



**Cranborne
Chase
National
Landscape**

**State of the
National
Landscape Report
2024**

Craggatak Consulting

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Photographs owned by the Cranborne Chase National Landscape Partnership.

Craggatak Consulting acknowledges the support given by the National Landscape team; they have supplied materials and given access to research and survey resources. We set out the sources of data with each of our maps and tables.

Cranborne Chase National Landscape Partnership published a draft State of Nature Report in 2023¹. This is a separate but complimentary study. Though we use that report for cross-checking data, we do not duplicate its work in this report.

¹ G. Worswick (2023): Nature Recovery Plan Cranborne Chase AONB

Location of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape



Figure 1: National Landscape and location: Source GIS data obtained from OS Open data and www.data.gov.uk – October 2023.

Summary

Topic	Notes	Baseline	Trend
Nature			
Number of SSSIs	55 SSSIs – 3.5% of National Landscape (NL) area		
Percentage of SSSI features in a favourable condition (PLTOF Target Indicator 2)	32.7% of SSSI features	PLTOF 2024	-
Percentage of SSSI features assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition (PLTOF Target Indicator 3)	8.9% of SSSI features	PLTOF 2024	-
Number of SACs	5 SACs – 0.4% of NL area		
Number of NNRs	3 NNRs– 0.43% of NL area		
Area of priority habitats	15,408 ha – 16% of the NL area. Based on PLTOF 2024 data (MEOPL 2021 shows 15,509 ha – rise of 0.8%)	2013	Gain of 0.1%
Area of woodland	14,775 ha of woodland – 15% of the NL area	2013	Gain of 0.7%
Percentage of woodland in active management	75% of woodland area	2013	Gain of 5%
Area of ancient woodland	7,052 ha of ancient woodland – 7.2% of the NL area	2013	Loss of 0.2%
Locally protected sites LNRs etc	1 LNR in the NL, occupying 3 hectares. Local Wildlife Sites cover 9.5% of the NL area	2024 web-search & draft NRP	-
Length of hedgerows and other traditional field boundaries (PLTOF)	4,800 km of hedgerows and/or other traditional field boundaries are recorded in the NL area.	PLTOF 2024	-
Ecological status of rivers	34.4% of rivers & 29.5% of water catchments have a good ecological status; there are 3 groundwater bodies, all in a poor state	PLTOF 2024	-
Climate			
Greenhouse gases	Awaiting PLTOF data - 2022 map analysis shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> highest concentration of carbon dioxide (1995+ kt CO₂e) is in Corsley Parish close to Longleat but the source is uncertain. 	PLTOF 2024	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highest concentration of methane (10-50 kt CO₂e) linked to livestock farmland. levels of nitrous oxide generally low, highest concentration (1-2 kt CO₂e) emissions are in the Parishes of Hindon and Stockton, in areas of livestock farmland. 		
Air quality	<p>2022 map analysis shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> levels of particulate matter (2.5) generally low, highest concentrations (1-4 tonnes) close to Kilmington/Norton Ferris and at Tisbury. levels of sulphur dioxide generally low, highest concentrations (0.8-10 tonnes) close to Norton Ferris, Cranborne and between Dinton, Compton Chamberlayne and Fovant 	2022	-
Soil carbon	Much of the soils in the NL hold the equivalent of 100-150 tonnes of carbon per hectare. There are a few areas holding considerably more, mainly in the river valleys (200-325 tonnes); this links to the 'Floodplain Grazing Marsh' Priority Habitat.	2022	-
	Greenhouse gas data show a 6.4% increase in carbon accumulating in the soils and vegetation	2011	Gain 6.4%
Renewable energy generation	There is one renewable energy generation site operating within the National Landscape (there are three awaiting construction).	2016	Increasing
Energy crop scheme plots	<p>There are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 plots of short rotation coppice and 4 plots of <i>Micanthus x giganteus</i> planted, covering 47.26 ha. 4 plots of short rotation coppice covering 6.15 ha 	2007	Stable
Change in weather patterns	There is a 91.5-millimetre increase in annual rainfall and a rise of 0.8°C in annual mean temperature over the last 60 years. Recent years are wetter, with the period 1991-2020 having 5.4 more annual days of rainfall than each of the preceding periods.	1961	Wetter & warmer, rising
Area at risk of flooding	Generally, there is a very low flood risk within the NL but a high risk of localised flooding along the banks of the rivers Allen, Ebble, Nadder and Wylfe.	2024	-
Surface water flood risk	There is a medium to low risk of localised surface water flooding along the valleys of the rivers Allen, Ebble, Nadder and Wylfe.	2024	-
Surface water velocity	High velocity flood water is noted in the upper reaches of the River Nadder but it is confined.	2024	-
People			
Population	<p>34,600 residents in 2021</p> <p>Population numbers have remained stable since 2011 but there are now fewer people under 20 (down from 22% in 2011 to 19% in 2021).</p>	PLTOF 2024 & Census 2011	Stable but aging

Average age	Average age of NL residents was 47 years old in 2021 In 2021, most of the NL population is over 50 years of age (54% - up from 46% in 2011).	PLTOF 2024 & Census 2011	Aging
% of population of working age (16-64)	56% in 2021 (59.5% in 2011)	Census	Decline
Number of pupils on school roll	64,100 pupils on school role in 2021	PLTOF 2024	-
Ethnicity of resident population (%)	97.2% of the NL's resident population were white in 2021 / 98% in 2011	Census	No-change
Gender of resident population (%)	51% of the NL's resident population were female in 2021 / 51.5% female in 2011	Census	No-change
General health of the resident population (%)	In 2021, 50% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1% suffer very bad health. There is no material difference with the 2011 data.	Census	No-change
Disability status of resident population (%)	2021, 84% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions (the 16.4% who had long-term health condition were listed as disabled under the Equality Act.	Census	No-change
Relative wealth of the resident population	In 2021, average earnings per month were £2,150 in the NL (English average for rural areas was £2,300). Full-time employees in the NL could expect to spend 11 times their earnings on purchasing a home. Full-time employees in rural England could expect to spend around 9 times their annual earnings buying a home, making the NL a less affordable area.	PLTOF 2024	-
Levels of deprivation (deciles)	Across the NL, the average decile of deprivation is 5. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of the Parishes of Zeals, Mere, Downton and Langton Long Blandford are in the 9th least deprived decile. In contrast, the Parishes of Melbury Abbas, Compton Abbas, Fontmell Magna, Stourpaine, Witchampton, Crichel, Gusset St Michael, Gusset All Saints, Burcombe Without, Great Wishford, Sourton with Gasper, Kilmington and Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield are in the 4th most deprived decile. 	PLTOF 2024	-
Registered businesses by size	In 2021, 89% of businesses employed less than 9 employees.	PLTOF 2024	-
Registered businesses by number and type	In 2021, there were 895 business units registered within the NL. The dominant business type is agriculture, forestry and fishing.	PLTOF 2024	-
Employment profile by occupation	2011 to 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in managerial and senior roles (+4.3%) Decrease in skilled trades (-2.5%) 	Census	Shift away from skilled trades
Employment profile by industry	2011 to 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in administration (+1.1%) and health (+1.5%) 	Census	Growth in service sector

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in education (-0.9%) and in land based and manufacturing (-0.5%) 		
Employment status	<p>2011 to 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% reduction in numbers registered employment. 12% swing from those residents wanting to work to those not seeking work, perhaps reflecting the increasing retired population. 	Census	Declining working population
Employment in farming	Employment in farming has increased by 11% during the last 10 years. In 2021, 5% of the resident population (1,603 people) were employed in farming.	2010	
Rights of Way	In 2024, there is 1,553 kilometres of rights of way in the NL; there is no data on their condition. (This is a reduction of 102 km since 2014).	2014	Loss of 102 km
Recreational routes	There is four long distance trails and two national cycling routes in the National Landscape.	2024	-
Access to a car or van	In 2021, 93% of the resident population had access to at least one car or van, up from 92% in 2011.	Census	Rising
Travel to work	In 2021, 38% of employed residents worked from home, up from 13% in 2011. In 2011, 66% of employed residents drove a car to work; this reduced to 50% in 2021.	Census	Home working increasing
Traffic counts	The Mere bypass (A303) recorded the biggest increase in flow between 2000 – 2022 (43.2%); the A354 passing Martin Down NNR recorded the smallest increase in flow (1.7%).	2000	Traffic flow increasing
Bus routes	Few Sunday services but weekday generally good; some limited single journeys on market days and schools' services.	2024	-
Travel areas to the NL	<p>The Department for Transport states that the average trip-time for a day trip is 33 minutes. The 33-minute catchment for Tisbury lies mainly within the National Landscape, just reaching Shaftesbury, Gillingham and the outskirts of Salisbury and Warminster. Monkton Deverill is accessible to Shaftesbury and Gillingham; and the northern settlements of Wincanton, Frome, Trowbridge and Warminster. Sixpenny Handley serves Salisbury, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Wimborne Minster, Verwood and the outskirts of Ferndown.</p> <p>The large conurbations of Bournemouth and Poole are outside the 33-minute day trip zone.</p>	2024	-
Access land	In 2021, 5.8% of the NL 'accessible' (up from 5% in 2013).	2013	Increase
Place			
Landscape condition	25.4% of the area is in a good condition and 74.6% needs attention (a moderate condition).	2024	-

Number and condition of heritage assets	There are 2,064 Listed Buildings, 402 Scheduled Monuments and 18 Registered Parks and Gardens. Of these, 62 assets are at risk (there were 76 assets at risk 2019 – 18.4% reduction).	MEOPL 2012/20 & PLTOF 2024	Numbers stable. At risk decreasing
Number and condition of registered parks and gardens	There are 18 Registered Parks and Gardens in the National Landscape; none are at risk, 1 more than in 2012 and 2020. 1 was at risk in 2012, none since.	2020	Rise by 1 Condition stable
Number and condition of conservation areas	There are 56 Conservation Areas within the NL. Historic England states that none of the conservation areas are at risk. There are 21 published Conservation Area Appraisals and 4 Conservation Area Character Statements describing 45% of the Conservation Areas in the NL.	2020	-
Land-use	Agriculture is the dominant land use within the NL. Industrial land has appeared to the east of Blandford Forum between 2012 and 2018. There is a larger body of inland water around Bonham in 2018 compared to 2006. There was a little more pasture land in 2006 than in both 2012 and 2018.	2006, 2012 & 2018	Little change between 2006 & 2018
Agricultural land-use	In 2021, 64% of the NL is under agriculture (12,565 ha), is an increase of 3.5% from 2010 (12,137 ha) and a decline of 6% since 2016 (13,394 ha).	2010	Decline since 2016
Agricultural tenure	In 2021, 74% of the agricultural tenured land was owner occupied. In 2010, 71% (and in 2016, 65%) of the agricultural tenured land was owner occupied.		Increasing owner occupied
Agricultural holdings	In 2021, there are 204 agricultural holdings; 44% are less than 20 hectares, 38% are between 20-100 hectares, and 18% are over 100 hectares in size. 48% are lowland livestock grazing farms, and 21% are general cropping farms. The number of holdings has fallen from 237 in 2010 to 204 in 2021 (a decrease of 14%).		Declining
Livestock numbers	Poultry is the largest group of livestock (89,751 animals), a 6% increase in numbers since 2016 (the trend from 2010 is an increase of just over 275%). However, sheep (9,383 breeding ewes) and cattle (4,597 animals) are the most dominant livestock in the landscape. There is an 18% decline in sheep numbers and a 12% fall in cattle numbers since 2016.		Poultry increasing Sheep & cattle decreasing
Land in agri-environment schemes	In 2021, 10% of the NL was in Entry-Level Stewardship, and 2% was in Higher-Level Stewardship. The total annual values of agri-environment agreements in the NL is £1,594,300 (2023), down from £24,938,424 (2020). The area has increased from 25,176 ha in 2020 (26% of the NL) to 37,100 ha in 2021 (38% of the NL).	MEOPL 2020 And PLTOF 2024	

Development monitoring	Data not available	-	-
Number of development plans with Spatial Strategy and allocations	There are 6 adopted local plans that cover some part of the NL. Each have protection for the landscape and rural areas, each mention the NL (AONB). Most have a detailed AONB policy, one just refers to housing development in the AONB. There are no local plan housing allocations in the NL	2024	-
Number of made Neighbourhood Plans	There are 10 'made' Neighbourhood Plans; and a further two in preparation.	2024	
Light pollution	There is significant brightness from the conurbations around the national landscape; and this is increasing. In contrast, the national landscape retains predominantly dark night skies.	2018	Stable
Noise pollution	There is little traffic noise in the National Landscape except along the A303 and A36; and the eastern part of the A354. There is also some noise pollution along the boundary from the A338 (Salisbury to Breamore) and the A350 (Blandford Forum to Wimborne Minster).	2017	Awaiting Round 4 data

Introduction

The Cranborne Chase National Landscape

A National Landscape is an area that is so precious that it is safeguarded for the nation. It is the everyday name for what is set out in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Designation of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was in 1981. It extends over 981 square kilometres of Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Somerset. As a landscape of national significance, the National Landscape forms part of the extensive belt of chalkland that stretches across southern England. The fertile, wooded Vale of Wardour divides the area into two main areas. To the south is Cranborne Chase with its smooth, rounded downs, steeply cut combs and dry valleys so typical of chalk landscapes. The dip-slope gently descends to the south-east where it meets the Dorset Heaths. To the north, the West Wiltshire Downs are more elevated with the landform rising to a subtle ridge at Great Ridge / Groveley Wood. Impressive scarps, cresting above the adjoining greensand terraces, fringe both areas.

The National Landscape is of great ecological importance. Its protected sites range from ancient downland, herb-rich fen and river meadow to scattered deciduous woodland that includes remnants of the ancient Cranborne Chase hunting forest and the former Royal Forests of Selwood and Gillingham. People have lived in and shaped the region for over 6,000 years. The landscape reflects how people have worked the land, shaping it to their needs over time. It is rich in prehistoric sites with many ancient monuments and field patterns on the downs, whilst large 18th and

19th century estates, parklands and associated villages, dominate the Vale of Wardour.

This is a deeply rural area with scattered villages and narrow roads. There are no large settlements in the area but nearby country towns such as Salisbury, Shaftesbury and Warminster are growth areas. Although there are a few sites attracting many visitors, such as Longleat, Stourhead and Centre Parcs, Cranborne Chase is not a developed tourist area, although demand is increasing.

Purpose of document

This is a timely update of the state of the area and many of its special qualities, and will help to inform the statutory review of the current Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan (2019-24) and support the preparation of a new plan.

This report pulls together the data and information gathered by the National Landscape team, with its partners including Natural England, for the Cranborne Chase National Landscape; and from other sources as indicated. It presents data collated in 2024 alongside comparable data from annual reviews and reports, where such exists, or to alternative baselines against which there are comparisons and trends.

Data considerations

There were difficulties in securing some trend data for this report as this is the first 'State of the National Landscape' report. In the past, Defra and its agencies has provided some environmental data cut to the National Landscape boundary. This was through the national framework for monitoring environmental outcomes in National Parks and National Landscapes (MEOPL). Natural England led in this work, in close partnership with Defra, the

English National Park Authorities Association, Historic England and the National Landscapes Association.

Defra has just published its new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF). In May 2024, it released its first set of national data, though several data sets are to follow. The framework includes 10 indicators supported by 24 additional statistic sheets. We set out the new indicators in Appendix 1 and have include the released data in the body of this report. These data sets are similar, but not identical, to MEOPL. Some metrics vary. As it is difficult to compare PLTOF to MEOPL, the trends set out in this report are based on the MEOPL data.

No new studies were commissioned for this report and not all data can be disaggregated to the National Landscape boundary. Furthermore, it is recognised that many partners take actions that secure the Management Plan’s objectives but do not necessarily report these to the National Landscape.

Census statistics help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics. Census data is not cut to the National Landscape boundary. Defra is now releasing social data as a part of PLTOF based on the Office for National Statistics Output Area population

estimates. These are allocated to the national landscape on a best fit basis and they are to be the baseline for the National Landscape. Being a ‘best fit’ model means that the census presentations are estimates of the likely position. Output Areas (OAs) are the lowest level of geographical area for census statistics.

To show the changes between the 2011 and 2021 Census, we use the same (or equivalent) OAs. For the 2021 Census, there were some changes made to the 2011 OAs because of population and household changes since 2011. Some were merged and a few new areas were created. We have carefully plotted the two sets of OAs to ensure that, overall, the same area of land is reported.

The official Census figures are also estimates because there is not a 100% response (Maximising the quality of Census 2021 population estimates - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk).

As the data are estimates, we do not show the numeric values recorded in the census, rather, we use the percentage scores for each topic.

Nature

The National Landscape has some of the best, last remaining chalk grasslands in Europe. While supporting a vast diversity of plant, animal and invertebrate species, its fragmented nature often denies those species the opportunity to flourish through expanding their range or populations. The fragmentation of priority habitats also extends to ancient woodland, other deciduous woodland, semi-improved grassland and lowland meadows.

The National Landscape Partnership identifies Champion Species using the following criteria:

- Conservation concern species (ICUN Red List and Species of Principle Importance listed in Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006)
- Indicator species (managing habitats for these species offer wide biodiversity benefit)
- Charismatic species (engage people and communities in actions for nature recovery)
- Known solutions for species (responsive to positive management)

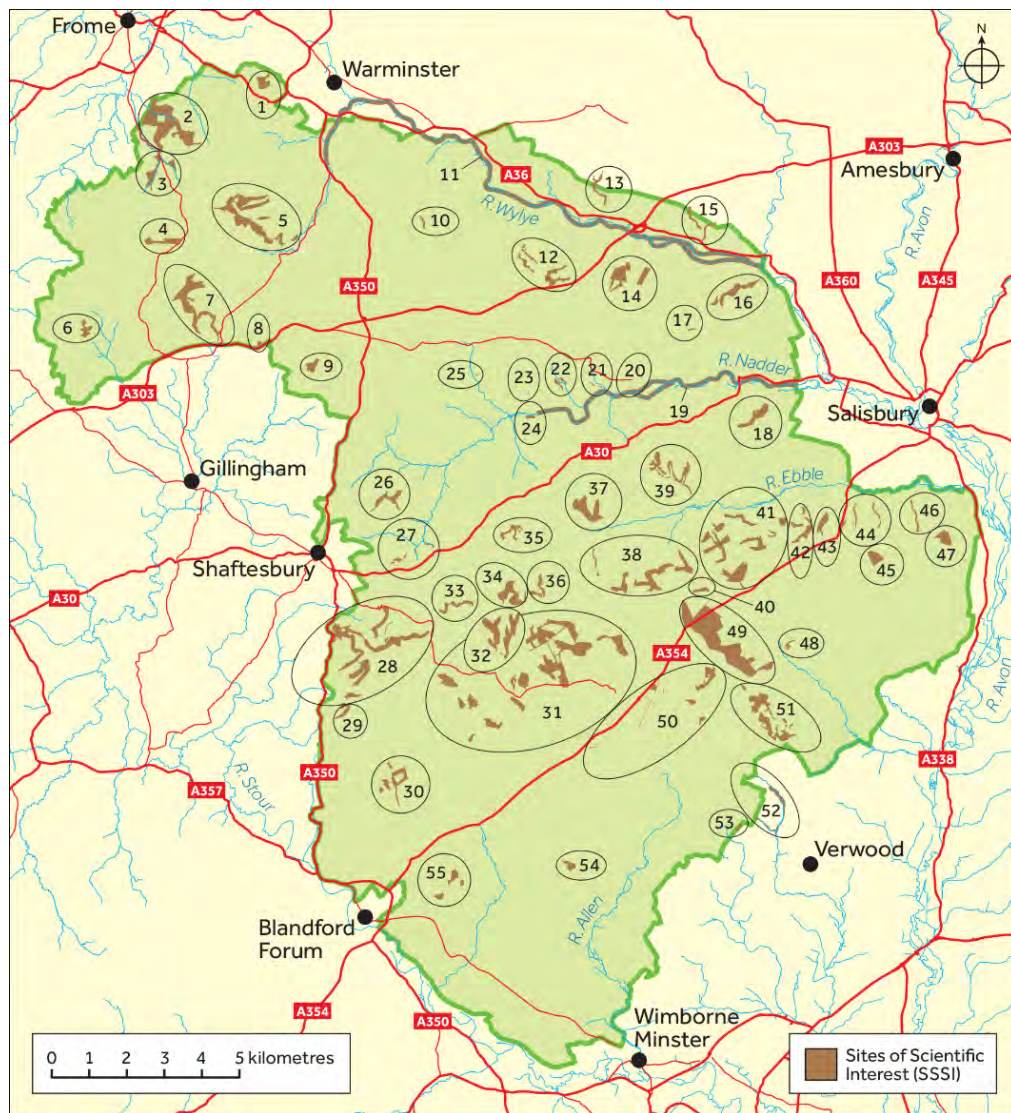


Refinement of the champion species list took place through consultation with experts and key stakeholders in 2022. The National Landscape Partnership Champion Species are:

Landscape-wide	Woodland	Arable	Lowland calcareous grassland	Chalk streams
Bechstein's Bat Barbastelle Bat Greater Horseshoe Bat Lesser Horseshoe Bat Hazel Dormouse Bumblebees / pollinators	Hazel Dormouse European Nightjar Eurasian Woodcock Woodlark Goshawk Veteran Trees – Saprophytic invertebrate assemblages	Harvest Mouse Brown Hare Arable plants including Pheasant's Eye Turtle Dove Corn Bunting Skylark Linnet Yellowhammer	Juniper Pasque Flower Marsh Fritillary Duke of Burgundy Small Blue Butterfly Chalkhill Blue Butterfly Adonis Blue Butterfly Dingy Skipper Grizzled Skipper	Native Brown Trout White-clawed crayfish

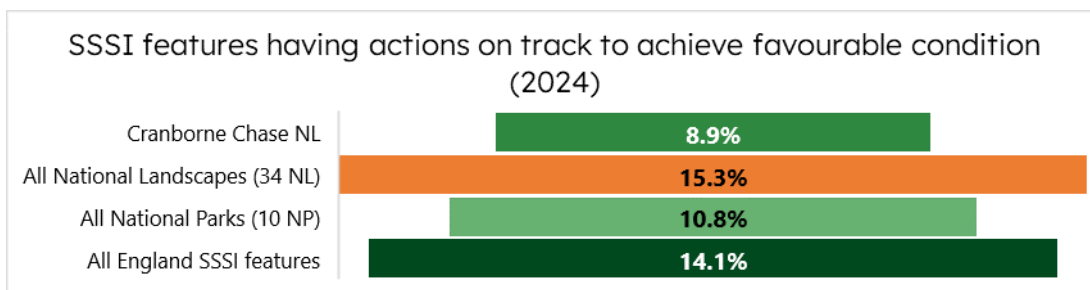
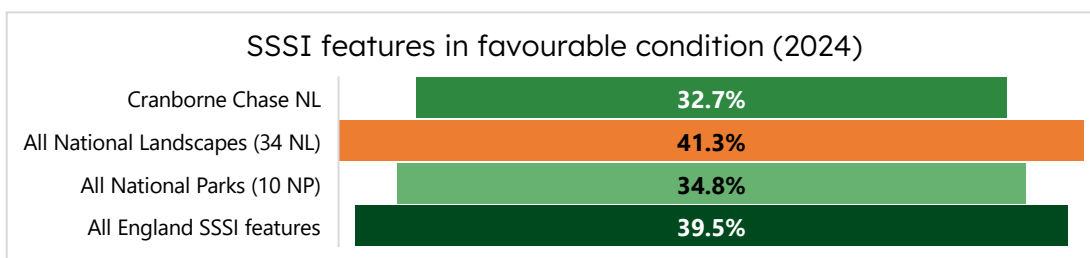
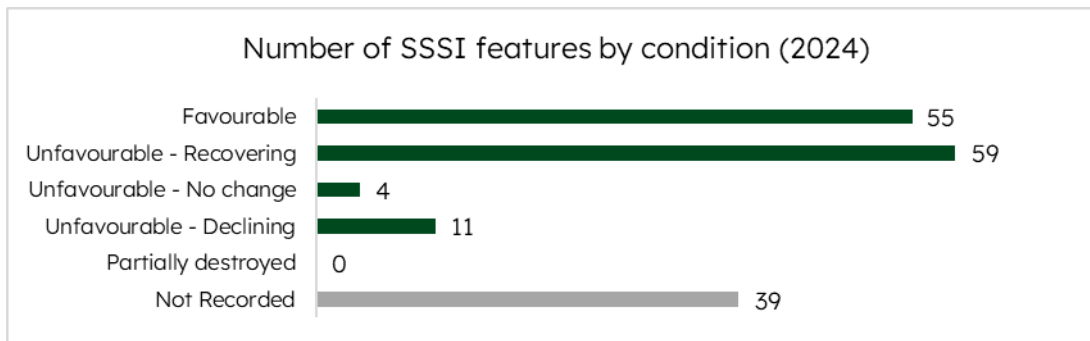
Location of SSSIs and condition by features

In 2024, there are 55 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the National Landscape, occupying 3,413 ha (3.5%) of its area. 32.7% of the SSSI features are in favourable condition and there is only limited action to bring the remaining features up to favourable status.



Legend

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Cley Hill | 31 Cranborne Chase |
| 2 Bradley Woods | 32 Rotherley Downs |
| 3 Longleat Woods | 33 Win Green Down |
| 4 Long Knoll | 34 Winklebury Hill |
| 5 Brimdown Hill | 35 Gallows Hill |
| 6 Heath Hill Farm | 36 Pincombe Down |
| 7 Whitesheet Hill | 37 Prescombe Down |
| 8 Charnage Down Chalk Pit | 38 Bowerchalke Downs |
| 9 Hang Wood | 39 Knapp and Barnett's Downs |
| 10 Tytherington Down | 40 Chickengrove Bottom |
| 11 River Avon System (River Wylde) | 41 Knighton Downs & Wood |
| 12 Stockton Wood and Down | 42 Throope Down |
| 13 Starveall and Stony Down | 43 Stratford Toney Down |
| 14 Wylde and Church Dean Downs | 44 Homington and Coombe Bissett Downs |
| 15 Steeple Langford Down | 45 Great Yews |
| 16 Ebsbury Down | 46 Odstock Down |
| 17 Baverstock Juniper Bank | 47 Clearbury Down |
| 18 Burcombe Down | 48 Toyd Down and Quarry |
| 19 River Avon System (River Nadder) | 49 Martin and Tidpit Downs |
| 20 Dinton Railway Cutting / Dinton Quarry | 50 Pentridge Down |
| 21 Teffont Evias Quarry / Lane Cutting | 51 Bouldsbury Wood |
| 22 Chilmark Quarries | 52 Moors River System |
| 23 Lady Down Quarry | 53 Sutton Meadows |
| 24 Upper Chicks Grove Quarry | 54 Oakhills Coppice |
| 25 Fonthill Grottoes | 55 Blandford Camp |
| 26 Gutch Common | |
| 27 Lower Coombe and Ferne Brook Meadows | |
| 28 Fontmell and Melbury Downs | |
| 29 Sutton Combe | |
| 30 Handcocks Bottom | |



Condition of SSSI features is the new indicator in PLTOF. It sets a baseline, there is no trend data available.

PLTOF sets a target to bring **80%** of SSSI features within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition **by 2042 (Target Indicator 2)**.

The chart shows that the National Landscape has only **32.7%** of its SSSI features in a favourable condition. This may rise once the status of the features not recorded is known.

Cranborne Chase is below the average position when compared with the other National Landscapes (average is 41.3%), and with all England's SSSIs (average is 39.5%).

There are 13 geological SSSI features in the National Landscape. Three are in a favourable condition and six are unfavourable and declining.

PLTOF **Target Indicator 3** is the percentage of SSSI features within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition.

Cranborne Chase receives a score of **8.9%** under this indicator. The average for the National Landscapes is 15.3%, and for all England it is 14.1%.

Source: PLTOF © Natural England copyright 2024. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024.

Location of SAC

In 2024, there are five-designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the National Landscape, occupying 431 ha (0.4%) of its area.



Legend

- 1 River Avon System
- 2 Chilmark Quarries
- 3 Fontmell & Melbury Downs
- 4 Prescombe Down
- 5 Great Yews

The River Avon SAC (498 ha in total) is one of the richest chalk rivers in Europe. It is important for its fish population, invertebrate, which include populations of Desmoulin's Whorl Snail and its in-river plant community habitat as well as bankside habitats.

Chilmark Quarries SAC (10 ha) - a series of disused mines, quarries and man-made follies used as hibernation roosts by an important assemblage of bat species, most notably Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, Lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii* and Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*.

Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC (261 ha) - The variety of slope, soil and aspect provide habitats for a range of notable plant species such as Early gentian, Bastard toadflax and species of Orchids including Frog orchid, Fragrant orchid and Lesser butterfly orchid. Mosaics of grassland and scrub and a herb-rich sward provide the ideal conditions for rare and declining butterflies including; Duke of Burgundy, Silver Spotted Skipper, Adonis Blue and Marsh Fritillary.

Prescombe Down SAC (76 ha) Has a characteristic species-rich chalk grassland flora, with good numbers of Early gentian *Gentianella anglica* being found in warm, sheltered locations. The site supports a rich butterfly community including scarce species such as Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurini*. Scattered scrub with a variety of species and structure adds to the value of the site.

Great Yews SAC (29 ha) - an extensive area of almost pure yew woodland with around 300 old trees, including many large and impressive individuals. The site has a long history as yew woodland and demonstrates the full structural and functional range expected of yew stands.

Source: Natural England Site Improvement Plans <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5755515191689216> PLTOF © Natural England copyright 2024. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024.

Location of NNRs

In 2024, there are three designated National Nature Reserves (NNRs) in the National Landscape, occupying 423 ha (0.43%) of its area.



Legend

- 1 Wylde Down
- 2 Prescombe Down
- 3 Martin Down

Wylde Down NNR – 33.9 with over 100 different plants recorded on the species-rich grassland, including the burnt-tip orchard and the early gentian.

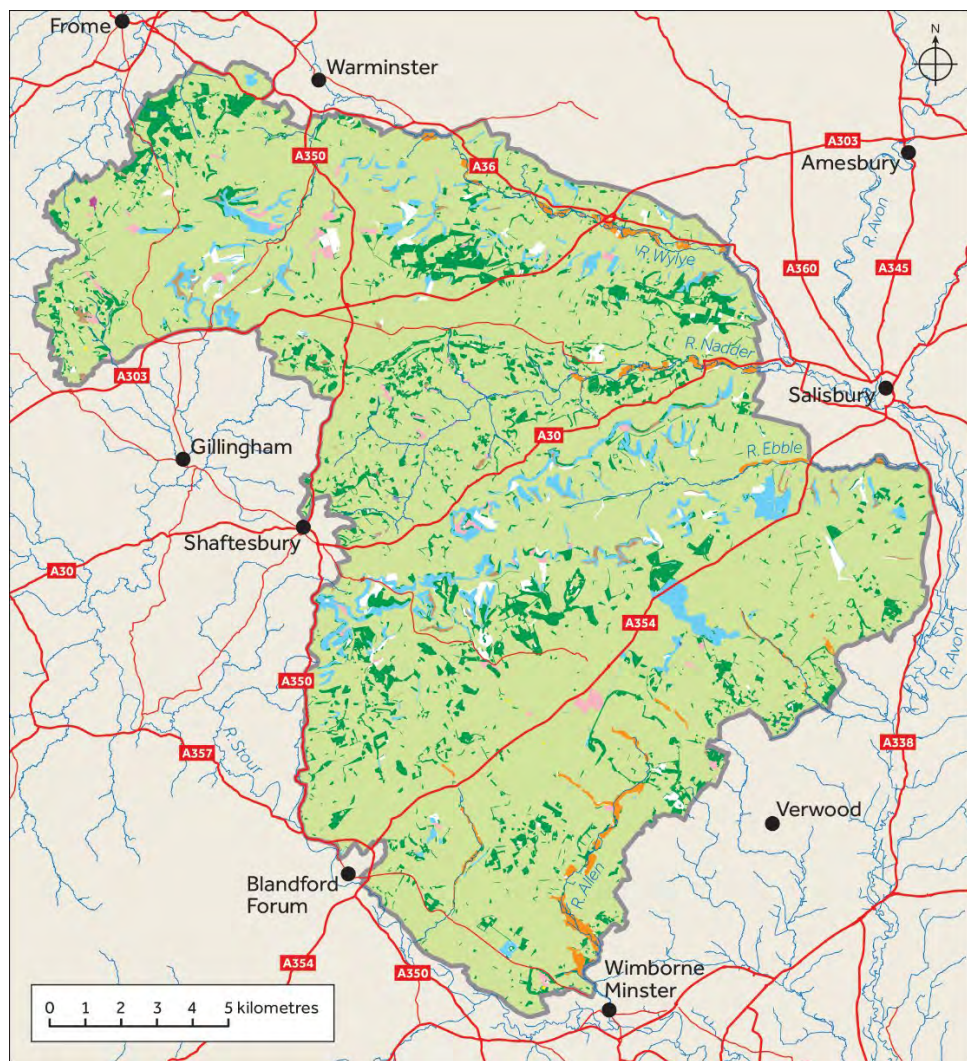
Prescombe Down NNR 47.7 ha – because of the species-rich chalk grassland and resident population of adonis blue butterflies. It is also a Special Area of Conservation for its grassland but also for its populations of European Protected Species. These are early gentian, a rare annual plant and marsh fritillary butterfly. The reserve is also home to rare butterflies like grizzled skipper and birds such as skylark.

Martin Down NNR - at 341 ha, it is one of the largest areas of uninterrupted chalk downland in Britain. Notable plants found in the area include bastard toadflax, field fleawort, early gentian and lesser centaury. Twelve orchid species have also been identified, including burnt-tip, green-winged, greater butterfly and frog. Five bat species have been recorded in the area: noctule, serotine, brown long-eared, common and soprano pipistrelle; and brown hare is found throughout the site. Birds found at Martin Down include turtle dove, grey partridge, nightingale, skylark, yellowhammer and linnet. Hobby and quail may also be encountered and Montagu's harrier and stone curlew sometimes visit the site.

Source: Natural England 2024 <https://www.gov.uk/environment/parks-trails-nature-reserves>

Area of priority habitats

In 2024, there are 15,408 ha of priority habitats covering 16% of the National Landscape.



There are several habitat data sets and they differ. National data sets do not match local Biodiversity Record Centre data sets; and neither are accurate. Not all priority habitats are listed. There are also hedgerows, arable field margins and ponds. MEOPL picks these up under no main habitat. They are not in the PLTOF priority habitats list.

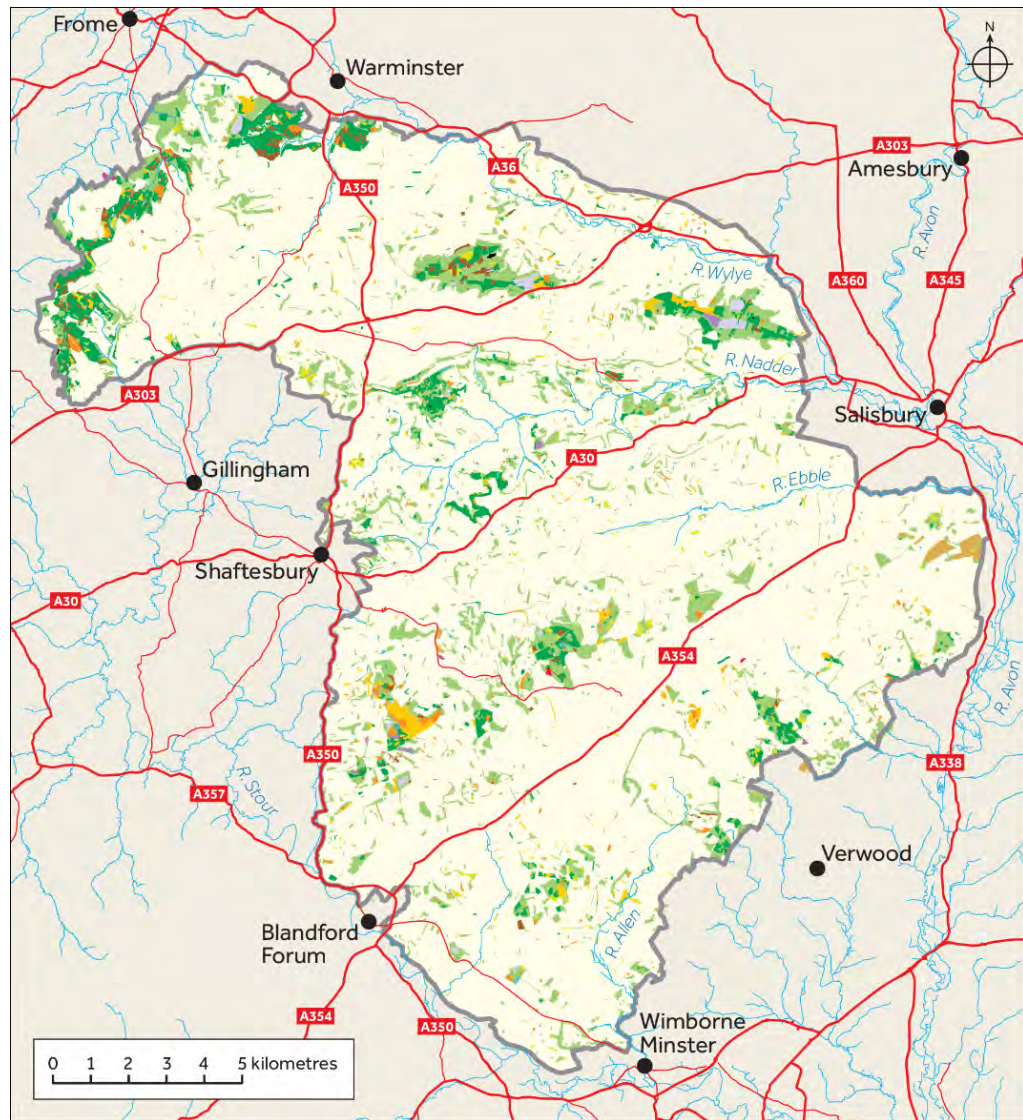
Since 2013, there has been a loss of calcareous grasslands, lowland fens and reedbeds. Lowland meadows and semi-improved grassland have increased.

Priority Habitat in ha	2013	MEOPL 2021	PLTOF 2024
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	1,053	1,040	1,042
Deciduous woodland	9,150	8,896	9,255
Good quality semi-improved grassland	648	0	683
Lowland calcareous grassland	4,117	3,771	3,855
Lowland dry acid grassland	5	7	6
Lowland fens	7	1	1
Lowland heathland	17	16	15
Lowland meadows	345	431	496
Reed beds	2	0	0
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	19	27	18
Traditional orchard	29	37	37
No main habitat but additional habitats present	-	1,283	-
Total	15,392	15,509	15,408

Source Data: MEOPL Priority Habitat Inventory v2.3 2020, SSSI Condition April 2021, © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021. PLTOF © Natural England copyright 2024; © Cumbria Biodiversity Centre 2024.

Area of woodland (by National Forest Inventory types)

In 2023, there are 14,775 ha of woodland covering 15% of the National Landscape with the distribution of National Forest Inventory types



Legend

Agricultural land	Grassland
Assumed woodland	Ground prep
Bare	Low density
Broadleaved woodland	Mixed mainly broadleaved
Conifer	Mixed mainly conifer
Coppice	Shrub
Felled	Young trees

Inventory type	2013	2020	2023
Broadleaved	9,018	9,123	9,085
Conifer	3,492	3,296	3,156
Coppice	4	4	4
Felled	46	279	464
Prepared for planting	5	16	20
Mixed	1,171	1,155	1,147
Shrub	94	89	89
Young trees	532	502	503
Totals	14,362	14,464	14,467

In 2020, 76% of woodland was in active management (11,100 ha) (up from 70% in 2013) (MEOPL). In 2024, 75% of woodland is in active management (11,100 ha) (PLTOF).

Source: MEOPL © Forestry Commission copyright (2022). Taken from the Natural England Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England) dataset, dated September 2020.; and the FC National Forest Inventory dated March 2019. PLTOF © Forestry Commission copyright (2023). Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright 2023.

Area of ancient woodland

In 2024, there are 7,052 ha of ancient woodland covering 7.2% of the National Landscape.



