size:	Each polygon averages 15.46 hectares in size.
Occurrence:	Rare.
Previous Coverage:	77.3 hectares, 0.08% of AONB was Archaeological Attractions at the point when this type was at its most prevalent .
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 77.3 hectares, 0.08% of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[12. Archaeology](#)

## **Suggested Sources**

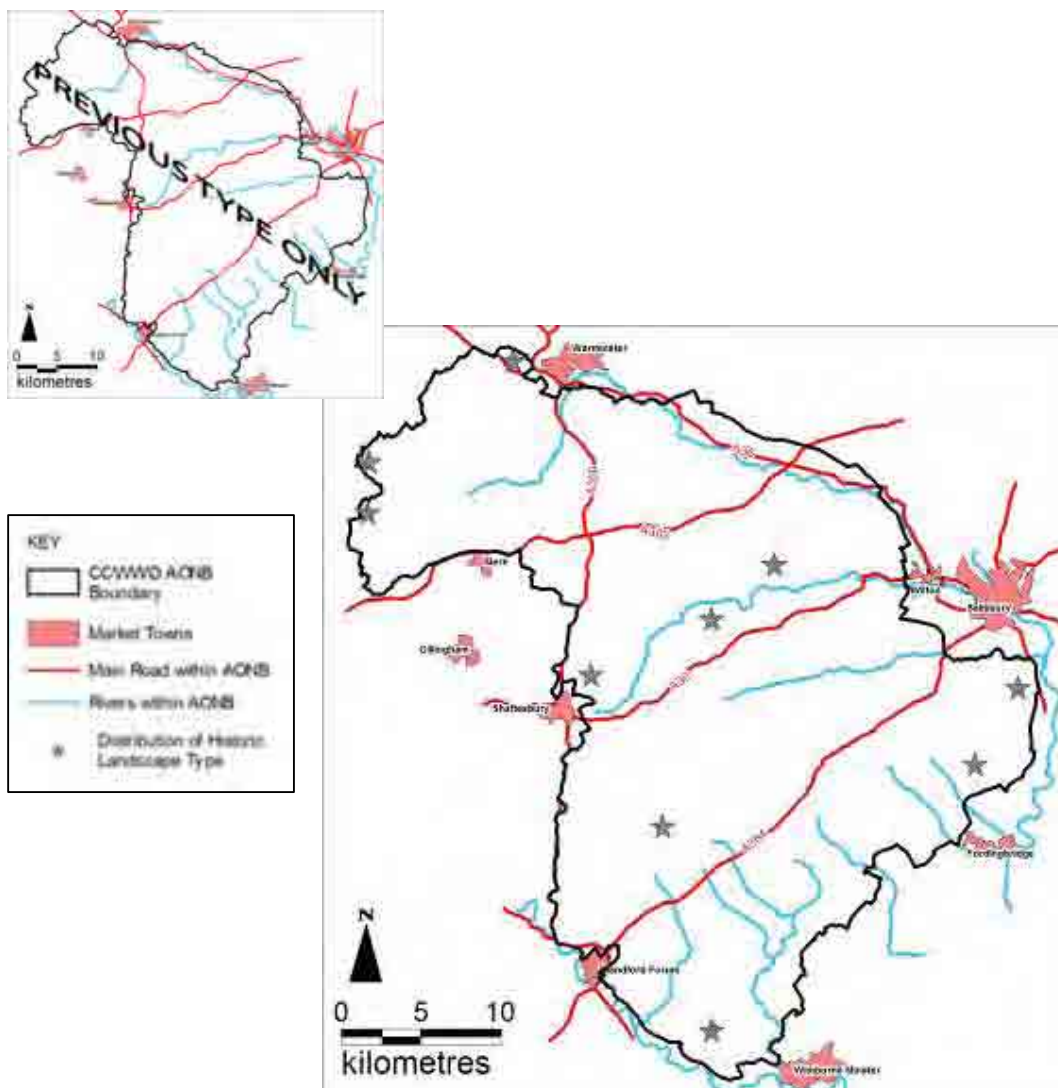
Fovant Cap Badges - <http://www.fovantbadges.com/howcan.htm>

Knowlton Henge and Old Wardour Castle – [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Rockbourne Roman Villa - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/rockbourne-roman-villa>

Websites last accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

## Type 12.2 Iron Age Hillforts



### Introduction

Iron Age Hillforts whose morphology has directly affected later historic land use. This has been recorded from both modern and historic Ordnance Survey maps.

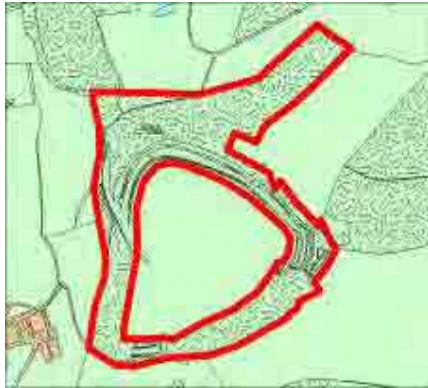
**This dataset does not represent the location of all of the former known Iron Age Hillforts in the AONB, only those which have affected the current Historic Landscape Type present. This information can be accessed from the relevant County Sites and Monument Record or Historic Environment Record. The majority of these sites remain as extant earthworks.**

## Distribution

Iron Age Hillforts which have affected the morphology of later historic land use exist across the AONB. They do tend to be located on the greensand hills especially in the north west of the AONB.

## Principal Historical Processes

The Hillforts themselves date to the Iron Age. In this project, however, their interest lies in how they have affected later land use. In the majority of cases the presence of the Hillforts has meant that older land uses have survived for much longer, due to the



difficulty of turning these earthworks into agricultural enclosed land. The Hillforts today are associated with old woodland, relic common land, areas of open downland, or downland that has only been enclosed or planted with new trees in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The distinctive shape of the Hillforts has influenced the morphology of later land uses. This can clearly be seen in this example, where a circle of old woodland remains on the banks and ditches of the Hillfort, whereas the flatter centre has been assarted into an enclosed field in the post medieval period.

## Typical Historical/Archaeological Components

The remnants of the Hillforts tend to be located on higher ground and consist of concentric circular banks and ditches with a central flat area.



## Rarity

Evidence for 19 hillforts have been recorded in the AONB in the relevant county archaeological record, 11 of these have been identified as affecting later historic landscape character.

## Survival

The fact that the Hillforts consist of prominent large banks and ditches means that substantial evidence for these remain in the landscape.

## Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

This type would be recognisable in the landscape, where they are present on the edge of chalk escarpments. However those obscured by trees would be less obvious.

### **Past interaction with other types**

The type is associated with the later historic landscape types whose morphology it has affected.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The Iron Age Hillforts represent evidence for some of the earliest activity in the AONB.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

Remnant Iron Age Hillforts cover a small area of the AONB, but represent some of the most obvious and accessible evidence of prehistoric activity present in the landscape. They are visible from a distance and overlook significant tracts of countryside, their impact is much wider than their visible area.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area:	N/A
No. of Polygons:	N/A
Av. Polygon Size:	N/A
Occurrence:	N/A
Previous Coverage:	151.39 hectares, 0.15 % of AONB was Iron Age Hillforts at the point when this type was at its most prevalent
Total Recorded Coverage:	The total recorded coverage of this type is 151.39 hectares, 0.15 % of the AONB

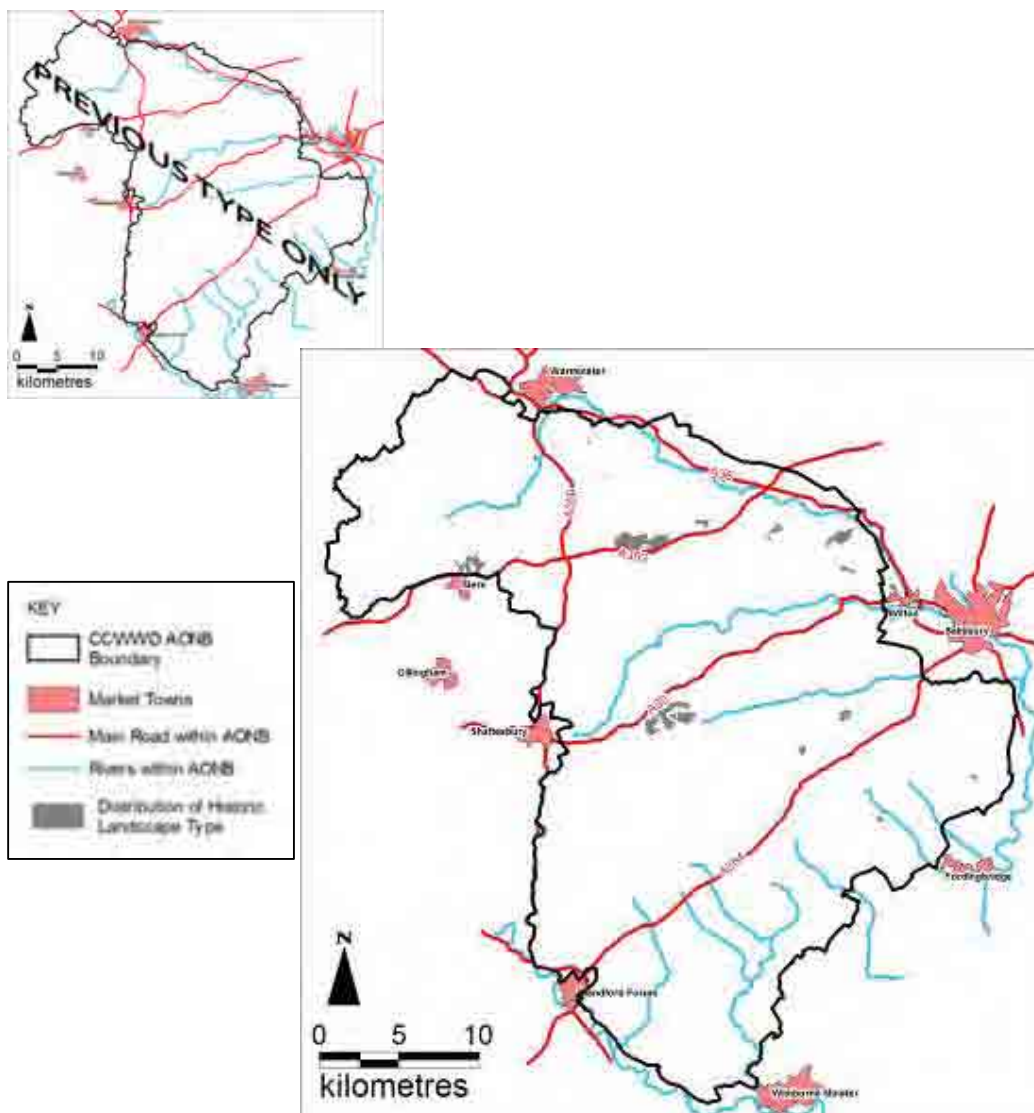
### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[12. Archaeology](#)

## Type 12.3 Other Archaeological Earthworks



### Introduction

Archaeological earthworks whose morphology has directly affected later historic land use, excluding Iron Age Hillforts. This has been recorded from both modern and historic Ordnance Survey maps. This dataset does not represent the location of all of the former known Archaeological earthworks in the AONB. This information can be accessed from the relevant county Sites and Monument Record or Historic Environment Record. The majority of these sites are now extremely fragmentary or are under the plough.

### Distribution

Archaeological earthworks which have affected the morphology of later historic land use exist across the North and East of the AONB. They tend to cluster on the chalk downland and chalk escarpments.

## Principal Historical Processes

The archaeological earthworks, which have affected the morphology of present day landscape, can be split into four main categories:-

- Evidence of open medieval farming and medieval settlement
- Pre-medieval field systems
- Prehistoric enclosures
- Deserted medieval villages

In the majority of cases the presence of major blocks of earthworks has meant that older land uses have survived for much longer due to the difficulty of turning them into agricultural enclosed land. In many cases their presence has meant that the areas in which they exist represent some of the last areas of open chalk downland to be enclosed. In some areas this occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but large swathes were not enclosed until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A few examples remain as older woodland which has not been assarted. There is a high occurrence of archaeological earthworks associated with the remaining open and unenclosed downland.

### Typical Historical/ Archaeological Components

Many of the archaeological earthworks are now under plough, but they tend to consist of sub-circular enclosures, strip lynchets, ridge and furrow and small rectangular ancient field systems.



### Rarity

Twenty three separate areas of earthworks have been recorded as influencing later historic land use, compared with the 4000 records in the county SMRs and HERs.

### Survival

Unlike the Iron Age Hillforts, many of these earthworks are now under the plough, though many survived as extant earthworks into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Degree of surviving coherence of the historic landscape components

Many of the examples of this type would not be recognisable in the landscape, as they do not exist as obvious earthworks; there are exceptions to this rule, such as the surviving strip lynchets or in areas of open downland.

### Past interaction with other types

The type is associated with the later historic landscape types whose morphology it has affected.

### **Evidence for time-depth**

The archaeological earthworks represent evidence for some of the earliest activity in the AONB.

### **Contribution to the present landscape character**

In some instances archaeological earthworks have made a significant contribution to the morphology and land use history of the modern landscape of the AONB.

### **Key Statistics**

Total Area: N/A

No. of Polygons: N/A

Av. Polygon Size: N/A

Occurrence: N/A

Previous Coverage: 924.26 hectares, 0.94 % of AONB was Iron Age Hillforts at the point when this type was at its most prevalent.

Total Recorded Coverage: The total recorded coverage of this type is 924.26 hectares, 0.94 % of the AONB.