Ancient woodland has two parts, ancient and semi-natural ancient woodland (ASNW), and plantations on ancient woodland Sites (PAWS):

Ancient woodland by theme		Area in Ha	
		2013	2024
Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	ASNW	3,273.2	3,061.5
Ancient Replanted Woodland	PAWS	3,792.7	3,990.5
		7,066	7,052

There has been a loss of 14 ha since 2013.

Source: MEOP Natural England-OS Open Government Licence July 2022. M:\Geo-Data\Habitats_Species\Habitats\Habitat_Inventories_Ancient_Woodland\Ancient_Woodland_NE\Ancient_Woodland.gdb\Ancient_Woodland (June 2022). PLTOF © Natural England copyright 2024. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024.

Locally protected sites

A statutory Local Nature Reserve and some non-statutory designated local wildlife sites cover around 9.5% of the National Landscape. In addition, there are other local sites (such as wildflower rich road verges and nature reserves), covering an additional 1% of the landscape.

Local Nature Reserve

A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a statutory designated site, featuring locally important wildlife and/or geological interests. There is one LNR in the National Landscape, occupying 3 hectares. Moldrams Ground is a mosaic of wetland, bog, ponds, dry woodland and grassland, located near Penslewood in the north east of the area.

Local Wildlife Sites

Across the National Landscape, Local Wildlife Sites cover 9.5% of the landscape area. Designation of non-statutory sites is at the local or county level. The naming of such sites is not consistent between the local authorities. As well as Local Wildlife Sites, there are County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs), and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS)

Local Wildlife Sites are designated for their local nature conservation value and important habitats and/or species. Selection of these sites are at a county level and meet local selection criteria.

Other non-statutory sites:

- Local Geological Sites (LGS) (previously RIGS)
- Protected Road Verges
- Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves
- Woodland Trust Sites
- Bat SAC Consultation Zones

Note: There is sparse accessible and mappable data relating to the condition of Local Wildlife Sites or priority habitats at the National Landscape or finer scale.

Source: PLTOF © Natural England copyright 2024. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024. Worswick G (2023) Cranborne Chase AONB Nature Recovery Plan (Draft) for the National Landscape Partnership

Length of hedgerows and other traditional field boundaries

In 2024, 4,800 km of hedgerows and/or other traditional field boundaries are recorded in the Cranborne Chase National Landscape.

Source: PLTOF © Rural Payments Agency. Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS AC0000849761 and © Natural England 2024. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024 AC0000851168.

Ecological status of rivers

In 2024, 34.4% of rivers and 29.5% of water catchments have a good ecological status; there are 3 groundwater bodies and all are in a poor state.



The UK Water Framework Directive are an important mechanism for monitoring waterbodies for a range of issues, including pollution from chemicals and excess nutrients, as well as the health of wildlife communities such as plants and fish. Waterbodies are rated as high, good, moderate, poor or bad status. Only the waterbodies that are described as 'good' or 'high' are in a sustainable and healthy condition; the rest all need a greater level of protection and management if they are to improve to a good level of health.

The overall ecological quality of rivers and the coastal/transitional water bodies in the National Landscape is **moderate** though for the Rivers Allen, Crane and Nadder are **good**. The headwaters of the Nadder and Wylde (downstream they are in a moderate state), and the River Tarrant have a **poor** overall ecological quality. However, no groundwater bodies are in a **good** condition.

	Length of rivers (Km)	N° ground water bodies	N° waterbody catchments
High	0	0	0
Good	77.5	0	13
Moderate	102.2	0	21
Poor	45.5	3	8
Bad	0	0	2
No status	0	0	0
TOTAL	225	3	44
% with High or Good status	34.4%	0%	29.5%

Source: PLTOF © Environment Agency copyright and database rights 2024. All rights reserved. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024, OS AC0000807064

Climate

The climate data in this section is indicative, as there is only a limited collection within the National Landscape. The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero has published a nationally consistent set of greenhouse emissions estimates at the local authority level since 2005; and reports on renewable energy installations. The Metrological Office collects weather data at Fontmell Magna that enables the plotting of local trends. The Environment Agency seeks to predict flood risk for the rivers.

Although the global climate has been relatively stable in recent times, there have been periods of extreme change in the past. The climate is changing again now and this trend is expected to accelerate in coming decades. There is strong evidence linking the current period of change to increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The increase is mainly due to human activity, including fossil fuel combustion, deforestation, drainage of peat bogs and agriculture.

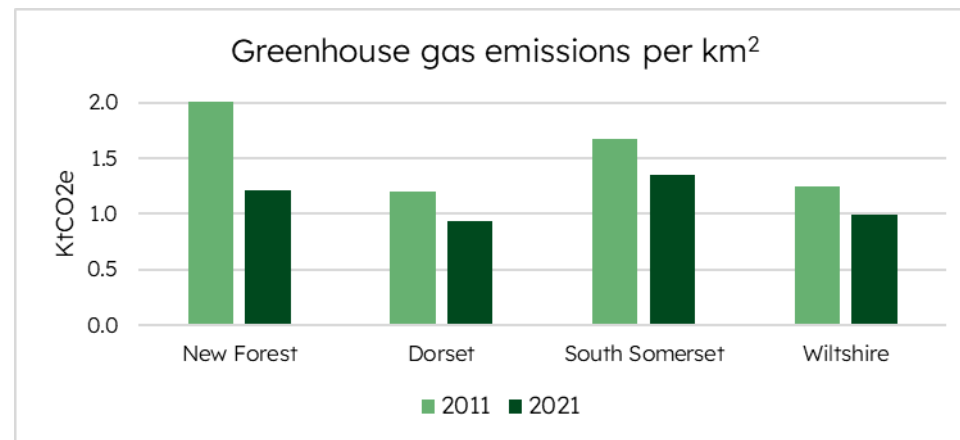
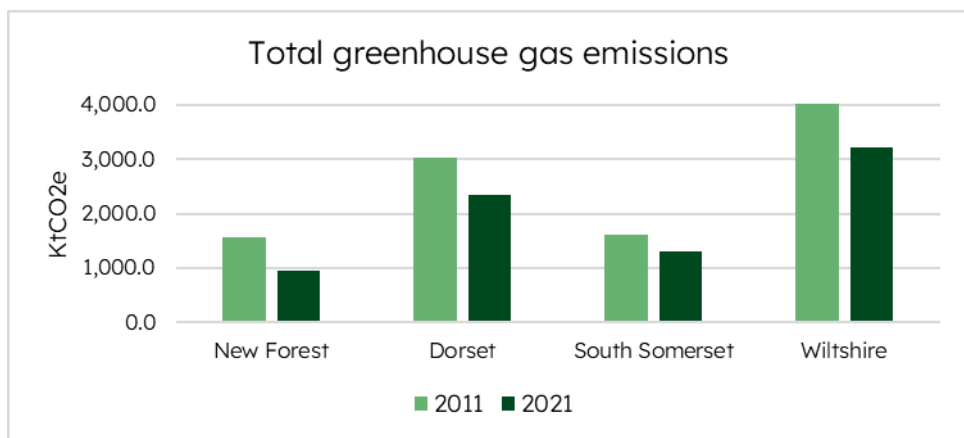
Some impacts on the National Landscape will arise as a direct result of changing weather patterns and seasons. For example, changing levels of sunlight, temperatures and soil moisture will affect the growth of plants. Increased rainfall may lead to flooding. Other impacts will result from the actions taken to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as planting different crops, or to reduce the impact on climate change, such as planting trees or installing renewable energy technologies.



Greenhouse gases

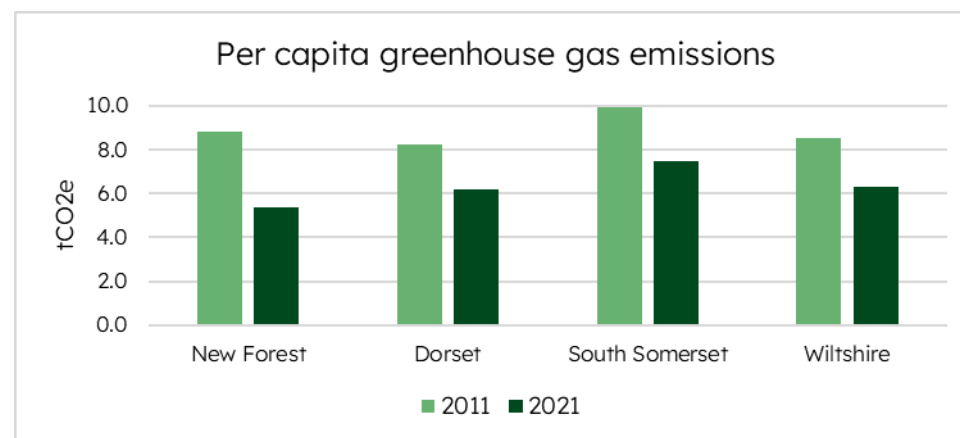
Trend data for local authority areas

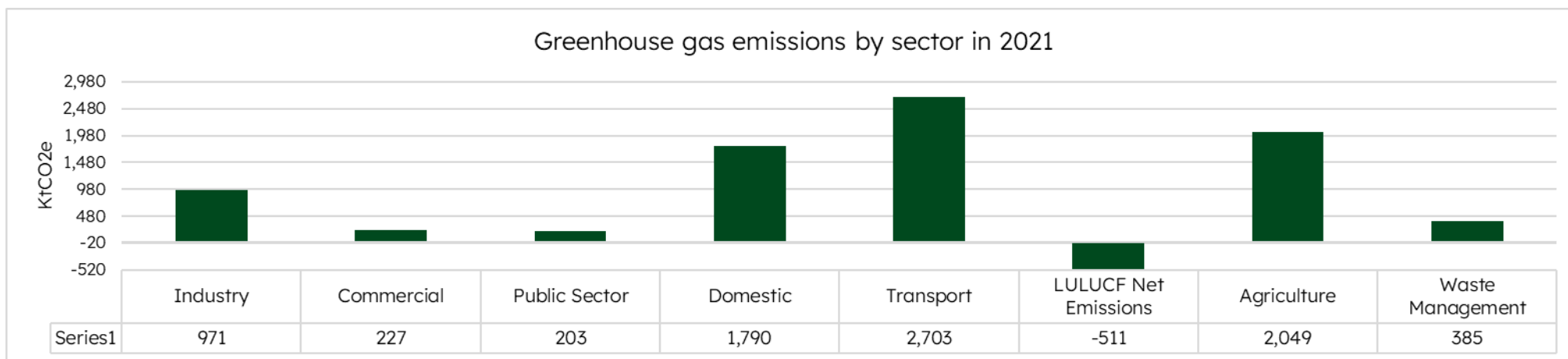
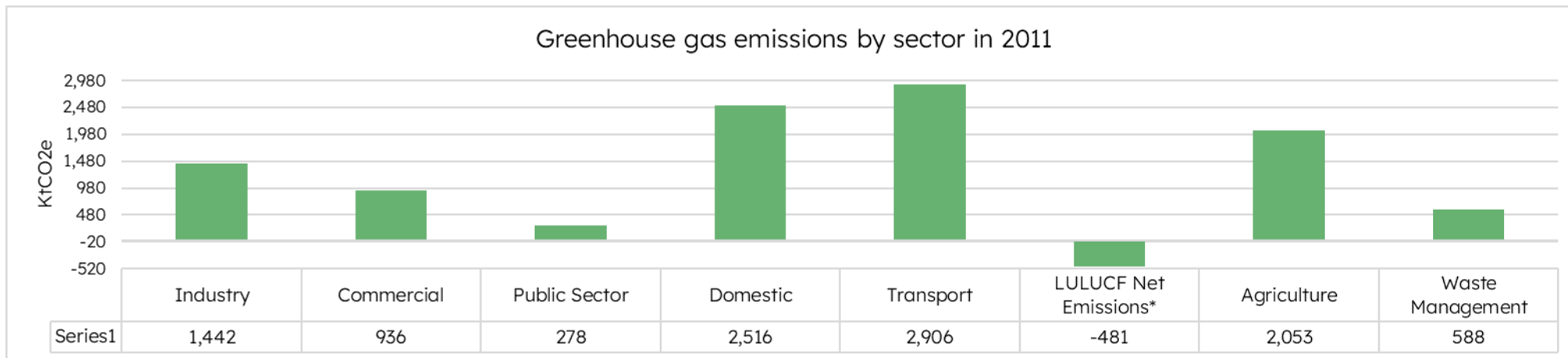
A series of tables showing levels of the combined greenhouse gases at the local authority level. Trend data is only available down to the local authority area level. The trend shows that there is a reduction in the greenhouse gas emission across all the local authority areas between 2011 and 2021.



Wiltshire produces the most greenhouse gas and New Forest the least. But the local authority areas are not the same size. Plotting greenhouse emissions by km², South Somerset produces the most greenhouse gas and the lowest emissions come from Dorset, closely followed by Wiltshire.

And each local authority area has a different size of population. The per capita rates show that South Somerset produces the most greenhouse gas emissions per person, followed; New Forest produces the least.





* **LULUCF = Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.** The rate of build-up of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere can be reduced by taking advantage of the fact that atmospheric CO₂ can accumulate as carbon in vegetation and soils in terrestrial ecosystems. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change any process, activity or mechanism that removes a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere is referred to as a "sink". Human activities impact terrestrial sinks, through land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). Consequently, there is an alteration in the exchange of CO₂ between the terrestrial biosphere and the atmosphere.

The greenhouse gases covered in this data are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP), so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis. The GWP for each gas is defined as its warming influence relative to that of carbon dioxide. Reporting is in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂e) unless otherwise stated.

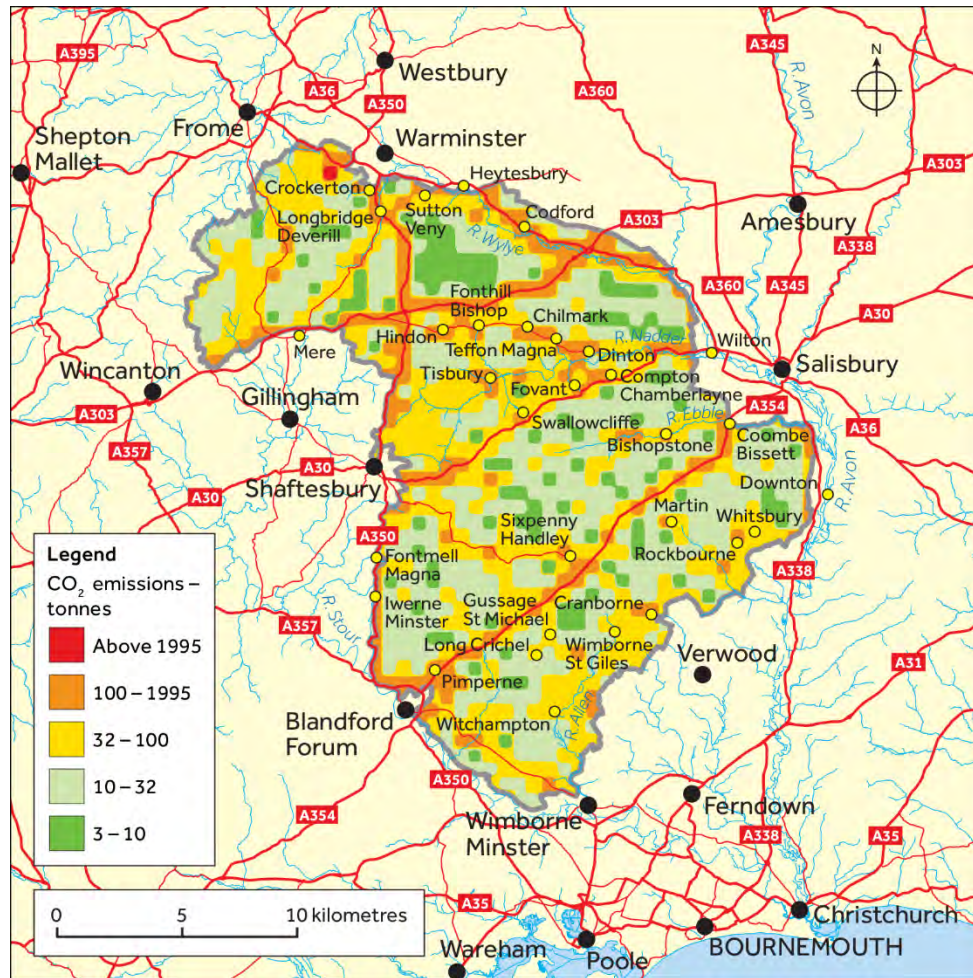
- A **24% reduction** in total greenhouse gas emissions between 2011 and 2021.
- Transport is the highest producer of greenhouse gases in both years. It produced 2,906 kt CO₂e in 2011 and 2,703 kt CO₂e in 2021 (**7% reduction**).
- Agriculture is one of the highest producers of greenhouse gases in both years, producing 12,053 kt CO₂e in 2011 and 2,049 kt CO₂e in 2021 (**only a 0.2% reduction**).
- The next highest source of greenhouse gas emissions is domestic at 2,516 kt CO₂e in 2011 and 1,790 kt CO₂e in 2021 (**29% reduction**).
- There has been a **34.5% reduction** in emissions from waste management, a **33% reduction** from industrial and a **76% reduction** from commercial operations between 2011 and 2021.
- The amount of carbon accumulating in the soils and vegetation **increased by 6.4%** between 2011 and 2021.

Source: Department for Energy Security & Net Zero; a nationally consistent set of greenhouse emissions estimates at local authority level from 2005 to 2021, published 6th July 2023. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a67b3a4dd8b3000f7fa546/2005-21-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions-update-060723.xlsx>

The maps that follow show the presence of emissions within the National Landscape during 2022. Refer to the [Error! Reference source not found.](#) (click) to match emissions to land-use activity.

Carbon dioxide in the National Landscape

Showing carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in 2022. The highest concentration (1995+ kt CO₂e) is in Corsley Parish close to Longleat but the source is uncertain.



Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

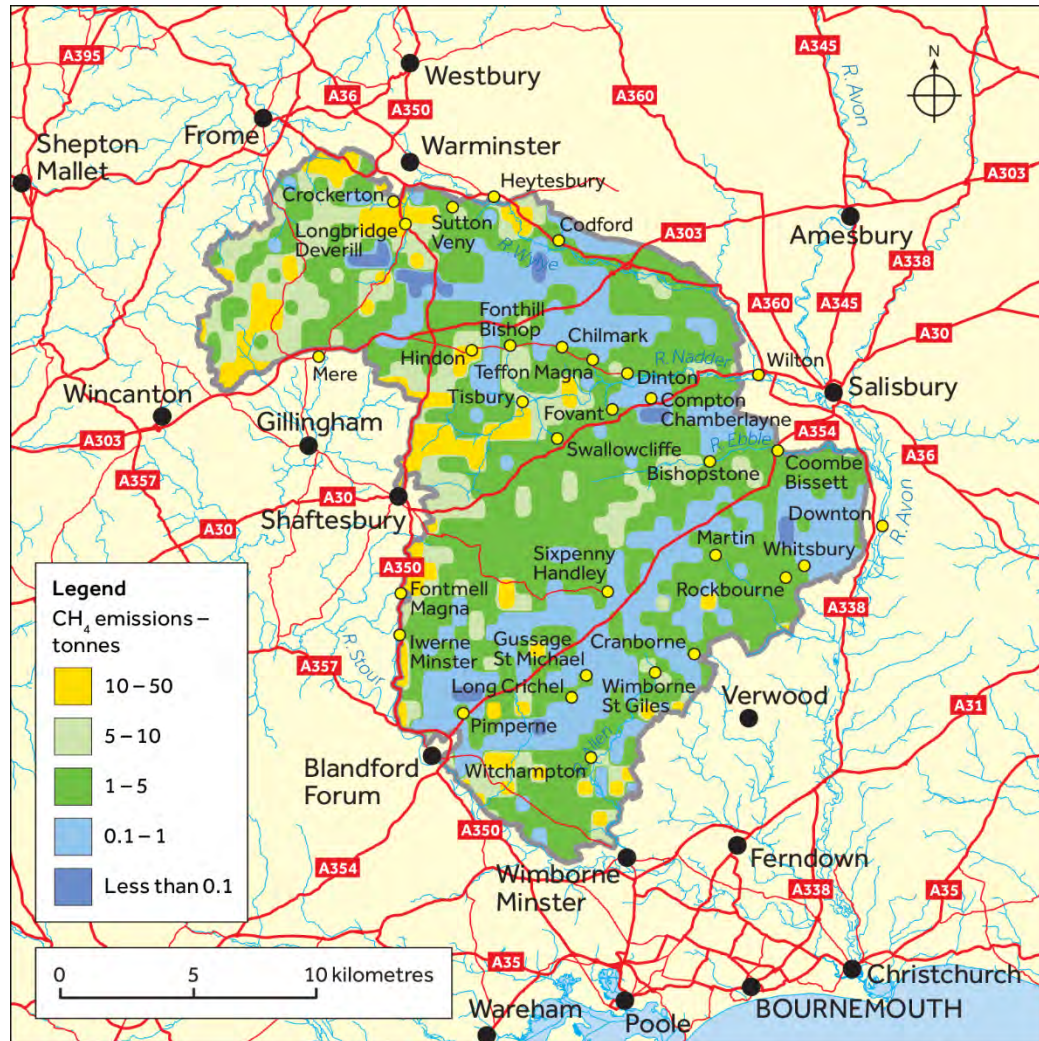
Carbon dioxide (CO₂) enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil), solid waste, trees and other biological materials, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., cement production). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.

Across the four local authority areas in 2021, 47% of the carbon dioxide came from transport (as clearly shown on the map), 30% came from domestic sources and 16.5% came from industry.

The main human activity that emits CO₂ is the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) for energy and transportation. Certain industrial processes and land-use changes also emit CO₂.

Methane in the National Landscape

Showing methane (CH₄) levels in 2022. The highest emissions are associated with livestock.



Methane (CH₄) is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices, land use, and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

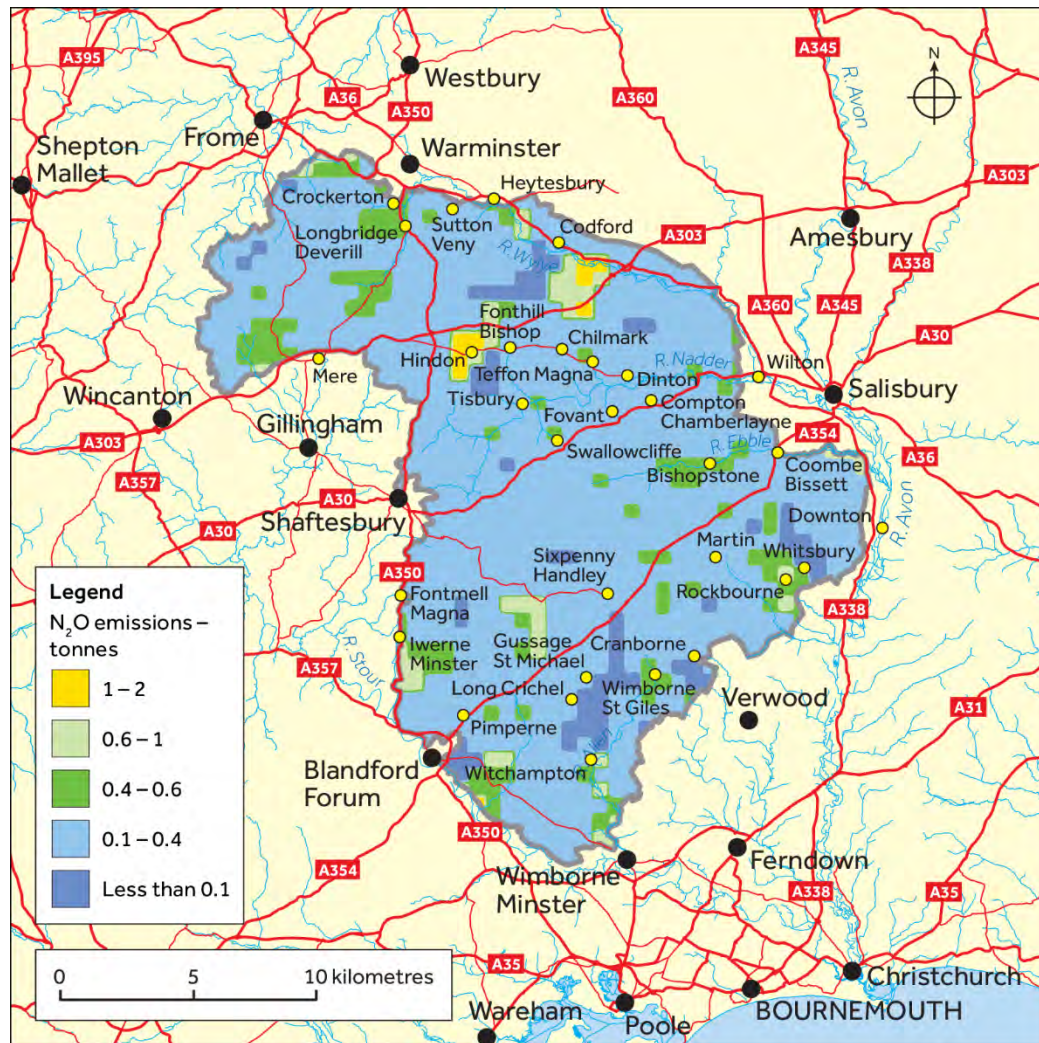
Across the four local authority areas in 2021, 75% of the methane came from agriculture, and a further 18% came from waste management.

Reference to the [Land-use map](#) (click) shows that the areas showing greater than 10 kt CO₂e of methane are generally the pasture lands. Land used for arable and woodland generally emit less than 10 kt CO₂e of methane.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

Nitrous oxide in the National Landscape

Showing nitrous oxide (N₂O) levels in 2022, which is generally very low. The highest emissions are in the Parishes of Hindon and Stockton, in areas of livestock farmland.



Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is emitted during agricultural, land use, and industrial activities; combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste; as well as during treatment of wastewater. It is associated with vehicle engines.

Across the four local authority areas in 2021, 83% of the nitrous oxide came from agriculture and a further 6% came from waste management. Most agricultural emissions result from nitrogen fertilization of agricultural soils and management of animal waste.

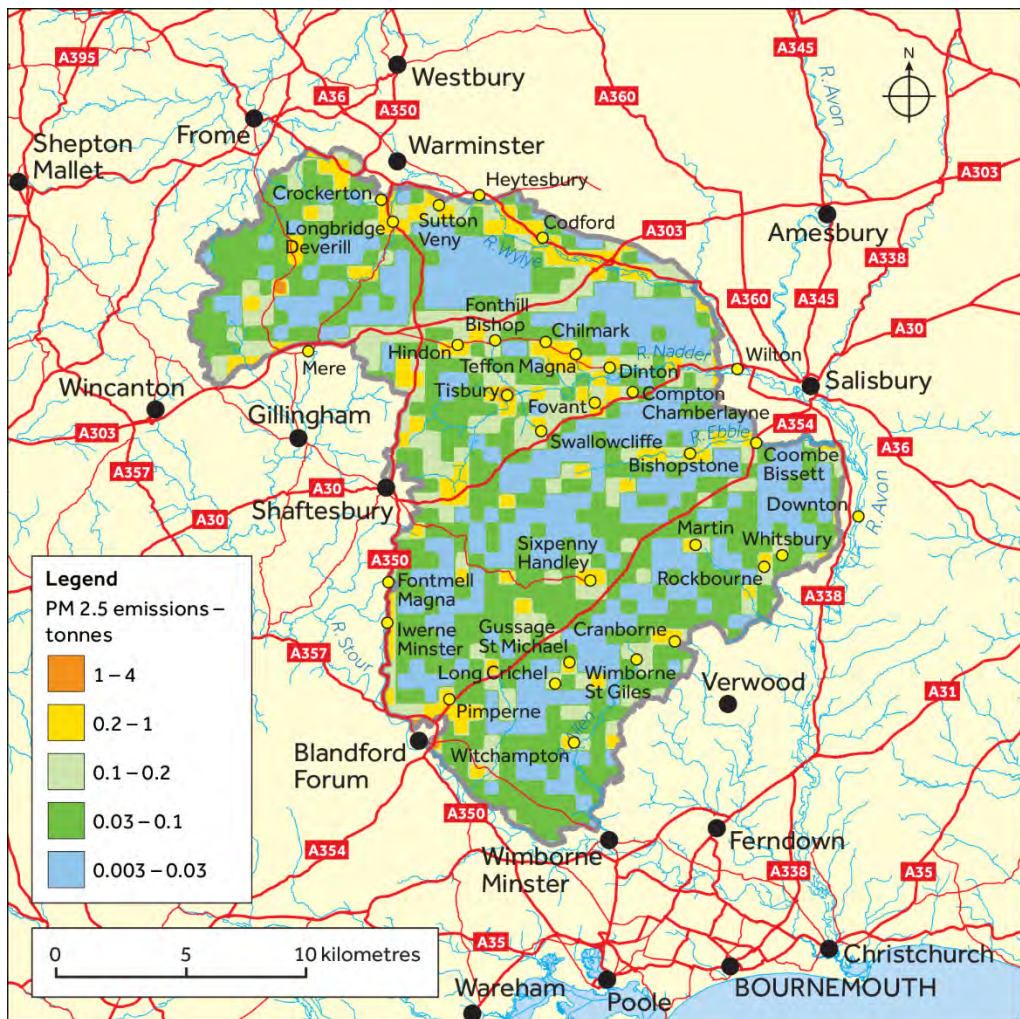
The high levels around Hindon may be associated with dairy farming; the cause of the high levels around Wylye is not clear

The lowest rates are in areas of woodland.

Air quality

Particulate matter in the National Landscape

Showing PM2.5 levels in 2022. Levels are relatively low in the area but with hotspots around settlements. There is a high concentration close to Kilmington/Norton Ferris (where there is a diesel truck repair depot and removal depot) and at Tisbury (where there is a working quarry) but the source is not clear.



The areas with the higher emissions are generally associated with the road network. There are now increasing levels due to increased use of wood as a fuel for homes. Industrial use of biomass fuels is also increasing and has become a more significant contributor to UK emissions.

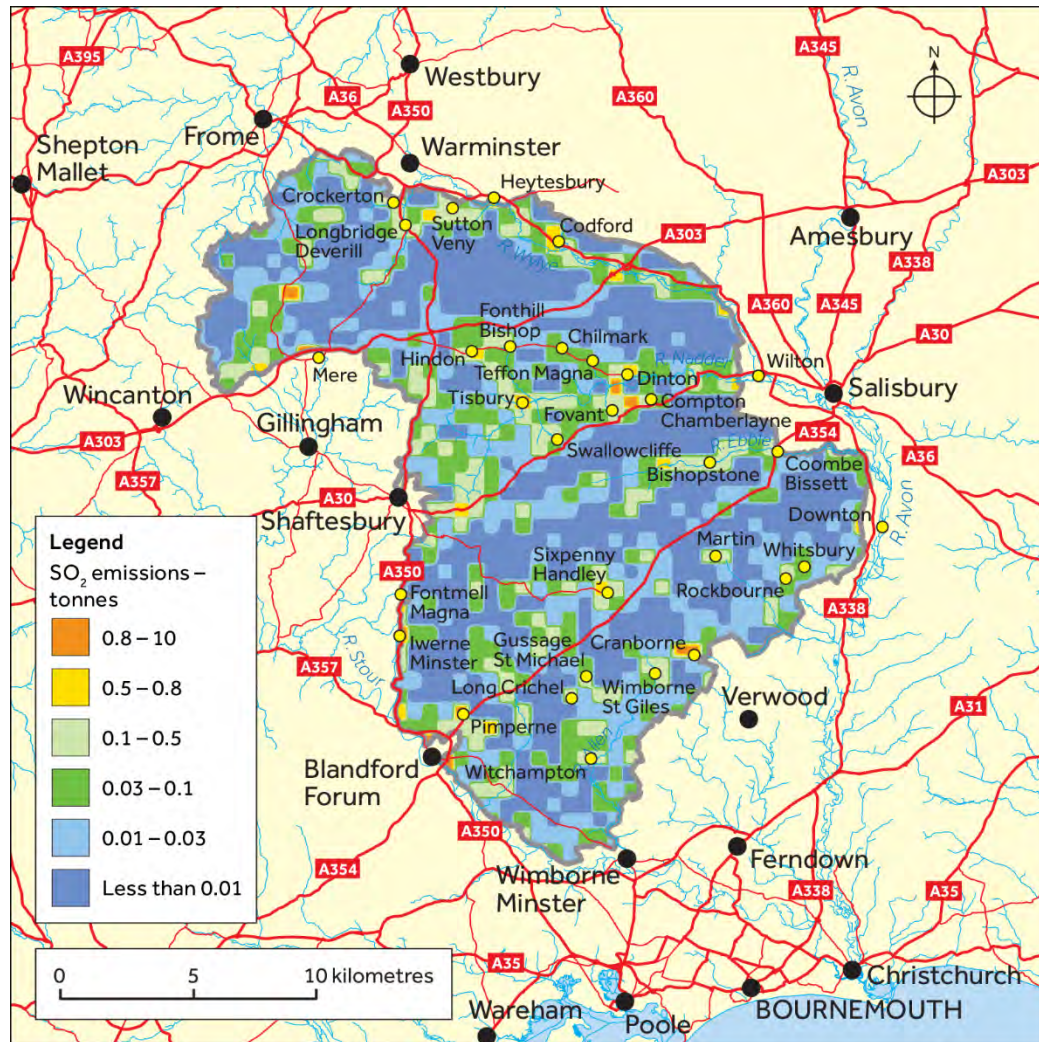
Particulate matter (PM) is everything in the air that is not a gas and consists of a huge variety of chemical compounds and materials, some of which can be toxic. PM2.5 is matter that is less than 2.5 micro gram in diameter. Due to the small size, some of these toxins may enter the bloodstream and be transported around the body, lodging in the heart, brain and other organs.

Note on UK emissions: Because of measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, PM2.5 emissions from road transport, aviation and railways in 2020 were 23%, 61% and 28% lower than they had been in 2019 respectively.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control. Emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 from agricultural sources are distributed using agricultural census data 2014.

Sulphur dioxide in the National Landscape

Showing sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in 2022. Levels are low in the area but there are hotspots close to Norton Ferris (diesel repair depots), and between Dinton, Compton Chamberlayne and Fovant (an area of motor sports). There is also a hotspot around Cranborne.



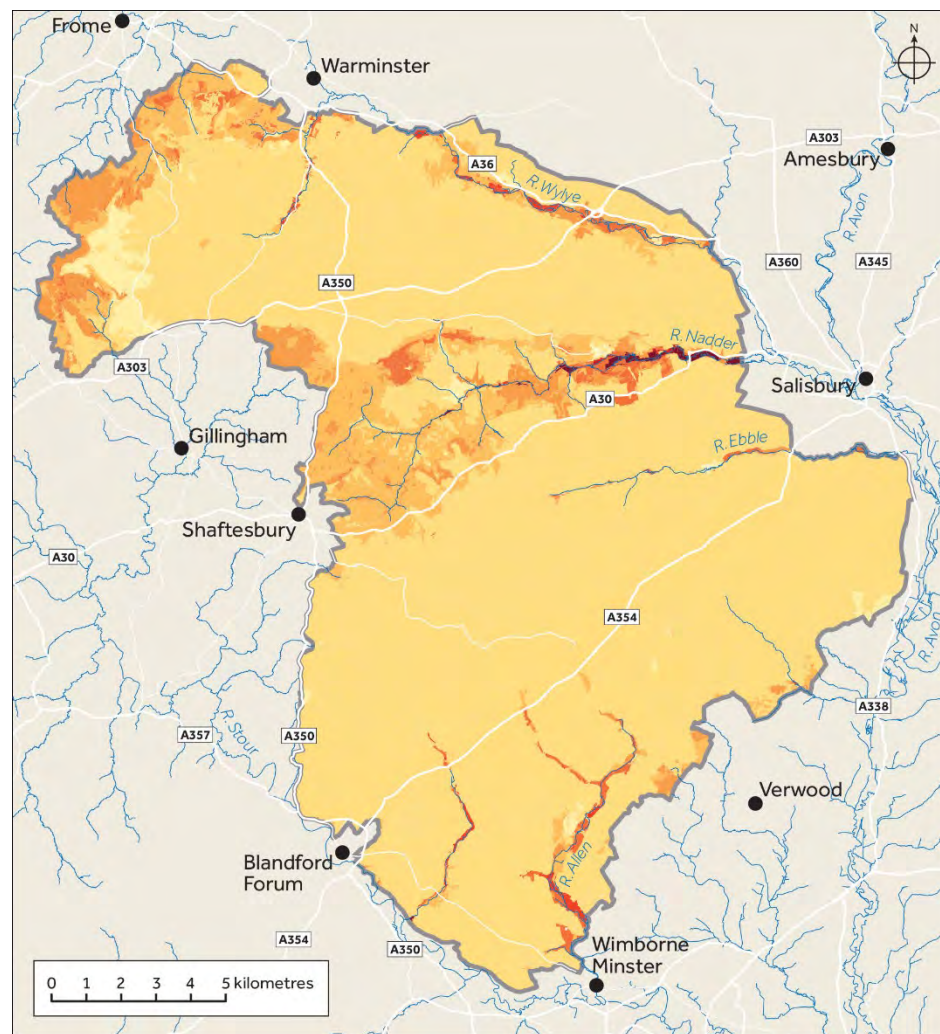
The principal man-made source of sulphur dioxide is the combustion of fossil fuels.

Sulphur dioxide contributes to aerosol formation which can either warm (through absorption of solar radiation on dark particles) or cool (from forming cloud droplets and reflecting radiation) the atmosphere.

Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) 2022 (<https://naei.beis.gov.uk/data/mapping>). The NAEI receives detailed data on individual point sources regulated by the Environment Agency and Local Authority Pollution Control.

Soil organic carbon stock

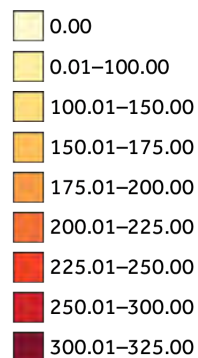
A baseline assessment of organic carbon storage capacity of and fluxes from habitats present within the National Landscape.



Legend

Soil C stock – tonnes per hectare

Soil organic carbon stock at 0–150cm depth – tonnes per hectare average estimate



Derived from the National Landscapes Association’s (supported by Natural England) National Landscape Carbon Audit and Metric project delivered by Cranfield University.

The term **carbon stock** refers to the amount of carbon contained within soils or biomass at a given time described in terms of mass per standardised unit area (tonnes per hectare) and are often referred to as carbon density (see Zawadzka, J.E., et al 2022).

Soil has a critical role to play in climate change mitigation by regulating atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs). Global soils are the dominant natural land-based carbon sink, holding more carbon than all terrestrial habitats combined (soil carbon stock). There are opportunities to increase soil carbon stocks and reduce GHG emissions from many agricultural soils by changing management practices and how land is used.

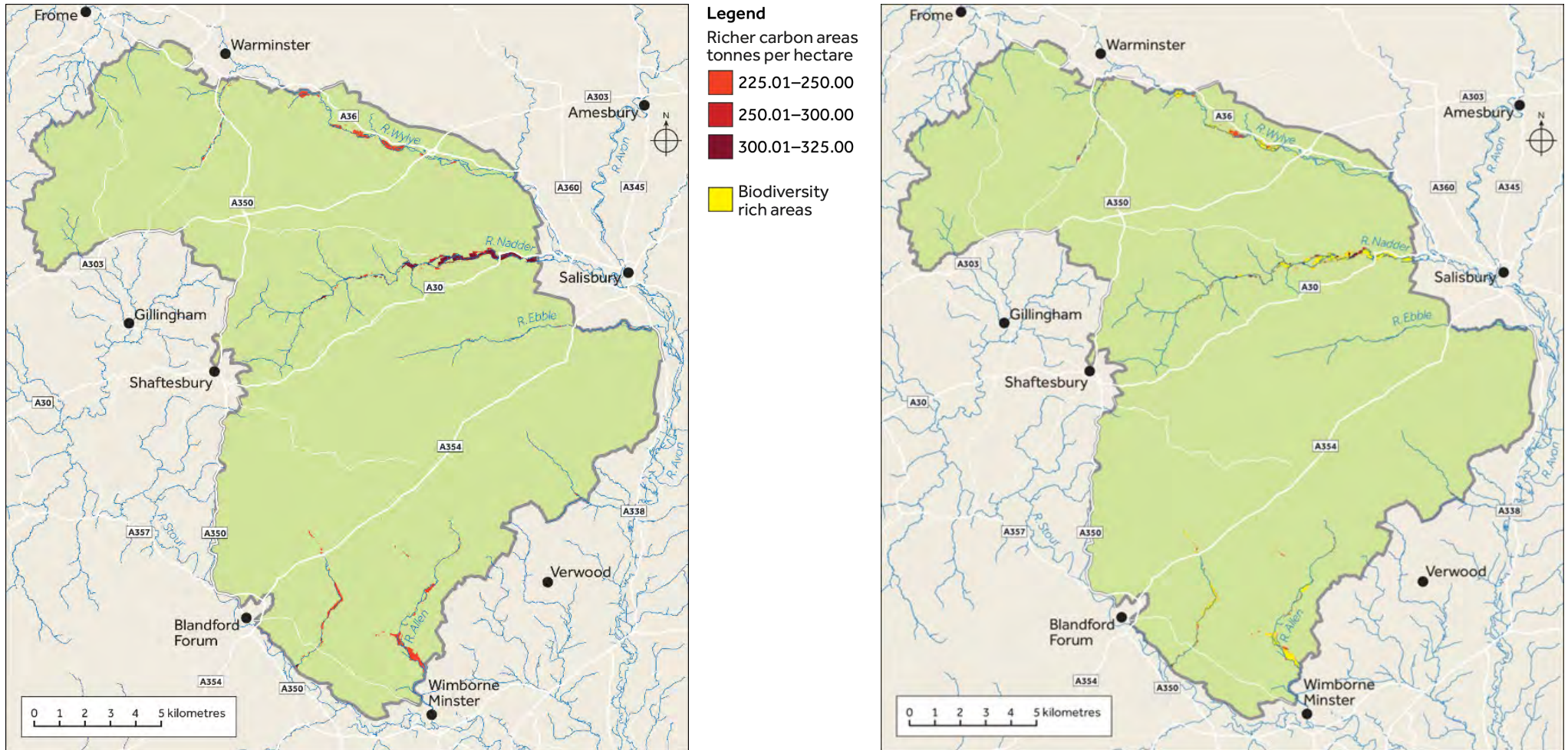
Much of the soils in the National Landscape only hold the equivalent of 100-150 tonnes of carbon per hectare. There are a few areas holding considerably more, mainly in the river valleys. These equate to the areas of Priority Habitat, **as shown on the next map**.

Greenhouse gas data show a 6.4% increase in carbon accumulating in the local soils and vegetation between 2011 and 2021.

Source: Non-priority habitats: data owned by UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology © Database Right/Copyright UKEH; Priority habitats: Ordnance Survey MasterMaps® (OSMM); Natural England; Soil data: © Cranfield University (NSRI) and for the Controller of HMSO (2022). Backdrop: © Crown copyright and/or database right 2022 OS

Area of priority habitats within the richer level of organic carbon stocks

There is a very close match between the area's richer stocks of organic carbon and the 'Floodplain Grazing Marsh' Priority Habitat.

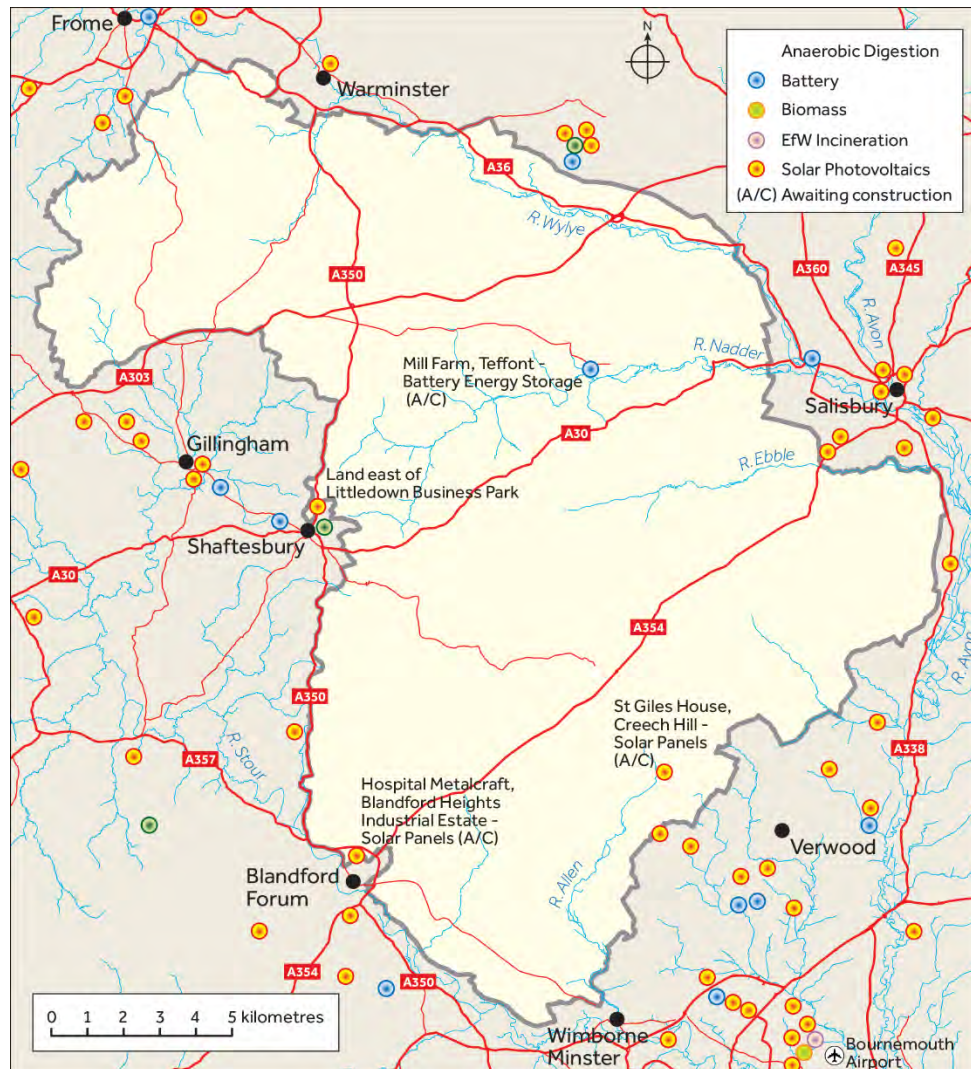


The biodiversity rich areas (in yellow) refer to the combined areas of priority habitat (click to go to [Area of priority habitats](#) map) that fall within the higher levels of organic carbon stocks (225.01 – 325.00 tonnes/ha at a depth of 0-150 cm).

Reference: Zawadzka, J.E., Keay, C., Hannam, J., Burgess, P.J, Corstanje, R. (2022). AONB Carbon Audit & Metric (land management), Bedfordshire: Cranfield University

Renewable energy

There is one renewable energy generation site operating within the National Landscape, there are three awaiting construction.



Within the National Landscape, there is one operating renewable energy generation site:

- Lightsource Renewable Energy, Land east of Littledown Business Park, Solar Photovoltaics (6.2MW);

three sites are awaiting construction:

- Hospital Metalcraft Limited, Blandford Heights Industrial Estate, Solar Photovoltaics;
- Shaftesbury Estates, St Giles House, Creech Hill, Solar Photovoltaics (0.1536MW); and
- Private Energy Partners Pty Limited, Mill Farm, Teffon, Battery Energy Stand-alone Storage (8.5MW).

Two applications have been refused:

- Brilliant Harvest Installations, Deptford Farm solar park, Solar Photovoltaics (7.8MW);
- Pertwood Partners, Summerslade Down Wind Cluster, close to Brixton Deverill, Wind Onshore (2.2MW);

and one application was withdrawn:

- J.M. Stratton & Co Ltd, East Farm (Clay Pit Hill) - Extension II, Solar Photovoltaics (6MW).

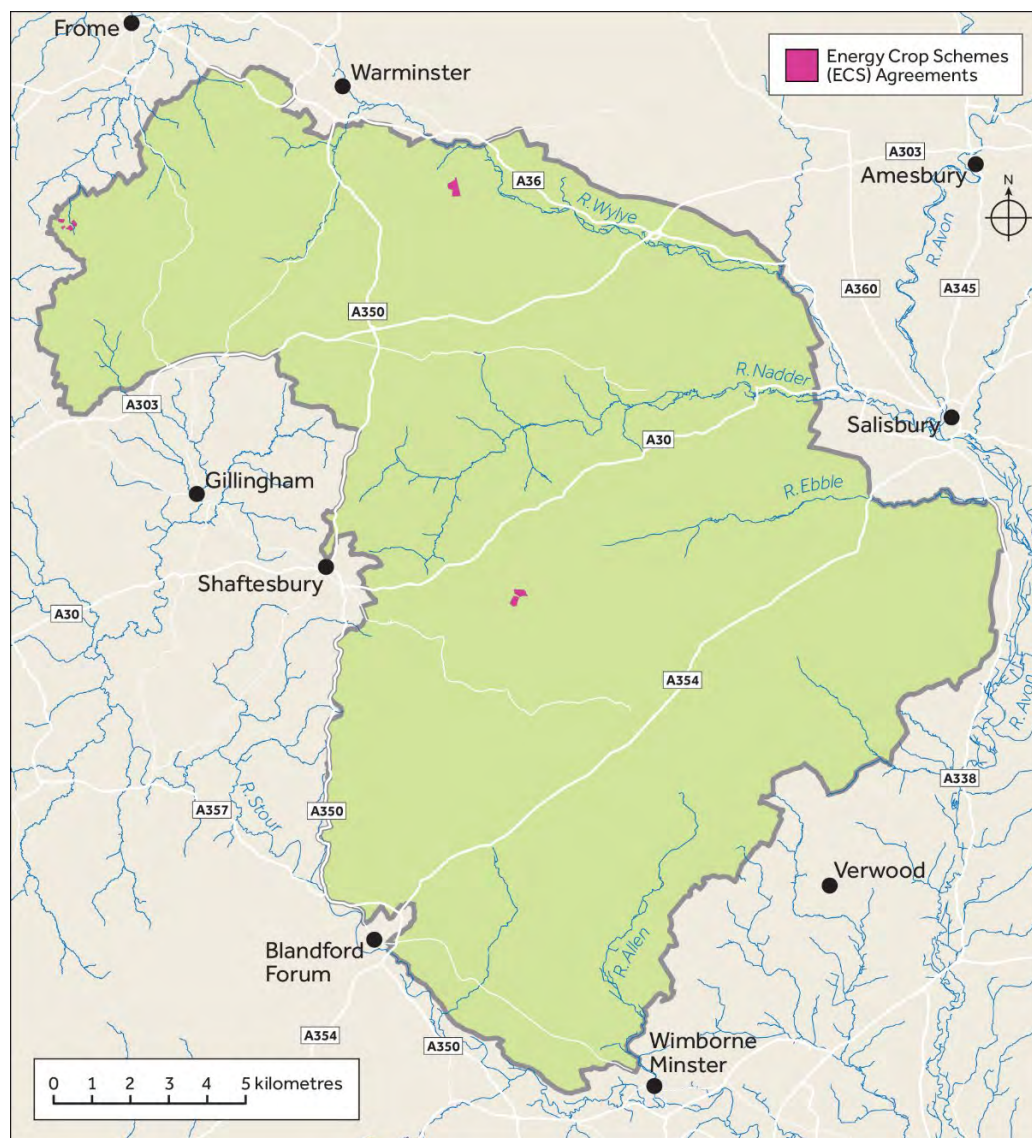
There are several sites close to the boundary, and in the setting, of the National Landscape. Only a few are operational, such as:

- Low Carbon Solar, Park Farm, Shroton Solar Photovoltaics (4MW);
- BV Dairy (Farm AD), Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury, Anaerobic Digestion (1.5MW);
- British Solar Renewables, Bake Farm, Coombe Bissett Solar Photovoltaics (5MW); and
- J M Stratton & Co Ltd, Codford Biogas (Waste AD), Malmpit Hill, Codford, Anaerobic Digestion (3.7MW).

Source: Department for Energy Security & Net Zero <https://data.barbour-abi.com/smart-map/repd/desnz/?type=repd>

Energy crops

There are 4 plots of short rotation coppice and 4 plots of *Miscanthus x giganteus* planted within the National Landscape, covering 47.26 ha.



Approved crops are Short Rotation Coppice (Willow, Poplar, Ash, Alder, Hazel, Silver Birch, Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut and Lime) and Miscanthus (a tall woody grass). Miscanthus *x giganteus* offers a higher biomass yield than Short Rotation Coppice, giving up to 15-25 tonnes per ha. The schemes are expected to last around 15 years.

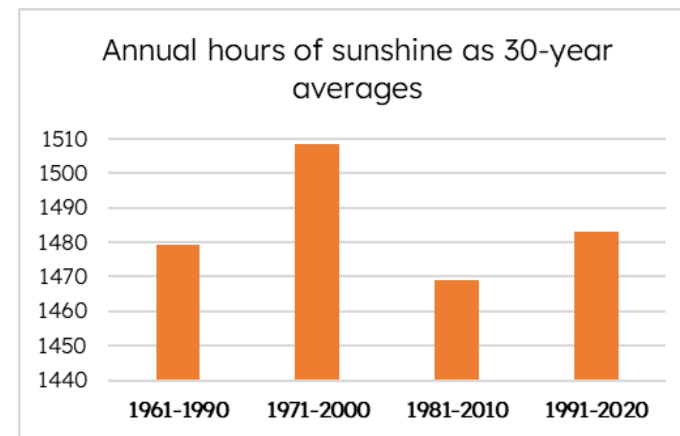
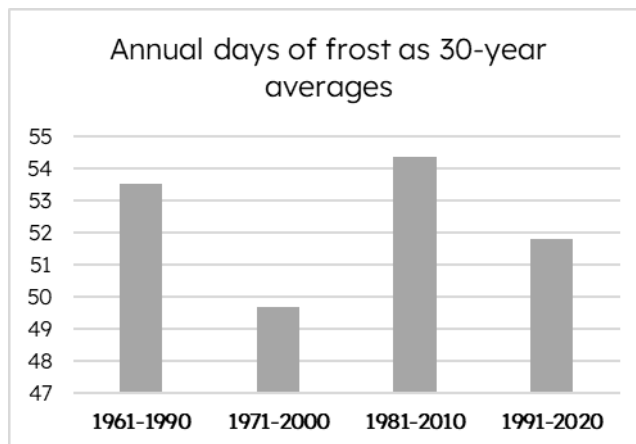
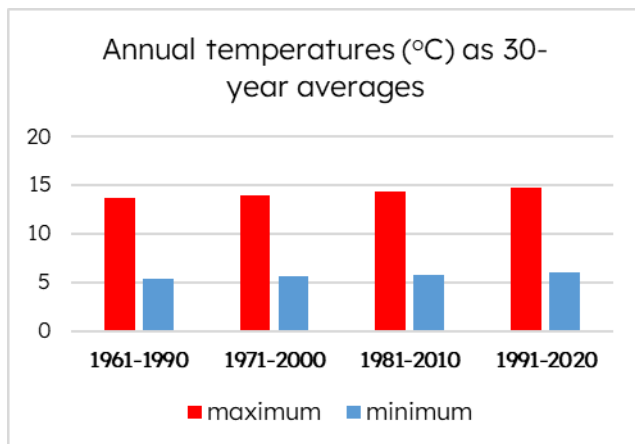
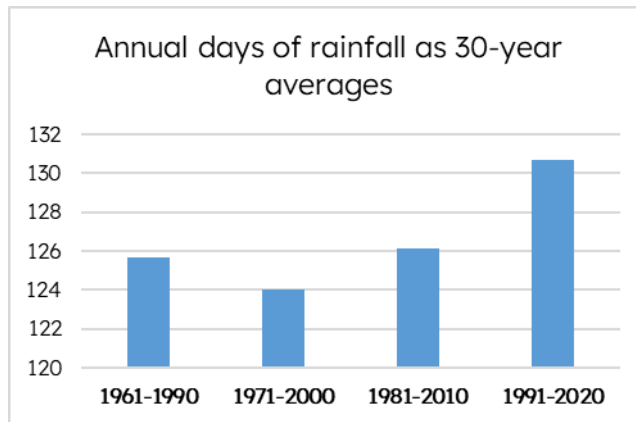
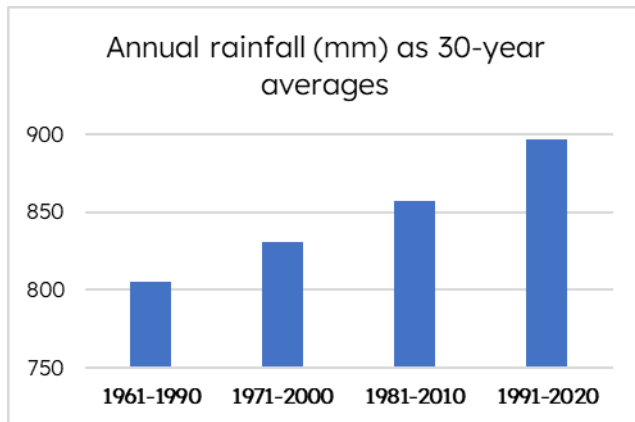
Short Rotation Coppice and Miscanthus are bioenergy crops grown primarily for use in the heat and electricity energy markets. They are burnt in power stations, combined heat and power units or heating systems. Miscanthus may also be converted into ethanol through a variety of pre-treatment options.

- Two plots of Miscanthus near to Berwick St John planted in 2007 (8 ha) and 2008 (7.62 ha). They are now coming to the end of their expected life.
- Two plots of Miscanthus near to Tytherington planted in 2010 (@ 15.41 ha & 10.08 ha). They will reach the end of their expected life in 2025.
- Four plots of short rotation coppice around The Hermitage planted in 2015 (@ 2.87 ha, 1.12 ha, 0.77 ha & 1.39 ha). They will reach the end of their expected life in 2030.

Source: © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2024]. <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::energy-crops-scheme-ecs-agreements/explore?location=52.587565%2C-1.614691%2C7.17>

Changes in weather patterns

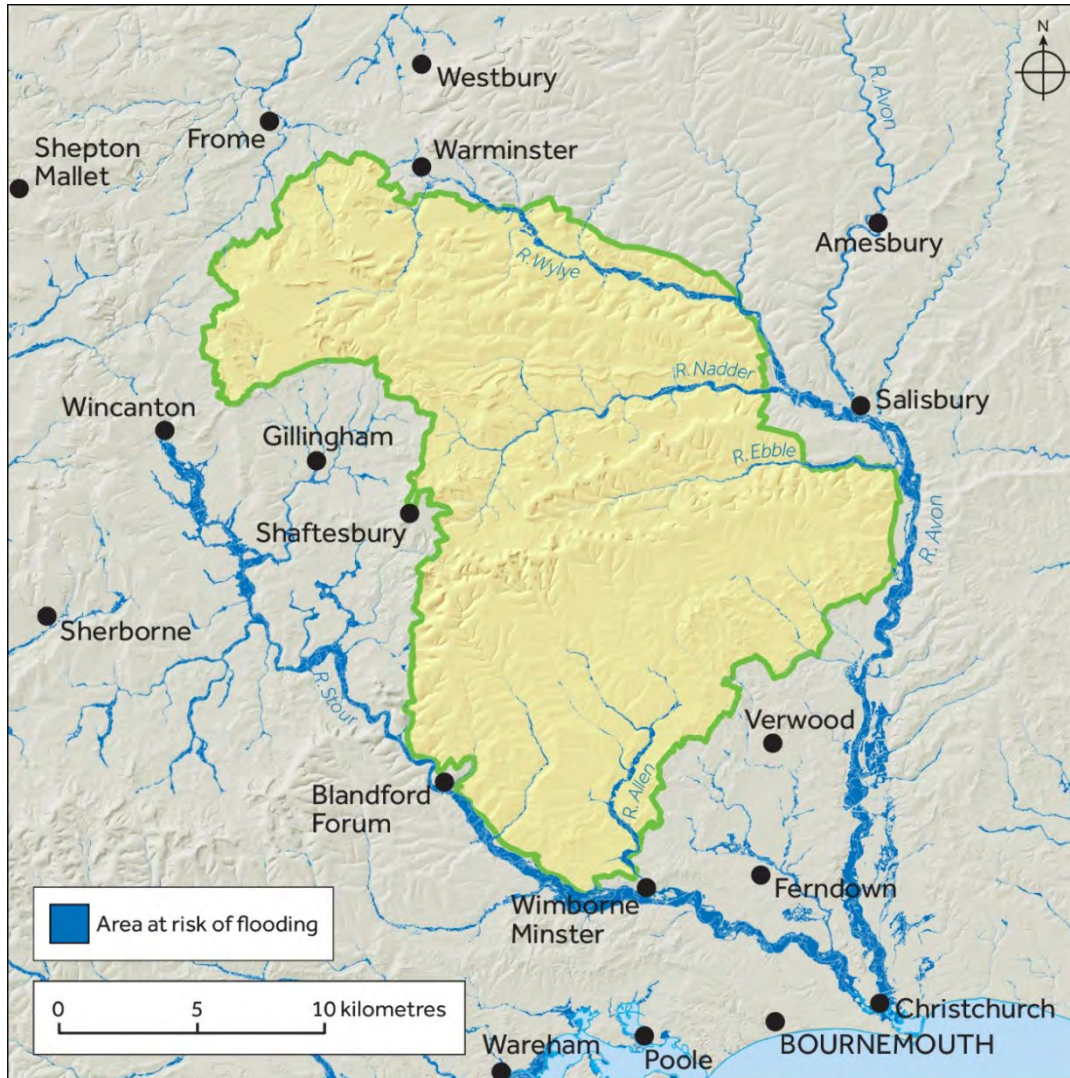
Charts showing a series of 30-year climate averages between 1961 and 2020 based on Metrological Office data for Fontmell Magna, Dorset. There is a 91.5-millimetre increase in annual rainfall and a rise of 0.8°C in annual mean temperature over the last 60 years. Recent years are wetter, with the period 1991-2020 having 5.4 more annual days of rainfall than each of the preceding periods.



Source: Information provided by the National Meteorological Office, UK climate averages (MIDAS Open data 2024)
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-climate-averages/gcn3y738h>

Area at risk of flooding

Generally, there is a very low flood risk within the National Landscape but a high risk of localised flooding along the banks of the rivers Allen, Ebble, Nadder and Wyle.

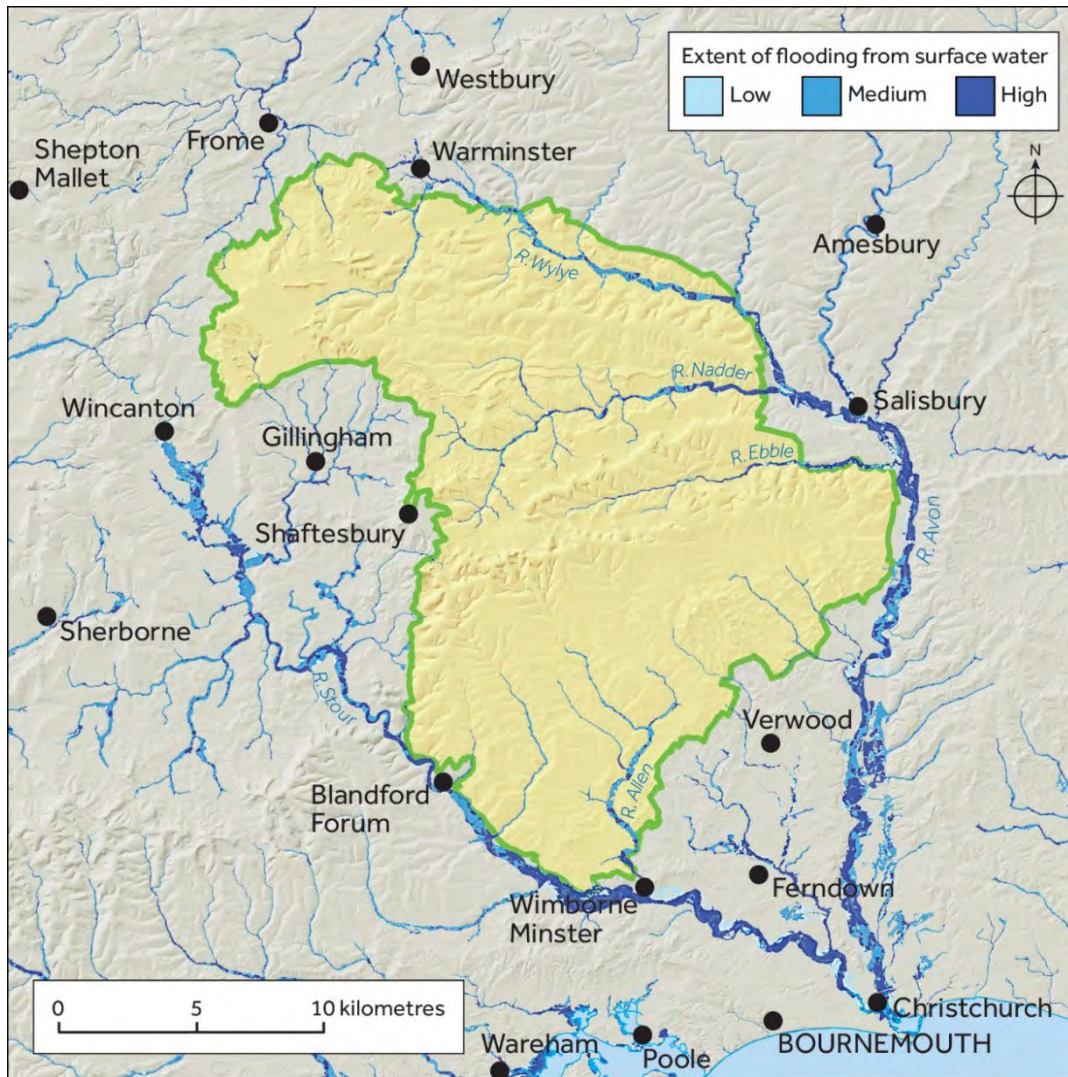


Note: **Showing high risk** - this means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year. This considers the effect of any flood defences in the area. These defences reduce but do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped, or fail.

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100024198. <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

Area at risk of flooding from surface water

The large majority of the National Landscape is at very low risk of flooding from surface water. There is a medium to low risk of localised surface water flooding along the valleys of the rivers Allen, Ebble, Nadder and Wylye.



Note: Flooding from surface water is difficult to predict as rainfall location and volume are difficult to forecast.

Low risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of between 0.1% and 1% each year.

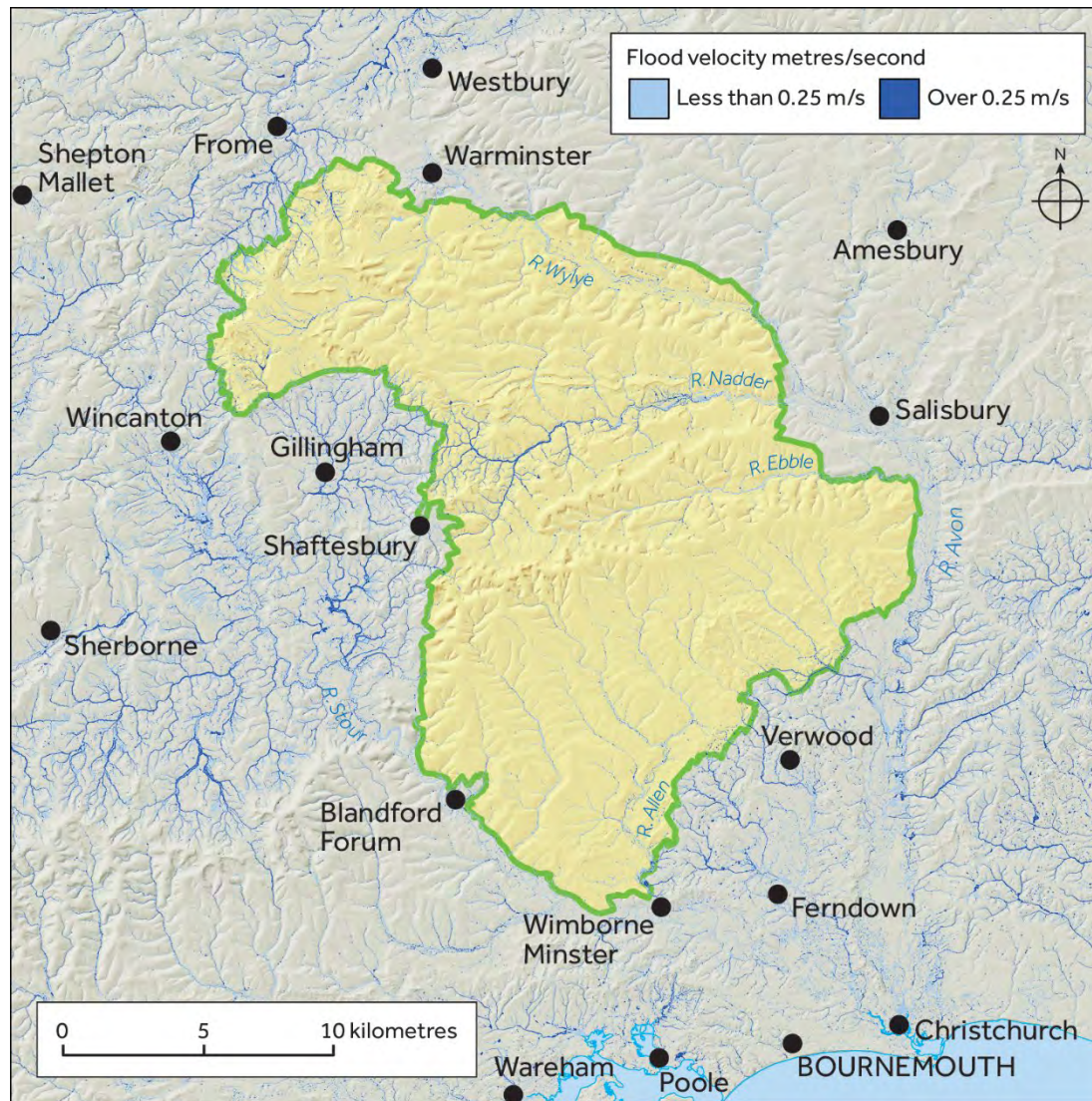
Medium risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of between 1% and 3.3% each year.

High risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year.

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100024198. <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

Surface water velocity

High velocity flood water is noted in the upper reaches of the River Nadder but it is confined.



Surface water flood risk: water velocity in a high-risk scenario.

High risk means that this area has a chance of flooding of greater than 3.3% each year.

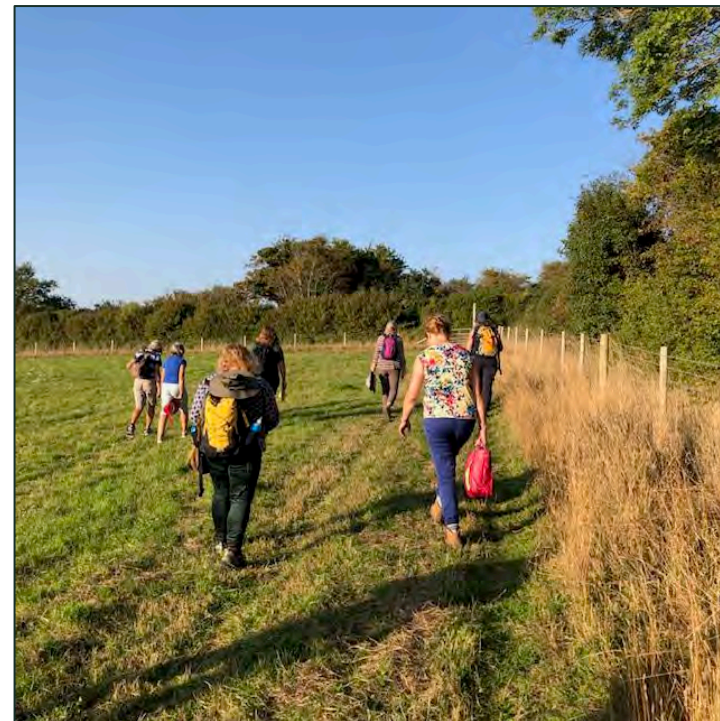
Low risk means less than 0.1% each year

Source: Environment Agency © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100024198. <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

People

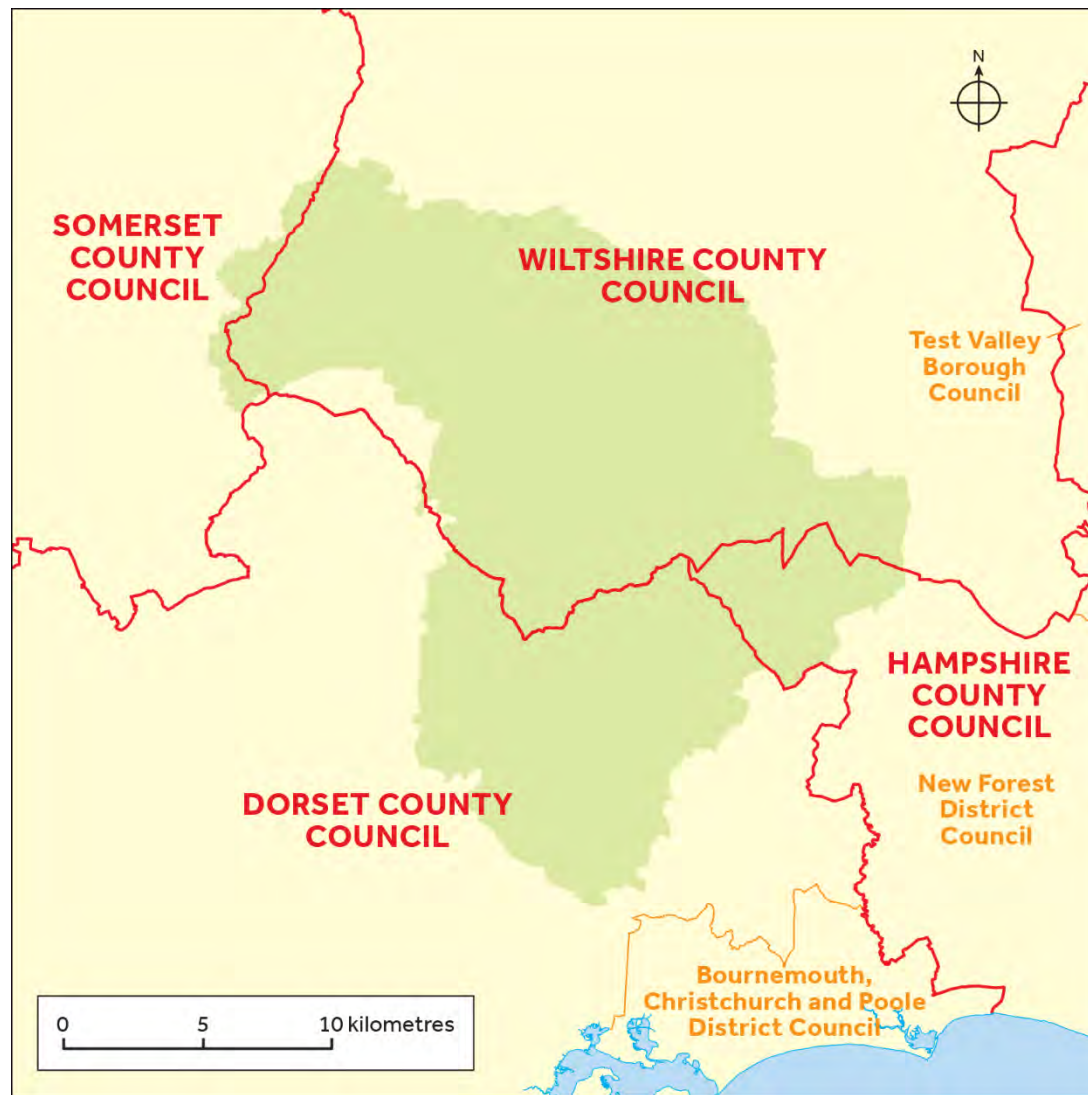
The Office for National Statistics undertakes a census every 10 years that gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. All information is anonymised and the actual census records are secure for 100 years. Output Areas are the lowest level of geographical area for census statistics. The last census was in 2021. For the 2021 Census, there were some changes made to the 2011 Output Areas, because of population and household changes since 2011. We have carefully plotted the two data sets to ensure that, overall, the same area of land is reported (see Appendix 2). Census data is not cut to the National Landscape boundary. Defra is now releasing social data as a part of Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF), based on the Office for National Statistics Output Area population estimates. These are allocated to the national landscape on a best fit basis and they are to be the baseline for the National Landscape. For this report, we compare changes between the 2011 and 2021 Output Areas.

Cranborne Chase has one of the lowest population densities in the South West of England (c. 35.2 people per sq km), although there are ½ million people within thirty minutes' drive of the National Landscape in surrounding market towns and the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole conurbation. The low population density, absence of large settlements within the National landscape and daily commuting outside the boundary mainly for work, all potentially threaten the economic viability of remaining local services such as post offices, pubs, doctors' surgeries, village shops and village halls. Alongside the key land-based industries of farming, forestry, game management and related businesses, the rural economy of the area comprises a range of small to medium sized businesses. The high-quality environment offers opportunities for the development of low impact, sustainable, rural tourism. Longleat, Stourhead and Centre Parcs are significant visitor destinations within the National Landscape.



Administrative boundaries

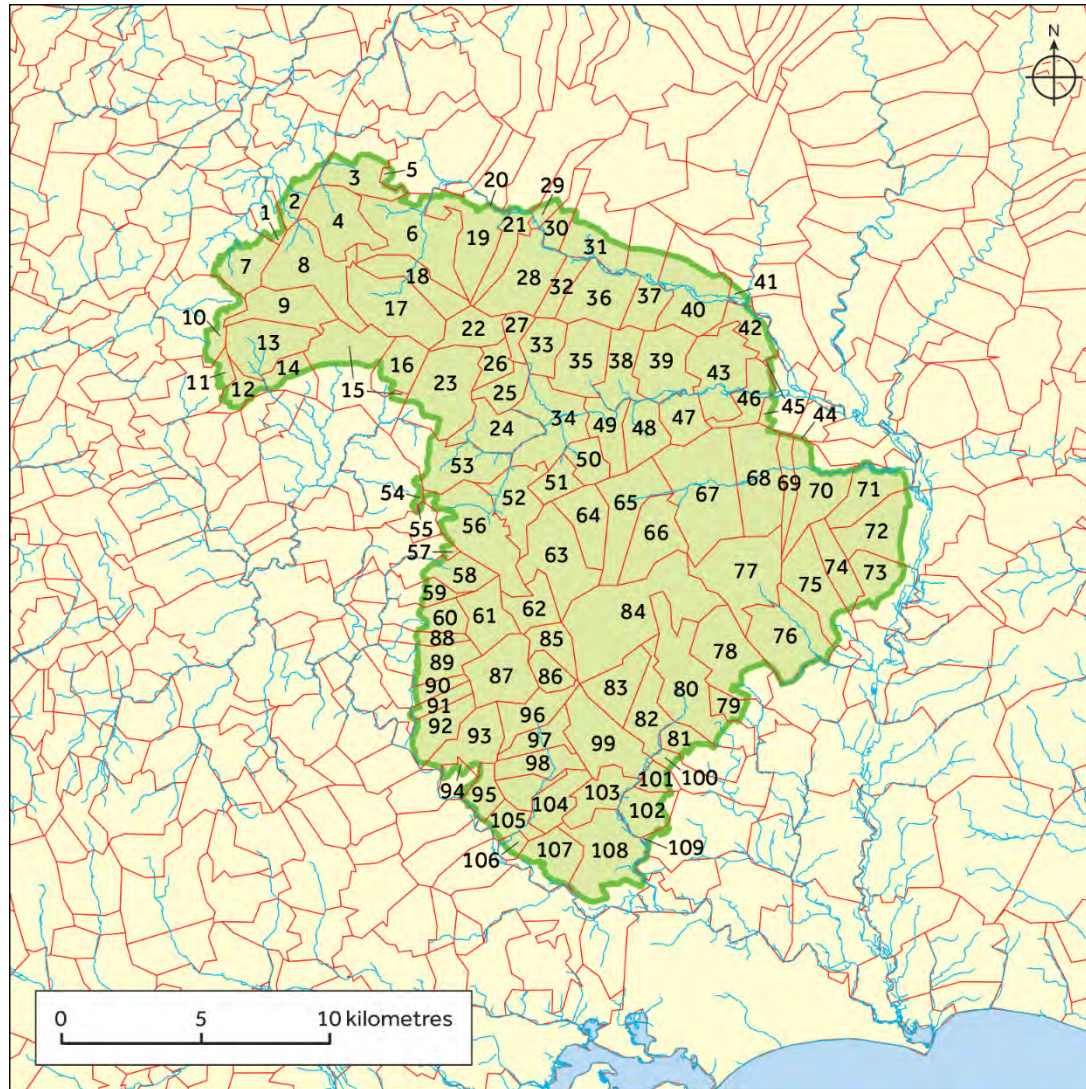
The National Landscape lies within the areas of Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset Unitary Councils, Hampshire County Council, and the New Forest District Council. There are 108 parish councils.