### **Constituent Types**

None

### **Parent Type**

[12. Archaeology](#)



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

## SECTION 6: OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF THE AONB



## CONTENTS

6.1 Summary.....	395
6.2 Broad Landscape Classification.....	395
6.3 The iconic map of the CCWWD AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation.....	397
6.4 Fieldsapes in the AONB.....	498
6.5 Open Land in the AONB.....	400
6.6 Woodland in the AONB.....	401
6.7 Settlement in the AONB.....	403
6.8 Parks and Gardens in the AONB.....	404
6.9 Landscape History.....	405

## 6.1 Summary

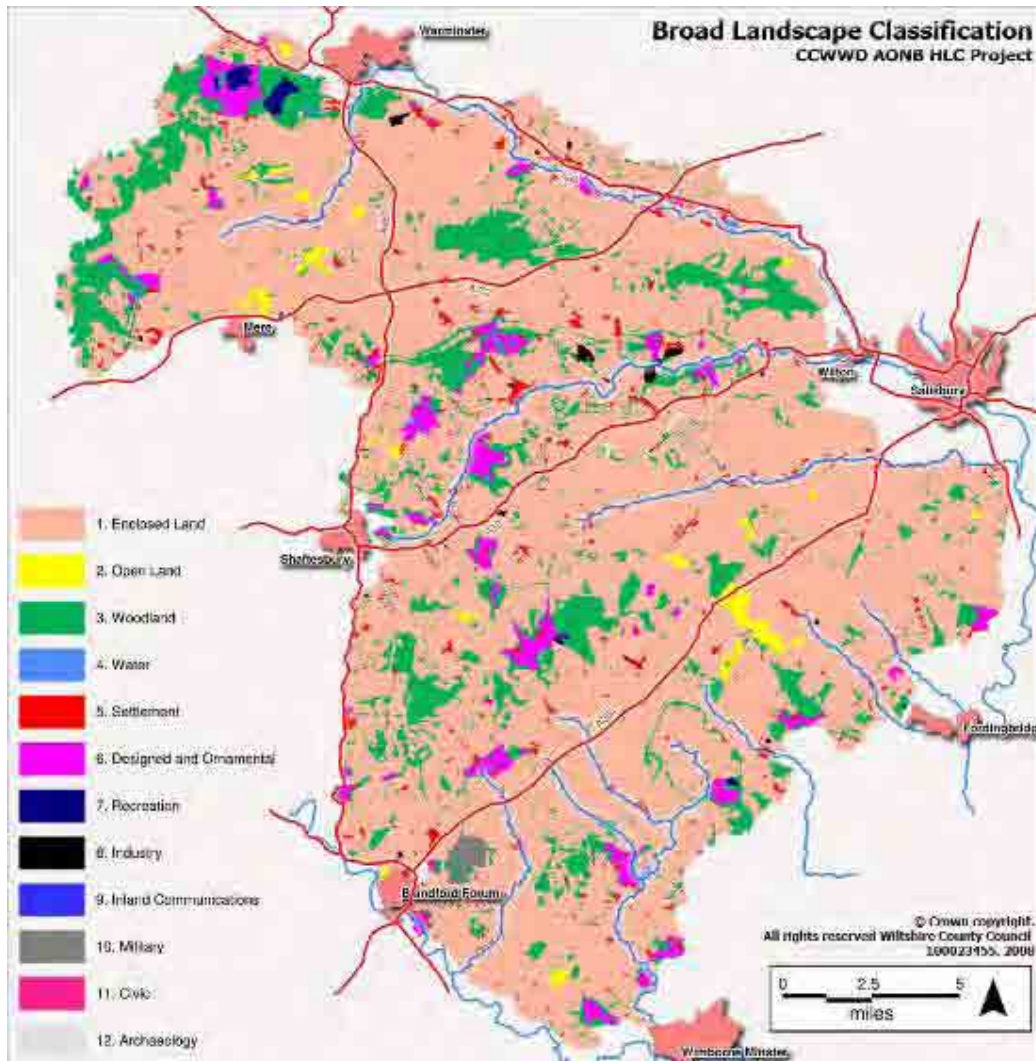
This section contains a general description of the Historic Landscape Character of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. This description is a synthesis of the information contained in the individual Historic Landscape Type descriptions and focuses on the key components of the historic aspects of the landscape of the AONB.

This section also contains key maps created from the Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset which look at main themes such as broad landscape use, fieldscapes, or settlements.

## 6.2 Broad Landscape Classification

At the most general level the project has recorded the broad land use in today's landscape. Figure 27 shows the areas of landscape which are enclosed, unenclosed, wooded, parkland, water or used for modern purposes such as recreation.

**Figure 27: Broad Landscape Classification**



The broadest information recorded from the Historic Landscape Characterisation strongly reflects the deeply rural nature of the AONB, 80% of the area has been characterised as enclosed land - the vast majority of this being farmland.

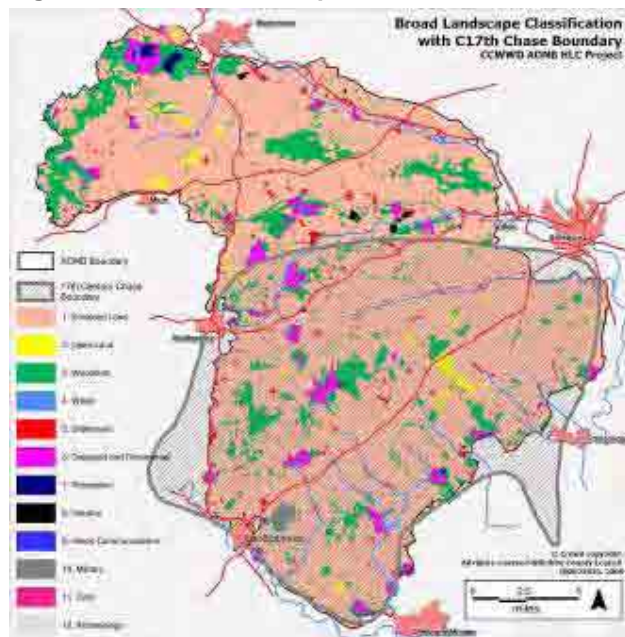
Another key feature is woodland. In the north of the AONB it is still present as contiguous blocks, while it is much more dispersed through the Vale of Wardour to the north east of Shaftesbury and in the area to the north of Blandford. The belt of oval woodland which demarks the ride of the designed "Capability Brown style" landscape of Wimborne St Giles can clearly be seen to the south of the A354.

There are small yet significant areas of unenclosed land remaining in the AONB, including the open chalk grassland of Martin Down and the open chalk escarpments to the region to the north of Mere. There is also a small amount of surviving common land at Semley to the north of Shaftesbury.

The parkland and designed landscapes of the AONB provide a small but significant feature of the landscape, 2,960 hectares of land retains its parkland character. These landscapes are generally concentrated to the west of the AONB and through the Nadder Valley.

The AONB is sparsely populated - much of the settlement is spread along the river valleys especially of the Ebbel and Wylde. More nucleated and scattered settlement can be seen in the area between the A303 and A30. There is also a distinctive pattern of settlement following the edge of the wooded greensand hills in the far North West corner of the AONB.

**Figure 28: Broad Landscape Classification with the 17<sup>th</sup> century Chase Boundary.**



Due to the fact that much of the AONB forms marginal borderland, it should be no surprise that the region is associated with a proliferation of medieval hunting areas. A major historical feature of the AONB, therefore, is the delimited hunting preserve of the Cranborne Chase. Figure 29, adjacent, shows the approximate outer bounds of this Chase as defined in the Quo Warranto of Edward I dating to around 1280.

The chase was a medieval royal hunting area very similar to the royal hunting forests which surround the AONB. These

include Holt Forest to the east of Wimborne, Grovely Forest in Wiltshire, the Forests of Gillingham and Selwood and the Forest of the White Hart in Blackmore Vale. The chase forms a rough quadrangle with Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Ringwood and Wimborne at the four corners – an approximately circuit of 80 miles. The area of the Chase was subject to special laws, and what these laws upheld was the primacy of the beasts that were hunted. The main difference between forests and chases were

in the way the special laws which governed them were administered. Chase law in essence was not as stringent as forest law.

The reason why the Chase is so important to the history of landscape of the AONB is that it was not disenfranchised until 1829. The effect of the Chase Laws and the primacy given to deer continued much later here than in other areas in the country. In 1816 William West calculated that the land subject to damage by deer comprised 7000 acres of woodland, 10000 acres of sheep walks and commons, and 15000 acres of arable (Hawkins 1980)

The Chase, therefore, has had a major effect on the historic landscape of the southern half of the AONB. Many of the features seen in the landscape today relate to the former importance of the Chase. These include the ancient woodlands, proliferation of downland, number of lodges and large estates, and the late enclosure of open chalk downland.

### 6.3 The iconic map of the CCWWD AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation

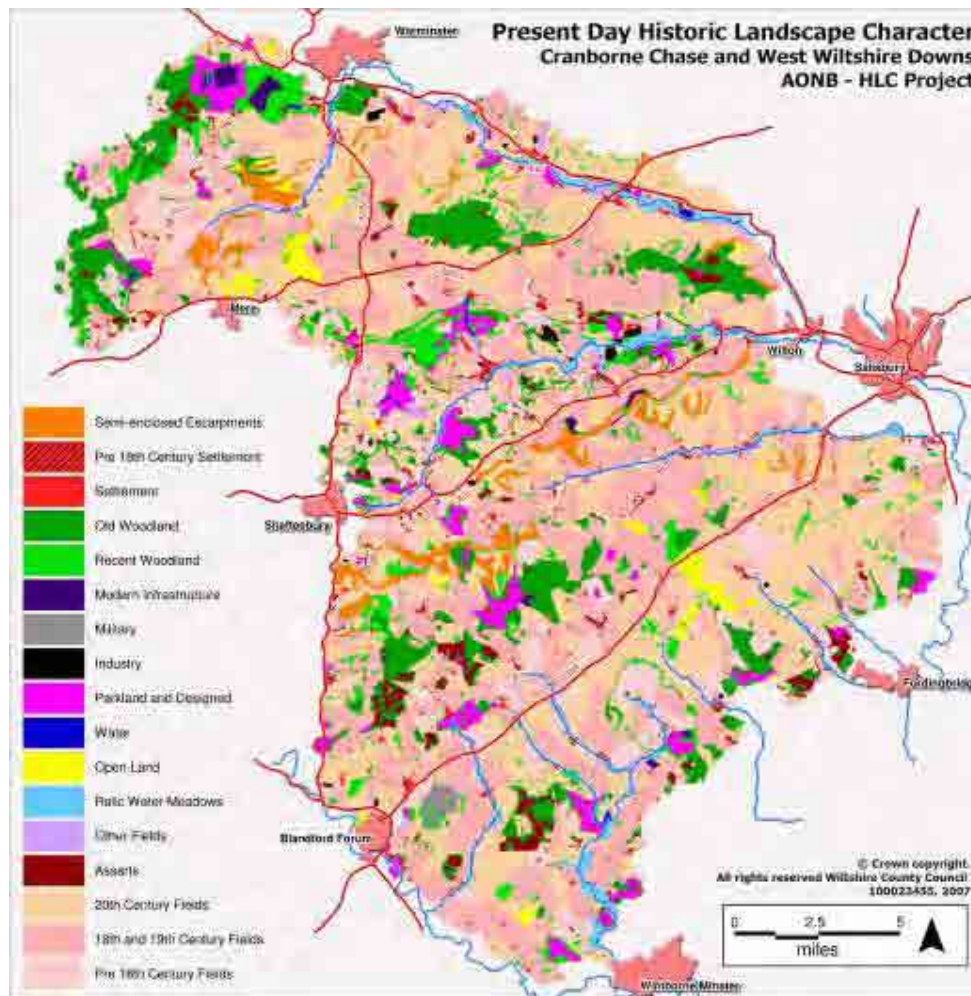


Figure 29: Iconic Map showing Present Day Historic Landscape Character

Figure 29 shows an overview of the historic character of the AONB. One key pattern which can be seen is the dominance of pre 1800 fields, assarts, old woodland and

common land in the area just north of Shaftesbury. This clearly demonstrates that this area contains a landscape whose character shows considerable antiquity.

#### 6.4 Fieldscapes in the AONB

The AONB is an extremely rural landscape, dominated by agriculture. The HLC has characterised enclosed land as covering 79% of today's landscape in the AONB. Fields therefore are a dominant feature of the landscape. The patterns that their boundaries and outlines create in the landscape form a major landscape component dominating most views of the AONB. The way individual fields and blocks of fields appear today has been created and shaped through successive stages of historic land use and agricultural activity.

This view west from Whitesheet Hill clearly demonstrates the visual effect of this differing land use history. On the right of the view is an area of regular pre 1800 enclosure leading towards the boundary of the former Kilmington common lands in the distance. This contrasts markedly with the more irregular 19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure on the right.



These individual examples of differing land use history build up to create the overall pattern of fields in the AONB. Figure 30 shows the fields which exist in today's landscape displayed by major Historic Landscape Type.