Source: GIS data obtained from www.data.gov.uk

Parish boundaries

The National Landscape lies within the areas of Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset Unitary Councils, Hampshire County Council, and the New Forest District Council. There are 109 parish councils.



Civil Parishes

1 Trudoxhill	39 Dinton	78 Cranborne
2 Selwood	40 Steeple Langford	79 Edmondsham
3 Corsley	41 Stapleford	80 Wimborne St Giles
4 Horningsham	42 Great Wishford	81 Woodlands
5 Warminster	43 Barford St Martin	82 Gussage All Saints
6 Longbridge Deverill	44 Netherhampton	83 Gussage St Michael
7 Witham Friary	45 Wilton	84 Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge
8 Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield	46 Burcombe Without	85 Farnham
9 Kilmington	47 Compton Chamberlayne	86 Chettle
10 Brewham	48 Fovant	87 Tarrant Gunville
11 Charlton Musgrove	49 Sutton Mandeville	88 Sutton Waldron
12 Pen Selwood	50 Swallowcliffe	89 Iwerne Minster
13 Stourton with Gasper	51 Ansty	90 Iwerne Courtney or Shroton
14 Zeals	52 Donhead St Andrew	91 Iwerne Stepleton
15 Mere	53 Sedgemoor and Semley	92 Stourpaine
16 West Knoyle	54 Motcombe	93 Pimperne
17 Kingston Deverill	55 Shaftesbury	94 Blandford Forum
18 Brixton Deverill	56 Donhead St. Mary	95 Langton Long Blandford
19 Sutton Veny	57 Cann	96 Tarrant Hinton
20 Norton Bavant	58 Melbury Abbas	97 Tarrant Launceston
21 Heytesbury	59 Compton Abbas	98 Tarrant Monkton
22 Chicklade	60 Fontmell Magna	99 Criche
23 East Knoyle	61 Ashmore	100 Horton
24 West Tisbury	62 Tollard Royal	101 Chalbury
25 Fonthill Gifford	63 Berwick St John	102 Hinton
26 Hindon	64 Alvediston	103 Witchampton
27 Berwick St Leonard	65 Ebbesborne Wake	104 Tarrant Rushton
28 Boyton	66 Bowerchalke	105 Tarrant Keyneston
29 Knook	67 Broad Chalke	106 Tarrant Crawford
30 Upton Lovell	68 Bishopstone	107 Shapwick
31 Codford	69 Stratford Toney	108 Pamphill
32 Sherrington	70 Coombe Bissett	109 Holt
33 Fonthill Bishop	71 Odstock	
34 Tisbury	72 Downton	
35 Chilmark	73 Breamore	
36 Stockton	74 Whitsbury	
37 Wylde	75 Rockbourne	
38 Teffont	76 Damerham	
	77 Martin	

Source: GIS data obtained from www.data.gov.uk

Comparative size of settlements

The largest settlement within the National Landscape is Pimperne. It has over 2,768 residents. Tisbury has around 2,270 residents and all other settlements have less than 1,000 residents.



Most settlements within the National Landscape have a population of less than 1,000 people; e.g., Cranborne has 575 residents and Sixpenny Handley has 649. There are two exceptions. Pimperne has around 2,768 residents and Tisbury around 2,270. On the boundary, Mere has 2,807 residents and Shaftesbury 9,162.

There are larger settlements close to the area. Salisbury is the largest, with approximately 47,690 residents. Frome has 27,898 residents, Warminster 18,016, Wimborne 16,630, Verwood 13,716, Blandford Form 11,796 residents, and Gillingham 11,007.

All these settlements lie within one of the 30-minute travel areas for the National Landscape. (Click here to see the [Travel areas to the Cranborne Chase National Landscape maps](#)).

Further away, Bournemouth has 196,445 residents and Poole 140,977.

Legend

Size of population

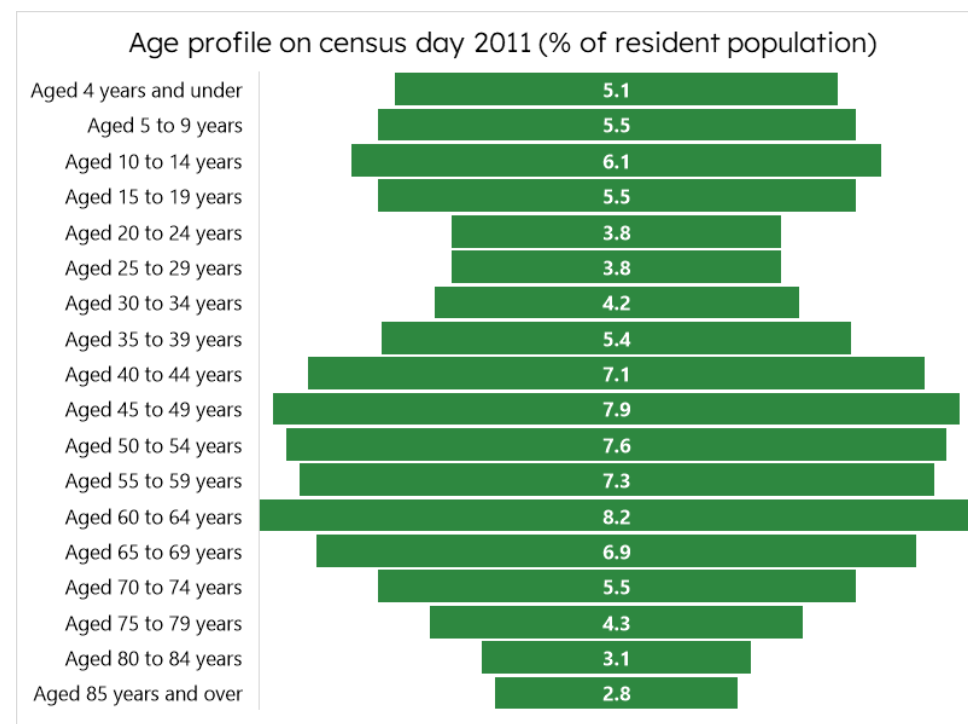
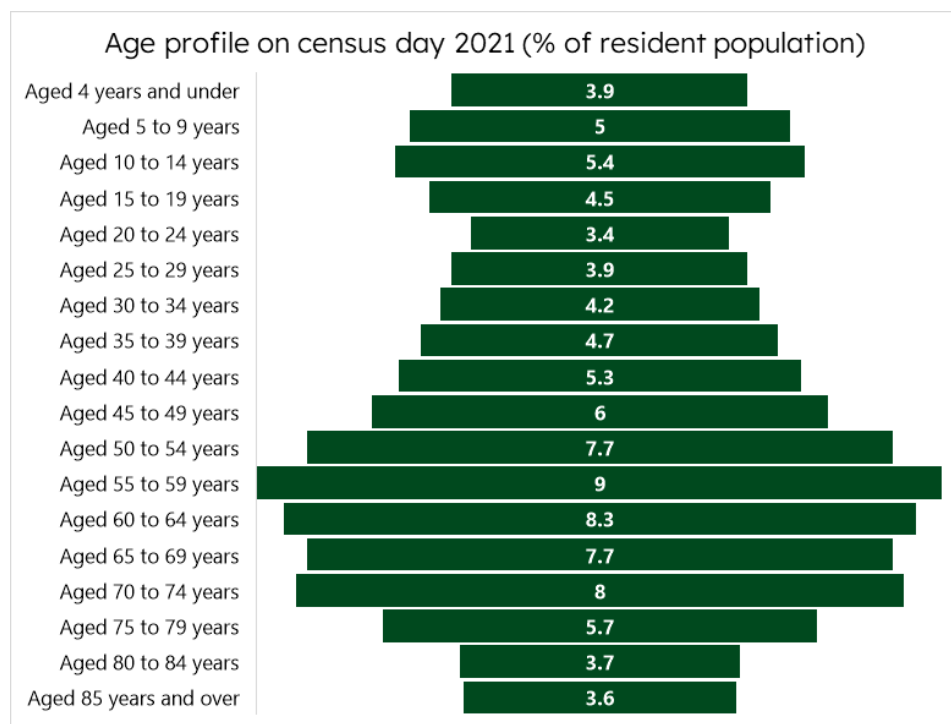
- 50,000+
- 10,000–50,000
- 5,000–10,000
- 2,000–5,000
- 1,000–2,000
- Under 1,000

The estimated total resident population for the National Landscape is 34,000 people.

Source: City populations (<https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/southwestengland/>); OpenStreetMap data is available under the Open Database License

Population numbers and age profile

From PLTOF data: The estimated total population on census day 2021 for the National Landscape was **34,600** and the average age in the National Landscape was **47** (41 in England).



Population numbers have remained stable since 2011 but there are now fewer people under 20 (down from 22% in 2011 to 19% in 2021). In 2021, most of the population is over 50 years of age (54% - up from 46% in 2011). In 2011, the largest band was the 60-64 age range; in 2021 it was the 55-59 age range. This may be the result of early retirees moving into the area. In 2011, ONS defined working age as 16-64 and this was 59.5% of the population; in 2021 it fell to 56% of the population². The working age population has declined and retired numbers has risen.

Source: Based on allocation of Output Areas, Census 2021. These estimates are based on National Landscape boundaries as of 2022. Output area population estimates have been allocated to National Landscapes on a best fit basis. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 25 July 2024] Tables PP012, QS103EW and TS007B

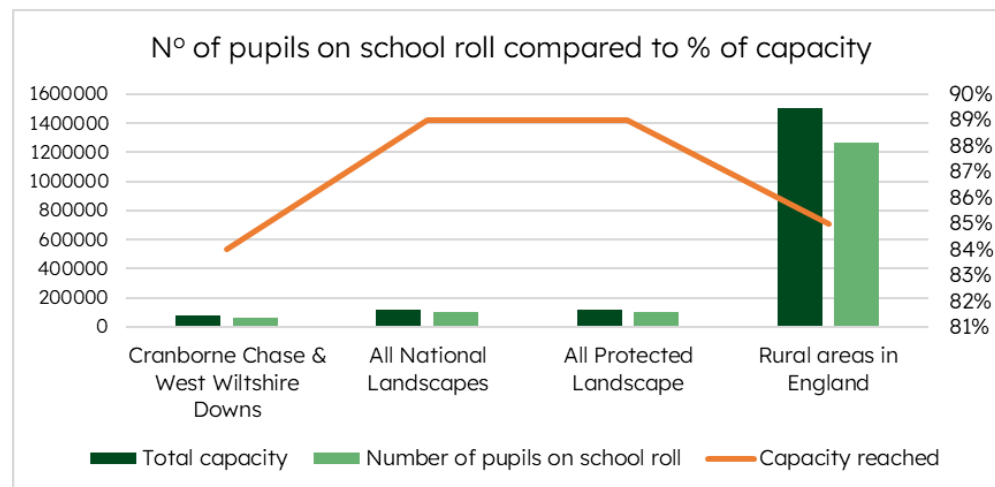
² Note: ONS no longer produces specific working age tables; this may reflect changing work patterns.

Number of pupils on the school roll

For pupils in the National Landscape, there are 76,000 spaces. Of these, 64,100 are in use. This means that the area is at **84%** of its capacity, which matches the average for rural areas in England. The average for the national landscapes is 89%.

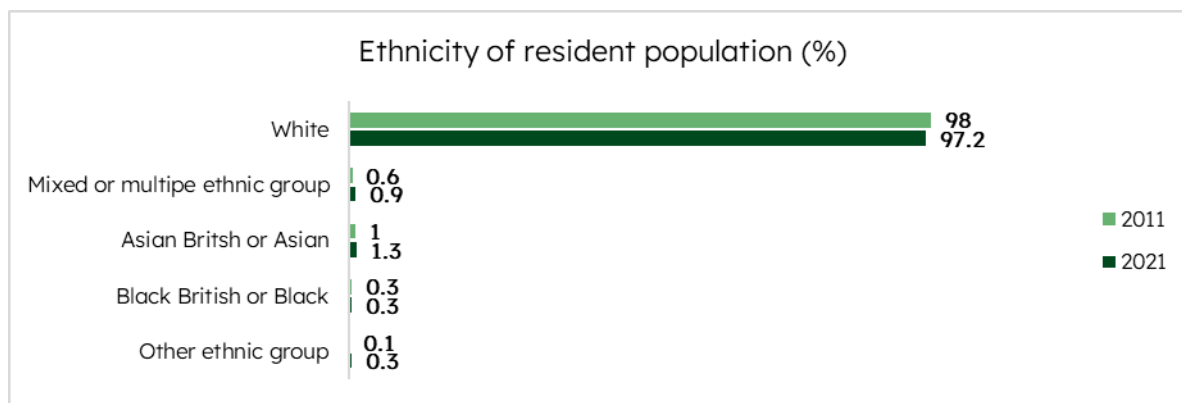
Note: School capacity is the number of pupils that a school can accommodate. The school roll is the number of pupils attending a specific school. The roll is the list of students who should be present in school.

Source: PLTOF based on apportioning of Upper Tier Local Authorities



Ethnicity and gender resident population

There has been little change in either ethnicity or gender between 2011 and 2021. In 2021, around 97% of the resident population class as 'white' and just over 50% of the population is female.



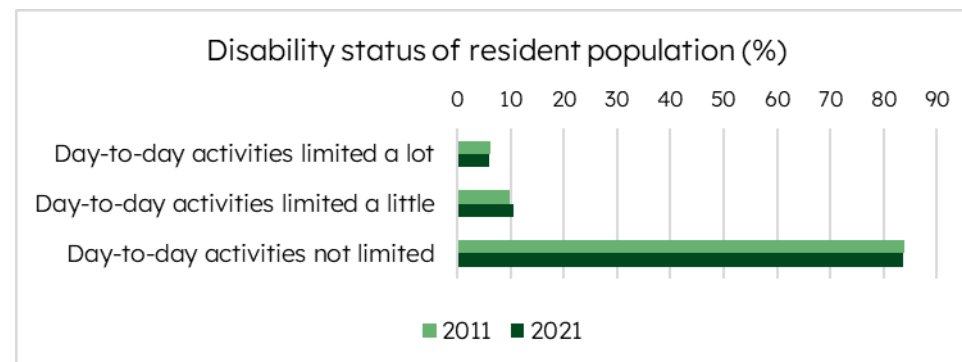
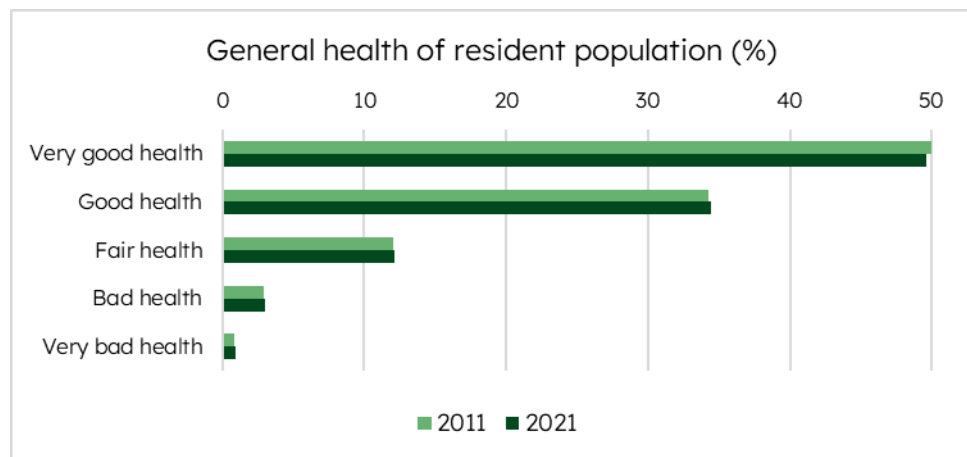
Gender of resident population

	2011	2021
Female	51.5%	51%
Male	48.5%	49%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 25 July 2024] Tables 2011: QS104EW & QS201EW, 2021: TS008 & TS021

Health of resident population

In 2021, 50% of the resident population enjoy very good health; only 1% suffer very bad health. There is no material difference with the 2011 data. In 2021, 84% of the resident population suffered no long-term health conditions. The 16.4% who did have long-term health condition were listed as disabled under the Equality Act.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 25 July 2024] Tables 2011: QS302EW, 2021: TS037 & TS038

Relative wealth of the resident population

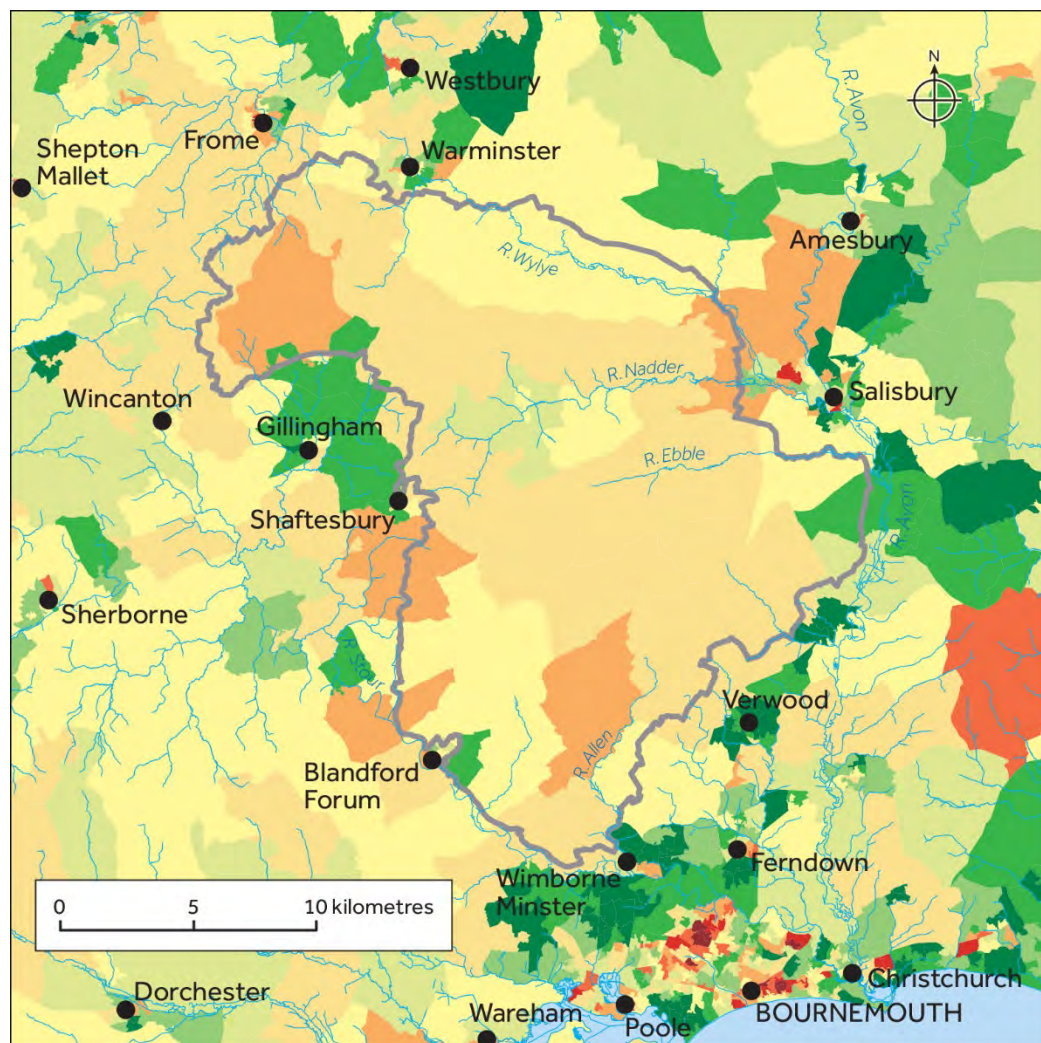
From PLTOF data, the average earnings per month were £2,150 in 2021. For rural areas in England, it was £2,300.

Dividing house prices by annual earnings creates a housing affordability ratio. In 2023, the National Landscape house-price affordability ratio was 11 (the average for all the National Landscapes was also 11). This means that full-time employees could expect to spend 11 times their earnings on purchasing a home in the National Landscape. Full-time employees in rural England could expect to spend around 9 times their annual earnings buying a home, making the National Landscape a less affordable area.

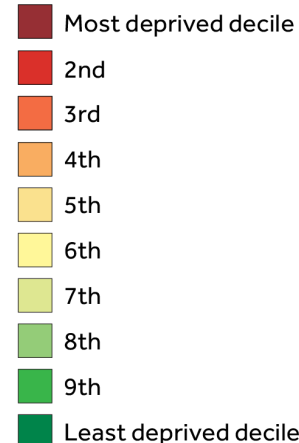
Source: Based on apportioning of Middle-layer Super Output Areas, Census 2021. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved

Nearby populations with significant levels of deprivation

From PLTOF data, communities within the National Landscape are not particularly deprived. Across the area, the average decile of deprivation is 5. Parts of the Parishes of Zeals, Mere, Downton and Langton Long Blandford are in the 9th least deprived decile. In contrast, the Parishes of Melbury Abbas, Compton Abbas, Fontmell Magna, Stourpaine, Witchampton, Crichel, Gusset St Michael, Gusset All Saints, Burcombe Without, Great Wishford, Sourton with Gasper, Kilmington and Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield are in the 4th most deprived decile.

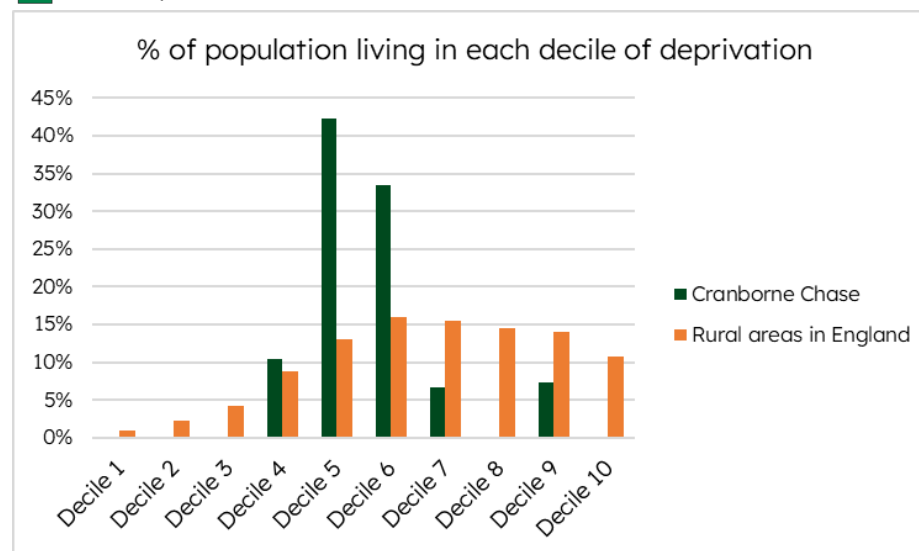


Legend



The Indices of Deprivation provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different fields of deprivation:

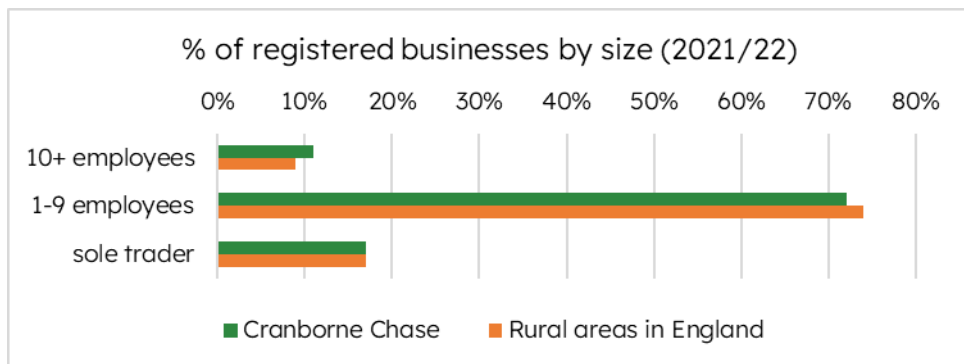
- Income Deprivation;
- Employment Deprivation;
- Education;
- Skills and Training Deprivation;
- Health Deprivation and Disability;
- Crime;
- Barriers to Housing and Services; and
- Living Environment Deprivation.



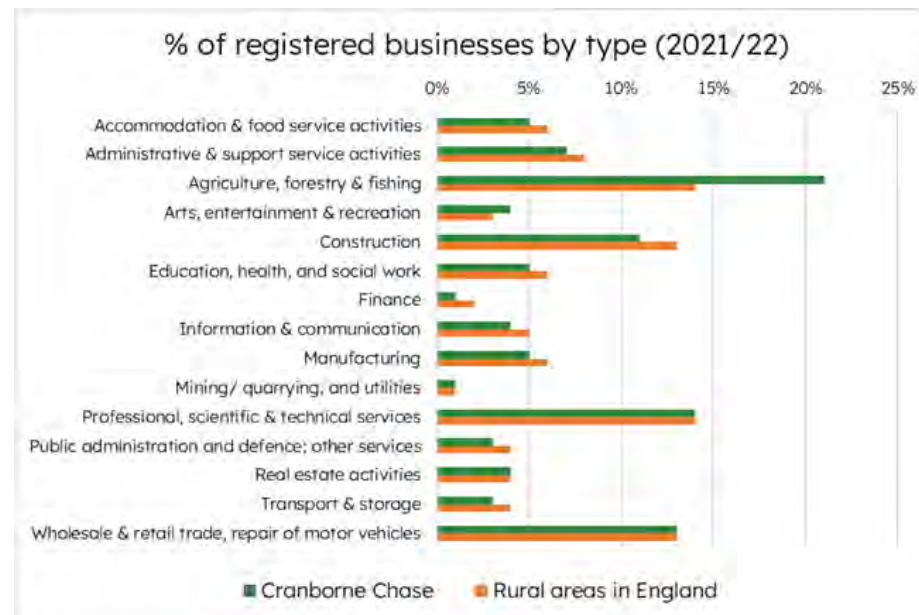
Source: <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/index-multiple-deprivation-imd> and PLTOF Based on apportioning of Lower-layer Super Output Areas, Census 2021

Registered businesses by size and type

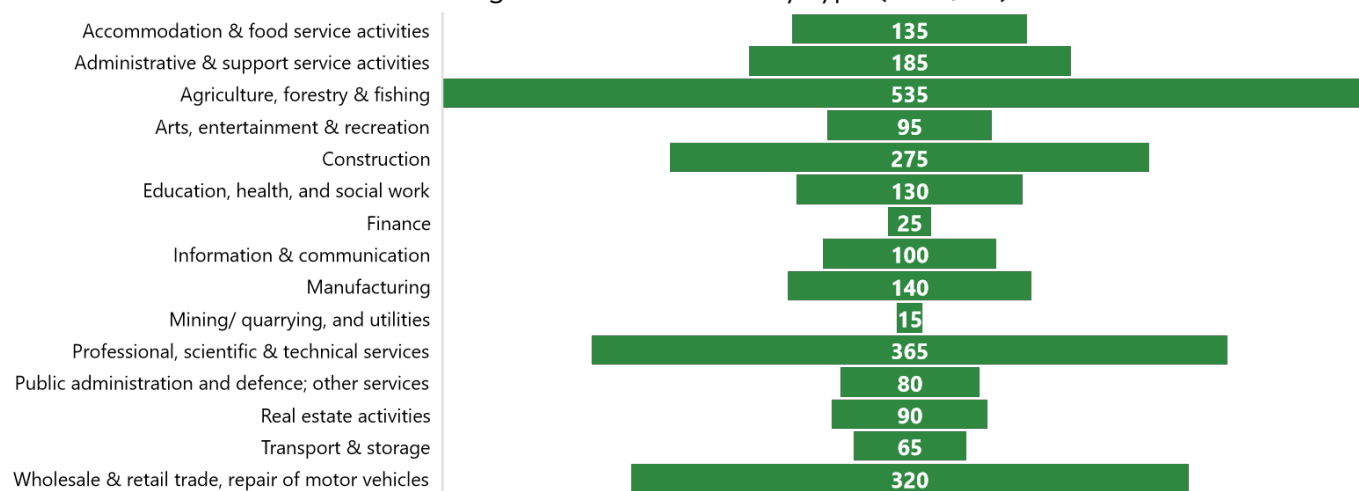
From PLTOF data, there are 895 business units registered within the national landscape.



Most businesses employ less than nine employees. The dominant business type is agriculture, forestry and fishing. Where a sector is present, the spread of business types within the National Landscape matches that across rural areas in England with exception of agriculture, forestry and fishing. This represents 21% of business types in Cranborne Chase, compared to only 14% across rural England.



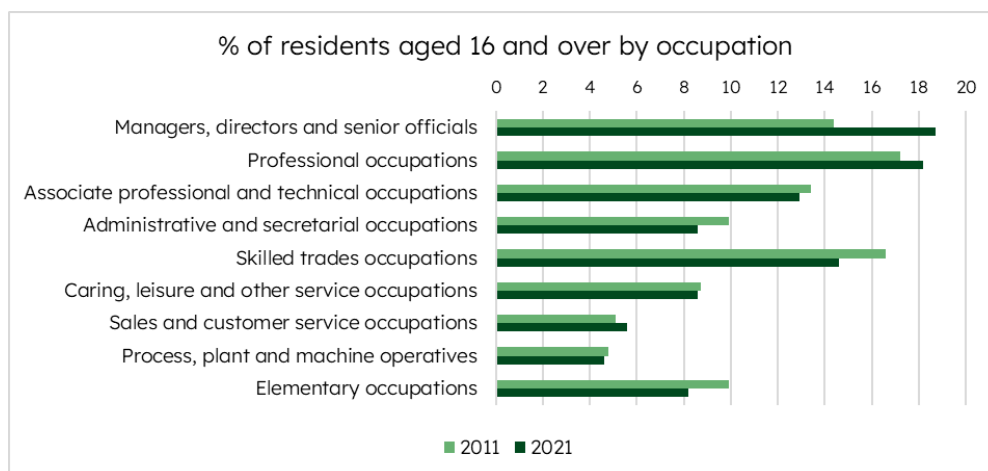
N^o of registered businesses by type (2021/22)



Source: PLTOF Based on allocation of Output Areas.

Employment profiles of resident population

Between 2011 & 2021: there has been a 10% reduction in the level of registered employment and a 12% swing from those residents wanting to work to those not seeking work; perhaps reflecting the increasing retired population. The spread of occupations has shifted from the skilled trades towards managerial roles; but industries has remained constant throughout the period, with no variances above 1.5%. Administrative and health roles have increased. There has been a decrease in educational, land management and manufacturing employment.



Employment status

	2011	2021
Employed	67%	57%
Seeking work	4%	2%
Not seeking work	29%	41%

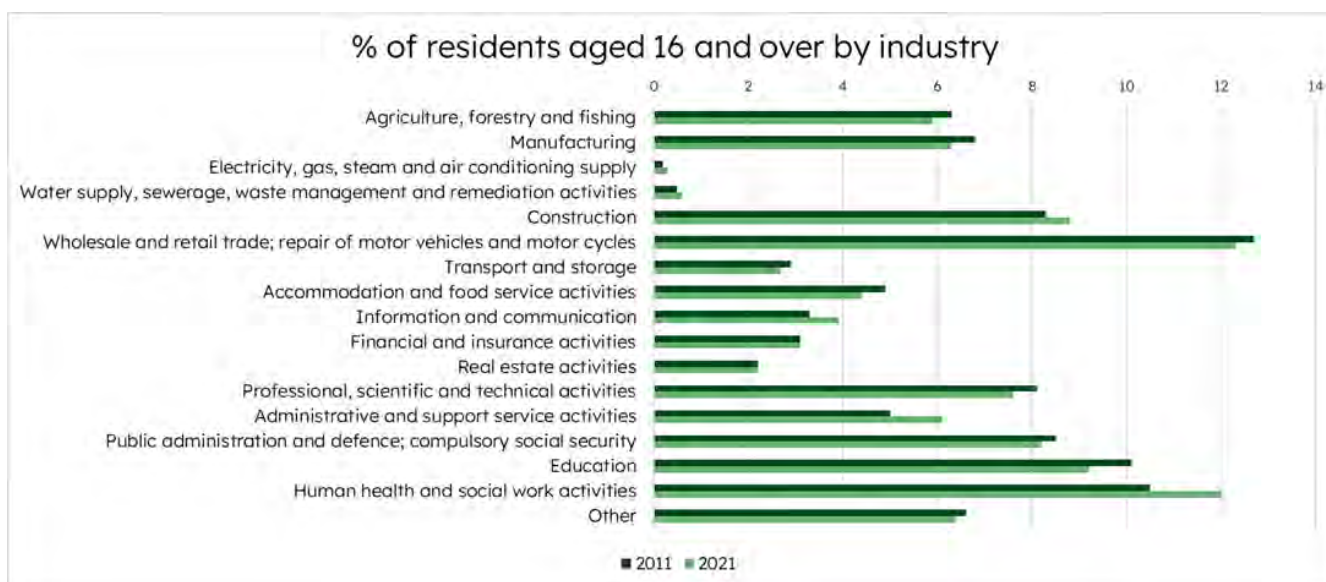
Occupation

- Increase in managerial and senior roles (+4.3%)
- Decrease in skilled trades (-2.5%)

Industry

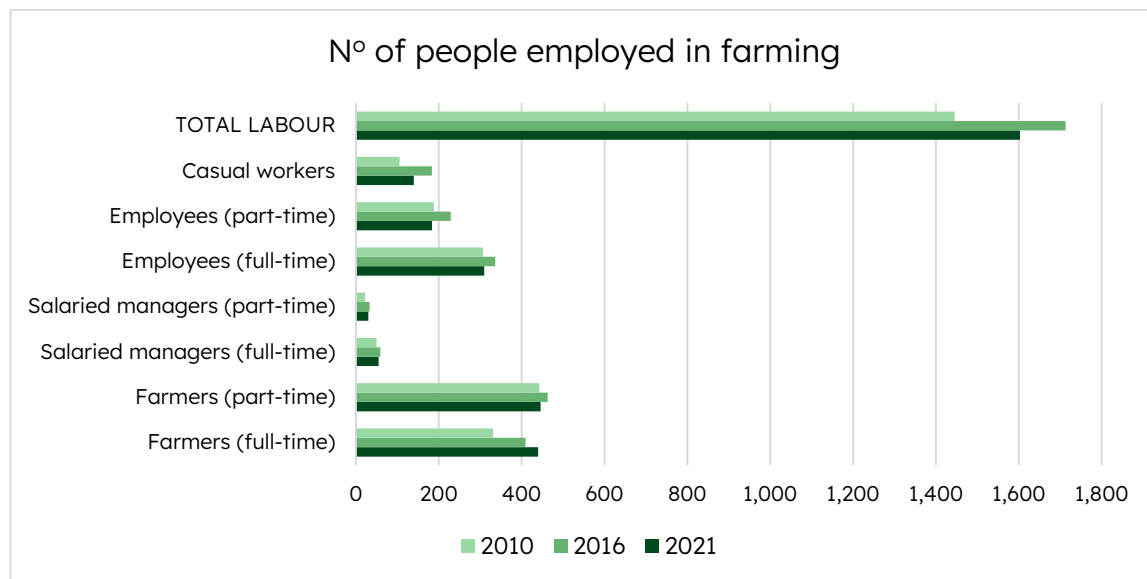
- Increase in administration (+1.1%) and health (+1.5%)
- Decrease in education (-0.9%) and in land based and manufacturing (-0.5%)

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 25 July 2024] Tables 2011: QS601EW, QS605EW & QS606EW; 2021: TS060A, TSO63 & TSO66



Employment in farming

Employment in farming has increased by 11% during the last 10 years. In 2021, 5% of the resident population (1,603 people) were employed in farming. (Click [Agricultural land-use](#) to see more about agriculture)



The number of full-time farmers in 2021 was 440, an increase of 33% since 2010. The number of part-time farmers has remained around 450 during the same period.

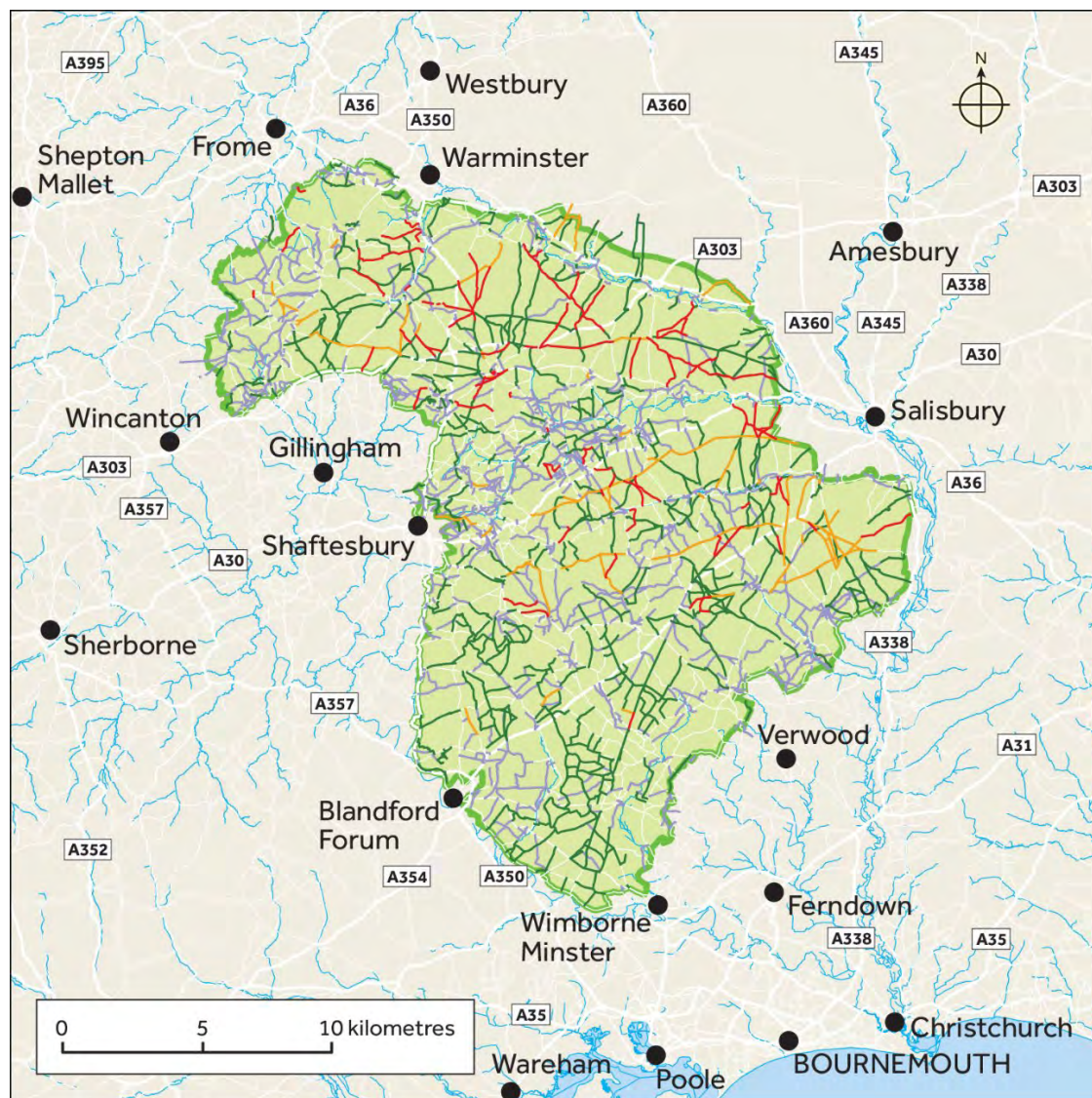
There has been a small rise in the number of full-time employees, an increase of 4 people (1%) between 2010 and 2021. The number of part-time employees fell by 4 (-2%) during the same period.

Casual workers increased by 35 people (33%) between 2010 and 2021.

Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

Rights of Way

In 2024, there are 1,553 kilometres of rights of way recorded in the National Landscape. There is no report on the condition of these routes.



Legend

- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Restricted byway
- Footpath

Type	Length (km)	
	2014	2024
Footpaths		654
Bridleways		634
Byway (BOAT byway open to all traffic)		124
Restricted byway		141
Total rights of way in the National Landscape	1,655 km	1,553 km

Note: There is a difference of 102 km between the two years. The reason is not known, it could be a mapping error or some rights of way may have been extinguished.

Source: Each of the local authorities, with links provided through <https://www.rowmaps.com> and Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Recreational routes

There is four long distance trails and two national cycling routes in the National Landscape.



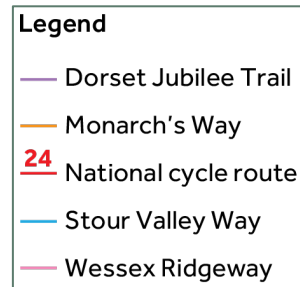
Dorset Jubilee Trail runs for 90 miles (145km) across Dorset from Forde Abbey on the Somerset border to Bokerley Dyke on the Hampshire border.

Monarch's Way runs for 948 km (615 miles) and is based on the route taken by King Charles II during his escape after defeat by Cromwell in the final battle of the Civil Wars at Worcester in 1651. There is a short section along the Dorset coast before following much of the escarpment of Cranborne Chase, the Hampshire Downs and South Downs to Shoreham-by-Sea.

Stour Valley Way runs for 64-miles following much of the course of the River Stour (as closely as practicable) from Stourhead in Wiltshire to where it flows into the sea at Hengistbury Head in Dorset:

Wessex Ridgeway runs for 221 m (137 miles), extends the Ridgeway National Trail to the south-west. It passes the stone circles at Avebury, the Vale of Pewsey, the northern edge of Salisbury Plain, the Wylde Valley and Win Green Hill then across Cranborne Chase to the finish in Dorset.

National Cycle Route 24 is a 122 km (78.8 mile) route that runs from Bath through Radstock, Frome, Warminster and Salisbury to join Route 23 at Eastleigh in Hampshire.



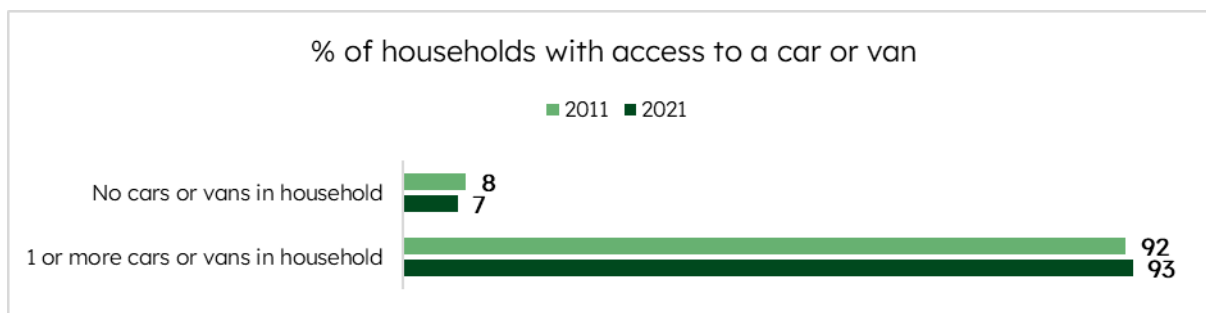
National Cycle Route 25 is a 94.9 km (59 mile) route that runs from Longleat (links to NCR 24) to Bournemouth.

Source: Dorset County Council, Sustrans and the Long Distance Walkers Association websites, with links provided through <https://www.rowmaps.com> and Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Means of travel

Access to car or van

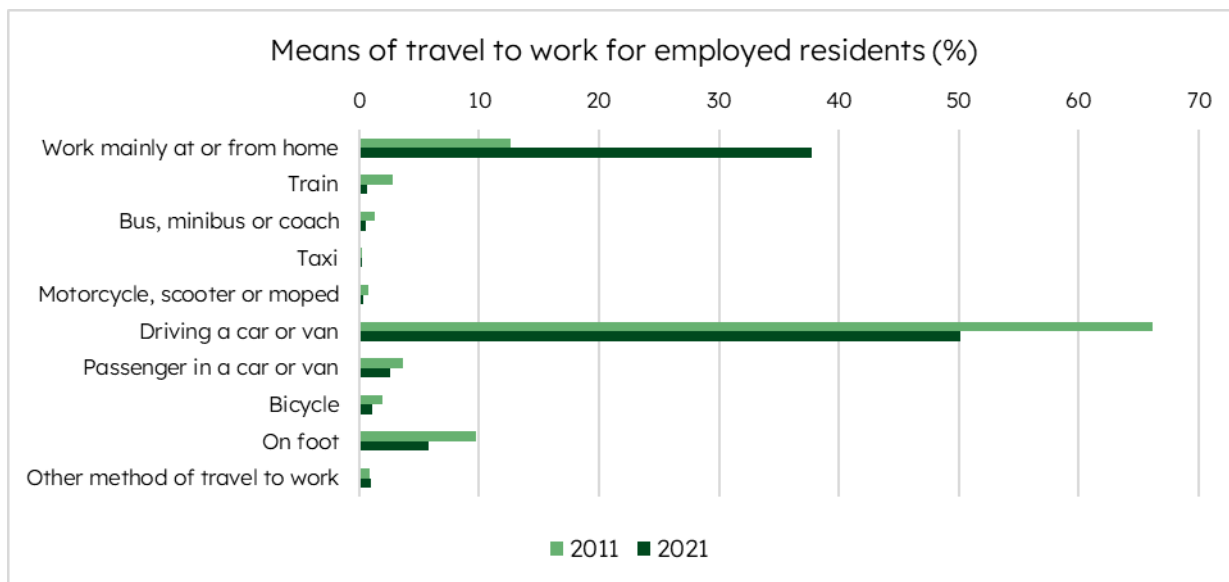
In 2021, 93% of the resident population had access to at least one car or van, up from 92% in 2011.



Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 25 July 2024] Tables QS416EW & TS045

Travel to work

In 2021, 38% of employed residents worked from home, up from 13% in 2011. In 2011, 66% of employed residents drove a car to work; this reduced to 50% in 2021.



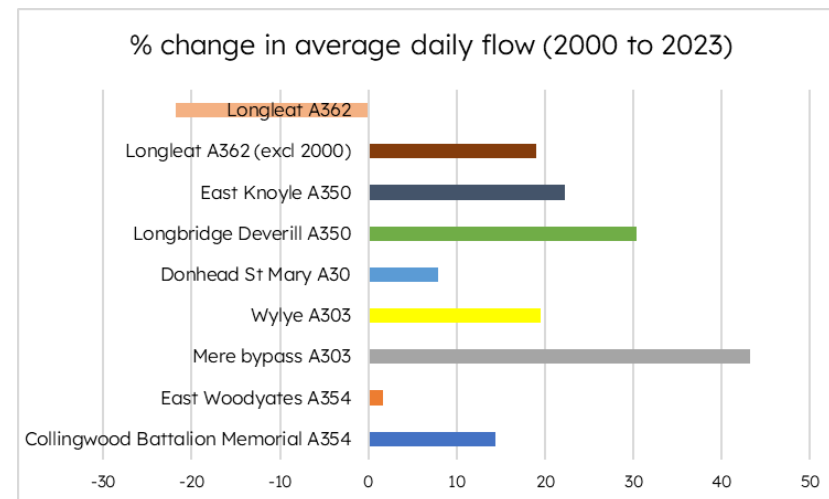
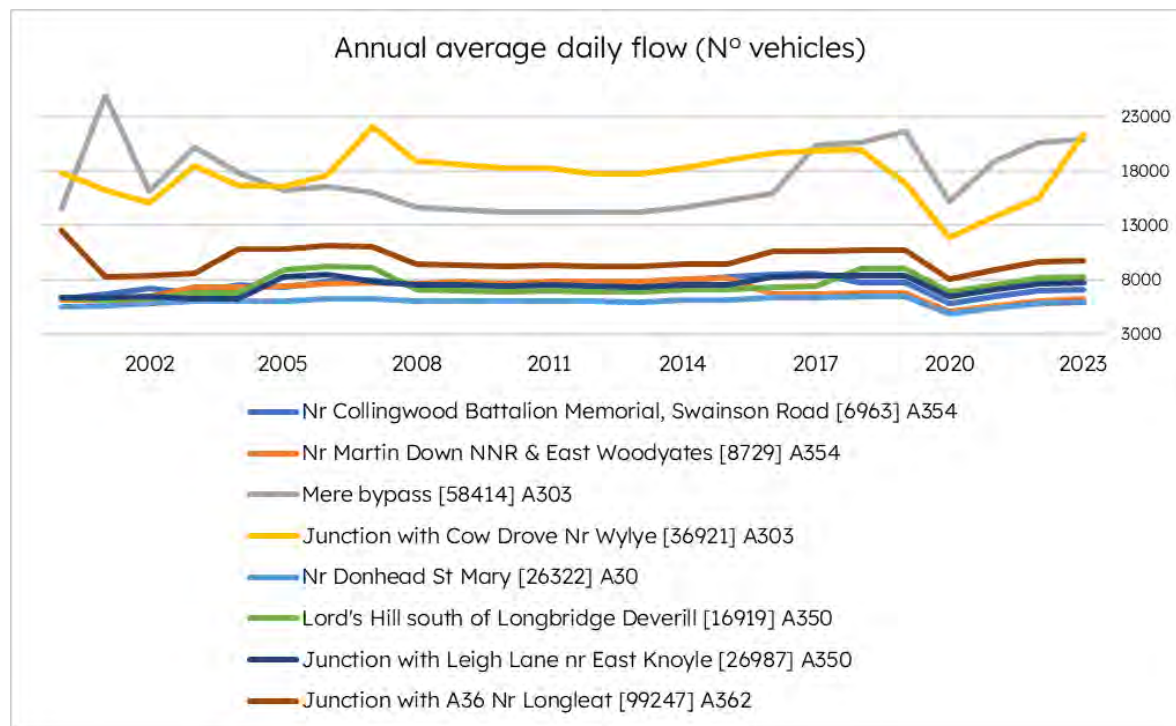
The most striking change between 2011 and 2021 is the significant increase in the number of people working mainly at or from their home.

Consequently, the use of all forms of transport (apart from a taxi) has fallen.

Source: ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 25 July 2024] Tables QS701EW & TS061

Road traffic counts

Combined daily traffic flows for 2000-2023 show the busiest monitoring points along the A303, with Wylye showing an average daily flow of 17,745 vehicles. The quietest monitoring point is at Donhead St Mary, on the A30 (5,979 vehicles).



The Department for Transport reports on many traffic count monitoring points on roads within the National Landscape but only a few have long data trends. The effects of Covid-19 show with a dip for the 2020 figures. The Mere bypass (A303) recorded the biggest increase in flow between 2000 – 2022 (43.2%); the A354 passing Martin Down NNR recorded the smallest increase in flow (1.7%). The data for the A362 close to the A36 junction is hard to interpret; there is a fall of 21.8% between 2000 – 2023, the only road in the area to experience a traffic flow reduction. However, the flow for 2000 is abnormally high; between 2001-2023 the traffic flow increases by 19% and this is comparable with the other roads.

Note: Dept for Transport monitoring point reference number shown in square brackets [x]. Source: Dept for Transport Road traffic statistics <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/#6/55.254/-6.053/basemap-regions-countpoints>

Access to public transport

Few Sunday services but weekday generally good; some limited single journeys on market days and schools' services.



Routes in the National Landscape:

7 days a week

- X3** Salisbury-Ringwood-Bournemouth (morebus) every 30 mins 06:00-21:30
Poole-Sturminster Marshall-Blandford (Damory Coaches)
- X8** 12 returns 06:30-19:50 (fewer buses Sundays – 4 returns 09:36-18:26)

6 days a week

- 2** Salisbury-Shrewton-West Lavington-Devizes (Salisbury Reds) 11 returns 07:30-19:12
- 24** Salisbury-Warminster-Frome (Beeline Coaches) 7 returns 07:00-19:50
- 25** Salisbury-Wilton-Dinton-Chilmark-Tisbury/Wincanton (Salisbury Reds) 5 returns 07:00-18:51
- 26** Salisbury-Wilton-Fovant-Tisbury-Hindon (Salisbury Reds) 3 returns 07:20-15:39 26A adds Saturday 07:20-18:50
- 29** Salisbury-Bishopstone-Bowerchalke-Berwick St John-Shaftesbury (Salisbury Reds) 8 returns 07:05-18:55 (29A added during week for schools)
- Warminster-Sutton Veny-Codford- Chitterne-Heytesbury-
- 54** Warminster (FromeBus) 6 returns 08:55-17:36 (3 returns Saturday 09:55-14:55)

5 days a week

- 20** Salisbury-Sixpenny Handley-Blandford (Damory Coaches) 5 returns 07:15-18:44
- 27** Salisbury-Wilton-Fovant-Tisbury-Shaftesbury (Salisbury Reds) 2 return journeys 07:00-18:56
- 57** Warminster-Deverills-Warminster (FromeBus) 2 returns 10:10-14:26
- CR4** Blandford-Yeovil (First Buses of Somerset) 10 returns 06:00-20:55
- CR7** Blandford-Stourpaine-Shroton-Shaftesbury (Damory Coaches) 6 returns 07:00-18:19
- X53** Frome-Rodden-Warminster (FromeBus) Monday to Friday, Wiltshire School days, one bus 15:05-15:37

Market days

- 55 Kingston Deverill-Warminster-Devizes (Beeline Coaches) Thursday only 1 return 09:20-14:35
- 56 Salisbury-Boyton-Warminster (Beeline Coaches) Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 1 return 09:10-14:10
- 80 Mere-Frome (Beeline Coaches) Wednesday 1 return 09:30-13:13
- 82 Mere-Kilmington-Horningsham-Warminster (FromeBus) Friday 1 return 09:05-13:22
- 88 Sturminster Marshall-Wimborne-Colehill (Dorset Community Council) Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 4 circuits 09:03-14:29

Seasonal

- 49 Damerham-Fordingbridge-Salisbury (Damory Coaches) 1 return Tuesdays only 09:10-14:25
- 86 Tisbury-Shaftesbury (Salisbury Reds) 1 return Thursdays only 00:22-12:45

Train services

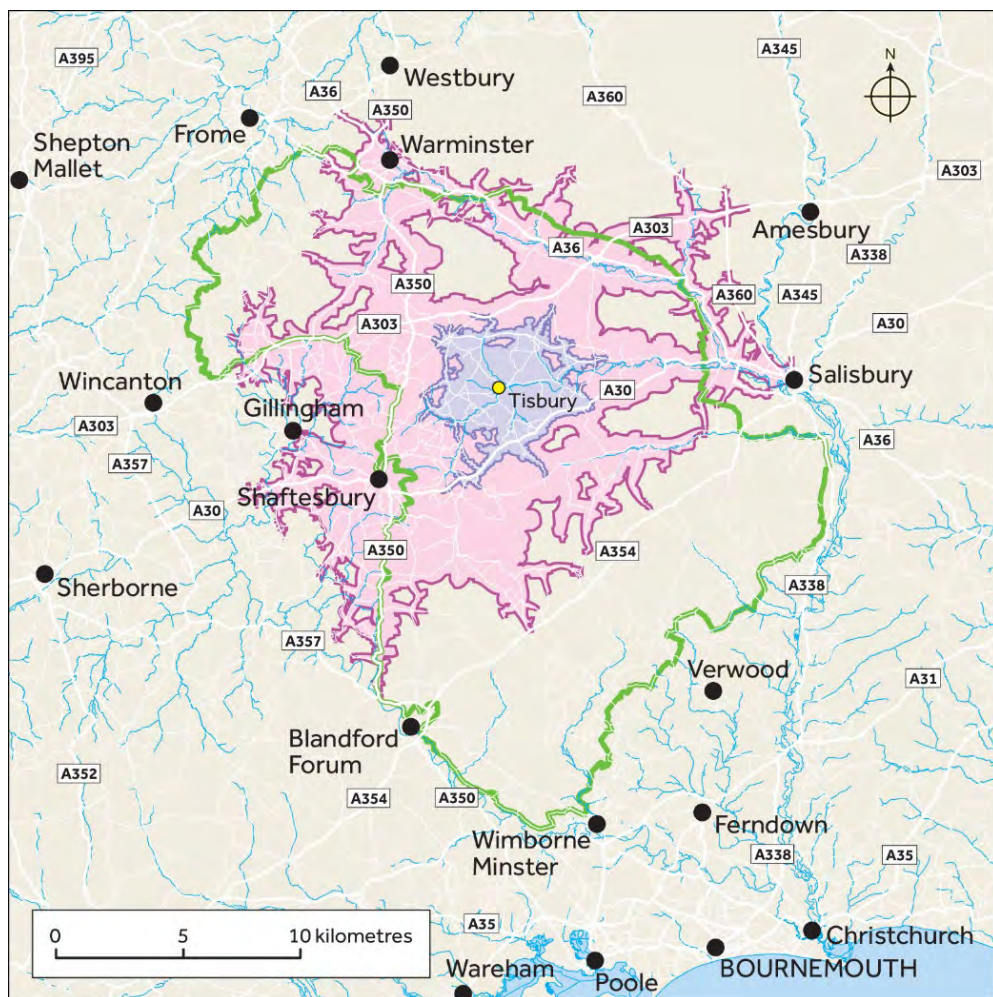
South Western Railways for Salisbury-Tisbury-Gillingham
South Western Railways for Poole, Bournemouth
Great Western Railway for Salisbury, Warminster
Great Western Railway for Bruton, Frome, Westbury



Source <http://www.busatlas.uk/> checked against the latest timetables October 2023 <https://bustimes.org/>

Travel areas to the Cranborne Chase National Landscape

Three maps showing the 15 and 30-minute travel times by car to Tisbury, Monkton Deverill and Sixpenny Handley. The Department for Transport states that the average trip-time for a day trip is 33 minutes.

To Tisbury (close to the centre of the National Landscape)



-  Travel time of 30 minutes by car
-  Travel time of 15 minutes by car

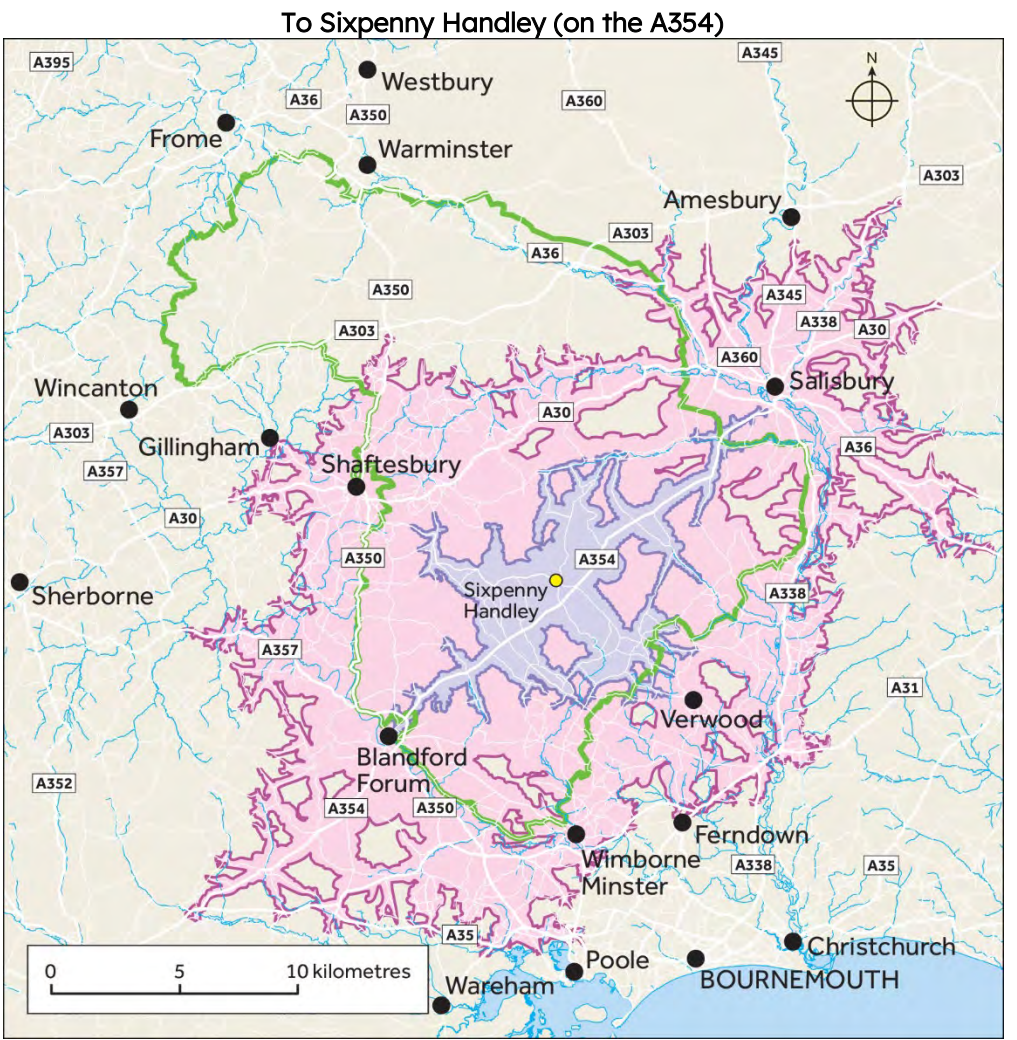
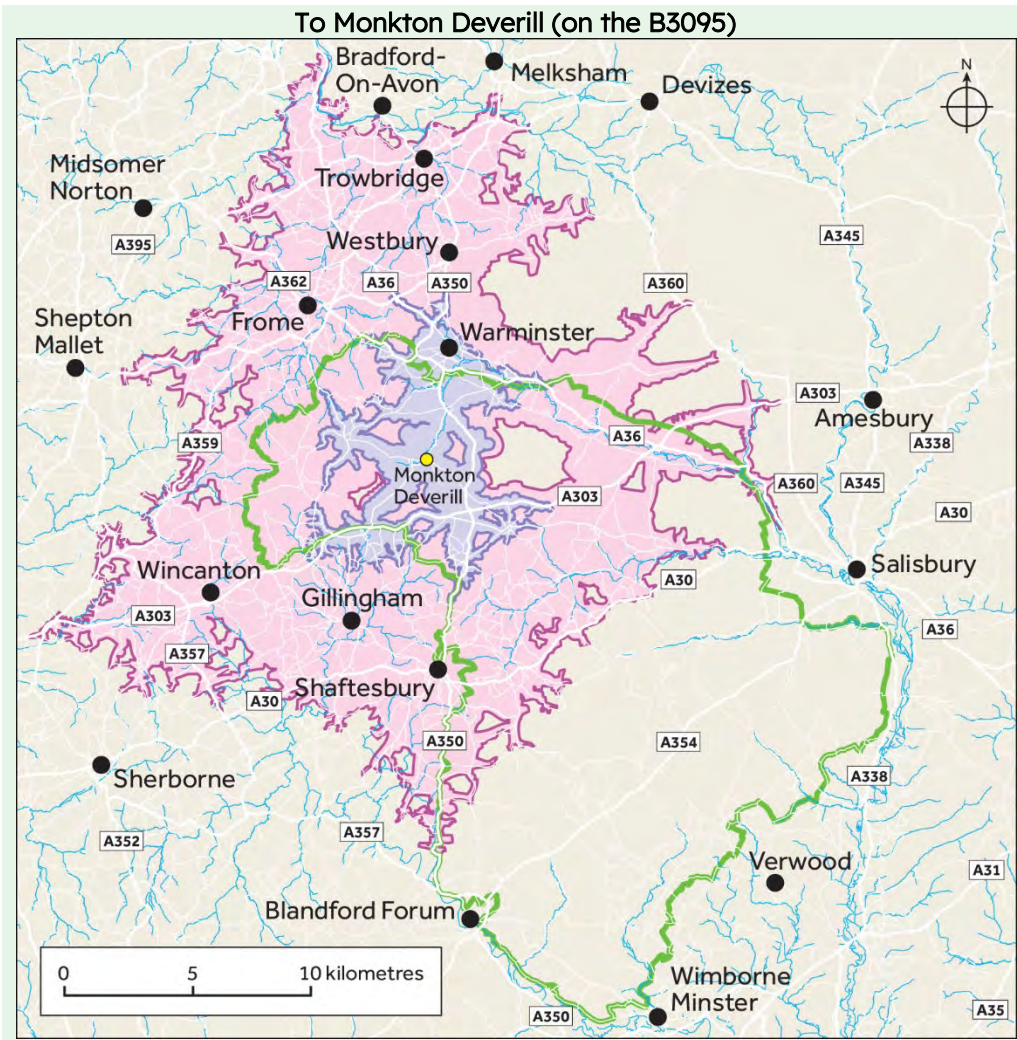
The catchment for Tisbury lies mainly within the National Landscape, just reaching Shaftesbury, Gillingham and the outskirts of Salisbury and Warminster. Monkton Deverill is accessible to Shaftesbury and Gillingham; and the northern settlements of Wincanton, Frome, Trowbridge and Warminster. Sixpenny Handley serves Salisbury, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Wimborne Minster, Verwood and the outskirts of Ferndown. The large conurbations of Bournemouth and Poole are outside the 33-minute day trip zone.

The Department for Transport states that the basic unit of travel in the National Travel Survey is a trip, defined as a one-way course of travel with a single main purpose. Outward and return halves of a return journey are two separate trips.

Nationally, people made 862 trips on average in 2022, or 17 trips a week. This includes 24 minutes per cycling trip, 21 minutes per car driver trip and 18 minutes per walking trip. In 2022, the average trip length for a day trip in England was **12.1 miles** (12.8 in 2017 but only 10.4 in 2021); and the average trip time for a day trip was **33 minutes** (33 mins in 2017, 31 mins in 2021). The map shows the approximate boundary of the **15-minute** and **30-minute** car journey areas.

(Click here to see the [Comparative size of settlements](#) map)

National Travel Survey 2022 - Published 30 August 2023 - The National Travel Survey is a household survey of personal travel by residents of England travelling within Great Britain, from data collected via interviews and a seven-day travel diary, which enables analysis of patterns and trends.



Source: Travel Time areas created using the Open Route Service plugin on QGIS based on Open Street Map data. Day trip intelligence from National Travel Survey Table NTS0403, Department for Transport 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-travel-survey-2022/national-travel-survey-2022-introduction-and-main-findings>

Open Access Land and Accessible green infrastructure

The map shows the location of 'Accessible Green Infrastructure', as defined by Natural England, covering 5,717.8 ha (5.8%) of the National Landscape (up from 5% in 2013).



Area (ha) of Accessible Green Infrastructure by type

Public Park - General	675.8
Playing Fields	64.6
Play Space Provision	4.5
Local Nature Reserve	2.6
Cemeteries and Religious Grounds	35.0
Access Land (CRoW)	4,935.3

There are many more accessible sites within the National Landscape and a future project could assess accessibility for a range of visitor attributes.

Source: Data extracted from the England Green Infrastructure Mapping Database GIS data. © Natural England 2021. Contains, or is derived from, information supplied by Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright and database rights 2021. Ordnance Survey 100022021. The typology includes double counting of areas in the data. Some land will lie in more than one category. <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/UserGuide/Section01.aspx>

Place

The topography, geology, and vegetation, and the ways they have evolved with the climate and human usage, come together to form this National Landscape. The area is a peaceful, tranquil, deeply rural area; largely ‘unspoilt’ and maintained as a living agricultural landscape. Cranborne Chase is a diverse landscape of rich archaeological and historical significance with distinctive areas of rolling chalk grassland, ancient woodlands, chalk escarpments, downland hillsides and chalk river valleys. The National Landscape divides broadly into three areas.

To the south is Cranborne Chase, with its smooth rounded downs, steeply cut combes 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/Groveley Wood. Both areas are fringed by impressive scarps, cresting above the adjoining greensand terraces. The fertile wooded Vale of Wardour divides them.

Traditional downland pasture is found on the steeper slopes while large rectangular fields emphasise the chalkland’s open character. The chalkland valleys of the Wylde and Ebbel support a larger proportion of permanent pasture, with many copses and hedgerows. In the northwest, the National Landscape’s sandstone fringe of wooded ridges and valleys includes rich parklands such as Longleat and Stourhead.

The National Landscape includes remnants of the ancient Cranborne Chase hunting forest and the former Royal Forests of Selwood and Gillingham. It is rich in prehistoric sites with many ancient monuments and field patterns on the downs, whilst the Vale of Wardour is dominated by large 18th and 19th century estates, parklands and associated villages.

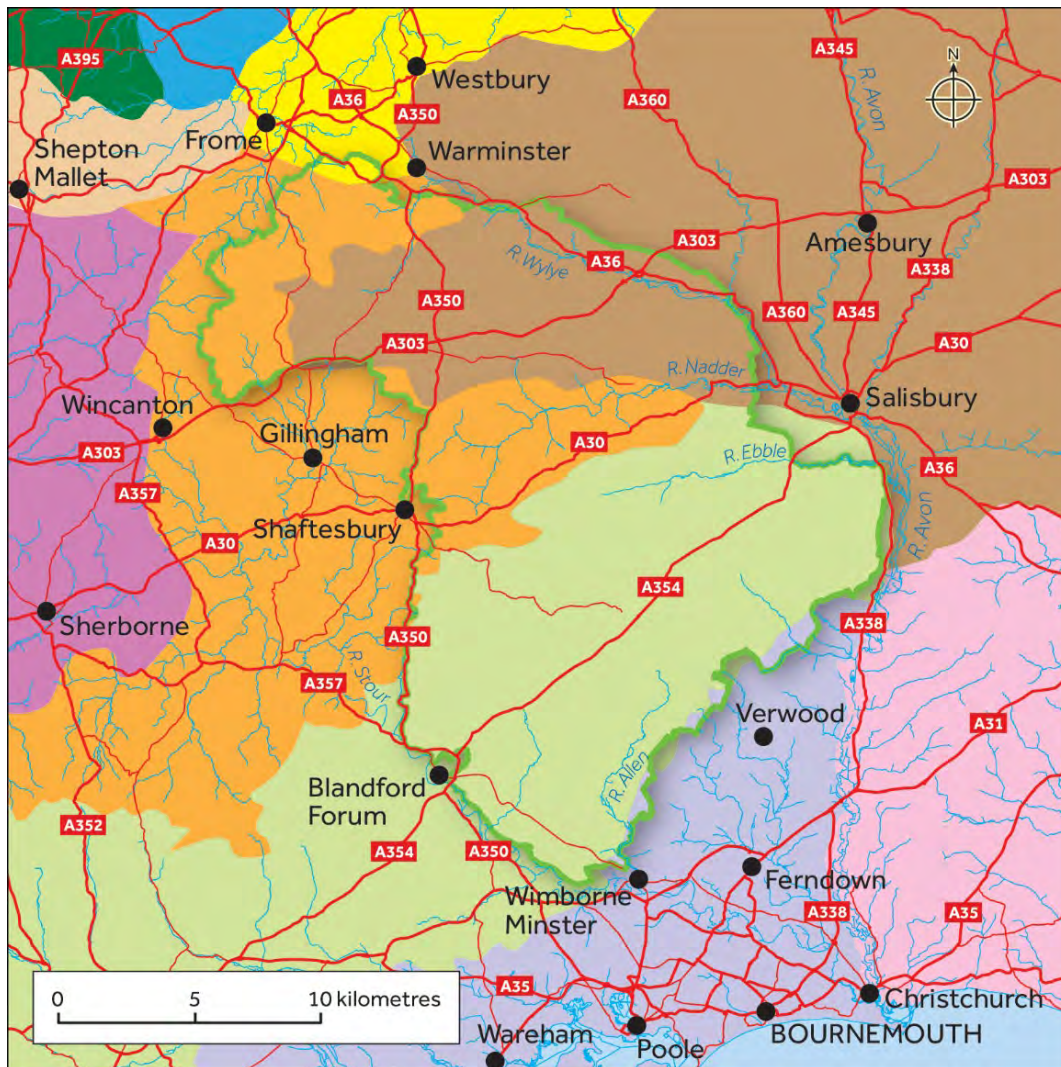
This is a deeply rural area with scattered villages and narrow roads. There are no large settlements in the National Landscape. Consequently, there are expansive dark night skies and the Milky Way is clearly visible³.



³ Informed by CBA (2024) Cranborne Chase National Landscape - Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character

National Character Areas (NCAs) - defined by Natural England. The National Landscape lies in five NCAs.



Natural Character Areas (NCAs) are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

Dorset Downs & Cranborne Chase

- Plan for and manage changes in the agricultural landscape by encouraging and supporting business choices that balance food production with protecting soils and water, enhancing ecosystems (particularly those associated with semi-natural grasslands) and restoring ecosystem services.
- Manage and enhance the historic character of the NCA, including the rich assemblage of settlement and field patterns, heritage features (including prehistoric assets), and the patterns of woodland, vegetation and geodiversity that give the NCA its sense of place.
- Manage and enhance the recreational and educational potential of the NCA in a way that clearly shows the links between people and the landscape, and between geodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide. Aim to heighten people's enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the NCA, as well as their ability to take positive, informed action to enjoy and conserve their surroundings.

Blackmore Vale & Vale of Wardour

- Protect, manage and enhance the diverse but coherent pastoral landscape character of the clay vales, limestone ridge and Greensand hills, their semi-natural grasslands and woodland and their characteristic wildlife, and manage the simple patterns of land use maintained by the long history of agriculture.
- Work with local people to raise their understanding of the way in which the area's strong landscape character, sense of place and distinctive wildlife are rooted in the continuity of agricultural land use, strong historic landscape character and legibility of historic features.
- Work with the local farming and land management community to maintain the distinctive landscape and natural beauty of the area, enhancing ecosystems and ecosystem services.
- Protect, manage and enhance the Vale of Wardour's highly distinctive relationship between geology, landform and land use. Protect, manage and interpret the suite of national and Local Geological Sites.

Salisbury Plain & West Wiltshire Downs

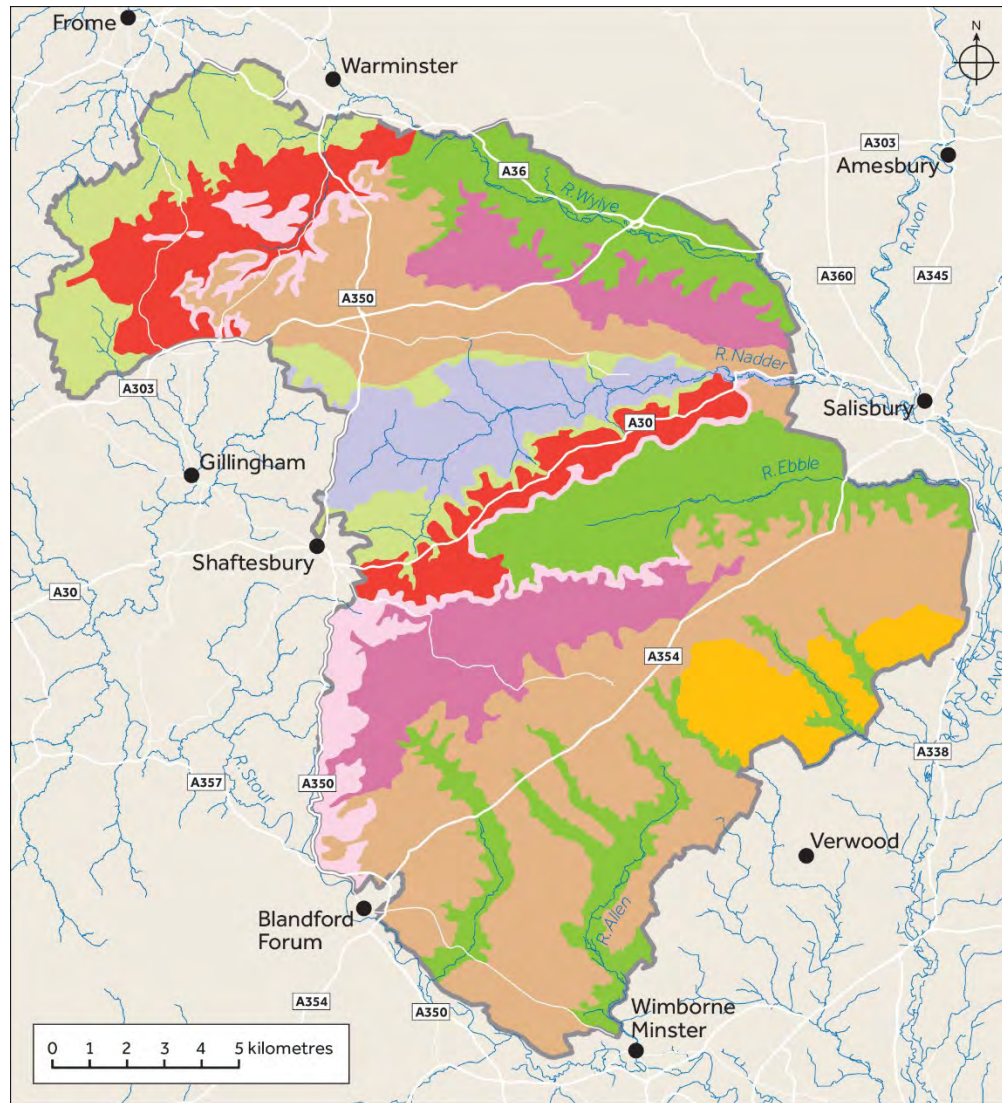
- Protect, manage and enhance the landscape of large areas of calcareous chalk grassland, and develop network connectivity, supporting internationally important and designated semi-natural habitats and species assemblages – from birds to bumblebees – and thus support biodiversity.
- Protect, manage and enhance the (Hampshire) River Avon system, working in partnership notably with the regional farming community to improve the habitat for flora and fauna and improving biodiversity, developing the scope for climate regulation and for regulation of water flow and water quality.
- Protect, conserve and sustainably manage the NCA's rich historic and archaeological resource, notably the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and its surrounding landscape, and its natural and cultural heritage, for its value in sense of place and history and tranquillity, for open air recreation, and for the benefits it brings to the local and regional economy.
- Protect and enhance the NCA's agriculture interest, working with the local farming community to prepare for the impact of and adapt to both evolving funding mechanisms and climate change, to secure future food provision, while working in harmony with the nationally recognised and distinctive character of the landscape, its natural beauty and scenic quality and, so far as possible, extending the scope for access to nature and other recreation, for public benefit, understanding and enjoyment.

There are also very small parts of two other NCAs: **Avon Vales** and **Dorset Heaths**.

Source: For the National Character Areas visit - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-west-england>

Landscape Character Types

Map that sets out the landscape context by showing the eight generic Landscape Character Types found within the National Landscape.



The National Landscape Partnership published an updated Landscape Character Assessment in 2024. This assessment presents an integrated view of the landscape incorporating all the features and attributes that contribute to the distinctive character and special qualities of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape. It defines Landscape Character Types and their associated Landscape Character Areas.

Landscape Character Types are generic types of landscape that can occur in different places. They have similar characteristics wherever they occur, and are called by a descriptive name (e.g. Chalk Escarpments, Downland Hills etc.).