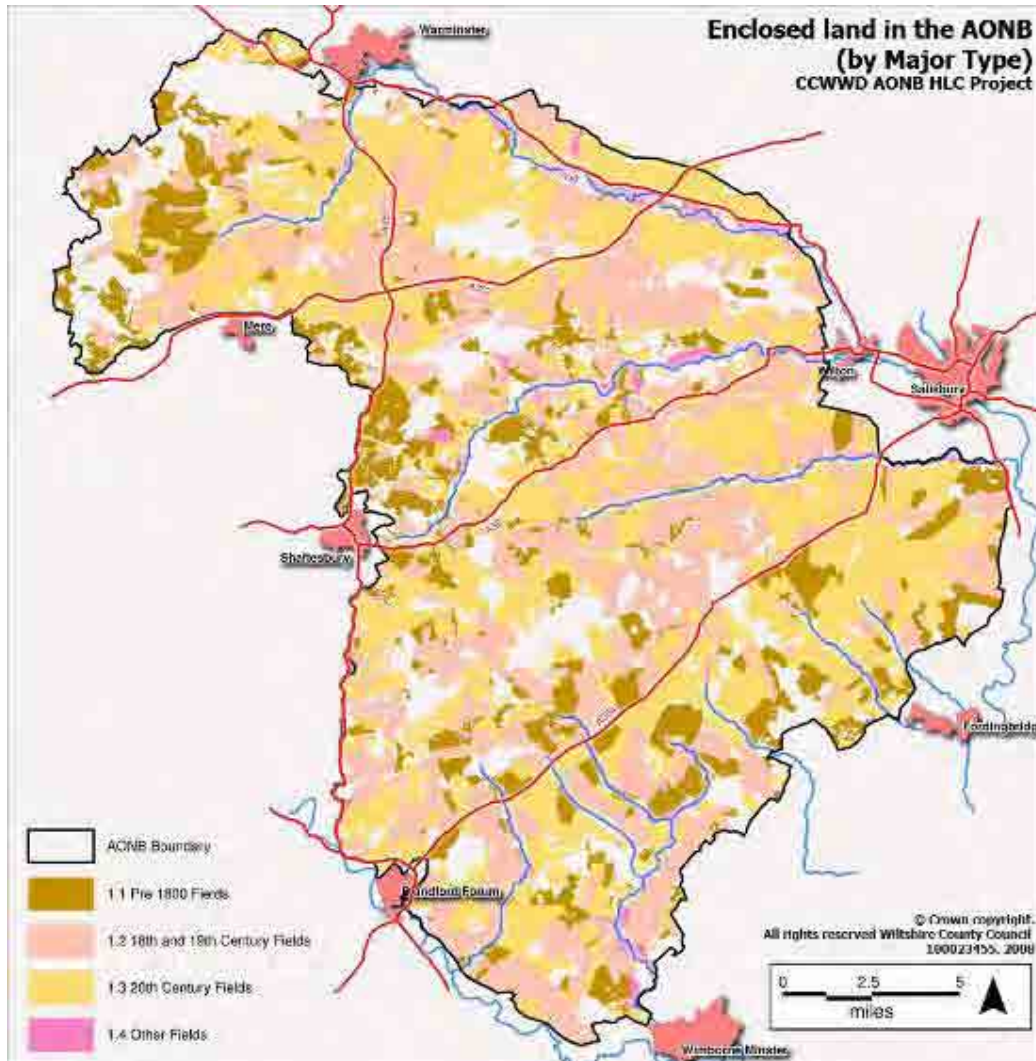
This illustrates that there are notable concentrations of pre 1800 fields along the greensand terraces and hills between Mere and Warminster, in the Vale of Wardour and to the south of the A354. These fields, and other features in this area, are of considerable antiquity. One notable example of pre 1800 fields is the evidence for the incorporation of formerly open strips through a piecemeal process of enclosure to form newly enclosed fields. The remaining traces of this process have a restricted distribution. In the southern half of the AONB they occur in dense clusters: - in the area around Martin; the area around Camp Down to the North of Blandford; west of Cranborne; and finally around Gussage St Michael and Gussage All Saints.

In contrast late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century fields are widely distributed throughout the AONB with slightly higher concentration occurring in the area around the Ebbles Valley and on the West Wiltshire Downs. They mark a time of great upheaval and change in the landscape, when common rights were extinguished and large swathes of formerly open chalk downland enclosed. The evidence for this upheaval takes a range of forms and has been created by a range of processes and includes replanned fields, fields created by agreement, and parliamentary enclosure.

The impact of 20<sup>th</sup> century changes on the landscape can largely be linked to the large scale changes in agricultural practice and the intensification of farming. In the present day 20<sup>th</sup> century fields account for 34% of the AONB, they are widely distributed but are largely absent from the far north-western edge. These fields have

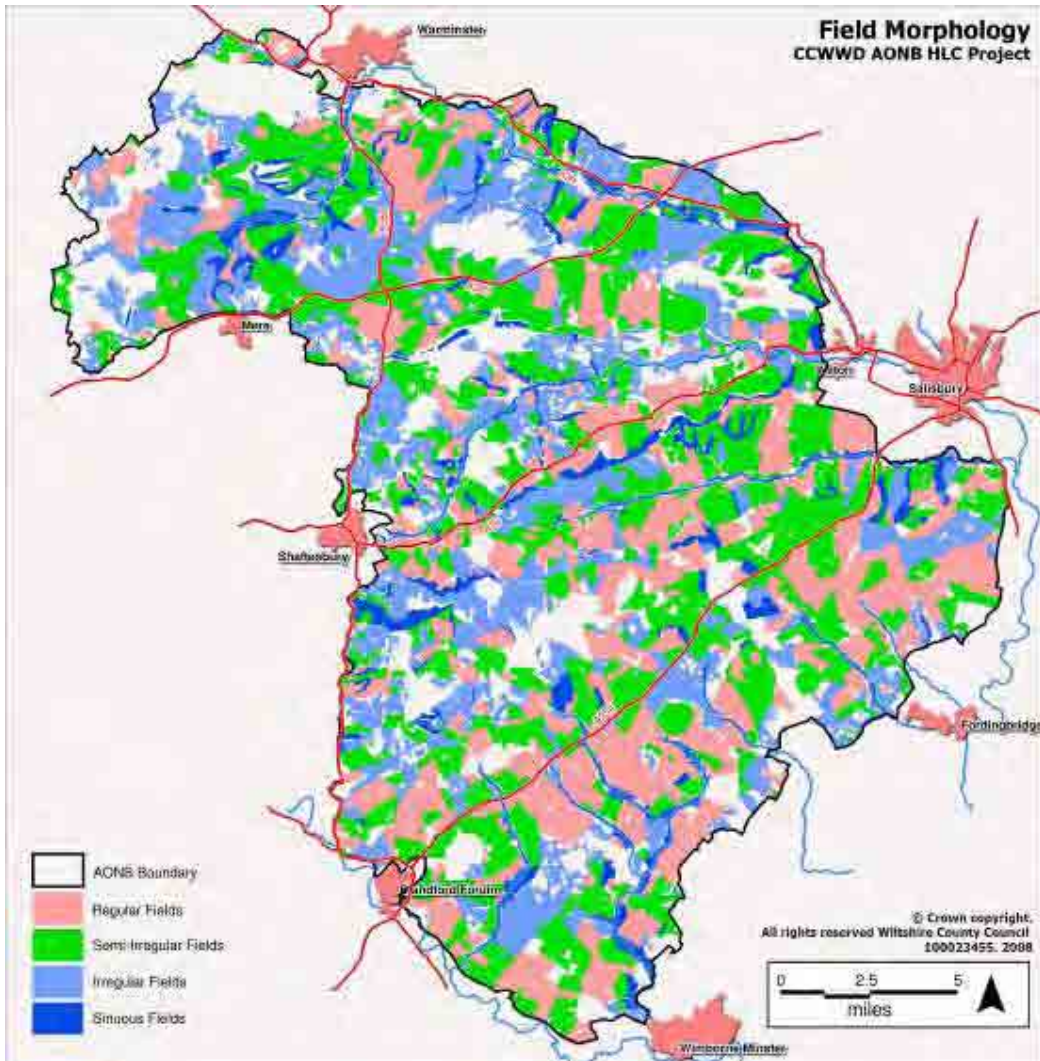
been created through the creation of new fields, through modifying existing field layouts, and finally through amalgamation, where existing field boundaries are removed to create new larger fields. In general terms there has been a trend over the last 100 years for an increase in the number of fields present in the AONB.

**Figure 30: Enclosed Land in the AONB by Major Type**



The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project dataset is also able to analyse the morphologies of individual landscape components. Figure 31 maps the morphology of fields across the AONB. The four morphological categories identified: regular, irregular, semi-irregular and sinuous fields are widely spread in the landscape, but key patterns do emerge. Sinuous fields, for example, tend to follow the line of chalk coombes and escarpments. Regular fields appear in large blocks through the southern half of the AONB, coinciding with areas of formerly open chalk downland which was subject to late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century enclosure. Irregular fields are much more common in the northern half of the AONB especially through the Vale of Wardour due to the greater antiquity of the fields in this area.

Figure 31: Map of Field Morphology



## 6.5 Open Land in the AONB

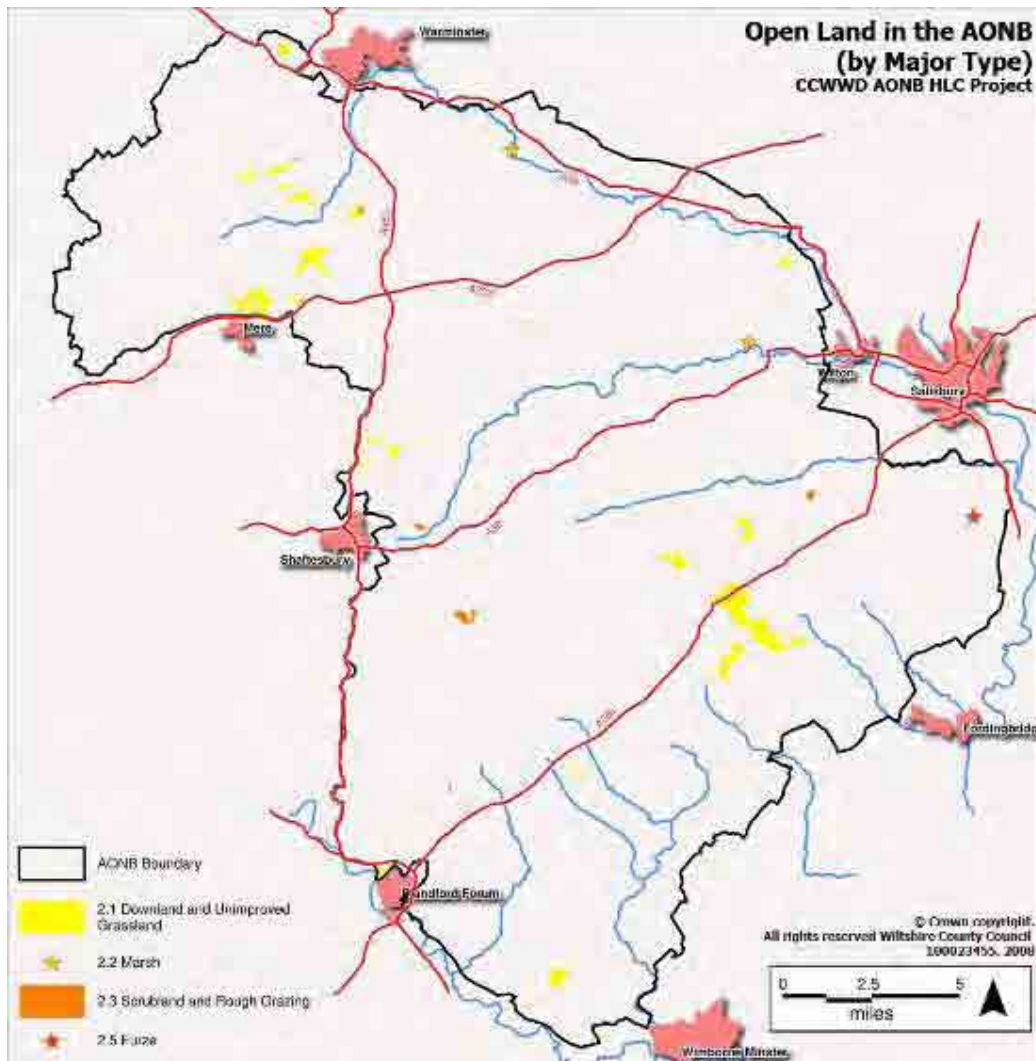
Today the open downland of the AONB is limited to small areas on the edge of escarpments, in steeped sided coombes or to nature reserves such as at Martin Down in Hampshire. However historic ordnance maps show that as recently as 50 years ago the AONB was dominated by open downland. Figure 32 illustrates the distribution of open land through today's landscape in the AONB by major type. Open Land in the AONB has a very restricted distribution. There are distinct concentrations of surviving open land firstly in the area surrounding Martin Down, to the north of Mere and to the north of Shaftesbury around Semley Common. The area around Semley Common forms the only surviving common land in the AONB; common land is an unusual feature in the 21<sup>st</sup> landscapes of England.

The surviving open chalk downland represents traces of what would have once been large tracts of downland. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century this land formed a major part of the sheep/corn husbandry system of farming. Much of this land was transformed into fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, leaving only small areas.



The other types of open land represent the survival of land which would have been on the edge of settlements and fields in the past and often was poor quality agricultural land such as marsh or heath. This land did, however, represent an important resource in the past, and much of the scrubland and rough grazing, for example, was subject to common rights. The escalating process of enclosure culminating in the intensification of farming in the 20<sup>th</sup> century meant that this land was increasingly encroached upon to the extent that only fragments were left in the landscape.

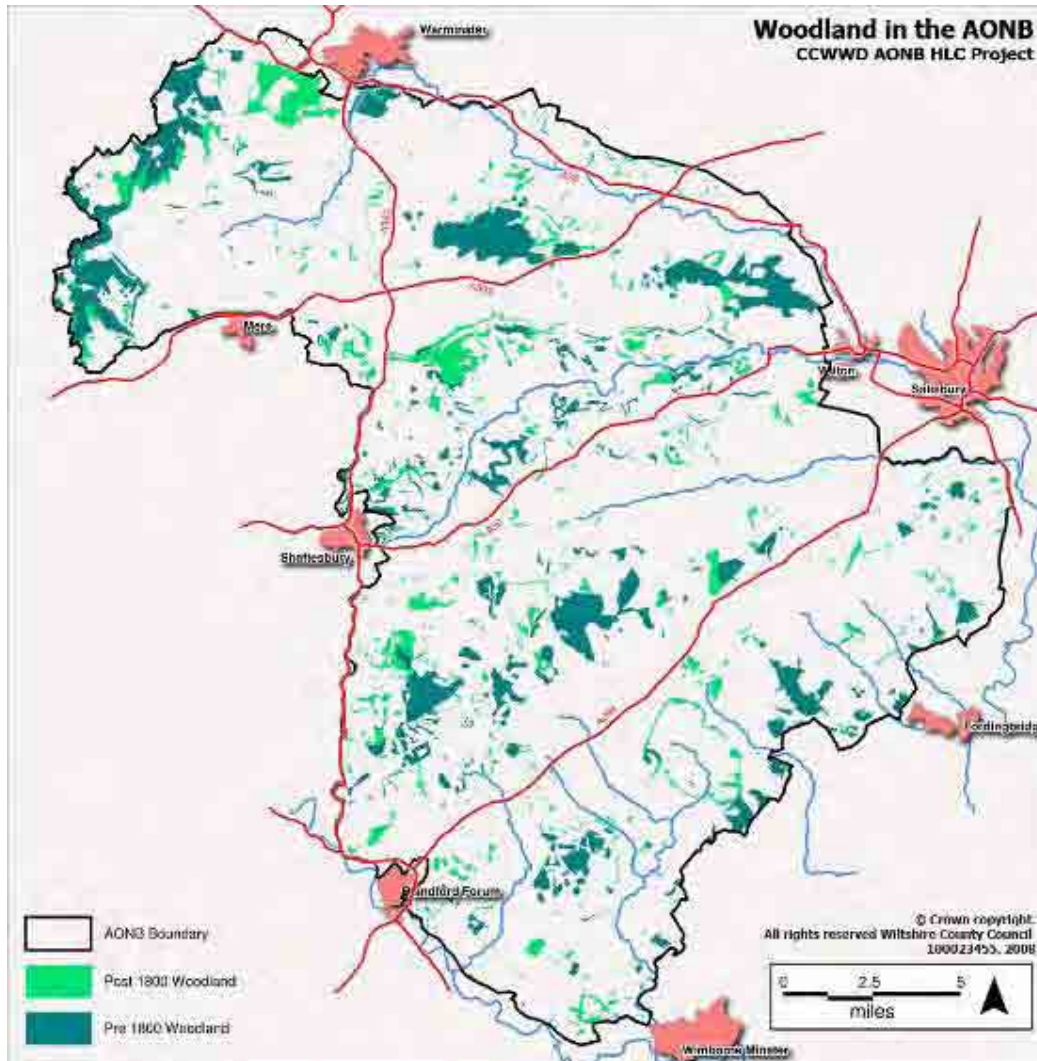
**Figure 32: Open Land in the AONB by Major Historic Landscape Type**



## 6.6 Woodland in the AONB

Woodland is a major component of the landscape of the AONB, with a diverse and complex land use history. Figure 33 illustrates the distribution of woodland through today's landscape in the AONB by broad type.