Each profile presents:

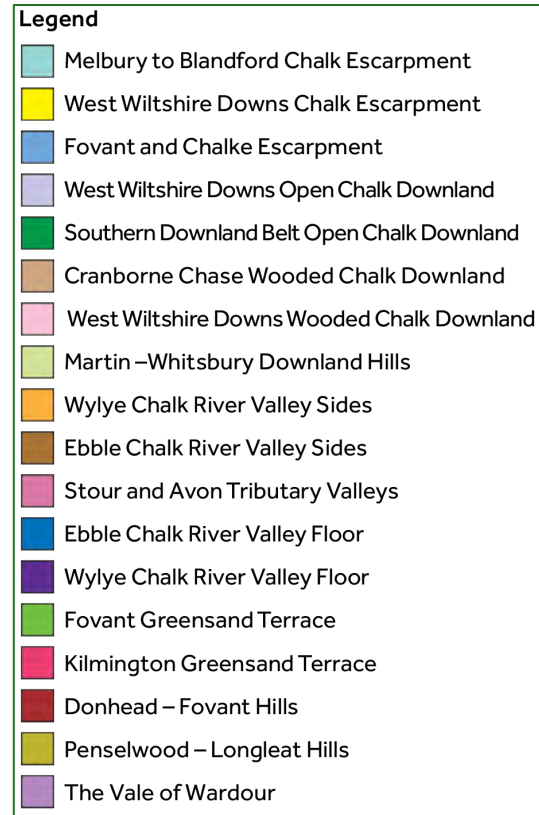
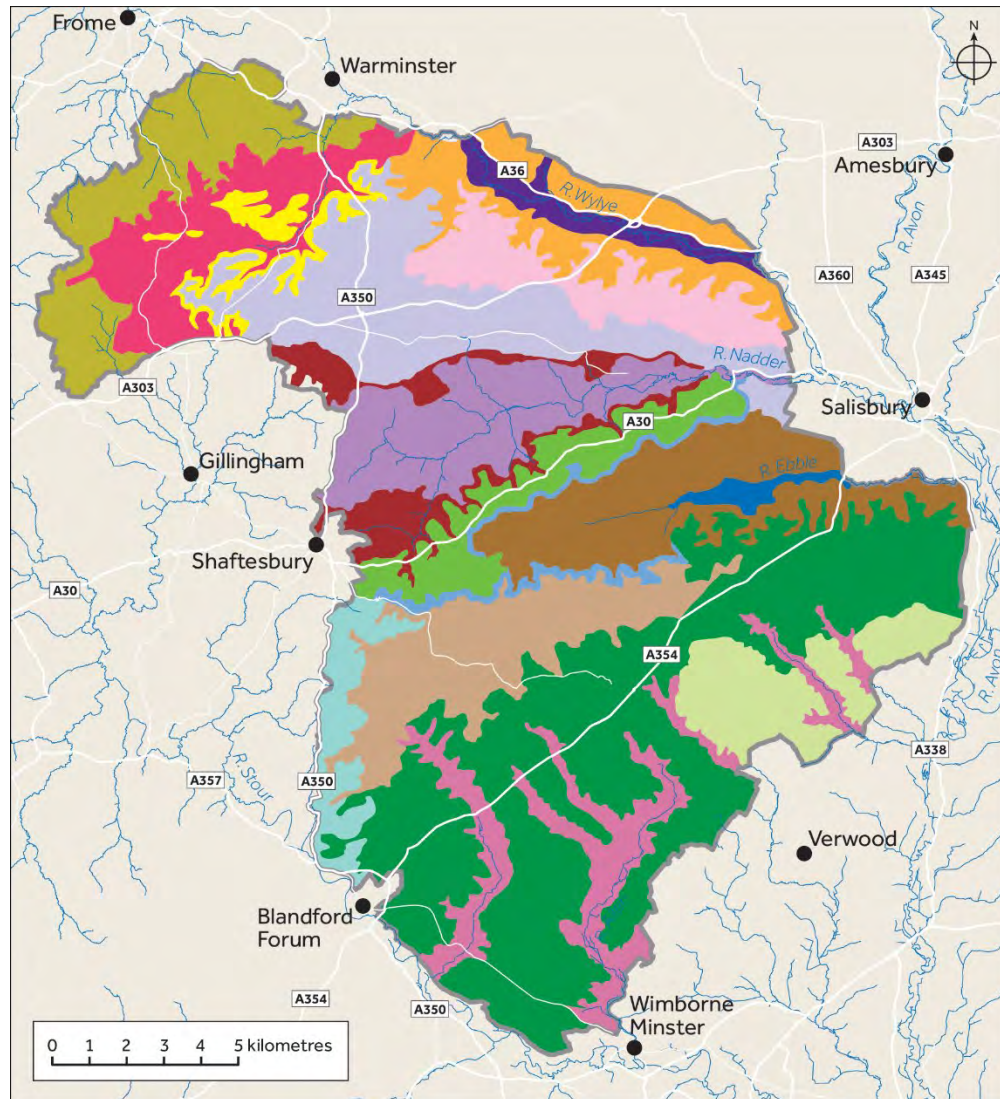
- A description
- Key characteristics

Sitting beneath the Landscape Character Types are Landscape Character Areas. These are single, unique areas and form discrete geographical areas.

Reference: CBA (2024) Cranborne Chase National Landscape - Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Areas

Map that sets out the landscape context by showing the 18 unique Character Areas found within the National Landscape.



Landscape Character Areas are geographically unique areas, each with a distinctive ‘sense of place’. They are given a descriptive place-based name (e.g. The Vale of Wardour, Ebbel Chalk River Valley Sides etc.).

Each profile presents:

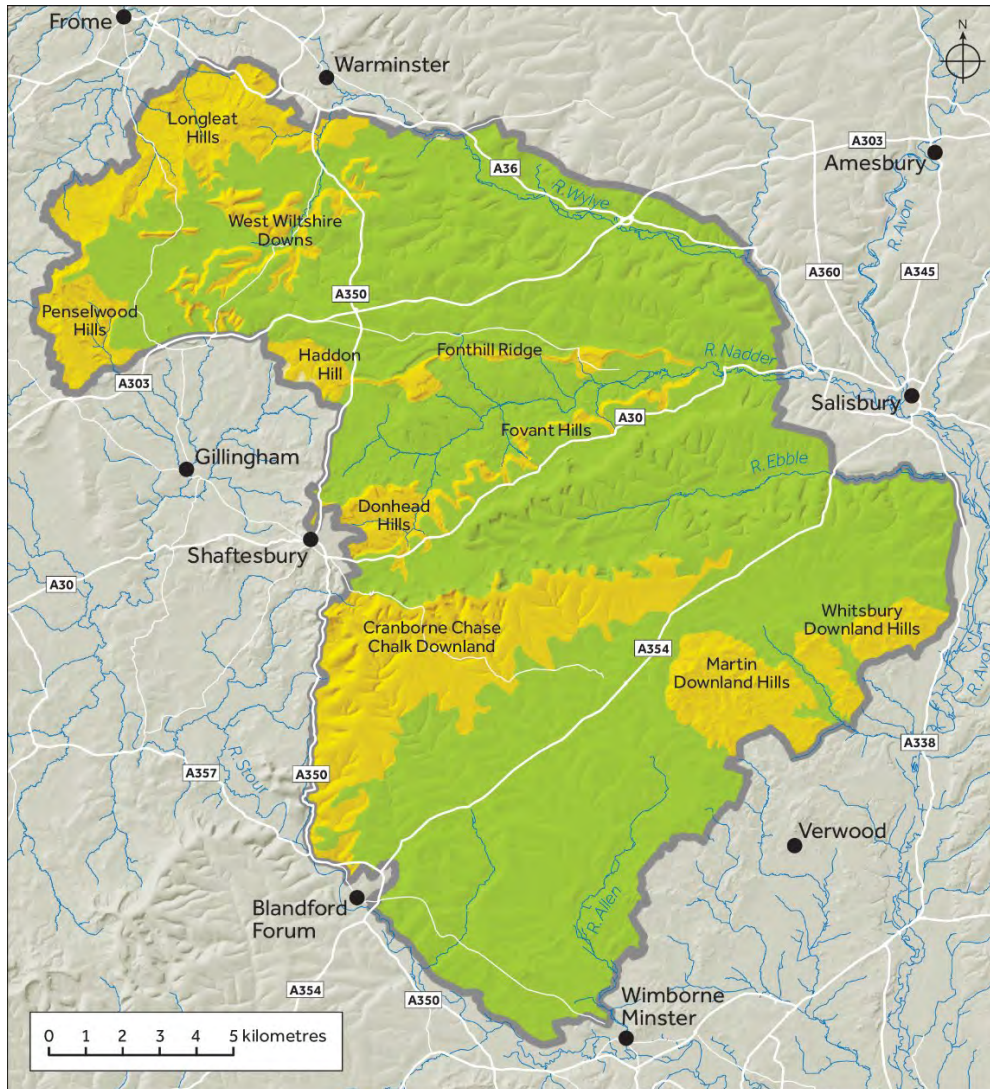
- Key characteristics
- Location and boundaries
- Summary of visual character
- Physical influences
- Human influences
- An evaluation of -
 - Strength of character
 - Current condition
 - Past and present change
- Possible future trends
- Management objectives

Figure 4.1 provides an overview of current landscape condition. This map will help the National Landscape to target resources to those areas that are especially vulnerable.

Reference: CBA (2024) Cranborne Chase National Landscape - Landscape Character Assessment

Condition of Landscape Character Areas

Map showing an overview of the current landscape condition; 25.4% of the area is in a good condition and 74.6% is in a moderate condition.



Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) state that the evaluation of the current condition of the Landscape Character Area is on a three-point scale of poor, moderate or good. This is based on judgements about how the condition and intactness of the different components create a perception of the overall condition of the landscape.

CBA found that as well as the major changes to the landscape associated with agriculture and development pressures, there are a range of other 'forces for change'. These include:

- Climate change and its potential impact on the characteristic habitats and species of the National Landscape;
- Traffic and highway infrastructure issues;
- Changes in the social and economic character of the local communities, notably an ageing population with affluence masking severe pockets of rural deprivation;
- Changing patterns of recreation and tourism following the global coronavirus pandemic; and
- Incremental erosion of small-scale local features leading to gradual loss of valued characteristics and distinct sense of place.

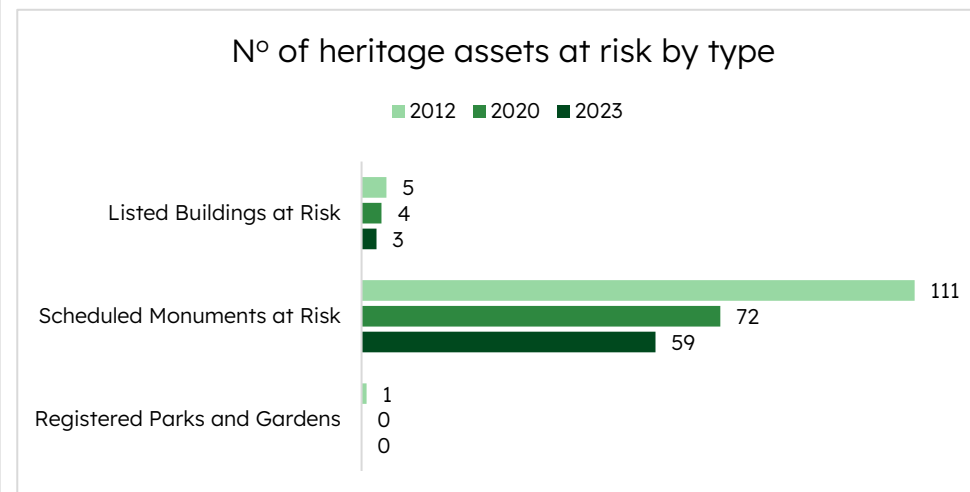
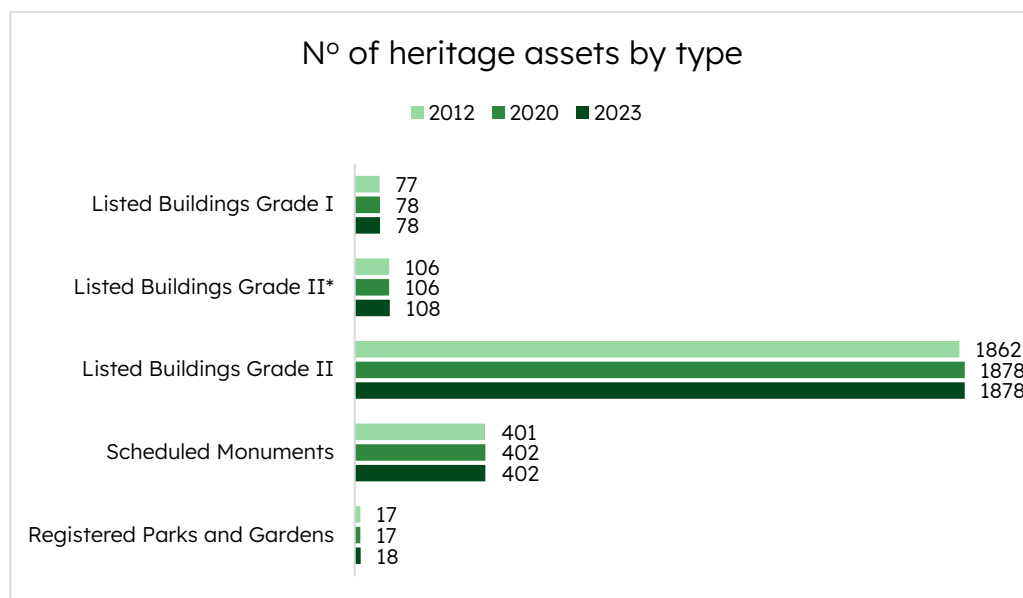
These forces for change may act in different ways in different areas. For each Landscape Character Area (shown on the previous map), CBA has made an evaluation of the present forces for change and possible future trends that are, or may, result in changes to landscape condition.

The map on this page provides CBA's overview of the current landscape condition; 25.4% of the area is in a good condition and 74.6% needs attention (a moderate condition).

Reference: CBA (2024) Cranborne Chase National Landscape - Landscape Character Assessment

Number and condition of heritage assets

There are 2,064 Listed Buildings, 402 Scheduled Monuments and 18 Registered Parks and Gardens. Of these, 62 assets are at risk; there were 76 assets at risk 2019.



Source: © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

English Heritage 'list' the most important historic assets in England. 'Listing' is the term given to the practice of identifying historic assets of national importance (including buildings, scheduling monuments, registering parks, gardens and battlefields, and marine wreck sites). This allows Historic England to highlight what is significant about a building or site, and helps to make sure that any future changes to it do not result in the loss of its significance.

Percentage of Heritage Assets at risk in the National Landscape

Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Registered Park and Gardens
0.1%	14.7%	0%

The condition and trend of Heritage Assets at risk in the National Landscape

Asset	List n°	Site type	Condition	Vulnerability	Trend	Place
Listed Building at risk:						
Barn and outbuilding range, Tarrant Abbey Farm,	1002715	Listed Building grade II*	Very bad		Slow decay	Tarrant Crawford
Grotto 250 metres south east of St Giles House	1120131	Listed Building grade II*	Poor		Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user	Wimborne St. Giles
Chapel, immediately north of Pythouse, Pythouse Park	1131162	Listed Building grade II*	Very bad		Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed.	West Tisbury
Church of St Mary, Church Road	1318459	Listed Place of Worship grade II*	Poor		Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented.	Kilminster
Scheduled Monuments at risk:						
Castle mound (or Castle Hill)	1004560	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Cranborne
Bowl barrow 250 metres north west of Veiny Cheese Pond	1015191	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Crichel
Two bowl barrows 165 metres west of Veiny Cheese Pond	1015785	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Crichel
Barrow on Parsonage Hill	1002783	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Gussage St. Michael
Long mound 1500 yards (1370 metres) east of Higher Farm	1002784	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Gussage St. Michael
Two barrows near Ackling Dyke	1002786	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Gussage St. Michael

Two long barrows on Gussage Hill	1002707	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Gussage St. Michael
Two round barrows on Gussage Down	1002741	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Gussage St. Michael
Round barrows near Thickthorn Farm	1002816	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Gussage St. Michael / Tarrant Hinton
Bowl barrow known as Folly Barrow	1020030	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Iwerne Minster
Two bowl barrows 350 metres south west of Keeper's Lodge, south east of Bareden Down	1013745	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Iwerne Minster
Enclosure south of Pimperne Down	1002860	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Pimperne
Enclosure south of Humby's Stock Coppice	1005575	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge
Long barrows and group of round barrows on Bokerley Down	1002722	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge
Barrows in Salisbury Plantation	1002817	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge / Wimborne St. Giles
Part of Dorset Cursus	1003222	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge / Wimborne St. Giles
Slight univallate hillfort 850 metres north east of Busseys Stool Farm	1020611	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Animal burrowing - moderate	Declining	Tarrant Gunville
Bowl barrow 200 metres south east of Pimperne Long Barrow	1013794	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Tarrant Hinton

Prehistoric habitation site between north and south Hinton Downs	1003235	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Tarrant Hinton
Roman villa on Little Barton Hill	1002424	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Tarrant Hinton / Tarrant Gunville
Bowl barrow 850 metres ESE of Hill Farm	1015182	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Animal burrowing - extensive	Declining	Tarrant Keyneston
Bowl barrow 600 metres south of Plantation Farm	1015190	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Tarrant Launceston
Bowl barrow on The Cliff 680 metres east of Luton Farm	1015187	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Tarrant Rawston
Bowl barrow on The Cliff 680 metres NNW of Smith's Cottages	1015186	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Tarrant Rawston
Long barrow and two bowl barrows 140 metres north west of Dormy House	1014572	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Tarrant Rawston
Roman enclosure on Keyneston Down	1002373	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Tarrant Rawston
Barrows near Water Lake	1002795	Scheduled Monument	Unknown	Forestry	Declining	Wimborne St. Giles
Barrows in and near St Giles Park	1002782	Scheduled Monument, RPG grade II*	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Animal burrowing - extensive	Declining	Wimborne St. Giles / Edmondsham
Group of henge monuments, an associated group of round barrows, a Saxon cemetery and a Norman church at Knowlton	1020580	Scheduled Monument, LB grade II*	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Woodlands

Round barrow cemetery south of New Barn Farm, associated with the Knowlton Circles	1020582	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Woodlands
Linear boundary and section of Roman road, 550 metres south east of Ashmore Farm	1020728	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Tollard Royal / Ashmore
Wermere pond	1004774	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Alvediston
Grovely Castle and earthworks north of Grovely Wood	1005604	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Barford St. Martin / Great Wishford / Steeple Langford
Corton long barrow	1010518	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Scrub/tree growth	Declining	Boyton
Long barrow 250 metres east of Boyton Field Barn	1010520	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Boyton / Sherrington
Long barrow on Cold Kitchen Hill	1010416	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Animal burrowing - moderate	Declining	Brixton Deverill
Knowle Hill round barrow	1003033	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Broad Chalke
Round barrow 860 yards (786 metres) south east of Knighton Hill Buildings	1004771	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Broad Chalke
Knighton Roman road (stretching from Reddish Gore to reservoir)	1003728	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Broad Chalke / Bishopstone
Grovely Ditch	1005584	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Burcombe Without / Great Wishford /

			with significant localised problems			Wilton / Barford St. Martin
Bowl barrow 700 metres south east of Field Barn	1015937	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Chicklade
Bowl barrow on Little Toyd Down, 650 metres south west of Grims Lodge Farm	1015704	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Coombe Bissett
Berwick Coombe ditch	1005587	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Donhead St. Andrew / Berwick St. John
Long barrow on Ashmore Down, 775 metres north of Ashgrove Cottages	1015938	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Animal burrowing - extensive	Declining	Donhead St. Mary
Bowl barrow on Keysley Down, 250 metres west of the A350 Warminster-Shaftesbury Road	1013877	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Animal burrowing - extensive	Declining	Kingston Deverill
Bell barrow on Rook Hill, 200 metres west of Pertwood Wood	1010470	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Unknown	Longbridge Deverill
Two saucer barrows 775 metres south east of Rodmead Farm	1017697	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield
Bowl barrow 240 metres east of The Penning	1015025	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Steeple Langford
Deptford Down round barrow, Steeple Langford	1005615	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Steeple Langford
Little Langford round barrow, north of Upper Farm Down	1005605	Scheduled Monument	Generally unsatisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Steeple Langford

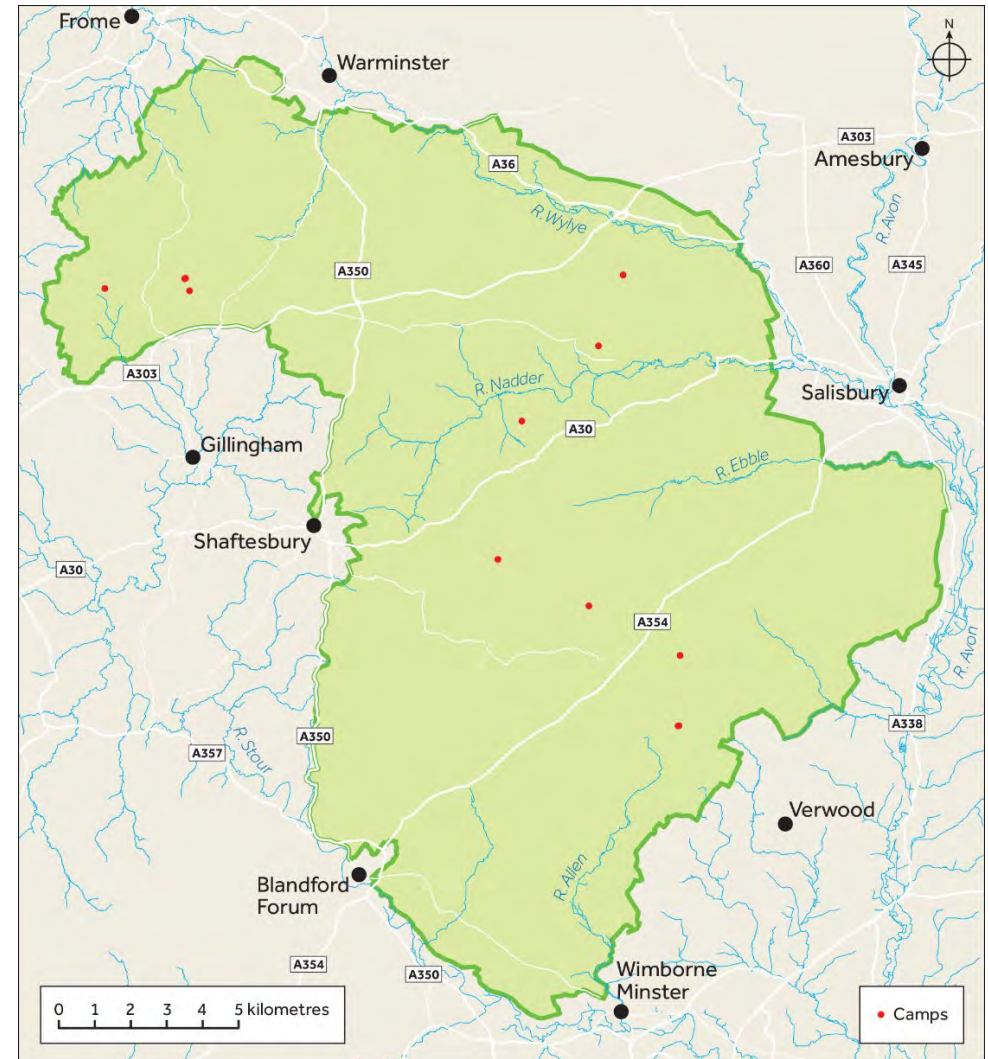
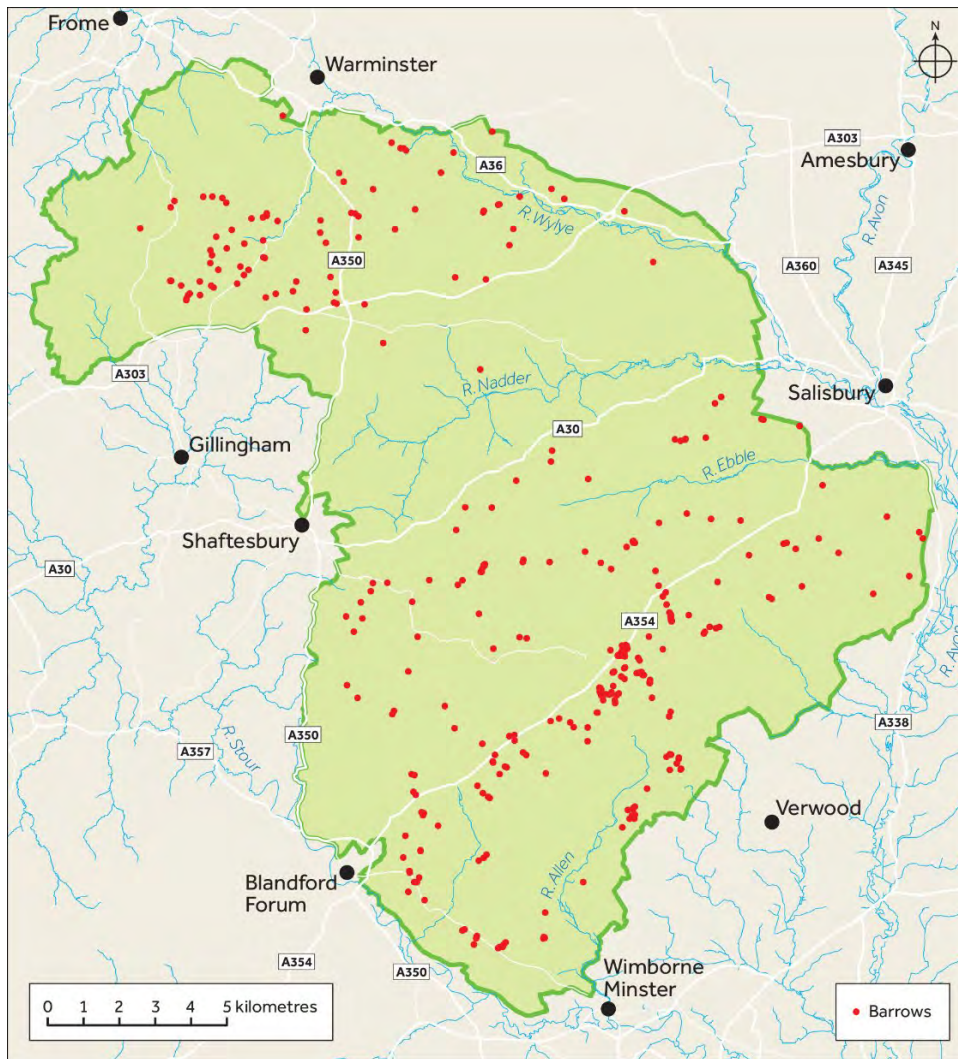
Round barrow 230 yards (210 metres) north west of New Field Plantation	1004725	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Steeple Langford
Bell barrow on Parsonage Down, 1.3 kilometres south east of Lord's Hill Farm	1016677	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable clipping	Declining	Sutton Veny
Bowl barrow on Littlecombe Down	1005683	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Sutton Veny
Castle Ditches camp	1005701	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Arable ploughing	Unknown	Tisbury
Bowl barrow 330m north of Grim's Ditch, near Tidpit Common	1011000	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Animal burrowing - extensive	Declining	Martin
Long Barrow 800m north west of Paradise	1012512	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Martin
Duck's Nest: a long barrow on Rockbourne Down	1012920	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Animal burrowing - extensive	Declining	Rockbourne
Long barrow 700m north west of Tenantry Farm	1013002	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Rockbourne
Rockbourne Down, Spring Pond enclosure	1003453	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems	Arable ploughing	Declining	Rockbourne

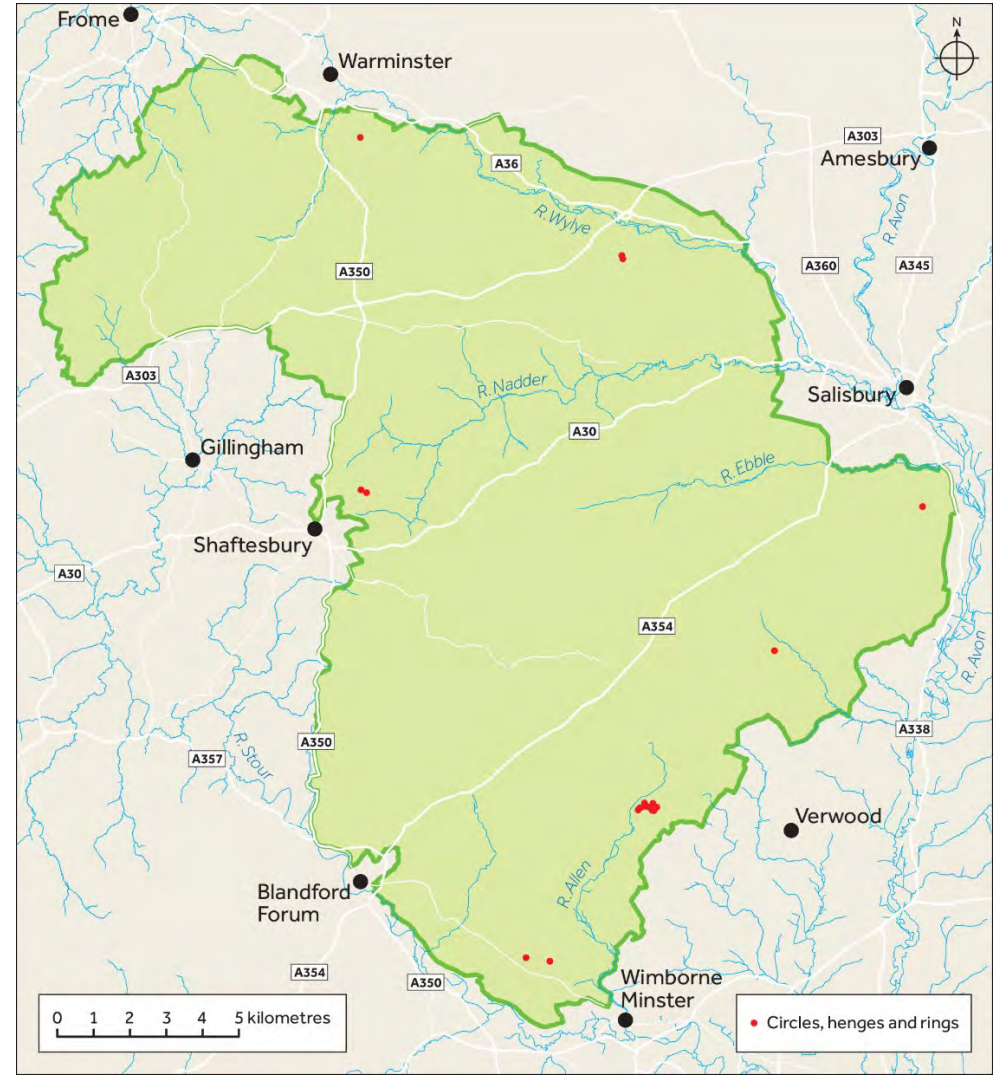
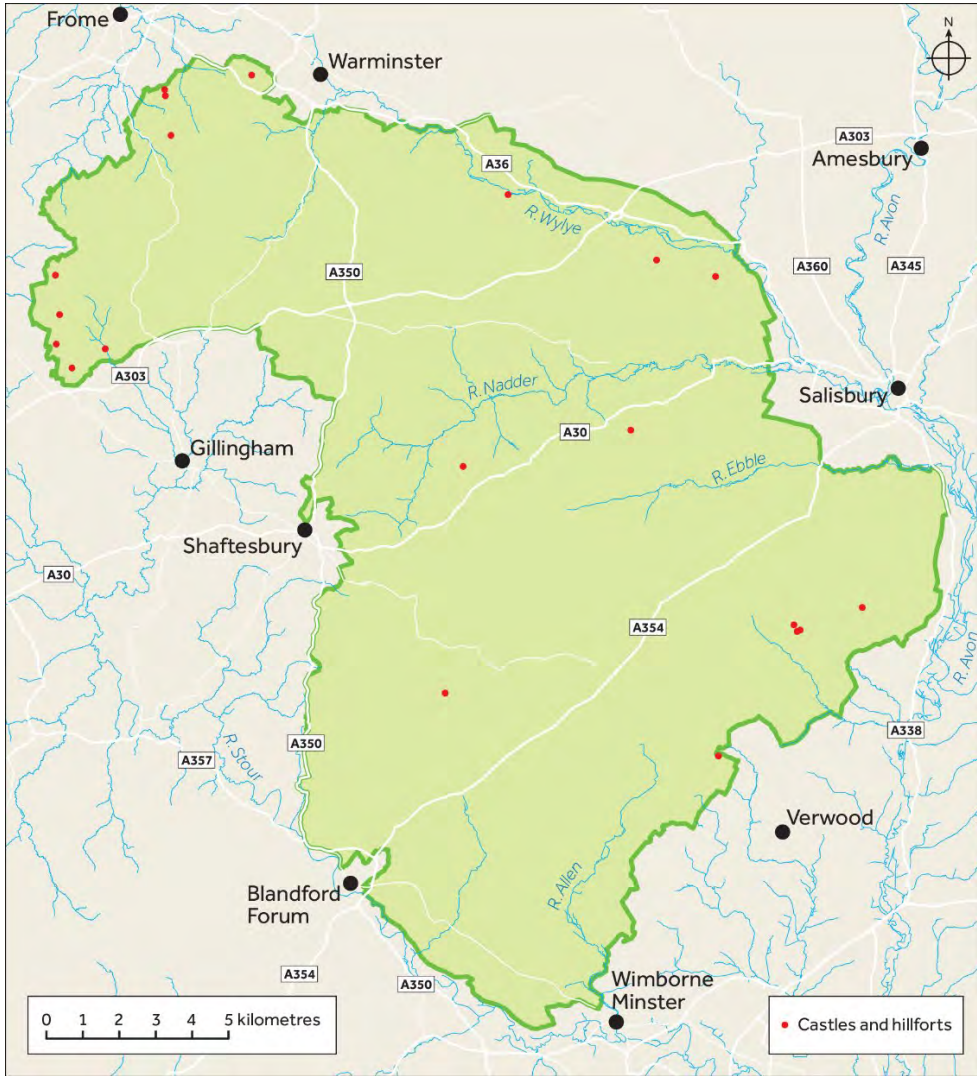
Note: The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) data set for heritage at risk does not match the data set within the Heritage at Risk Register. For 2023, PLTOF records 1 less listed building at risk (3) than are in the register (4). This may be because one of the listed buildings has been recovered since the register was published.

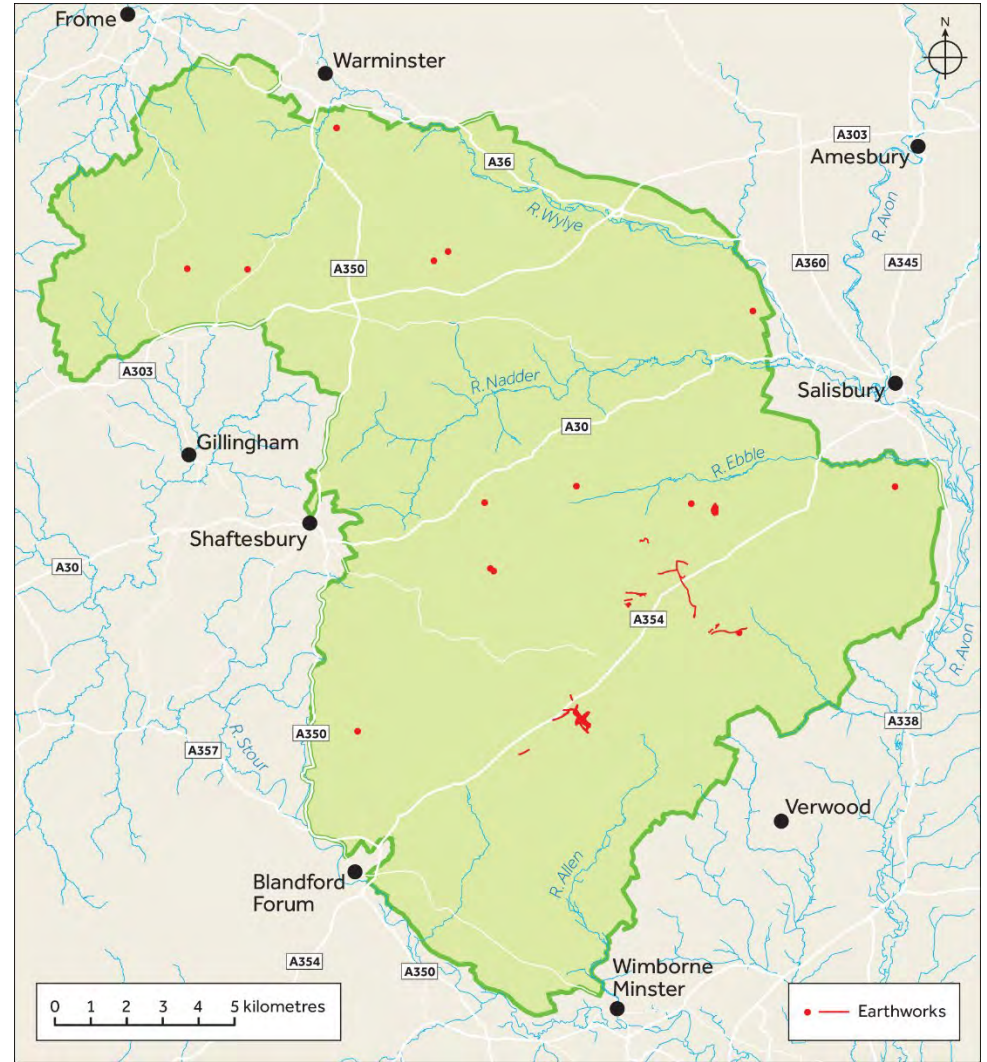
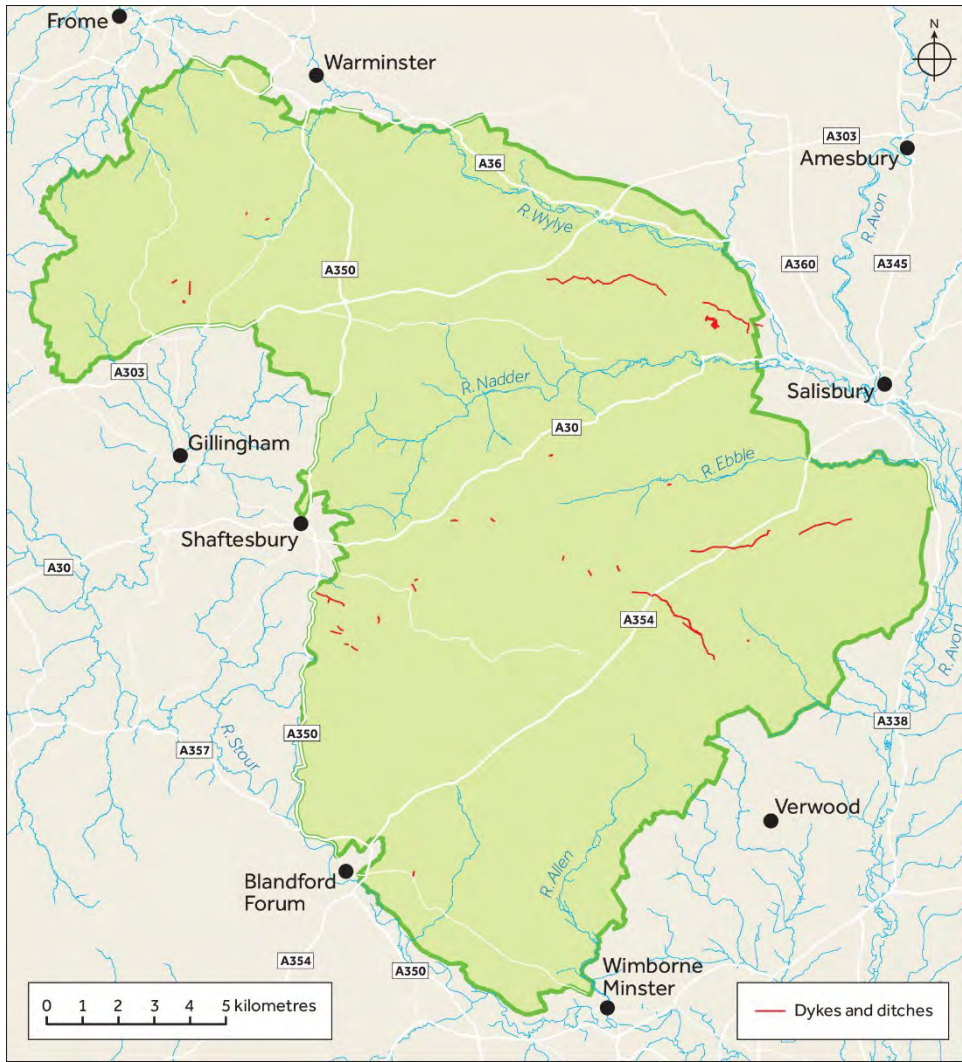
Source: MEOPL Historic England (2023): Heritage at Risk Registers 2023 (South West & London & South East) <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2023-registers/> Historic England web search (May 2023) <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/> PLTOF © Historic England (2024). Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right (2024). The Historic England GIS Data on which this material is based was obtained on the dates shown above. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [HistoricEngland.org.uk](https://historicengland.org.uk).