Figure 33: Woodland in the AONB



Pre 1800 woodland is found in large blocks across the northern greensand hills, the tops of the West Wiltshire Downs, the woods of the Cranborne Chase downland, the area between Warminster and Mere, and the Martin to Whitesbury Downland Hills. The woodland is much more dispersed through the Vale of Wardour. There is very little ancient woodland in the chalk river valleys and through large parts of the southern downland belt. The woodlands of the wooded downland of Cranborne Chase are the remnants of the woods of the medieval hunting chase, and many of the woods have names which reflect this history. Both the woodland here, and through the Downland Hills between Martin and Whitesburg, is dominated by old coppices. Although many areas of old woodland have been cleared or replanted since the medieval period, the general trend over the last 200 years has been towards a more dispersed woodland landscape punctuated by ancient blocks of woodland.

Post 1800 Woodland is more widely distributed across the AONB. It includes new geometric blocks of woodland used as game cover and striking ornamental additions linked to the creation of great landscape parks. In general it is found in small

scattered blocks and is absent from areas of the chalk downland in the south of the AONB and along the river valley of the Ebbles. There are larger and denser concentrations along the greensand terrace in the North of the AONB especially near Longleat and around Fonthill in the Vale of Wardour. These are the result of new planting schemes undertaken by two of the major landowners in the AONB. There is also a linear distribution of medium blocks of woodland along the edge of the chalk escarpment between Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum.

### 6.7 Settlement in the AONB

Settlements are widely distributed across the AONB in scattered groupings. There are four major voids in the distribution of settlement, on the West Wiltshire Downs, in the area between the Ebbles Valley and the A30, south of the Ebbles Valley, and to the North of Mere. Clear linear distributions can be seen in some areas especially along the river valleys and along the greensand terrace between Warminster and Mere. The Vale of Wardour is associated with larger nucleated settlement while through the wooded chase downland settlement is more scattered.

Figure 34: Settlement in the AONB

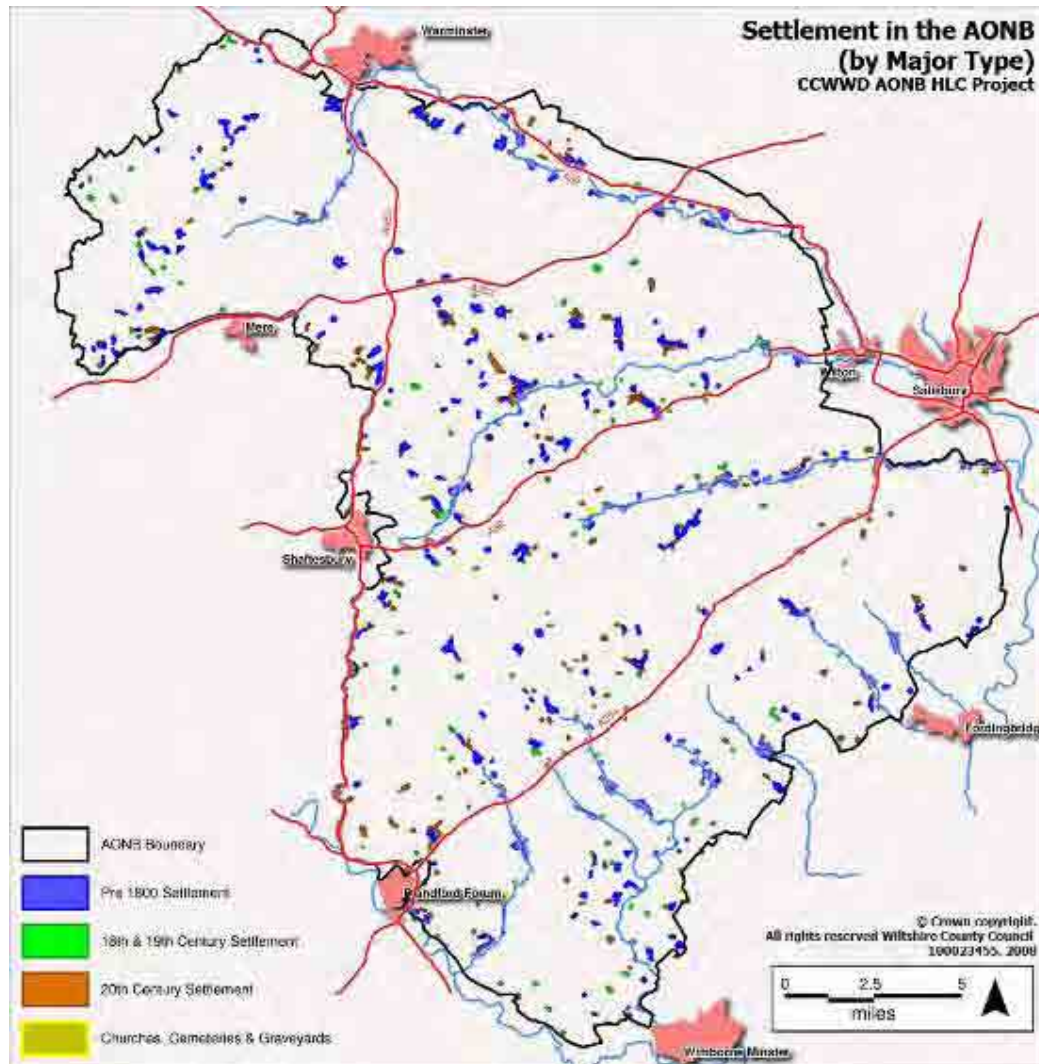


Figure 34 shows settlement in today's landscape in the AONB by major type.

The settlements identified as pre 1800 in date are in some instances linear in form especially along the river valleys. More commonly they are nucleated, having grown up around central foci such as churches, manor houses or more rarely greens and open spaces. The pre 1800 farms are often associated with areas of parkland or in relation to old manor houses. The nucleated settlements have in some instances grown and expanded dramatically in the 20<sup>th</sup> century especially in the Vale of Wardour, meaning that the original pre 1800 village now forms an historic core.

Over half of the examples of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement are comprised of clusters of new farms which can be linked to the acceleration of the process of enclosure in this period and the intensification of farming. A few examples extend the footprint of existing villages but the majority of the settlement is located in new areas removed from existing settlement.

It is in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the main expansion of existing settlements has occurred and marks the increase of populations in villages across the AONB over the last 100 years. The most dramatic impact has been in the Vale of Wardour where settlements such as Tisbury have nearly doubled in size. Similarly in the river valleys the existing settlements have been extended and enlarged, with the exception of the Ebble Valleys where there has been infilling between existing settlements. In the southern half of the AONB there has been an increase in the number of farms partially linked to the enclosure of formerly open downland.

## **6.8 Parks and Gardens in the AONB**

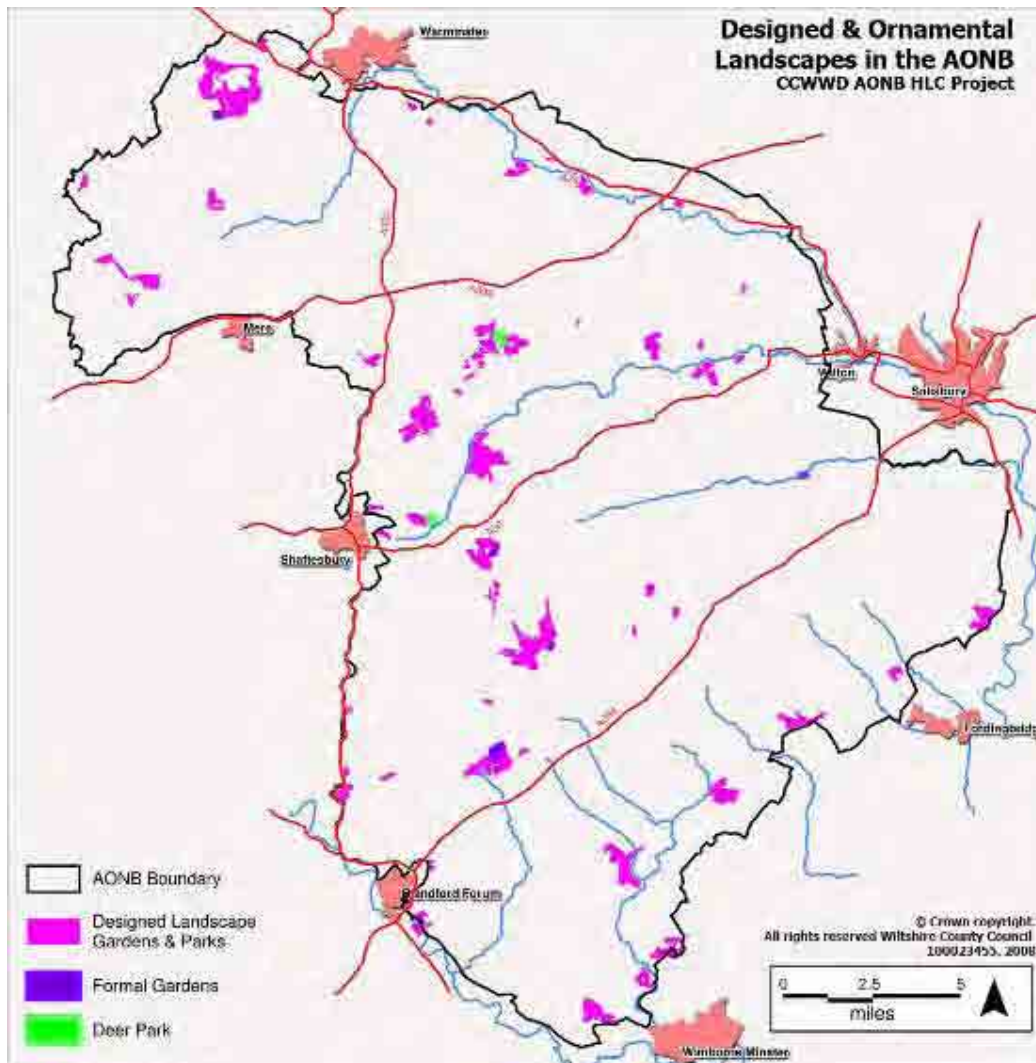
The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is, by and large, a landscape owned by estates both great and small. It is therefore dotted with landscape parks and historic gardens often associated with great houses. Some of these, such as Longleat and Stourhead, are of national renown and are widely visited; others are only known locally. All form important focal points in the landscape, and form areas which are not just pleasing to the eye but are also mentally stimulating and challenging. Many are associated with the remnants of older parkland features such as medieval deer parks; these are intrinsically linked with the medieval chase which forms such an integral part of the AONB.

Figure 35 illustrates the distribution of ornamental and designed landscapes through today's landscape in the AONB. These are widely distributed, with clusters in the Vale of Wardour and linear distributions across the south-eastern edge, and the greensand terrace in the northwest corner of the AONB.

These landscapes consist of 3 main features: -

1. Remnants of deer parks including park pales and boundaries.
2. Landscaped parks designed with a great house at its focus. They were often created around walked circuits, extensive views carriage drives, or water features and often consist of carefully crafted views. They consisted of large areas of grassland interspersed with individual and clumps of trees.
3. Small Formal gardens.

Figure 35: Designed and Ornamental Landscapes in the AONB



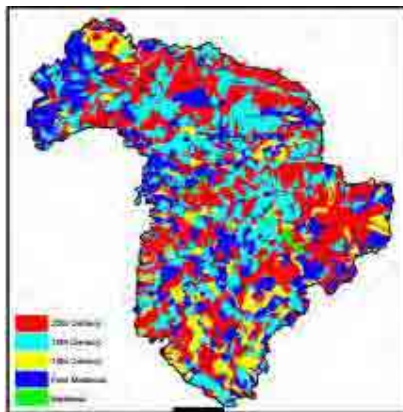
## 6.9 Landscape History

The Historic Landscape Characterisation has recorded details of the fossilised traces of previous land uses for just under half of the landscape of the AONB.

This overlaying evidence of historic land uses creates the character of the landscape as we perceive it today. Some areas of land in today's landscape may be characterised as predominantly 19th century for example but may also contain traces of earlier post medieval and medieval land use.

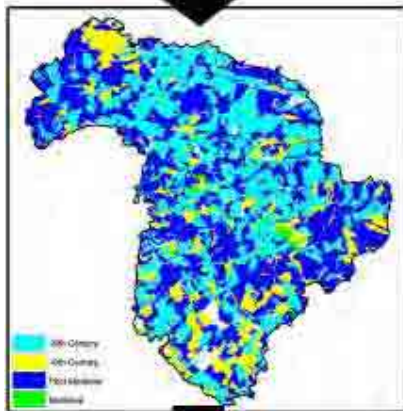
The way in which this time depth is built up can be seen in the series of maps (figure 36). It is possible to dig down through the layers in the landscape which have been created over time.

Figure 36: Landscape History by period



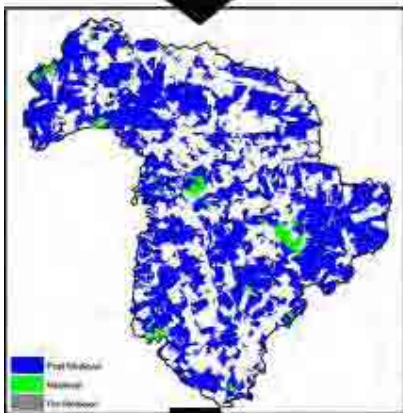
### Character of Landscape Today

This map shows today's landscape - the predominance of red shows that over a third of the landscape of the AONB is 20th Century in character, while another third is predominantly 19th and 18th century in character.



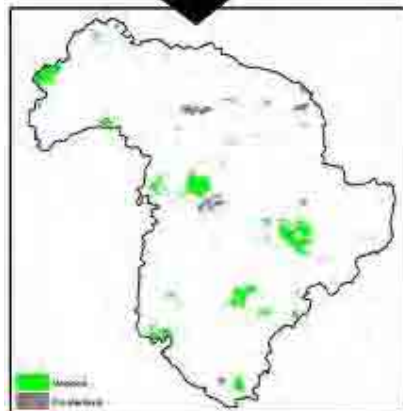
### Removing the 20th century

This map neatly illustrates that nearly all the landscape which is predominantly 20th century in character today preserves traces of previous land uses in preceding periods.



### Removing traces of the 18th and 19th C Century landscape

Over 50% of the landscape preserves traces of the post-medieval landscape, spread throughout the AONB.

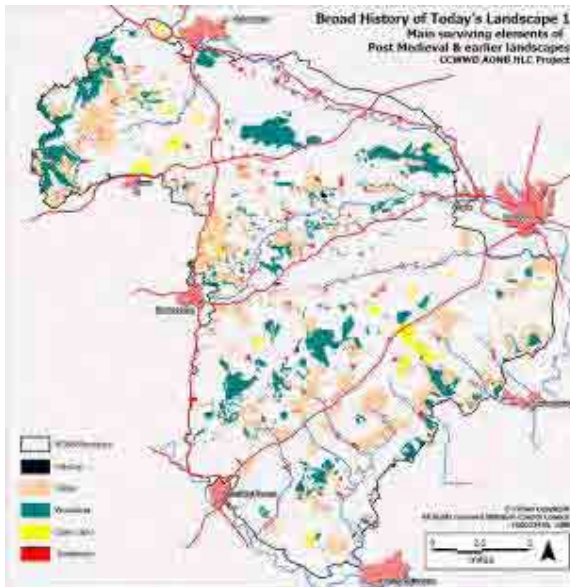


### Removing traces of the post medieval landscape

We are then left with the oldest traces of past land use surviving in the landscape (a word of warning this map obviously does not show all the areas in the AONB where there is evidence of, for example, prehistoric activity, but only where this activity still effects the character of today's landscape).

The HLC dataset can be used to produce maps of how each time period identified contributes to today's landscape in the AONB. These maps represent the dominant current Historic Landscape Type in the landscape and not the previous traces of land use history recorded as previous Historic Landscape Types.

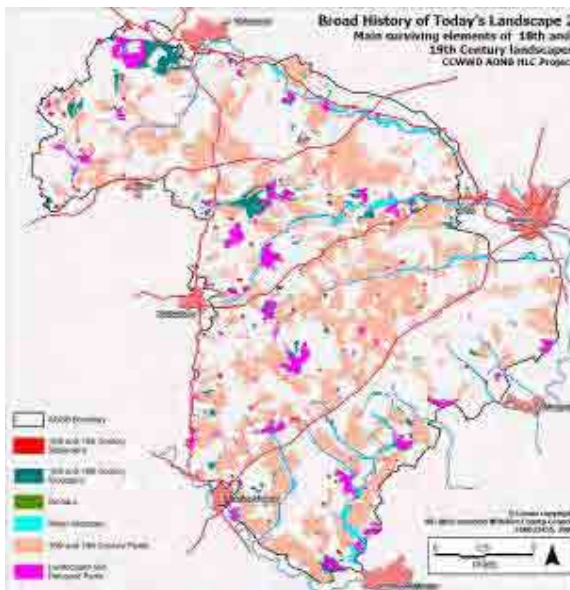
The history of today's landscape in the AONB is explored further in Figures 37-39



**Main surviving elements of post medieval and earlier landscapes.**

This map shows the oldest landscape elements which survive in today's landscape – note the blocks of old woodland which exists across the West Wiltshire Downs, along the north west edge of the AONB and across the wooded Chase Downlands and the predominance of ancient fields, and settlement in the Vale of Wardour. Conversely the only intact elements remaining in the Vale of Wylde are the settlements.

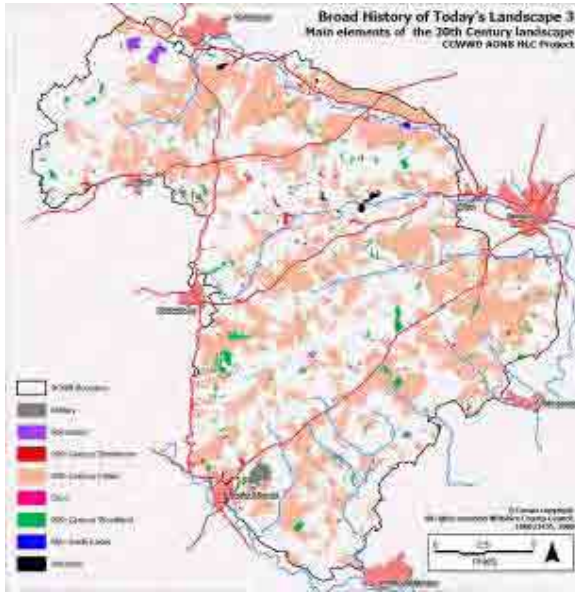
**Figure 37: Broad History of Today's Landscape 1**



**Main surviving elements of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century landscapes.**

The map shows the dominance and impact of the new enclosures which were created at this time, especially across the Southern Downland Belt, and the West Wiltshire Downs. This is also the period when the landscaped and designed park was at its height. It must be remembered, however, that many of these parks also contain traces of earlier stages in their development, and that the estates and parkland that they represent were also a dominant feature of the medieval and post medieval landscape.

**Figure 38: Broad History of Today's Landscape 2**



**Main surviving elements 20<sup>th</sup> century landscapes**

Fields with primarily 20<sup>th</sup> century characteristics dominate the Wylye Valley and the eastern edge of the AONB. New scattered woodlands have also been planted especially across the Chase Downlands. Novel land uses have also started to creep into the AONB including areas for recreation around Longleat, the military camp at Blandford and light industrial areas and estates.

**Figure 39: Broad History of Today's Landscape 2**



Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

# SECTION 7: COMPARING THE HLC WITH OTHER SPATIAL DATASETS



## CONTENTS

7.1 Introduction .....	411
7.2 Comparison of the HLC dataset and the SMR/HER county record .....	411
7.3 Comparison of the HLC dataset and Sites of Special Scientific Interest .	421

## 7.1 Introduction

The Historic Landscape Characterisation can be compared against a range of other spatial datasets, using the powerful presentational and analytical tool that is GIS.

This comparison can give an indication of how HLC can be used to: -

1. place the other datasets in context
2. indicate how the spatial elements of these datasets have been shaped by historic processes and land use history
3. indicate how the topics/subjects of these datasets have themselves shaped the historic landscape character of the AONB

For simplicity these datasets can be split into five main categories: -

1. Physical data, including topography, soils, geology and hydrology.
2. Environmental data, including nature designations, LCA, woodland inventories.
3. Agricultural data, including land use and land capability.
4. Social data, including indices of social deprivation, and census data.
5. Historical and archaeological data, including listed buildings, SMR and HER records, conservation areas, and historic census data.

**In this section the HLC dataset is compared against two key datasets: -**

- 1. The county based Historic Environment Record and Sites and Monument Records**
- 2. Nature Designations (in particular Sites of Special Scientific Interest)**

## 7.2 Comparison of the HLC Dataset and the county SMR/HER Record

### 7.2.1 Summary

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset provides information on the history of today's landscape. It provides information on the overriding historic landscape character of any given area. It also records where previous historic landscape uses remain as traces in the landscape, which have influenced the current historic landscape character. The Sites and Monuments Records or Historic Environmental Records for Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire and Wiltshire provide the most comprehensive source of information on archaeological sites within the four counties. This data includes surviving ancient monuments, buried archaeology, buildings, finds and archaeological events. This exercise aims to look at the relationship between the records in the SMR/HER and the data recorded for the Historic Landscape Characterisation. It aims to undertake an initial analysis to demonstrate how the data from the HLC can be most effectively compared against data from the relevant SMRs/HERs.

### 7.2.2 Aims of the Exercise

This exercise aims to compare the Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset and the archaeological point data from the relevant county Sites and Monument and

Historic Environment Records. It is hoped that this comparison might answer a range of questions which could include the following: -

1. What is the relationship between the concentrations of monument types and finds as recorded in the SMR/HER data and the historic landscape character of the AONB? Conversely what is the relationship between the historic landscape character of the AONB and areas of low monument density and finds?
2. What effect has the character of the historic landscape of the AONB had on the distribution of sites and finds in the SMR/HER record in the present day?
3. Can the HLC dataset be used to predict locations where new sites could be found?

### 7.2.3 Methodology

#### Preparing the HER/SMR dataset

The AONB covers four counties Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. These each have their own archaeological record which is either called a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or a Historical Environment Record (HER). These are the same kinds of database, HER being an augmentation of an SMR containing a wider scope of data, such as information on buildings or the inclusion of Urban Archaeological Databases. SMRs commonly evolve into HERs when a certain data standard is reached. Most HERs/SMRs maintain three types of record dealing with the monuments themselves, events and sources/archives. This exercise is interested in those records which relate to the monuments themselves. These should be compiled using the MIDAS (A Manual and Data Standard for Monument Inventories) data standard (MIDAS Heritage: 2007), with other shared reference data such as National Monuments Record *The Thesaurus of Monument Types* (English Heritage 1999) also being used. This means that there should be a high level of similarity between the databases of different HERs/SMRs.

The details of each of the relevant HERs/SMRs are as follows: -

1. Dorset County Council has a Historic Environment Record. This contains 1235 entries for the AONB.
2. Hampshire County Council has a Historic Environment Record. This contains 405 entries covering the AONB
3. Somerset County Council has a Historic Environment Record. This contains 43 entries covering the AONB.
4. Wiltshire County Council has a Sites and Monument Record. This contains 2368 which are in the AONB.

Each county's SMR/HER record is available in electronic format and can be imported into GIS (Geographical Information Systems).

Each of the SMR/HER datasets was acquired as a GIS extract cut to the AONB from the relevant county as data files. They were then manipulated as follows:

1. **Dorset.** The Dorset HER data was provided via email as four separate .csv files. These were opened in Excel and recombined using the unique monument reference number in each file to create a new spreadsheet (.xls). The new datasheet contained two columns containing an easting and

northing for each entry; this meant that new .xls sheet could therefore be opened in MapInfo and points created in a map layer. Erroneous points which lay outside the AONB were removed and the data was then re-exported as a .txt file so it could be combined with the Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire Data.

2. **Hampshire.** The Hampshire data was provided as ArcMap .shp files; these were translated to a .tab file in MapInfo. These did not have columns containing easting and northing information so these were created. The table was exported as a .txt file so it could be combined with the Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Data.
3. The **Somerset** HER only contains 43 points which are inside the AONB boundary. The details of these were created from the information available online on the SMR and a new .txt file created.
4. The **Wiltshire** SMR was provided as ArcMap .shp files; these were translated to a .tab file in MapInfo. The Wiltshire SMR also provided a .dxf file from AutoCAD which was imported into MapInfo and provided additional line based information such as transcriptions from aerial photographs. However, as this kind of information was not provided by the other counties, only the point based information was used in this exercise. This table did not have columns containing easting and northing information so these were created. The table was then exported as a .txt so it could be combined with the Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset Data.

Each of the files was then opened in Excel and combined into one spreadsheet. This involved the removal of additional fields which were not common to all four datasets.