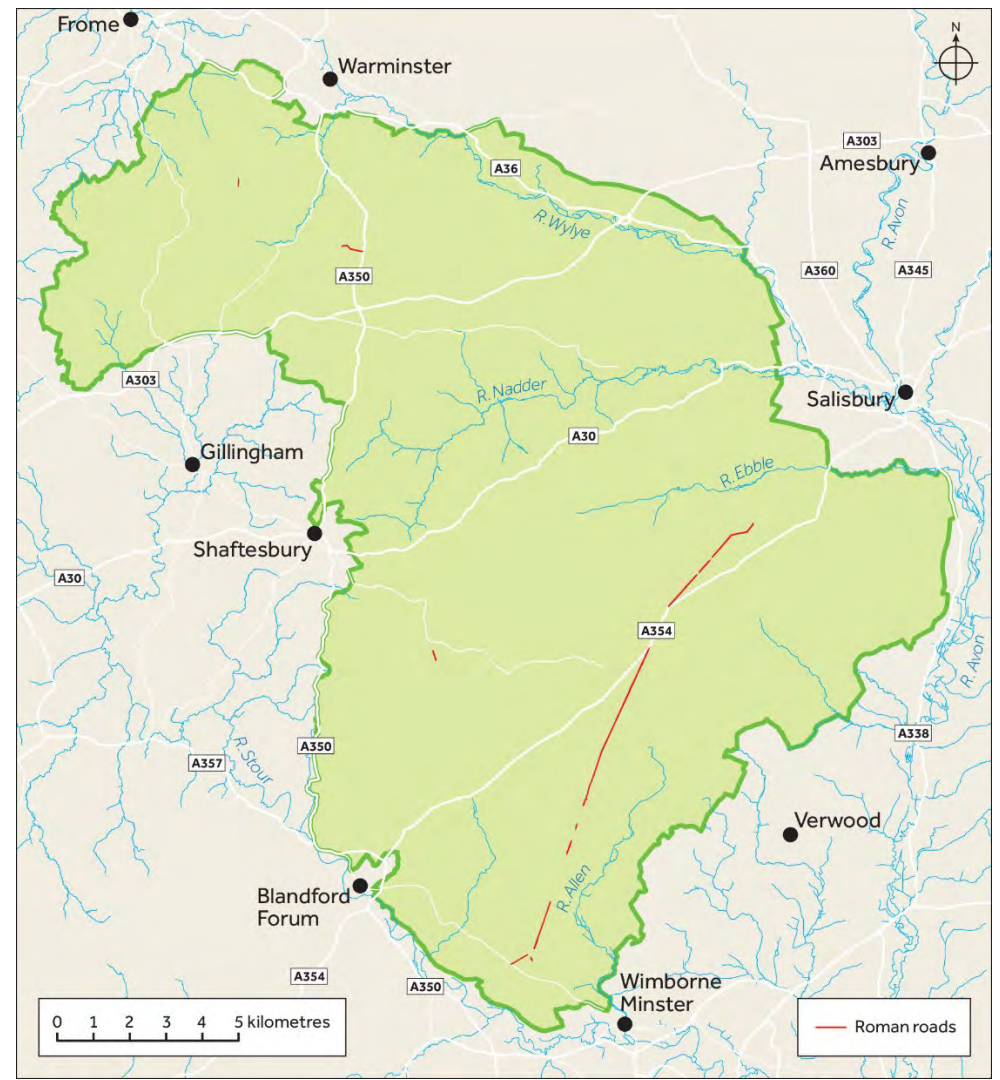
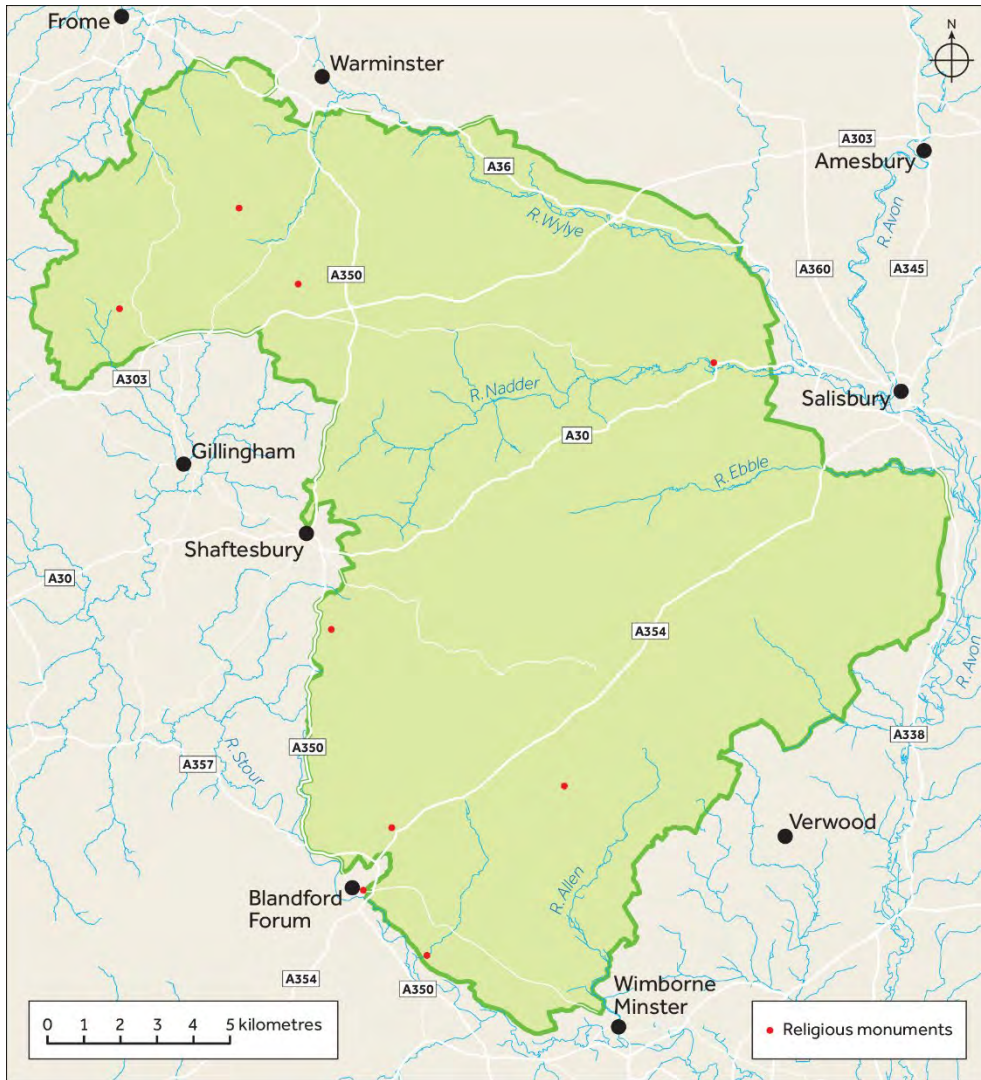
Location of scheduled monuments

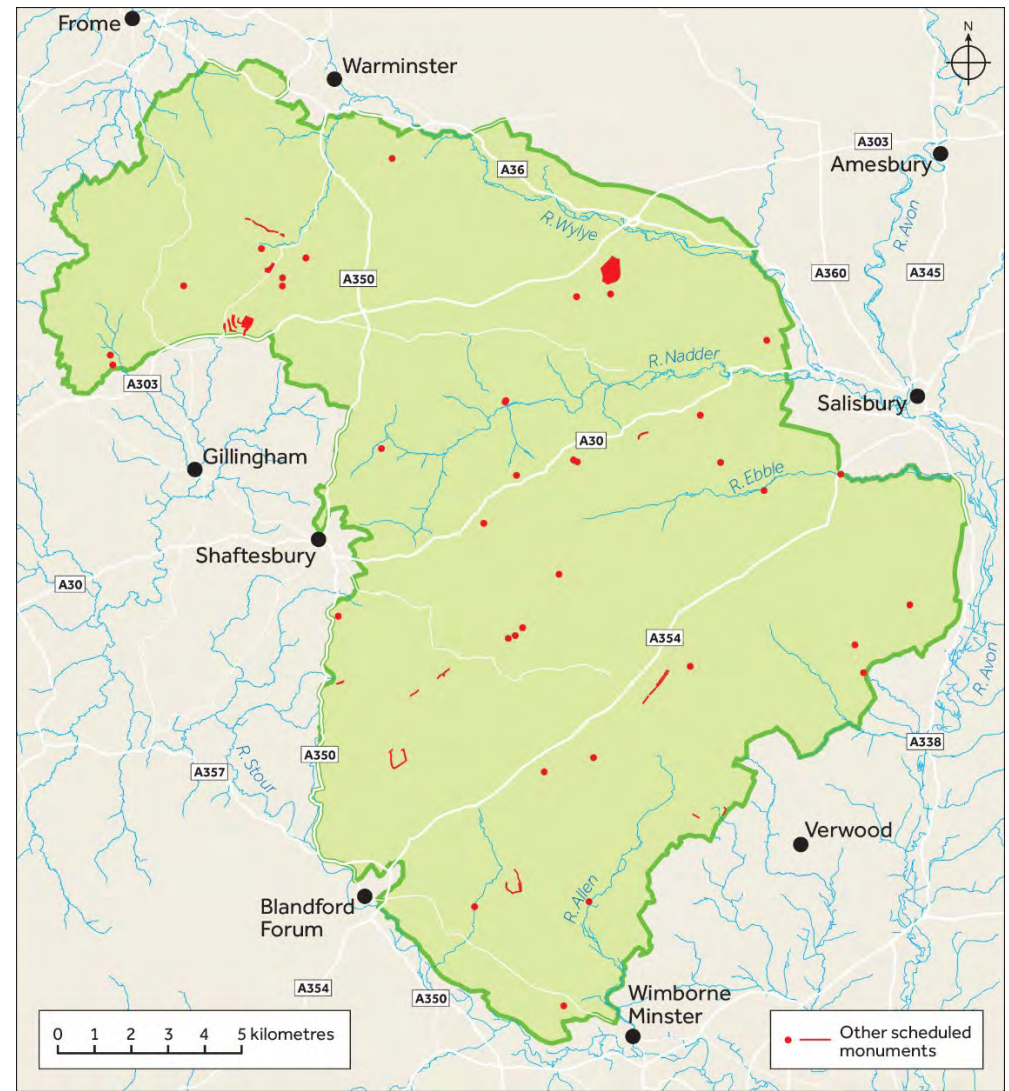
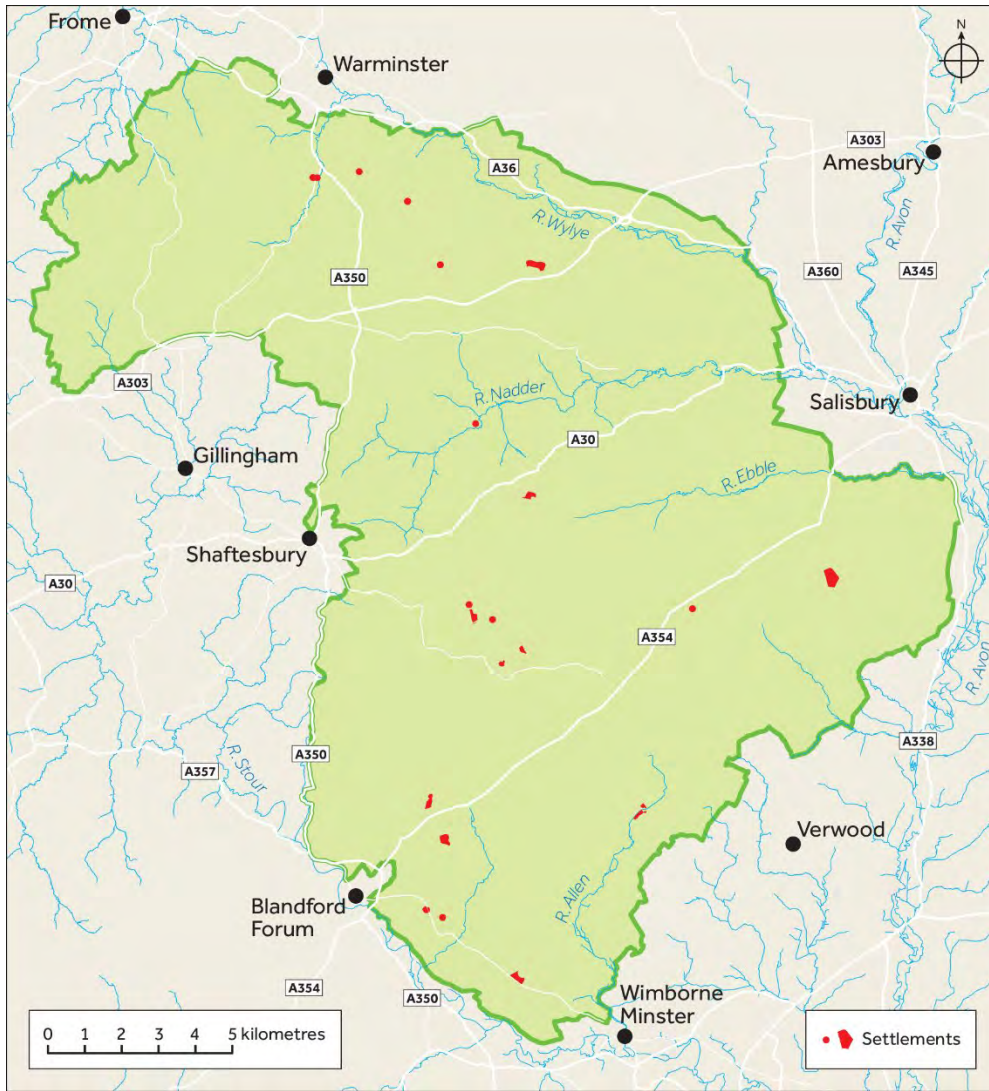
There are 402 scheduled monuments in the National Landscape; the maps show the locations for 10 different types of monuments.







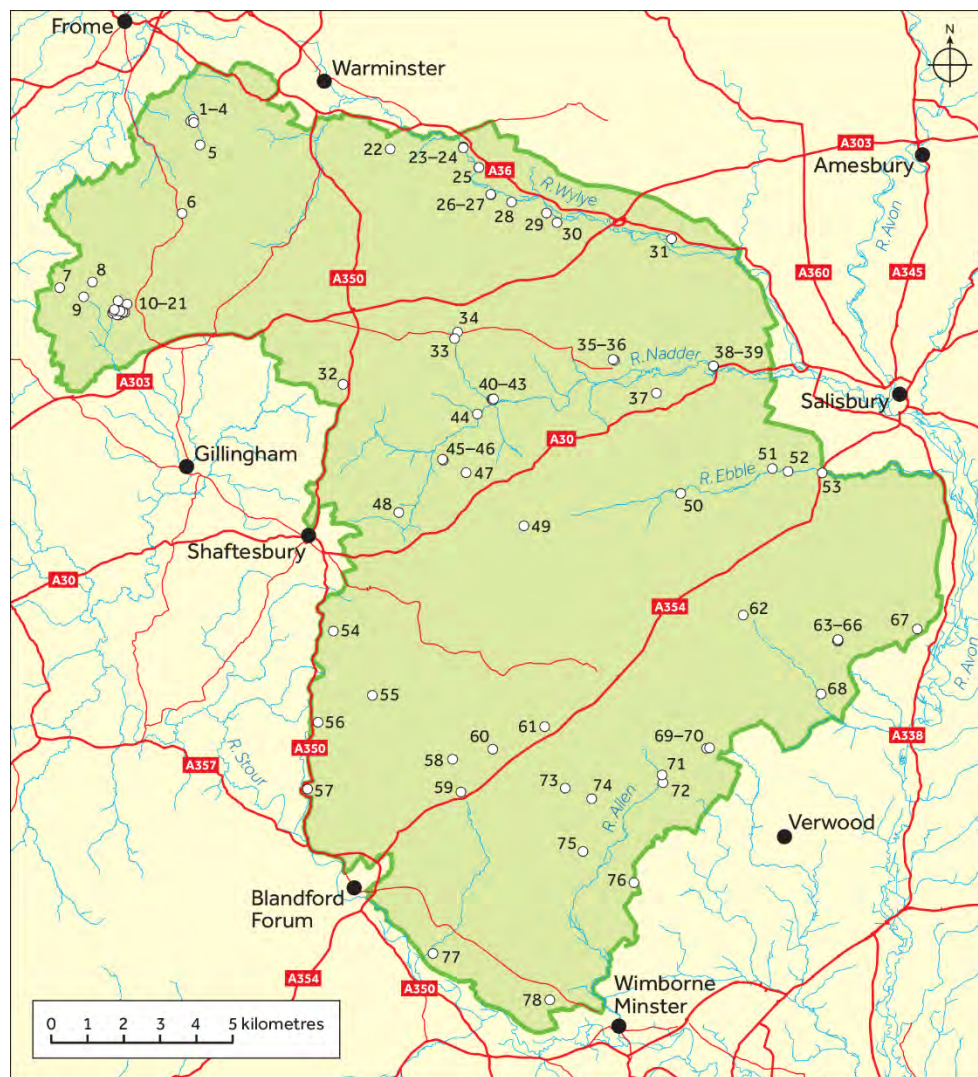




Source: MEOPL © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Location of Grade I listed buildings

There are 78 Grade I listed buildings in the National Landscape, 31 of which are churches (40%).



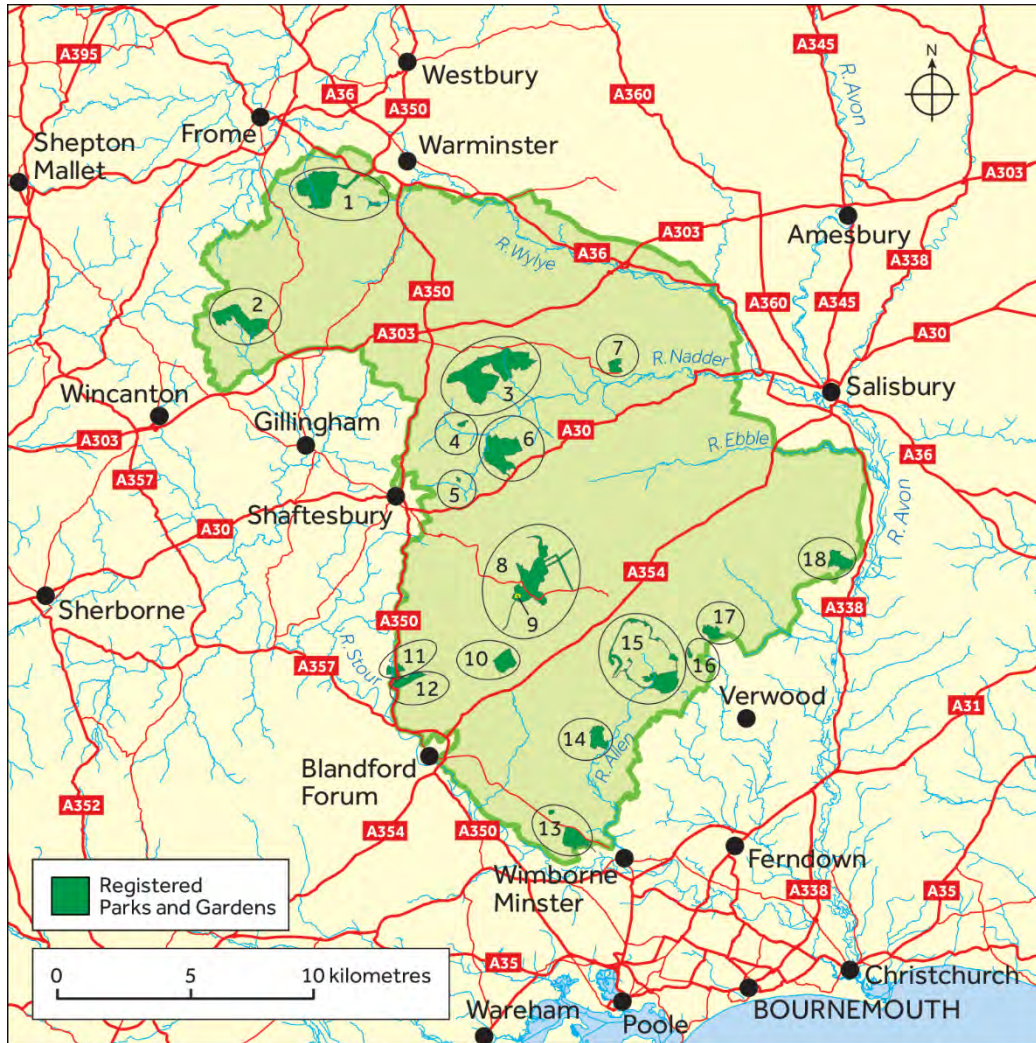
Grade I Listed Buildings

- 1 Longleat House – Orangery with walled garden to rear
- 2 Longleat House – Boathouse and covered bridge
- 3 Longleat House – Stables
- 4 Longleat House
- 5 Longleat Lodge
- 6 Church of All Saints', Maiden Bradley
- 7 Alfred's Tower
- 8 St Peter's Pump
- 9 The Convent
- 10 Stourhead House – The Obelisk
- 11 Stourhead House
- 12 Stourhead House – The Grotto and River God's Cave
- 13 Stourhead House – The Gothic Cottage
- 14 Stourhead House – The Paradise Well
- 15 Stourhead House – The Temple of Flora
- 16 Stourhead House – The Pantheon
- 17 Stourhead House – The Palladian Bridge
- 18 Stourhead House – The Bristol High Cross
- 19 Stourhead House – The Church of St Peter
- 20 Stourhead House – Rockwork Bridge
- 21 Stourhead House – The Temple of Apollo
- 22 Church of St John the Evangelist, Sutton Veny
- 23 Church of St Margaret, Knook
- 24 The Manor House, Knook
- 25 Church of St Peter with attached railings, Upton Lovell
- 26 Church of St Mary, Boyton
- 27 Boyton Manor
- 28 Church of St Cosmas and St Damian, Sherrington
- 29 Stockton House
- 30 Church of St John the Baptist, Stockton
- 31 Church of All Saints', Steeple Langford
- 32 Church of St Mary, East Knoyle
- 33 Nos 65 and 66 (The Archway) with flanking walls
- 34 Church of All Saints', Fonthill Bishop
- 35 Hydes House with attached walls and gate piers
- 36 Church of St Mary the Virgin, Dinton
- 37 Compton Park House
- 38 Village Cross to North West of Church of St Martin
- 39 Church of St Martin, Barford St Martin
- 40 Place Farm
- 41 Place Farm – Inner Gatehouse
- 42 Place Farm – Outer Gatehouse
- 43 Place Farm – Tithe Barn
- 44 Church of St John the Baptist, Tisbury
- 45 Wardour Castle
- 46 Wardour Castle Chapel
- 47 Old Wardour Castle
- 48 Church of St Mary, Donford St Mary
- 49 Norrington Manor with wall and gate piers
- 50 Church of All Saints', Broad Chalke
- 51 Church of St John the Baptist, Bishopstone
- 52 Church of St Mary and St Lawrence, Stratford Toney
- 53 Church of St Michael, Coombe Bissett
- 54 Tower of the former Church of St Mary, Compton Abbas
- 55 West Lodge (that part in the Parish of Iwerne Minster)
- 56 Church of St Mary, Iwerne Minster
- 57 Stepleton House
- 58 Eastbury House including attached west courtyard and gateway
- 59 Church of St Mary, Tarrant Hinton
- 60 Chettle House
- 61 Church of St Andrew, Gussage St Andrew
- 62 Church of All Saints', Martin
- 63 Barn formerly Chapel 20 metres east of Manor House, Rockbourne
- 64 Church of St Andrew, Rockbourne
- 65 Manor Farm and wall running north east, Rockbourne
- 66 Large Barn 50 metres north east of Manor House, Rockbourne
- 67 Church of St Mary, Breamore
- 68 Church of St George, Damerham
- 69 Cranborne Manor House
- 70 Church of St Mary and St Bartholomew, Cranborne
- 71 Church of St Giles, Wimborne St Giles
- 72 St Giles's House
- 73 Church of St Michael, Gussage St Michael
- 74 Church of All Saints', Gussage All Saints
- 75 Crichel House
- 76 Church of All Saints', Chalbury
- 77 Church of St Mary, Tarrant Crawford
- 78 Kingston Lacy House

Source: MEOPL © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Location of Registered Parks and Gardens

In 2024, there are 18 Registered Parks and Gardens in the National Landscape, up from 17 in 2020; none are at risk.



The emphasis of the Register is on gardens, grounds and other planned open spaces, such as town squares. They are 'designed' landscapes, rather than of planting or botanical importance.

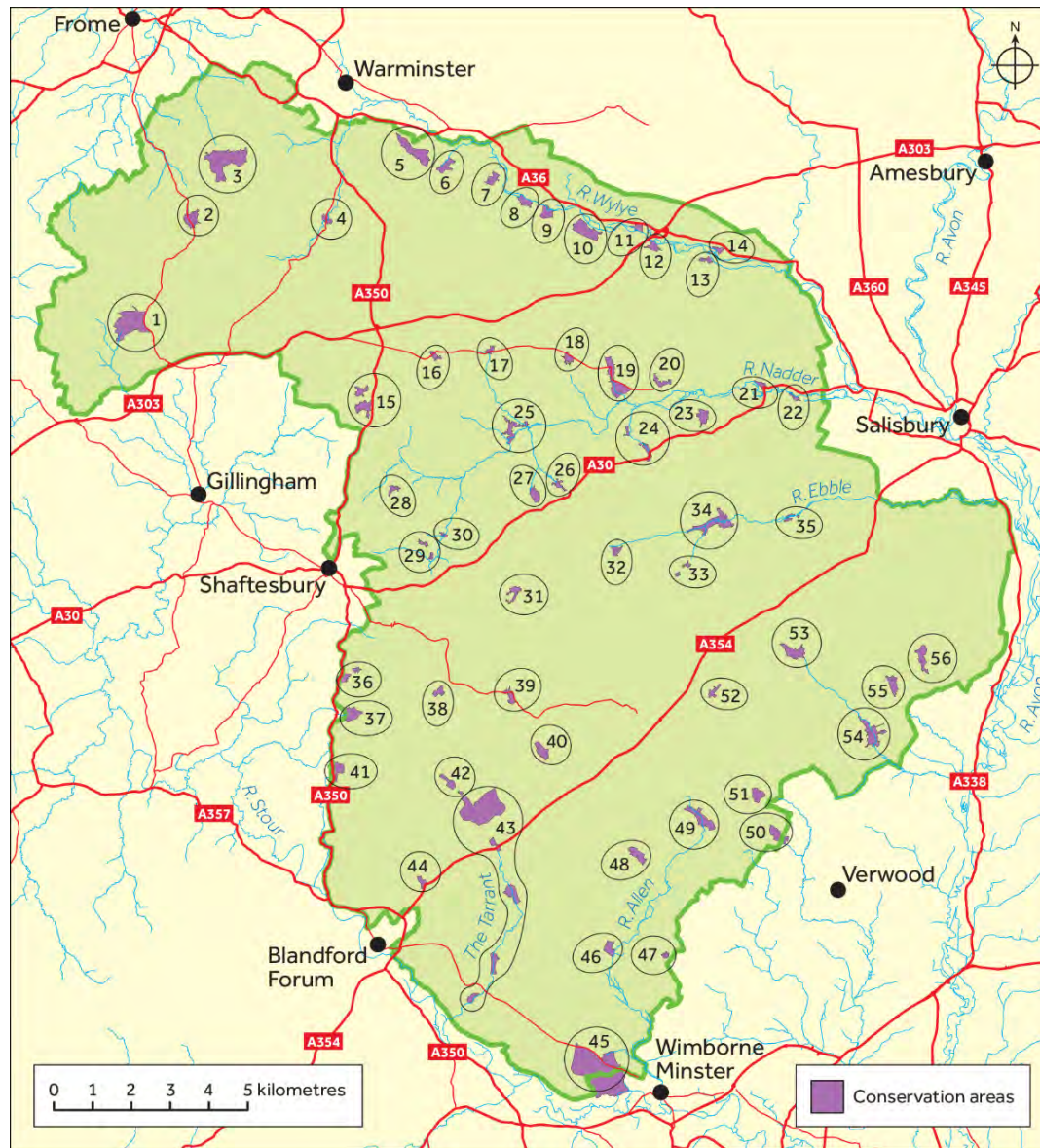
Legend

- 1 Longleat
- 2 Stourhead
- 3 Fonthill
- 4 Hatch House
- 5 Shute House Gardens
- 6 Wardour Castle and Old Wardour Castle
- 7 Dinton Park (Philipps House)
- 8 Rushmore Park
- 9 Larmer Tree Grounds
- 10 Eastbury
- 11 Ranston
- 12 Stepleton House
- 13 Kingston Lacy
- 14 Crichel House
- 15 St Giles' House
- 16 Cranborne Manor
- 17 Boveridge House School
- 18 Breamore

Source: MEOPL © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Location and condition of conservation areas

There are 56 Conservation Areas within the National Landscape. Historic England states that none of the conservation areas are at risk.



Legend

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Stourton | 31 Berwick St John |
| 2 Maiden Bradley | 32 Ebbesbourne Wake |
| 3 Horningsham | 33 Bowerchalke |
| 4 Brixton Deverill | 34 Broad Chalke |
| 5 Sutton Veny | 35 Bishopstone |
| 6 Tytherington | 36 Compton Abbas |
| 7 Corton | 37 Fontwell Magna |
| 8 Boyton | 38 Ashmore |
| 9 Sherrington | 39 Tollard Royal |
| 10 Stockton | 40 Farnham |
| 11 Bapton and Fisherton de la Mere | 41 Iwerne Minster |
| 12 Wylve | 42 Stubhampton |
| 13 Hanging Langford | 43 Tarrant Valley |
| 14 Steeple Langford | 44 Pimperne |
| 15 East Knoyle | 45 Pamphill |
| 16 Hindon | 46 Witchampton |
| 17 Fonthill Bishop | 47 Hinton Martell |
| 18 Chilmark | 48 Gussage All Saints |
| 19 Teffont Magna and Evias | 49 Wimborne St Giles |
| 20 Dinton | 50 Edmondsham |
| 21 Barford St Martin | 51 Cranborne |
| 22 Burcombe | 52 Pentridge |
| 23 Compton Chamberlayne | 53 Martin |
| 24 Fovant | 54 Damerham |
| 25 Tisbury | 55 Rockbourne |
| 26 Swallowcliffe | 56 Whitsbury |
| 27 Ansty | |
| 28 Semley | |
| 29 Donhead St Mary | |
| 30 Donhead St Andrew | |

The local planning authorities designate most conservation areas. A conservation area is an area of special architectural or historic interest; preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of these areas is an important part of local planning policy. Change in conservation areas can be negative either through poor quality new development, neglect, or even deliberate damage.

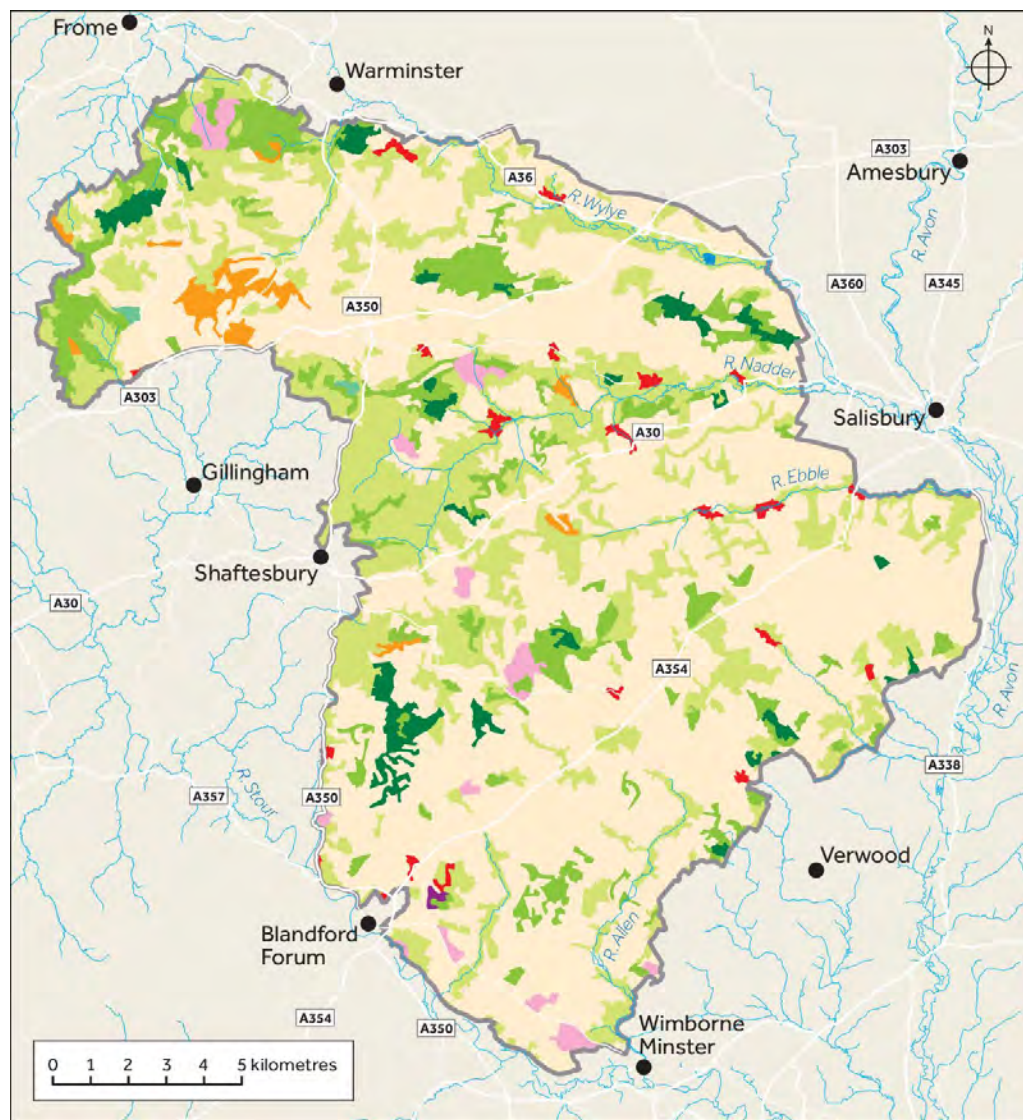
The best way to define the local character is through the production of a conservation area appraisal. This provides an understanding of the history of an area and its special qualities. There are 21 published Conservation Area Appraisals and 4 Conservation Area Character Statements describing 45% of the Conservation Areas in the National Landscape:

Wiltshire (Appraisals)	Dorset (Appraisals)	New Forest (Character Statements)
Horningsham; undated c.1990s	Fontmell Magna 2018	Damerham 2019
Stockton; undated c.1990s	Tarrant Valley labelled draft but consultation 2012	Martin 2019
Sutton Veny; undated c.1990s	Compton Abbas c 2007	Rockbourne 2019
Tytherington; undated c.1990s	Cranborne Conservation Area 2005	Whitsbury 2019
Warminster; April 2007	Edmondsham Conservation Area 2005	
Broadchalke; February 2009	Gussage all Saints Conservation Area 2005	
Dinton; February 2009	Hinton Martell Conservation Area 2005	
Hindon; February 2009	Pamphill Conservation Area 2006	
Steeple Langford; February 2009	Wimborne St Giles Conservation Area 2006	
Tisbury; February 2009	Witchampton Conservation Area 2006	
Wylve; February 2009		

Source: Local Authority websites accessed September 2024; © Historic England 2022. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022. The most publicly available up-to-date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from www.HistoricEngland.org.uk

Land-use map

Agriculture is the dominant land use within the National Landscape and there is little change between 2006 and 2018.



The map shows the 2021 CORINE land cover data from the EU



Copernicus Land Monitoring Service. It uses satellite earth observation and in situ (non-space) data to provide geographical information on land cover and its changes, land use, vegetation state, water cycle and earth surface energy variables.

The CORINE Land Cover inventory was initiated in 1985 (reference year 1990) with regular updates since, the latest being 2018. It consists of an inventory of land cover in 44 classes.

Recorded land-use change:

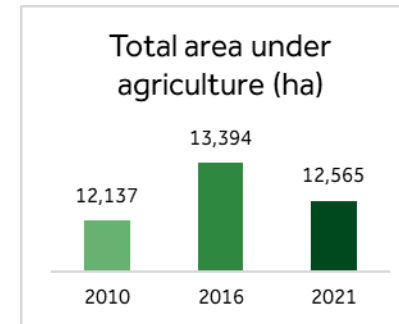
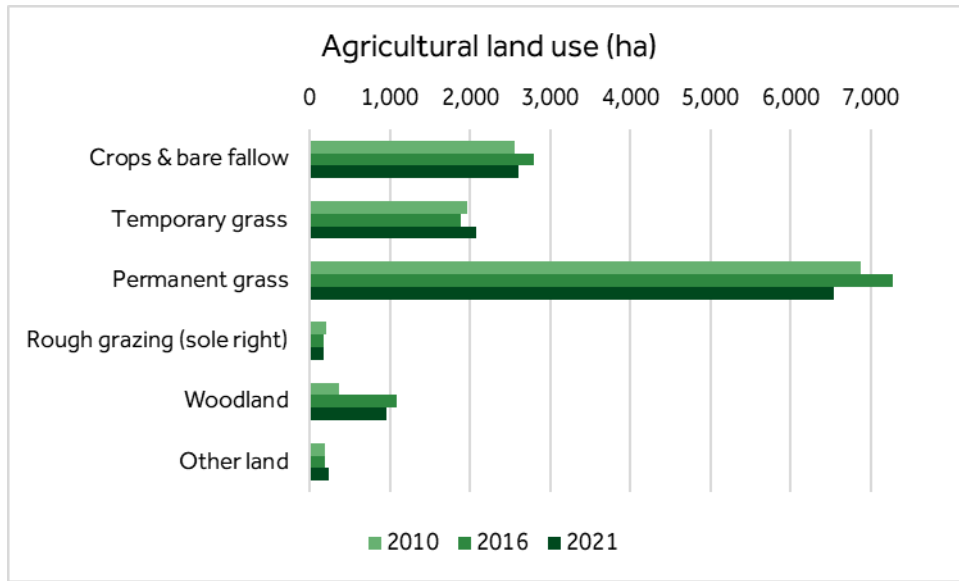
- The 2018 and 2012 maps show little change but industrial land has appeared to the east of Blandford Forum. The 2018 map shows a larger body of inland water around Bonham when compared to the 2006 map; and there was a little more pasture land in 2006 when compared to both 2012 and 2018.

(Click [Methane in the National Landscape](#) to see link between land-use and emissions)

Source: © European Union, Copernicus Land Monitoring Service 2021, European Environment Agency (EEA). <https://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/corine-land-cover> - CORINE Land Cover uses a Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) of 25 hectares (ha) for areal phenomena and a minimum width of 100 m for linear phenomena.