This process left the following fields: -

FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION
ID_NO	The unique HER/SMR number imported from each dataset
COUNTY NAME	The County the data belongs to The name of the monument/find in some cases this is the type of monument and a location or in some cases just a location
DATE_FROM	The date of the monument or find
DATE_TO	The Dorset HER contained a date to field which provided a date range. This has been left in but is blank for Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire data.
TYPE	The Type of Monument or finds allocated to each point
TYPE_NEW	Amalgamated category (see below*)
E	The easting for each point
N	The northing for each point

With regards to the type of monument or find allocated to each point (the field named TYPE), there were noticeable differences between the four datasets. This was due to the fact that:-

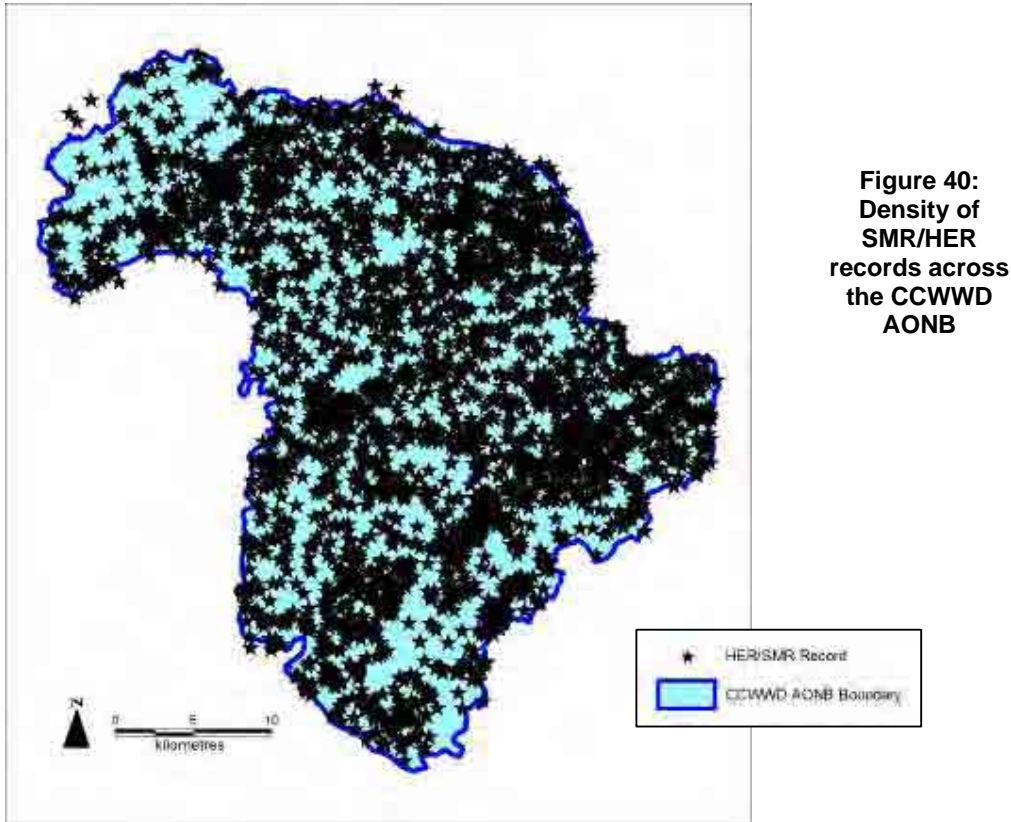
1. The descriptions of different monument types varied in their detail: not all datasets record the morphology of round barrows or enclosures for example.
2. The four datasets do not have records of the same monument types. This is because some monument types are location specific and because they may not as yet feature in the relevant dataset.

In order for the spreadsheet to be useable a new field\* was created (TYPE\_NEW) which amalgamated various monument types. Although this lost detail from the dataset, it did allow direct comparisons to be made across the counties. This resulted in the following 49 monument types/categories being created: -

- |                    |                     |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Amphitheatre    | 15. Enclosure       | 33. Pillow Mound   |
| 2. Animal          | 16. Fence           | 34. Pit            |
| 3. Cemetery        | 17. Field System    | 35. Pond           |
| 4. Battlefield     | 18. Finds           | 36. Pump           |
| 5. Boundary        | 19. Fort            | 37. Racecourse     |
| 6. Feature         | 20. Garden          | 38. Round Barrow   |
| 7. Bridge          | 21. Garden          | 39. Routeway       |
| 8. Building        | 22. Feature         | 40. Settlement     |
| 9. Burial          | 23. Gate            | 41. Signal Station |
| 10. Castle         | 24. Henge           | 42. Stocks         |
| 11. Causewayed     | 25. Hill Figure     | 43. Stonework      |
| 12. Enclosure      | 26. Hillfort        | 44. Telegraph      |
| 13. Cemetery       | 27. Industrial Site | 45. Pole           |
| 14. Circular       | 28. Linear Feature  | 46. Temple         |
| 15. Feature        | 29. Long Barrow     | 47. Unknown        |
| 16. Cursus         | 30. Military        | 48. Feature        |
| 17. Deer Park      | 31. Mill            | 49. Watermeadow    |
| 18. Ecclesiastical | 32. Moat            | 48. Watermill      |
| 19. Site           | 32. Parkland        | 49. Well           |

#### 7.2.4 Analysing and comparing the Datasets

Once the SMR/HER dataset had been prepared the distribution of points could be compared against the area based HLC data. The first map, Figure 415 on the next page, demonstrates the density of individual SMR/HER records across the AONB. There are 4053 records in total, when this is combined with the 4438 separate area based polygons, which make up the HLC dataset; we have a large amount of detail and possibly complex interrelationships between the datasets. In order to make meaningful comparisons between the two datasets therefore it is necessary to focus on particular categories.



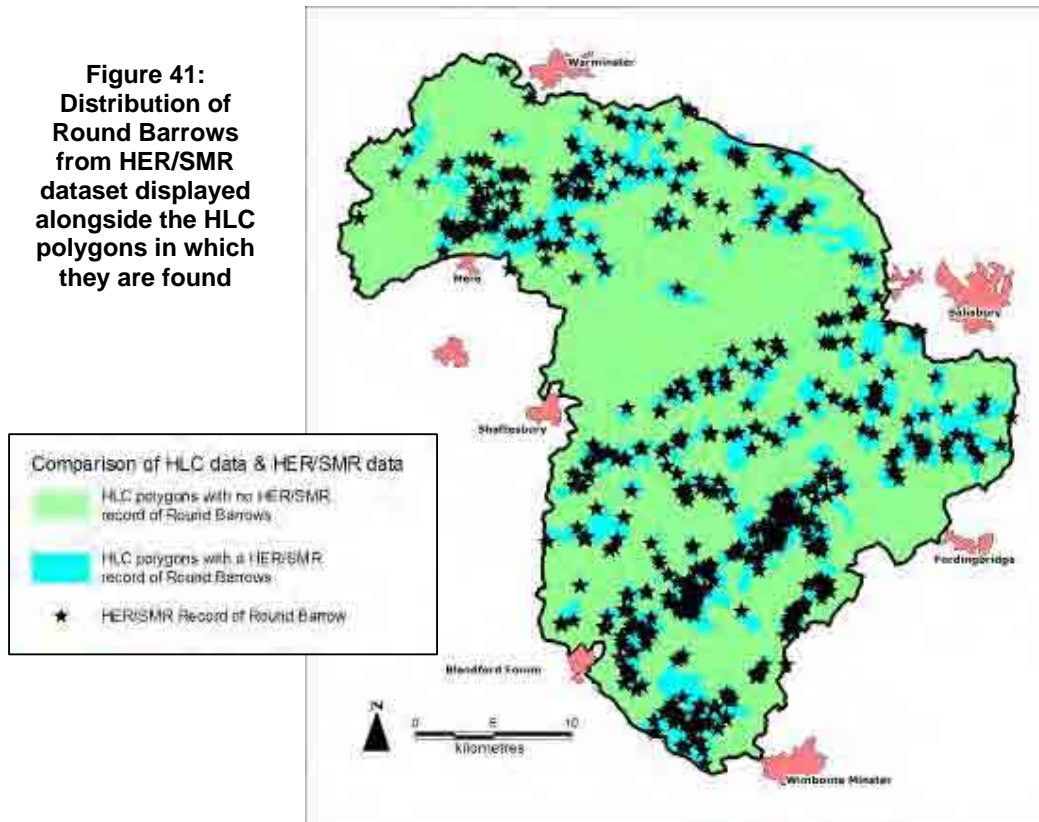
As an example this exercise has concentrated on the relationship between the Bronze Age Round Barrows recorded in the HER/SMR dataset and the major Historic Landscape Types identified in the HLC dataset.

The National Monuments Record Thesaurus of Monuments Types (English Heritage 1999) defines a Round Barrow as a “hemispherical mound surrounded by a ditch (or occasionally two or more concentric ditches), often accompanied by an external (or occasionally internal) bank. Mound and ditch may sometimes be separated by a berm”.

It is hoped that this example will demonstrate the wealth of information which can be drawn from the comparing monument types with the HLC.

As a first step therefore the SMR/HER dataset was filtered to show just records which relate to Round Barrows. In Figure 41 these have been displayed on top of the HLC Polygons in which they are found.

**Figure 41:  
Distribution of  
Round Barrows  
from HER/SMR  
dataset displayed  
alongside the HLC  
polygons in which  
they are found**



It is immediately noticeable that Round Barrows in the AONB have discrete and distinct distributions across the AONB. They are largely absent from the Vale of Wardour and the greensand hills in the north-west AONB. There is a high concentration of Round Barrows along the southern downland belt and to the north of Mere. They form linear distributions across the landscape often occurring with higher areas of ground (see figure 44) or Chalk escarpments such as those found at Fovant. These linear distributions run from the south-west to the north-east.

These concentrations are based on a number of factors, but there is a correlation with particular Historic Landscape Types. As a starting point therefore the relationship between the distribution of round barrows and the Major Current Historic Landscape Type in which they were found was analysed. Round Barrows are found in 15 Major Current Historic Landscape Types out of the 42 which have been identified (Figure 42).

The majority of Round Barrows are found in two main Major Types: -

1. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fields (50.6 % of the total)
2. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fields (24.3% of the total)

There is also a smaller correlation with two more ancient Major Types: -

1. Pre 1800 Fields (6.9% of the total)
2. Old Woodland (4.9% of the total)

Finally the small area of remaining open downland has a high percentage of Barrows (24%) for its size. It is not surprising that an area which has not been subject to



extensive and sustained ploughing in the last 200 years should be rich in extant prehistoric monuments.

In general however the dominant pattern is for Round Barrows to be associated with a recent (19<sup>th</sup> century/20<sup>th</sup> century) land use history.

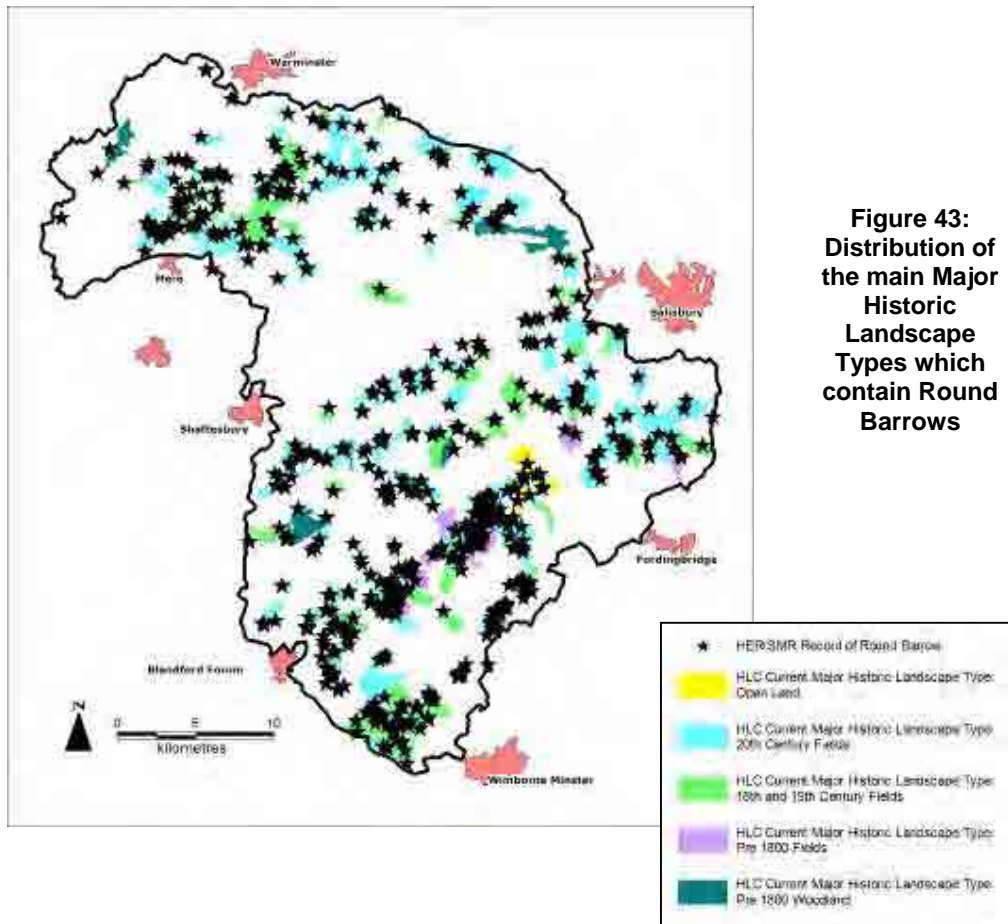
**Figure 42: Table showing the number of Round Barrows located in each Major Current Historic Landscape Type**

<b>Major Current Historic Landscape Type</b>	<b>Number of: Round Barrows</b>	<b>Total % of: Round Barrows</b>
18th and 19th Century Fields	207	24.3%
18th and 19th Century Settlement	1	0.1%
20th Century Fields	431	50.6%
20th Century Settlement	3	0.4%
Assarts	5	0.6%
Cultural Asset	6	0.7%
Designed Landscape and Parkland	5	0.6%
Downland and Unimproved Grassland	24	2.8%
Furze	3	0.4%
Military Camp	14	1.6%
Old Woodland	42	4.9%
Pre 18th Century Fields	59	6.9%
Pre 18th Century Settlement	2	0.2%
Post 1800 Woodland	49	5.8%
Roads	1	0.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>100%</b>

We can look in greater depth at the spatial distributions of the main Historic Landscape Types which contain Round Barrows (Figure 43 on the next page). This illustrates that the pre 18<sup>th</sup> century fields which contain Round Barrows cluster on the Southern Downland Belt and are geographically discrete. Conversely Round Barrows have been recorded associated with ancient woodland across much wider areas, through the Chase woodlands, in Grovely Wood and in the belt of trees in the north-western Greensand Hills. Round Barrows are associated with 18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century fields and 20<sup>th</sup> century fields respectively across the AONB, but these are formed of discrete blocks rather than as mixed types.

The relationship of the Round Barrows to the Major Historic Landscape Types suggests that prehistoric monuments can occur in areas which have been enclosed for much longer. It may be informative therefore to study the land use history of the area of pre 1800 fields associated with Round Barrows (mentioned above) in more depth. This may help to identify other areas of older enclosure which could be associated with prehistoric activity but which may now be only found as buried archaeology under modern pasture.

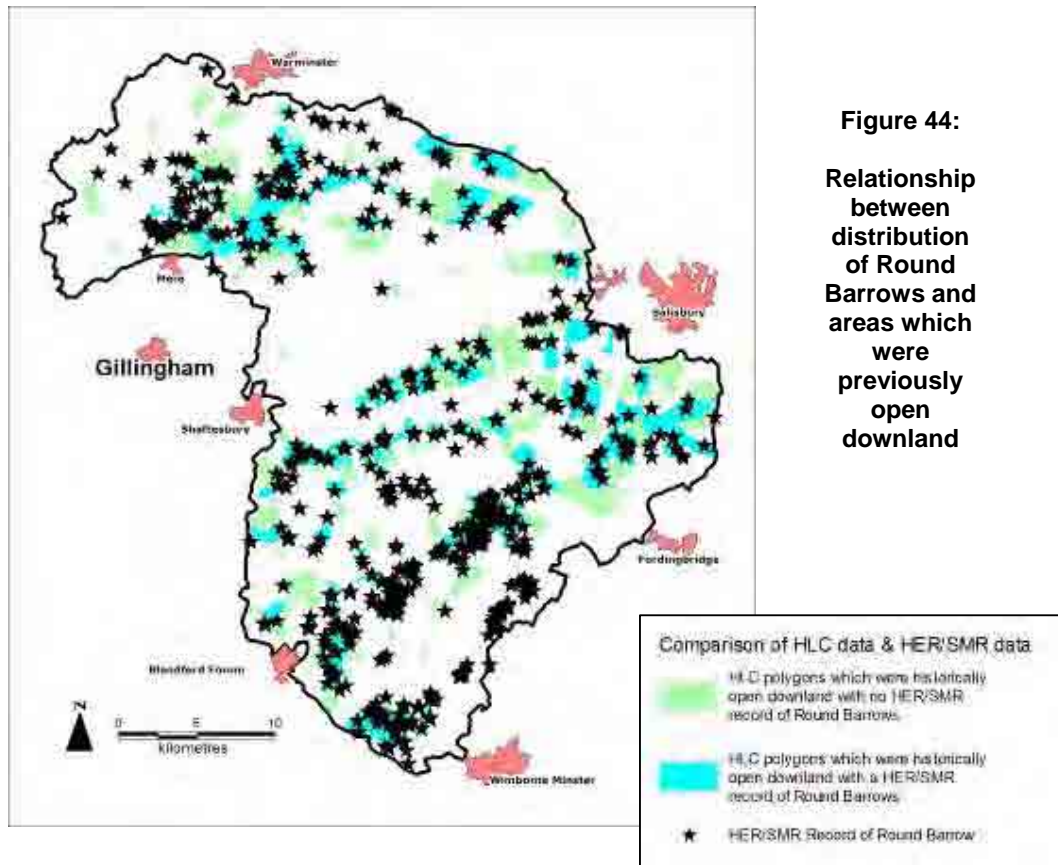
The distribution also suggested that the pre 1800 woodlands in the AONB may be a rich source of evidence of prehistoric activity which warrants further study.



**Figure 43:  
Distribution of  
the main Major  
Historic  
Landscape  
Types which  
contain Round  
Barrows**

If we delve further into the HLC dataset, there is a strong correlation between the distribution of Round Barrows and polygons in the HLC dataset which have had open enclosed downland recorded as a previous major historic landscape type (Figure 44 adjacent). It must be remembered that this distribution represents places where the evidence of open downland remains as traces in today's landscape. This distribution explains the high level of concurrence, which at first seems counter intuitive, between the Bronze Age Barrows and areas of land which are fairly recent in character.

This is not to suggest that the Historic Landscape Character can be used to explain the distribution of Round Barrows in the AONB. This can only be explained with reference to the society which constructed the Barrows and is related to a host of interrelated physical factors such as geology, topography and social factors such as their relationship with earlier prehistoric features such as the Dorset Cursus (Green 2000). The Historic Landscape Characterisation does shed light on how relatively high numbers of Round Barrows (both as extant monuments and examples under plough) have survived in areas which have been subject to intensive ploughing and agricultural activity in the last 200 years. The historic landscape character shows that Round Barrows tend to occur on land which could well have been open for two or three millennia before it was enclosed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

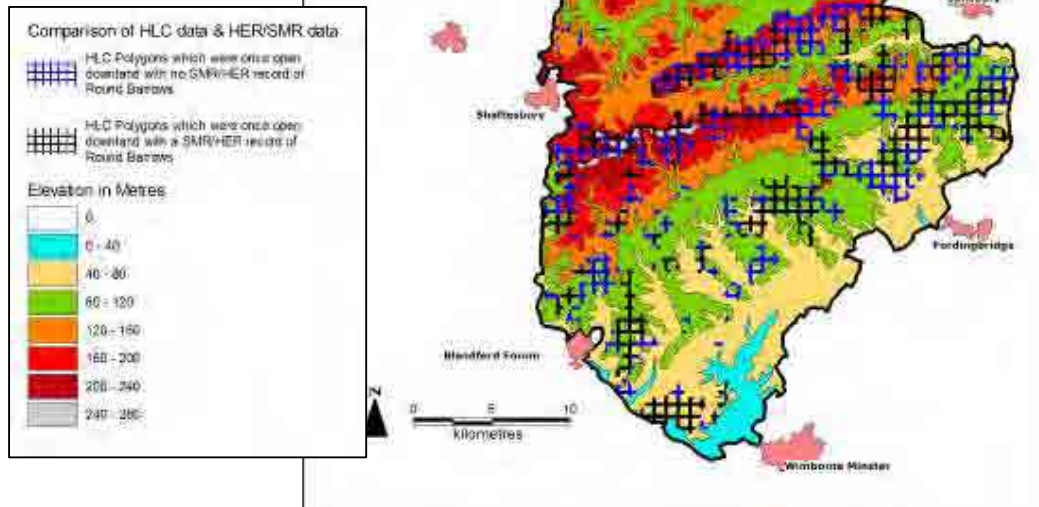


The fact that much of the land within which Round Barrows are found is recent in character and has been subject to between 200 and 50 years of intensive ploughing means that some of the evidence for prehistoric activity, such as Round Barrows, may have been destroyed and survive only as buried archaeology. Not all fields produce good crop and soil marks and it is possible, especially in fields which have more recently been returned to pasture, that buried evidence of Bronze Age activity may lie undetected. The concurrence of Round Barrows with areas of land which remained as open downland until the 19<sup>th</sup> century could be used to detect areas which could contain undetected Bronze Age activity (Figure 45). This can be combined with other relevant factors such as topography.

It may be especially fruitful to look at areas within the core distributions of Round Barrow that were also once open downland.

**Figure 45:**

**Location of areas which were once open downland but contain no SMR/HER record of Round Barrows**



## 7.2.5 Results

This short exercise has demonstrated that there are meaningful relationships to be investigated between the distributions of Historic Landscape Types and monument categories in the HER/SMR county record. It is possible to study how recent land use history has affected the distribution of known monuments and the intensity of this distribution. Finally areas where new sites might be found can also be suggested, demonstrating the predictive quality of HLC.

The relationship between the distribution of monument types in the HER/SMR dataset and Historic Landscape Types in the HLC dataset clearly warrants further attention.

## 7.2.6 References

English Heritage (1999) National Monuments Record Thesaurus. Available from: <http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk> [last accessed 02.06.08]

MIDAS Heritage (2007) The UK Historic Environment Data Standard. Available from: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.18140> [last accessed 02.06.08]

## **7.3 Comparison of the HLC dataset and the distribution of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**

### **7.3.1 Summary**

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset provides information on the history of today's landscape in the AONB. It provides information on the overriding historic landscape character of any given area. It also records where previous historic landscape uses remain as traces in the landscape, which have influenced the current historic landscape character. SSSIs aim to identify and conserve the very best wildlife and scientific sites in the country. This exercise aims to look at the relationship between the historic character of the landscape of the AONB and designated sites of scientific importance within it.

### **7.3.2 Aims of the Exercise**

This exercise aims to compare Historic Landscape Character types which coincide with the sites of special scientific interest. It is hoped that this comparison might reveal how the landscape history of the modern landscape of the AONB has contributed to the development or management of areas which are designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest.

### **7.3.3 Methodology**

#### **Preparing the SSSI dataset**

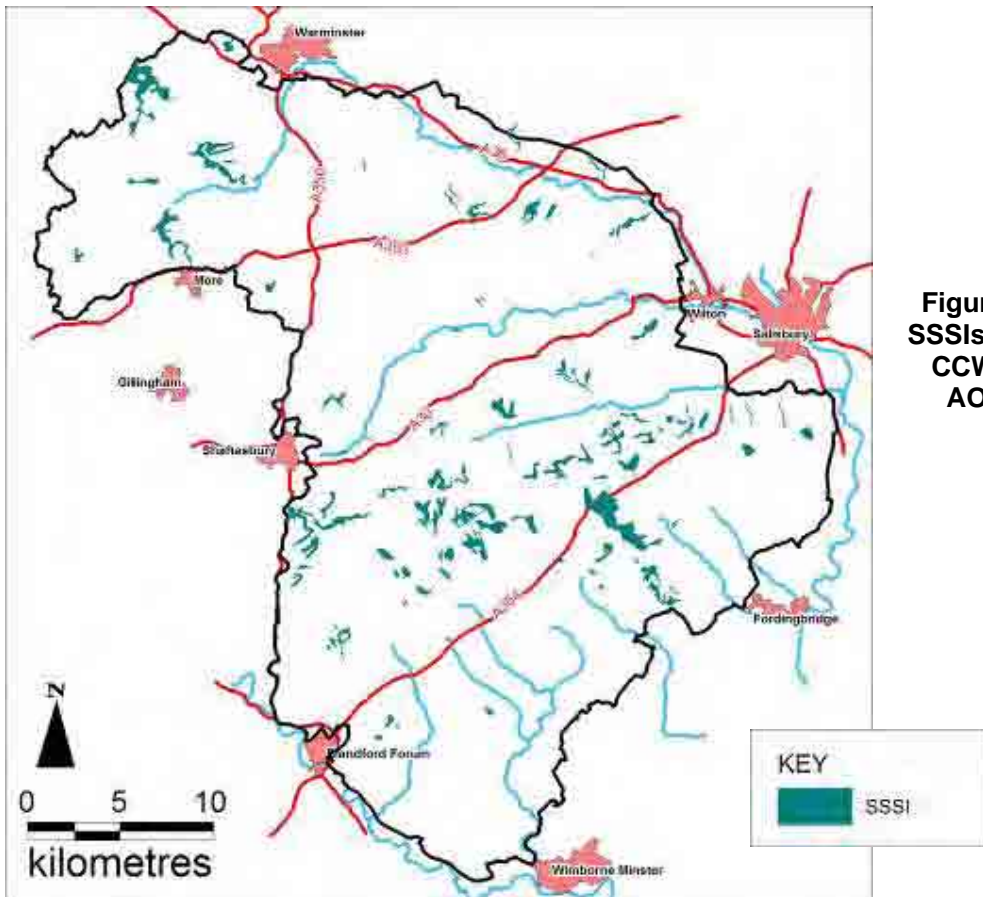
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are the best examples of the natural heritage of wildlife habitats, and geological and geomorphological features in the UK. The first SSSIs were identified in 1949 when the then Nature Conservancy notified local authorities of SSSIs, so their conservation interest could be taken into account during the planning process. Natural England now has responsibility for identifying and protecting the SSSIs in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

The location of SSSIs in the UK can be downloaded from the Natural England Website. They consist of polygons with attached data including the various sites names and areas. These were clipped to the AONB boundary.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation polygons which contain a SSSI were queried from the main HLC dataset. This meant that the relationship between designation as SSSI and land use history could be studied.

### **7.3.4 Analysing and comparing the Datasets**

Once the SMR/HER dataset had been prepared the distribution of SSSIs can be compared against the area based HLC data. The first map (Figure 46 over the page) shows the distribution of SSSIs across the AONB. There are more than 50 SSSIs in the AONB. It can clearly be seen that SSSIs in the AONB are concentrated across the Southern Downland Belt and the Wooded Chalk Downland in the centre, and the also the greensand terrace and hills in the northwest corner of the AONB.



**Figure 46:  
SSSIs in the  
CCWWD  
AONB**

There are approximately 3400 hectares of SSSIs in the AONB. HLC polygons often cross the boundaries of the SSSIs, this means that 143 HLC polygons (with a combined area of nearly 8000 hectares) have within them at least part of a SSSI.

This exercise has concentrated on the relationship between the SSSIs designated in the AONB and the major Historic Landscape Types identified in the HLC dataset.

The SSSIs are associated with a range of major current historic landscape types, but primarily are associated with 20<sup>th</sup> century fields and pre 1800 woodland (see figure 47).

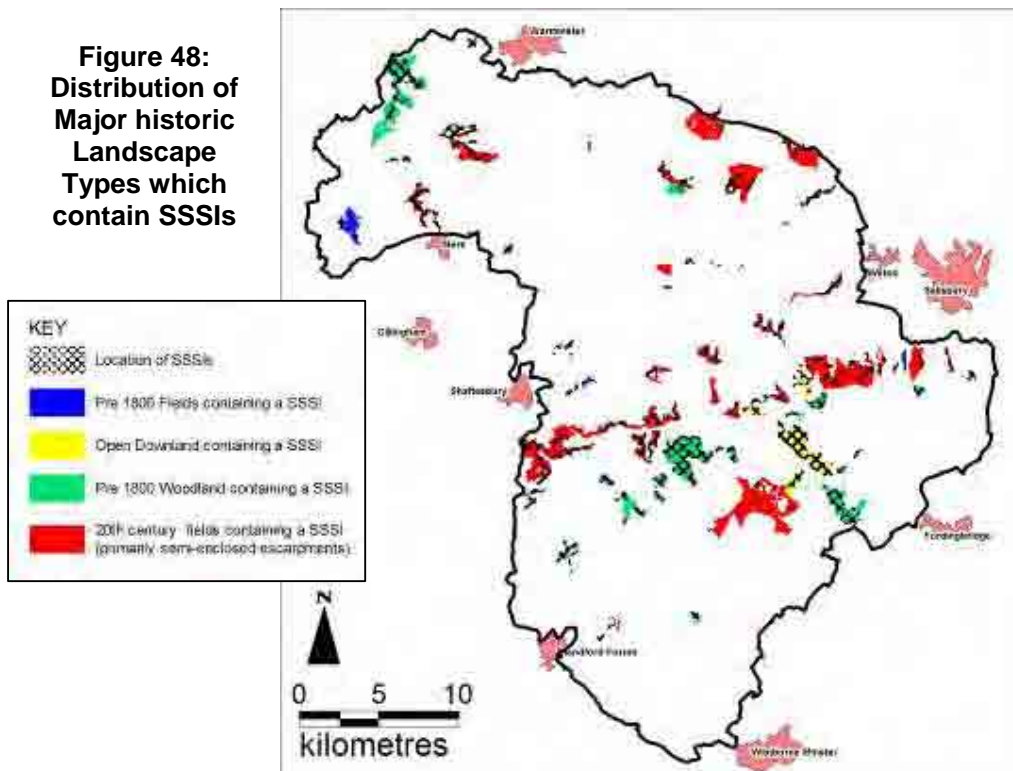
The association with 20<sup>th</sup> century fields may seem counter intuitive but the majority of these are categorised as the subtype semi-enclosed escarpments. These often sinuous blocks consist of fenced areas of chalk escarpment but which maintain characteristics and habitats which reflects its origins as open unenclosed downland. In some instances it also reflects areas which are marginal to the edge of newly created prairie fields.

It is immediately noticeable that SSSIs tend to be associated with areas of land which have an ancient current historic landscape type or contain major features of considerable antiquity (such as areas of semi-enclosed escarpments which were downland).

**Figure 47: Approximate area of different Major Historic Landscape Types which contain SSSIs.**

Major Current Historic Landscape Type	Approximate Area which contains at least part of a SSSI	%
Fishpond and Hatcheries	2	<1%
Other Fields	8	<1%
Assarts	11	<1%
Scrubland and Rough Grazing	13	<1%
Furze	13	<1%
Designed Landscape and Parkland	24	<1%
Extractive	30	<1%
Recent Woodland	203	3%
Pre 18th Century Fields	206	3%
Military Camp	253	3%
18th and 19th Century Fields	453	6%
Downland and Unimproved Grassland	515	6%
Old Woodland	1910	24%
20th Century Fields	4319	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7958.6</b>	<b>100%</b>

The distributions of SSSIs can be mapped against the four main Major Historic Landscape Types to which they belong (Figure 48).



It can clearly be seen that the area of pre 1800 woodlands which contain SSSIs are associated with the Chase woodlands in the centre of the AONB and the greensand hills. Secondly the main areas of SSSIs associated with areas of land which were previously chalk downland are distributed in a band across the centre of the AONB running from east to west. These escarpments are on the edge of the main areas which were historically chalk downland and the remaining chalk downland is marginal in character.

Finally areas of pre 1800 fields which contain SSSIs are found on the western edge of the AONB. These fields continue through the western edge of the Vale of Wardour and so many of the habitat features which are found here in the SSSI may be mirrored across these wider areas.

### **7.3.5 Conclusion**

This short exercise has demonstrated that there are meaningful relationships to be unravelled from the distributions of Historic Landscape Types and the location of SSSIs. The SSSIs cannot therefore be properly managed and protected without reference to the historic landscapes character of the land within which they are found.

The survival of high-value habitats whose biodiversity is sufficiently important for them to be designated is demonstrably related to land use history, as represented by the HLC. There is a reflexive relationship here between the natural and historic environments, with the semi-natural clearly also being semi-cultural. This pattern can be reinforced when coupled with the correlations made earlier between HLC and particular monument types (notably round barrows), which are also focussed on areas of high biodiversity value – surviving or former downland and woodland.

Spatial and functional relationships between other Wildlife Designations (and mappings of other elements of the physical and natural environment, including relief, drainage, geology, soils, woodland) and Historic Landscape Types in the HLC dataset will also be of considerable interest and clearly warrants further attention.

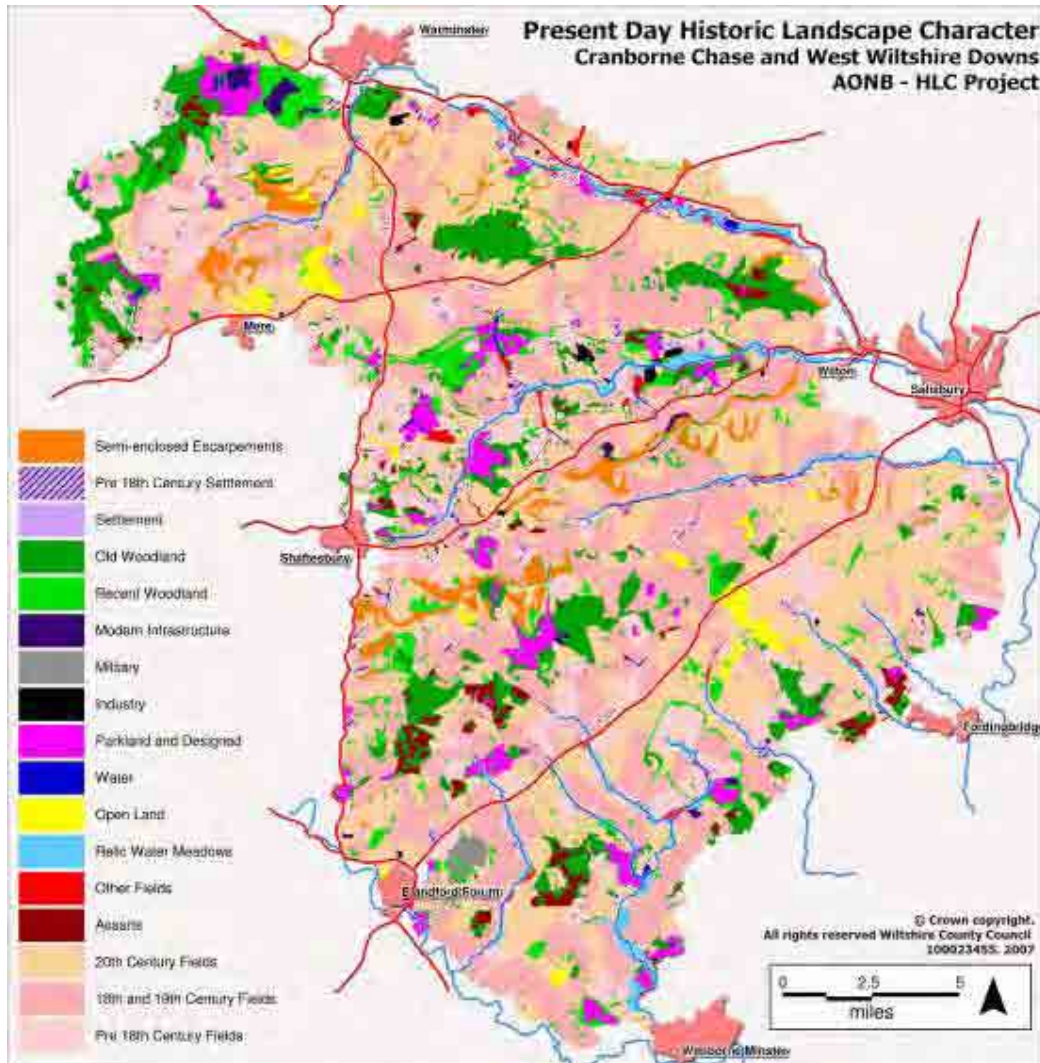
### **7.3.6 References**

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# Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

## SECTION 8: CONCLUSION



## CONTENTS

<b>8.1 Summary of the CCWWD AONB HLC Project.....</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>8.2 Moving Forward.....</b>	<b>429</b>

### 8.1 Summary of the CCWWD AONB HLC Project

Between January 2007 and July 2008 the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB undertook a programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) sponsored by English Heritage. The project has completed the following work during this time: -

- Compiled a HLC dataset in GIS with associated data table.
- Created HLC maps including an iconic map for the AONB.
- Prepared general descriptive statements of the character of the historic landscape across the AONB by theme e.g. enclosed land, parkland & designed landscape.
- Undertaken initial analysis of the HLC against other datasets including SMR & HER data, and designated wildlife sites.
- Produced a detailed report including methodology, analysis and Historic Landscape Type descriptions.
- Produced a shorter overview document introducing the project.
- Produced a project website.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation has provided the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB with an enhanced understanding of the historic elements of the whole landscape of the AONB

Ever since its inception the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation has proved to be a valuable resource and tool for the AONB partnership. It has been used to inform planning decisions, fed into the AONB Management Plan review, provided a new framework for policy making and has provided a new tool for managing the historic environment and the integrated management of the landscape as a whole.

Throughout the project the AONB has strived to create enthusiasm across a range of professionals, community members, and the public at large to learn more about HLC, what it means, and how it can be used. The AONB team, therefore, has promoted the new HLC to a wide range of audiences over the past 18 months. This outreach has included: -

- Attendance and poster presentations at national conferences.
- Articles in local journals and specialist group newsletters.
- Interactive seminars to familiarise Local Authority professional officers, consultants, heritage professionals, and local interest group members.
- Creation of a new interactive Historic Landscape Characterisation website, [www.historiclandscape.co.uk](http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk), aimed at a general audience but which can be interrogated more deeply by academics and professionals.
- Engaging local people, parishes and communities through local and sub-regional events.

Feedback from the outreach events indicates there is a long term aspiration to have HLC available in desktop GIS for anyone wishing or needing to use it. In the shorter term there seems to be a considerable gap between where people would like to be in

their understanding of the HLC dataset and associated maps and where they actually are. This is due to the fact that for the majority of individuals HLC deals with a new set of fundamental concepts which have to be understood and assimilated before the data itself can be engaged or even appreciated. The ground work from the initial outreach can be built upon in the future.

It is the AONB's perception, from a range of contacts, that to be of maximum practical use the HLC needs to be interpreted at a variety of levels and scales to satisfy the needs of a range of people and purposes. This could involve providing various levels of interpretation of the data, and providing comparative information across the AONB. A particular concern, but also an opportunity, is the need for consideration of what might be the most effective means to communicate effectively the level of time depth that has been identified in the landscape.

## **8.2 Moving forward**

The HLC fits into a number of local, regional and national strategies. In particular whilst this project has been underway the European Landscape Convention has come into force in Britain (1<sup>st</sup> March 2007). "It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes", and defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". Historic Landscapes are clearly very significant elements in this definition of landscapes, where human perceptions and human interactions with nature are so important. The Convention also brings with it obligations towards the protection, management, and planning of all landscapes, urban as well as rural. Sub regional projects, such as Historic Landscape Characterisation, relating to the cultural, historic and heritage aspects of landscapes clearly help to implement the objectives of the Convention in a tangible way.

The AONB, therefore, is keen to build on the HLC work and hopes to undertake a new project which builds on the foundation of the existing Historic Landscape Characterisation. The primary aim of the project would be the creation of Historic Environment Action Plans. These will facilitate the proactive and effective management of the historic and archaeological aspects of the AONB from a landscape perspective. Proposed actions can be adopted not just by the AONB Team but by all the other members of the AONB partnership.

The HLC Project has also identified specific areas of interest that also warrant further research and study. This would further enhance and allow greater understanding of the historic landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. These areas of interest are mentioned in the main report, but are summarised here: -

- Researching the exact mechanisms through which pre 1800 enclosure occurred.
- Gaining a fuller understanding of the history of common land in the AONB.
- Gaining a fuller understanding of the contribution of historic routeways to the character of the landscape of the AONB.
- Increasing knowledge on the specific historic character of settlements.
- The relationship between the distribution of monument types in the HER/SMR dataset and Historic Landscape Types in the HLC dataset clearly warrants further attention.
- Spatial and functional relationships between other Wildlife Designations (and mappings of other elements of the physical and natural environment,

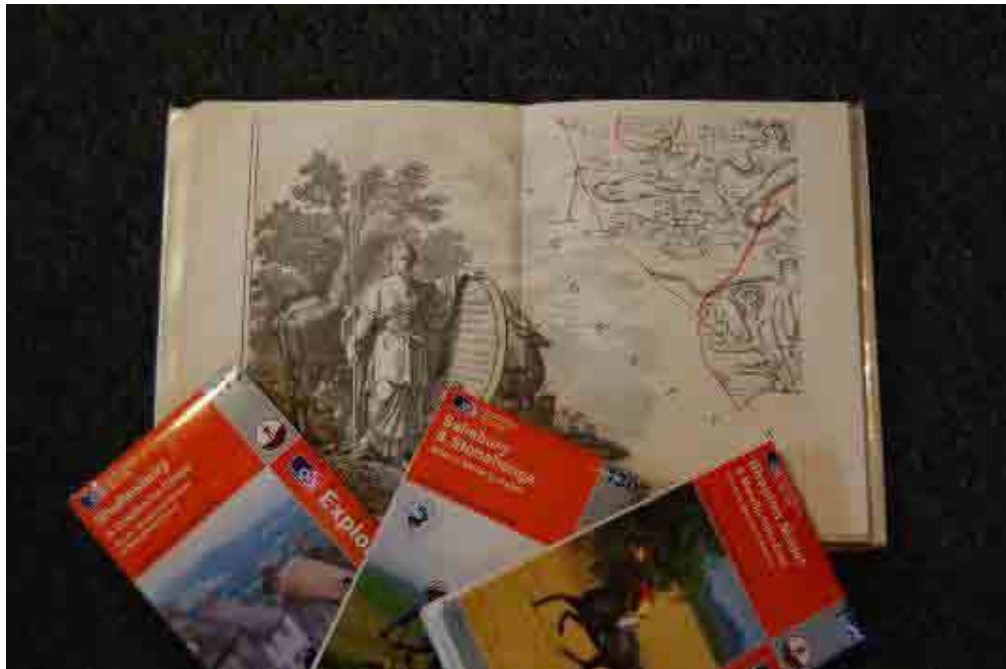
including relief, drainage, geology, soils, woodland) and Historic Landscape Types in the HLC dataset will also be of considerable interest and clearly warrants further attention.

- Comparison of the HLC against other key datasets, such as census information.

**In conclusion, the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project provides an enhanced understanding of the historic aspects of the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The results of the project would be of interest to anyone concerned with conserving, enhancing, understanding, describing, studying or celebrating the landscape of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

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