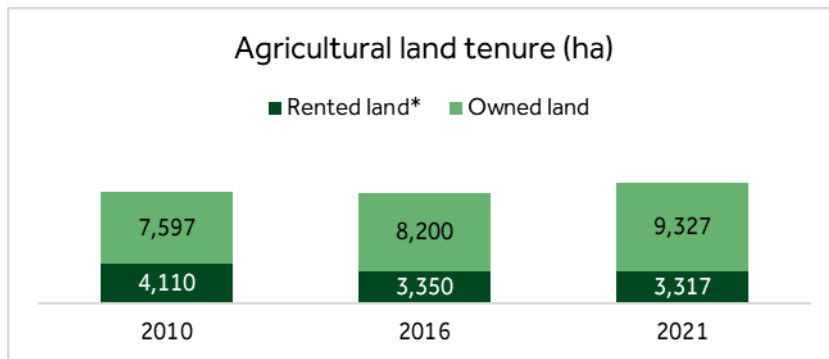
Agricultural land-use

Currently, 64% of the National Landscape is under agriculture (12,565 ha).



There has been a small increase in the total area of agricultural land during the last ten years. In 2021, there were 12,565 ha of land under agriculture. This is an increase of 3.5% from 2010 (12,137 ha) and a decline of 6% since 2016 (13,394 ha).

In 2021, 74% of the agricultural tenured land was owner occupied, 26% rented (note that the area of total land use does not equate with the area of total tenure; some land is either not actively managed or is common land). In 2010, 71% and, in 2016, 65% of the agricultural tenured land was owner occupied.

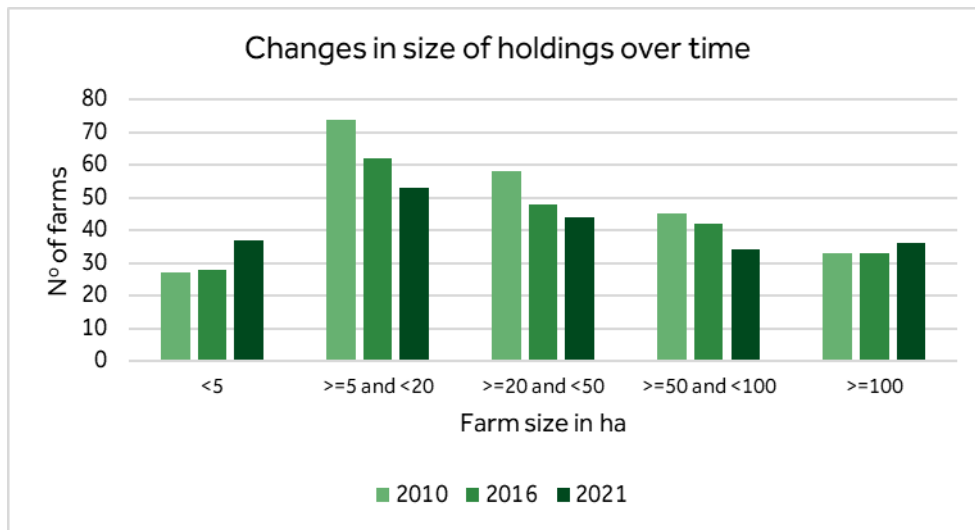
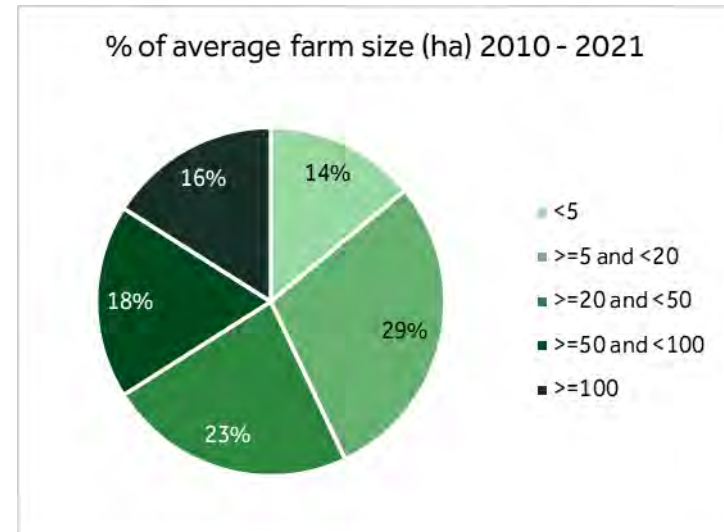
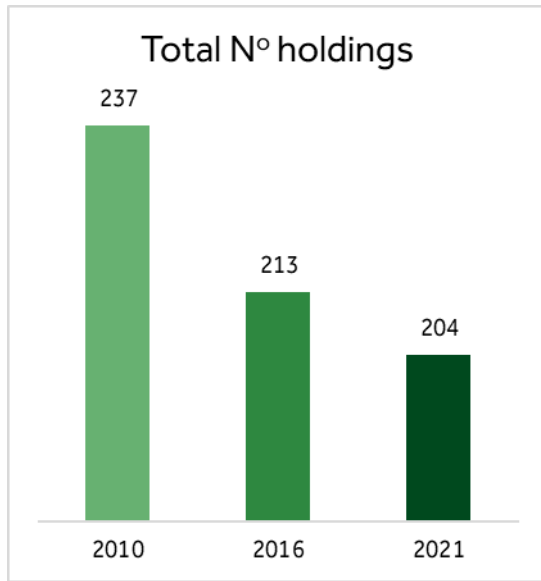


* Rented land means land rented for at least 365 days on either a Full Agricultural Tenancy, Farm Business Tenancy, or other long-term agreement.

Note: The Defra June Survey of Agriculture is a large sample survey sent to a representative sample of holdings across England. As the results are based on a sample survey, they are subject to a degree of sampling error and do not consider other sources of survey errors, such as non-response bias or administrative data errors.

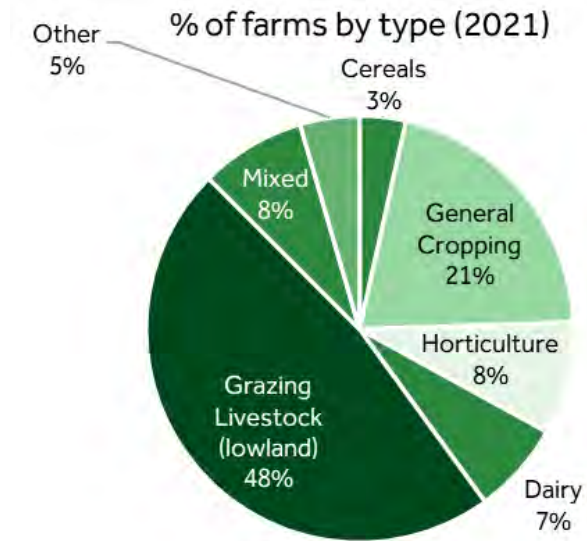
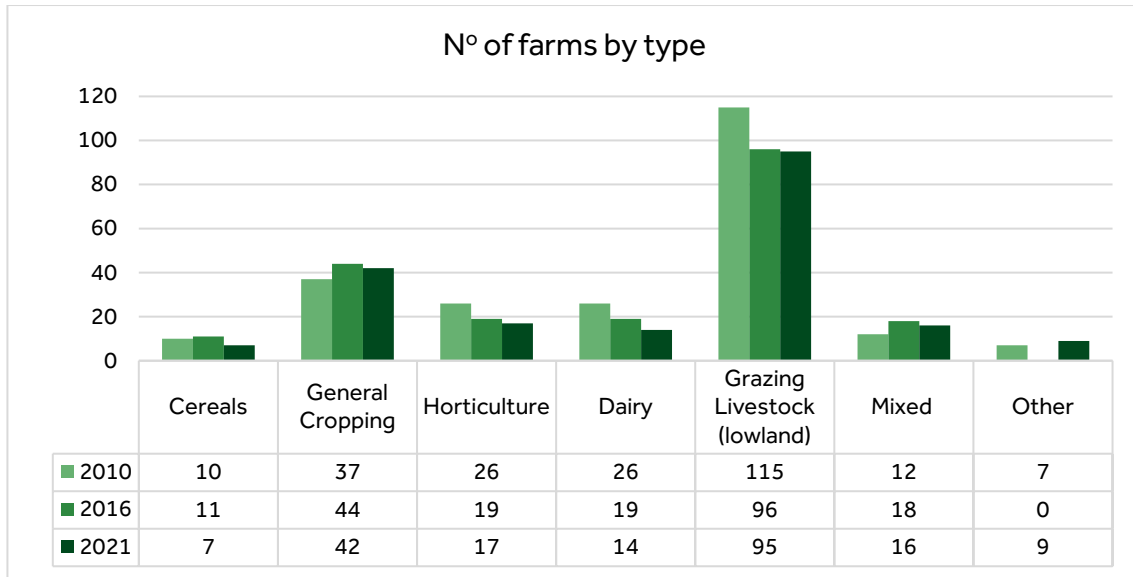
Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

Agricultural holdings



The number of holdings has fallen from 237 in 2010 to 204 in 2021 (a decrease of 14%). However, there is an increase in the smallest units (less than 5 ha) and the largest units (greater than 100 ha). The decline has been in the intermediary sizes.

Details of the agricultural labour force are set out in the 'People' section – click [Employment in farming](#) to see the table.

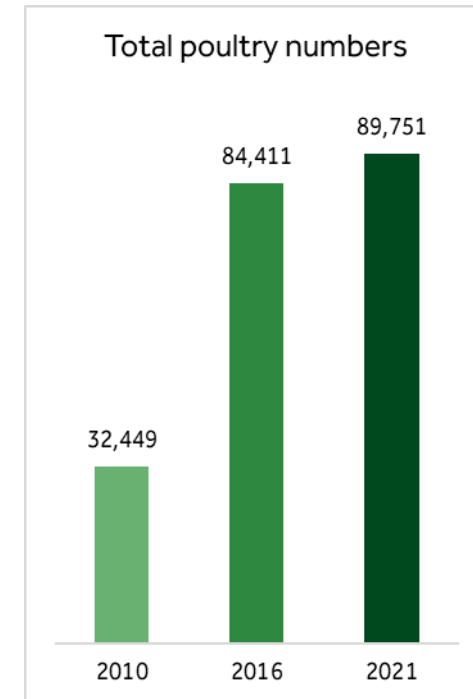
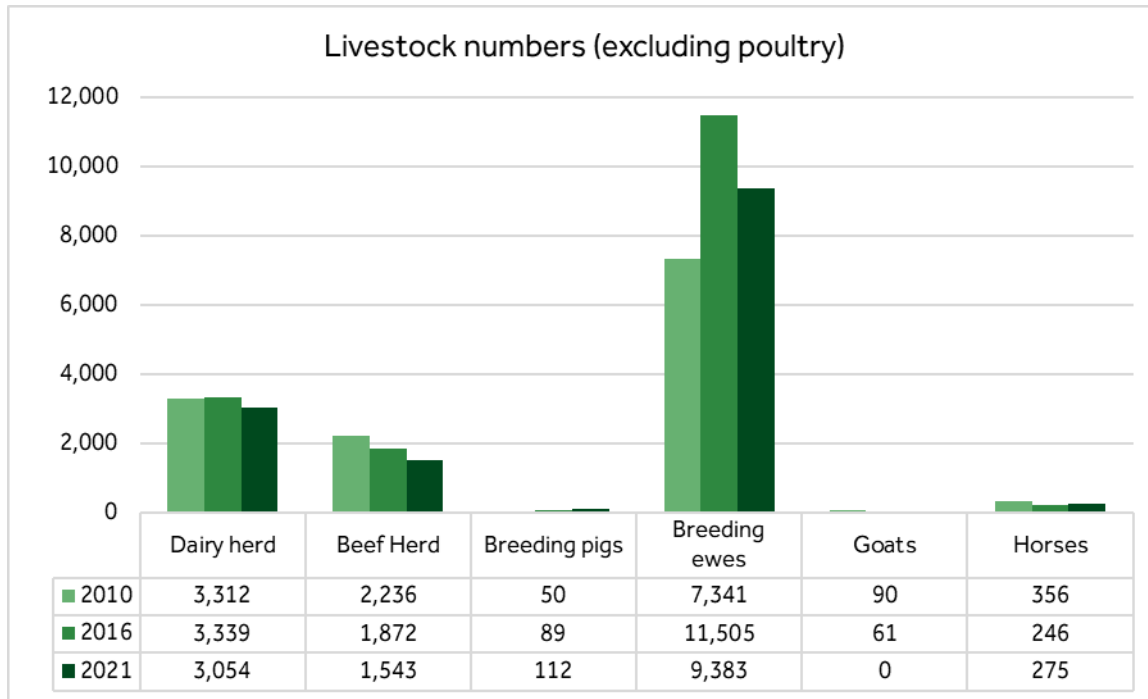


Grazing livestock is, and has constantly been, the predominant holding type though, in the last ten years, there has been a 17% decrease in the number of such holdings. There has also been a 46% reduction in dairy holdings. During the same period, there has been an increase in general cropping (+14%), mixed farming (+33%) and 'other' (+28%).

Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

Livestock numbers

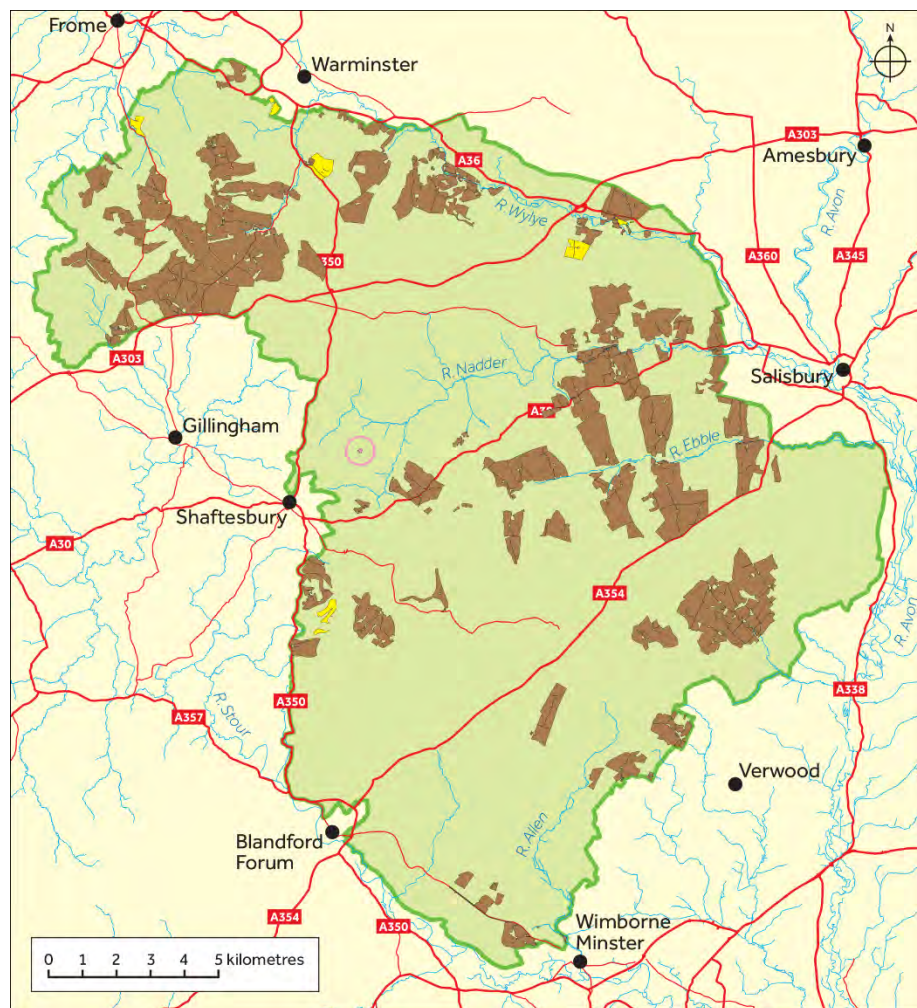
Poultry is the largest group of livestock (89,751 animals), a 6% increase in numbers since 2016 (the trend from 2010 is an increase of just over 275%). However, sheep (9,383 breeding ewes) and cattle (4,597 animals) are the most dominant livestock in the landscape. There is an 18% decline in sheep numbers and a 12% fall in cattle numbers since 2016.



Source: Defra June Survey of Agriculture <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

Land in agri-environment schemes

There are 37,100 ha entered into agri-environment schemes, covering 38% of the National Landscape, at a value of £1,594,300.



Legend

- Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- Higher Level Stewardship
- Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship

The stewardship scheme, which replaces the older Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes, has two levels:

- Entry-Level Stewardship; and
- Higher-Level Stewardship.

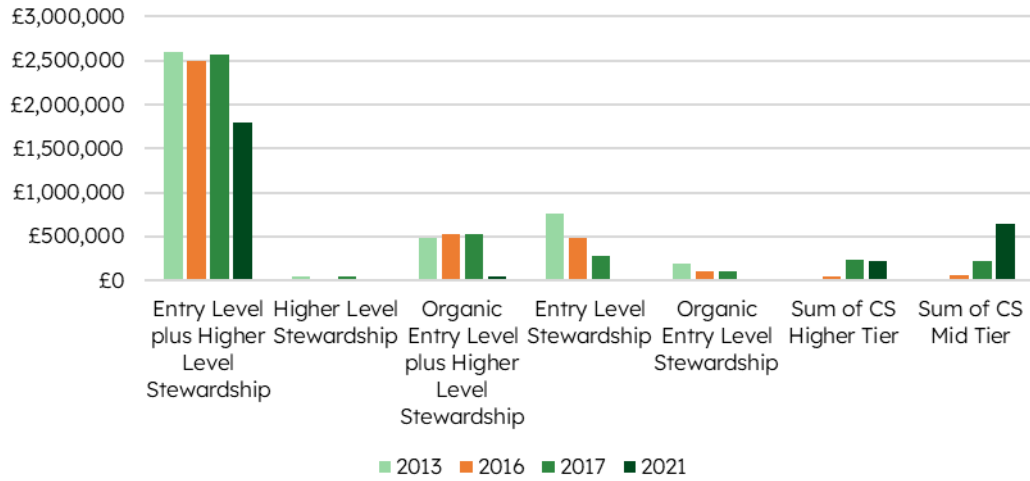
In 2021, 10% of the National Landscape was in Entry-Level Stewardship, and 2% was in Higher-Level Stewardship.

The total annual values of agri-environment agreements in the National Landscape is £1,594,300 (2023), down from £24,938,424 (2020). The area has increased from 25,176 ha in 2020 (26% of the National Landscape) to 37,100 ha in 2021 (38% of the National Landscape).

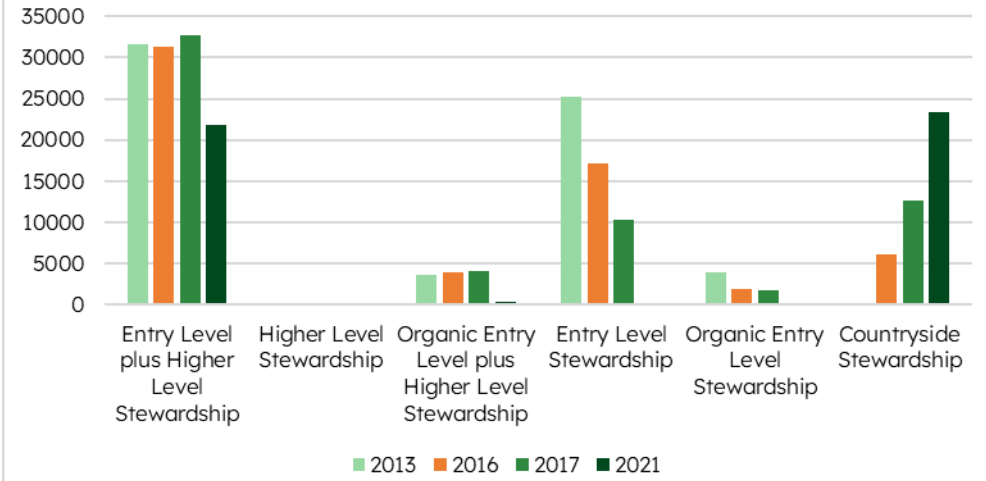
The cost and area of the various schemes are set out in the tables below.

Source: © Natural England copyright. Environmental Stewardship Scheme holdings agreement polygons (includes farm business and payment info) Attribution Statement: © Rural Payments Agency. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023. <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/df5e865d-51a0-4d24-9dfc-6540b959c26c/environmental-stewardship-scheme-agreements-england/>

Value of AE Schemes



Area of AE Schemes



Development monitoring *(data not available)*

The intent is to reporting on the scrutiny and input into planning applications and policies.

Year	N° applications		<i>Data not available</i>		Other
	Reviewed	Commented	Decision in line with response	N° of affordable homes	
2023/24					
2022/23					
2021/22					
2020/21					
2019/20					
2018/19					

Source: Local Planning Authorities

Future development pressure

Working to ensure that local planning policy fully recognises the National Landscape's purpose and objectives.

Local Plans

Planning Authority & status of plan	Date adopted	Spatial Strategy and allocations
Adopted Local Plan	<p>Wiltshire Development Framework: Wiltshire Core Strategy (January 2015)</p> <p>http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan-jan16-low-res.pdf</p>	<p>Core Policy 51 Landscape</p> <p>Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have a harmful impact upon landscape character, while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures. In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate that the following aspects of landscape character have been conserved and where possible enhanced through sensitive design, landscape mitigation and enhancement measures:</p> <p>.. ...</p> <p>ix. Special qualities of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the New Forest National Park, where great weight will be afforded to conserving and enhancing landscapes and scenic beauty.</p> <p>Proposals for development within or affecting the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), New Forest National Park (NFNP) or Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) shall demonstrate that they have taken account of the objectives, policies and actions set out in the relevant Management Plans for these areas. Proposals for development outside of an AONB that is sufficiently prominent (in terms of its siting or scale) to have an impact on the area's special qualities (as set out in the relevant management plan), must also demonstrate that it would not adversely affect its setting.</p>
Housing site allocations	<p>Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (Adopted February 2020)</p> <p>https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-whsap</p>	<p>There are three Large Villages in the rural area around Tisbury all of which are within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The Plan does not propose any allocations because of a variety of constraints and a lack of land availability. In the rural area around Wilton, of the two Large Villages, Dinton has already experienced relatively significant growth and at Broad Chalke sites are being investigated through the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, although the local primary school has limited capacity</p>

		to support growth. Neighbourhood planning is suited to addressing local needs in these circumstances.
Adopted Local Plan	<p>North Dorset Local Plan (January 2016)</p> <p>https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/adopted-local-plans/north-dorset-adopted-local-plan</p>	<p>POLICY 4: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The natural environment of North Dorset and the ecosystem services it supports will be enhanced through the protection of environmental assets and the establishment of a coherent ecological network of designated sites and stepping stone sites linked via corridor features. Where development takes place, buffers should be provided to environmental assets to improve their biodiversity value and facilitate adaptation to climate change. Where opportunities exist, new habitats should be created to enhance this network further.</p> <p>Developments that offer gains in biodiversity whether through the restoration of habitats or the creation of linkages between existing sites, will be looked upon favourably in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Developments are expected to respect the natural environment including the designated sites, valued landscapes and other features that make it special. Developments should be shaped by the natural environment so that the benefits it provides are enhanced and not degraded.</p> <p>Development proposals which seek to conserve or enhance the natural environment should be permitted unless significant adverse social or environmental impacts are likely to arise as a result of the proposal.</p> <p>Landscape Character</p> <p>The landscape character of the District will be protected through retention of the features that characterise the area. Where significant impact is likely to arise as a result of a development proposal, developers will be required to clearly demonstrate that the impact on the landscape has been mitigated and that important landscape features have been incorporated in to the development scheme.</p> <p>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</p> <p>Within the areas designated as AONB and their setting, development will be managed in a way that conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the area. Proposals which would harm the natural beauty of the AONBs will not be permitted unless it is clearly in the public interest to do so. In such instances, effective mitigation should form an integral part of the development proposals. Developers will be expected to demonstrate how</p>

		<p>they have had regard to the objectives of the relevant AONB management plan for the area.</p> <p>..... Etc.....</p>
Adopted Local Plan	<p>East Dorset & Christchurch Local Plan (April 2014)</p> <p>https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/christchurch-and-east-dorset-local-plan-part-1-core-strategy</p>	<p>Policy HE3 Landscape Quality</p> <p>Development will need to protect and seek to enhance the landscape character of the area.</p> <p>Proposals will need to demonstrate that the following factors have been taken into account:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The character of settlements and their landscape settings. 2. Natural features such as trees, hedgerows, woodland, field boundaries, water features and wildlife corridors. 3. Features of cultural, historical and heritage value. 4. Important views and visual amenity. 5. Tranquillity and the need to protect against intrusion from light pollution, noise and motion. <p>Development proposals within and/or affecting the setting of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will need to demonstrate that account has been taken of the relevant Management Plan.</p> <p>Within the Areas of Great Landscape Value development will be permitted where its siting, design, materials, scale and landscaping are sympathetic with the particular landscape quality and character of the Areas of Great Landscape Value. Planning permission will be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where they are in the public interest.</p>
Housing site allocations	<p>Dorset Council, Annual Position Statement – 5-year housing land supply (October 2024)</p> <p>https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/annual-position-statement</p>	<p>There are no NL housing allocations in the current local plans.</p> <p>Two neighbourhood plans identify housing sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blandford has 142 houses on land north and east of the Blandford Bypass; this may include some in the NL. • Fontmell Magna has 9 houses associated with Blandfords Farm Barn. <p>In addition, there are many minor sites in the NL with planning permissions that total 47 new dwellings</p>

Adopted local plan

New Forest District outside the New Forest National Park (July 2020)

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/developmentplan>

Policy STR1: Achieving sustainable development

All new development will be expected to make a positive social, economic and environmental contribution to community and business life in the Plan Area by:

Meeting most development needs within settlement boundaries, in a manner that is appropriate for and proportionate to the nature and size of the settlement, and where there is or will be sufficient supporting infrastructure and services;

i. Ensuring that the housing needs of local communities are addressed by locating new residential development in sustainable and accessible

locations,

ii. Taking a context and landscape-led approach to the siting and design of development to deliver high quality design that maintains local distinctiveness, creates high quality new landscapes and townscapes, safeguards the Green Belt and AONB, sustains and enhances the heritage, scenic and amenity value of the Plan Area, and has appropriate regard to and the purposes of the adjoining New Forest National Park;

iii. Achieving an environmental net gain and avoiding wherever possible or mitigating where necessary the direct and indirect impacts of development on the integrity of the New Forest, Solent, River Avon and other International Nature Conservation sites, and on other areas, species or habitats of nature conservation value;

.....

Policy STR2: Protection of the countryside, Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the adjoining New Forest National Park

Development should not have an unacceptable impact on the special qualities and purposes of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or on the adjoining New Forest National Park and their settings. In the determination and implementation of development proposals including planned growth, great weight will be given to ensuring that the character, quality and scenic beauty of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and adjoining New Forest National Park are protected and enhanced.

	<p>New Forest Council, Annual Position Statement – 5-year housing land supply 2016-2036 (October 2024)</p> <p>https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2978/4-Statement-of-Five-Year-Housing-Land-Supply</p>	<p>There are no NL housing allocations in the current local plan</p>
<p>Adopted local plan</p>	<p>Somerset- Mendip Local Plan 2006-2029 (December 2014)</p> <p>https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/adopted-local-plans/?district=Mendip</p>	<p>DP4: Mendip’s Landscapes</p> <p>Mendip district is defined by its landscapes. Proposals for development that would, individually or cumulatively, significantly degrade the quality of the local landscape will not be supported. Any decision-making will take into account efforts made by applicants to avoid, minimise and/or mitigate negative impacts and the need for the proposal to take place in that location. The following criteria will be applied in relation to particular landscape designations present in the district:</p> <p>1. Within the nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) shown on the Policies Map the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage will be the primary consideration in the determination of development proposals. New developments will be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they foster the social or economic well-being of the communities within the designated area or promote the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB - provided that such development is compatible with the wider purpose for which the area was designated, and • the site concerned, having regard to alternative options, offers the most appropriate means to limit or mitigate against any negative visual impact on the immediate locality and longer distance panoramic views, and • the design and appearance of the proposal is responsive to its context and where visible within the wider landscape makes a positive contribution that reinforces the character of the AONB. <p>Proposals in areas adjacent to the AONB will, depending upon their prominence in the wider landscape, be expected to demonstrate that their location and form do not compromise the setting of the designated area.</p> <p>2. Proposals for development which lie within or which would affect the setting of Special Landscape Features (as defined on the Policies Map) will</p>

be determined with regard to their impacts upon their specific qualities as described in the 2012 “Assessment of Special Landscape Features.”

3. Outside of designated landscape areas, proposals should demonstrate that their siting and design are compatible with the pattern of natural and man-made features of the Landscape Character Areas, including cultural and historical associations, as detailed in the “Landscape Assessment of Mendip District.”

4. Proposals affecting Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) should seek to ensure that the integrity of the area designated is not compromised.

DP8: Environmental Protection

All development proposals should minimise, and where possible reduce, all emissions and other forms of pollution.

1. Development (either cumulatively or individually) will be required to demonstrate that it does not give rise to unacceptable adverse environmental impacts on:

- ambient noise levels;
- air quality;
- the quality of water resources, whether surface river or groundwater;
- biodiversity;
- light pollution;
- land quality and ground stability;
- residential amenity; and
- public health and safety.

2. Development proposals must include an assessment appropriate to the type and extent of impact and any associated risks to the satisfaction of the relevant environmental body. Any proposed solutions or mitigation measures should comply with relevant EU and British Standards, Environment Agency guidance and national limits or guidelines and take account of any locally adopted standards and supplementary guidance.

		<p>3. Development proposals, particularly those in a rural setting and especially those in designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), should make all reasonable efforts to minimise noise and light pollution impacts.</p> <p>4. Development proposals which are on or adjacent to land which may have been subject to contamination or impact from existing sources of noise will need to demonstrate that measures can be taken effectively to mitigate the impacts on public health, environmental quality, the built environment and amenity. Proposals will only be permitted where the impact and risks are, or can be mitigated appropriately for the proposed use. Appropriate mitigation and remediation will be secured through planning conditions on the development.</p>
<p>Adopted local plan</p>	<p>Somerset South Somerset local plan 2006-2028 (March 2015)</p> <p>https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/adopted-local-plans/?district=South+Somerset</p>	<p>POLICY HG9: HOUSING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED WORKERS</p> <p>A development proposal in the countryside to meet the accommodation needs of a full-time worker in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, equestrian activities or other business where a rural location is essential should demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clearly established existing functional need; • The enterprise is economically viable; • Provision on-site (or in the immediate vicinity) is necessary for the operation of the business; • No suitable accommodation exists (or could be made available) in established buildings on the site or in the immediate vicinity; ☐ It does not involve replacing a dwelling disposed of recently as general market housing; • The dwelling is no larger than that required to meet the operational needs of the business; • The siting and landscaping of the new dwelling minimises the impact upon the local landscape character and visual amenity of the countryside and ensures no adverse impact upon the integrity of nationally and internationally designated sites, such as AONB. <p>Where a new dwelling is permitted, this will be the subject of a condition ensuring the occupation will be limited to a person solely or mainly working, or last working in the locality in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, equestrian</p>

		activities or other rural business (or a surviving partner of such a person, and any resident dependents).
	Somerset Council	There are no NL housing allocations in the current local plan
Plan in preparation	Dorset Local Plan – consultation draft (January 2021) https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/about-the-dorset-council-local-plan-january-2021-consultation	<p>ENVV4: Landscape</p> <p>All development should conserve and enhance the landscape and seascape. Development should respond positively to the local and wider context of the proposal site and should avoid adverse impacts on existing features.</p> <p>Where an adverse impact is unavoidable, mitigation measures should be incorporated into the development proposal in order to reduce this impact. Mitigation should result in no significant adverse impacts on the landscape or seascape.</p> <p>Mitigation measures must be appropriate to and make a positive contribution to the character of the landscape / seascape setting of the area. Measures should be adequate and proportionate to mitigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any adverse impacts on the existing landscape character and key landscape features; and • any adverse impacts on visual amenity. <p>Development which significantly harms the visual quality or landscape / seascape character and / or fails to take opportunities to conserve and enhance these qualities will be refused.</p> <p>AONB</p> <p>Within an AONB, major development will be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances and it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest. Minor development within an AONB or affecting its setting, will only be permitted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it does not harm the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB and its setting; and • it does not conflict with and contributes towards the aims and objectives of the relevant AONB Management Plan. <p>Heritage Coast and the AONB</p>

Development within the section of the West Dorset Heritage Coast that lies outside the Dorset AONB will only be permitted if it does not harm the special character of the area. Major development will only be permitted if it is compatible with the special character of the Heritage Coast.

Other valued landscapes

Where development is proposed in an area either designated as a valued landscape in the development plan or that possesses the physical attributes that enable the area to qualify as valued landscape, the impacts of the development on that landscape will need to be weighed against the benefits of the proposal. Developments that have significant adverse impact on the identified qualities of the valued landscape will be refused.

Neighbourhood Plans

A Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document that guides and shapes development in the local area. The local planning authority continues to determine planning applications but, once ‘made’ (adopted by the planning authority), a Neighbourhood Plan forms a part of the development plan for the area. Decisions are then in accordance with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

There are ten ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plans in the national landscape:

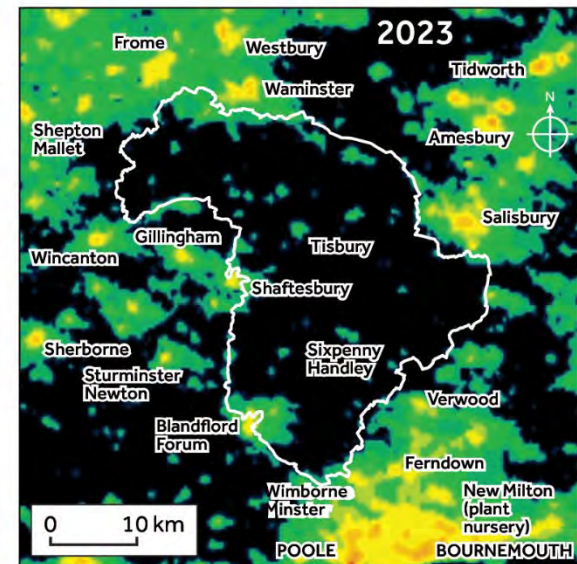
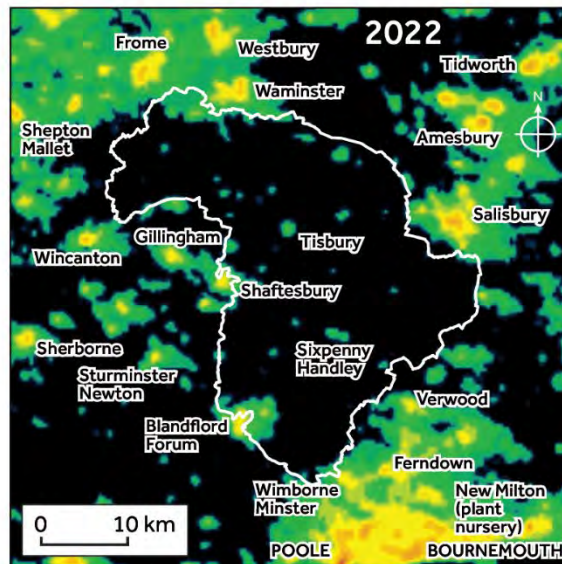
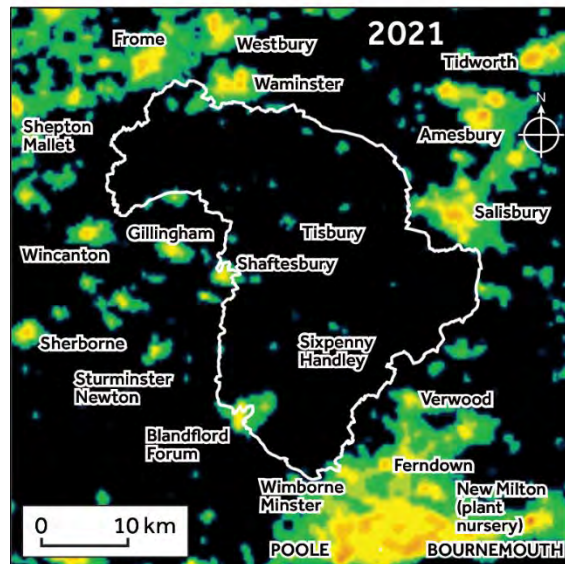
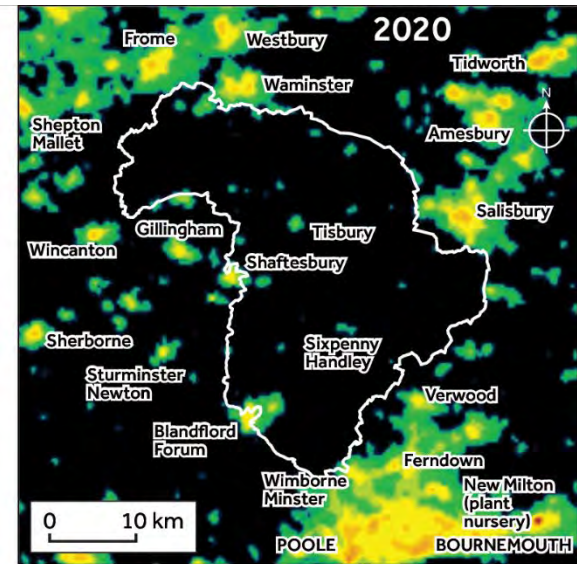
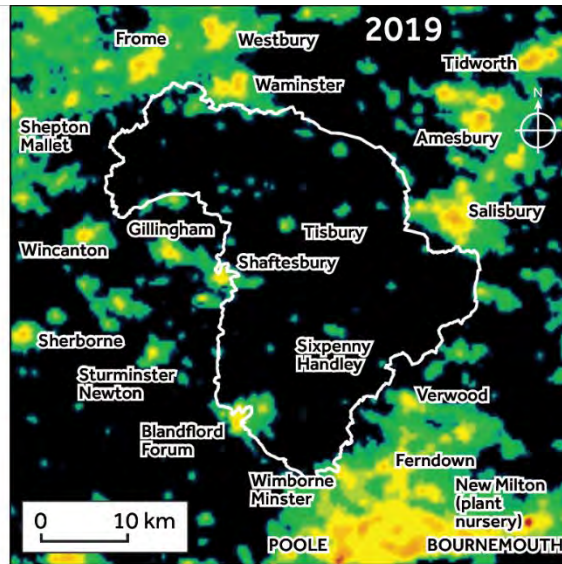
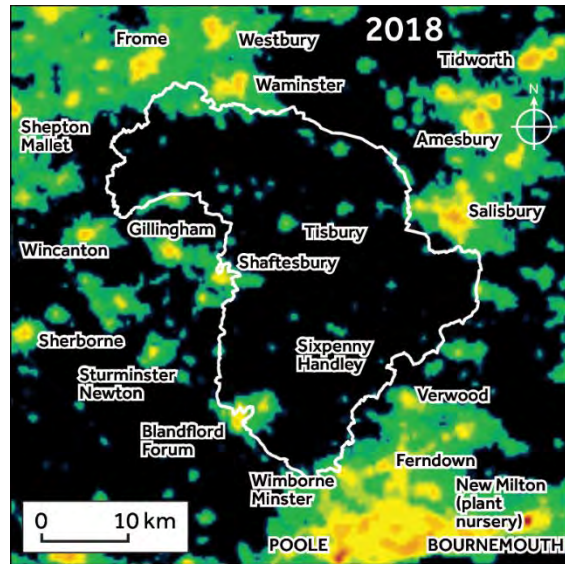
	Parish	Date made
Wiltshire	Broad Chalke	7/7/2021
	Downton	9/1/2017
	Hindon	19/5/2021
	Holt	9/1/2017
	Tisbury and West Tisbury	29/11/2019
	Warminster	23/11/2016
Dorset	Blandford + (including Bryanston and Blandford St Mary)	3/10/2023
	Fontmell Magna	28/11/2018
	Pimperne	1/11/2022
	Shaftesbury	22/6/2021

There are two Neighbourhood Plans in preparation:

	Parish
Dorset	Melbury Abbas & Cann
	Wimborne St Giles

Light pollution

Six satellite images showing zenith sky brightness since 2018. There is little change over the years; the area retains its dark night skies.



Natural England used to measure tranquillity based on analysis of the 2006 Council for Protection for Rural England Tranquillity Mapping study. The data has not been updated. We replace the 'tranquillity' reporting with data for light and noise pollution.

The light pollution maps compare zenith sky brightness (magnitude/arc second²) between 2018 (the year before the national landscape became an International Dark Sky Reserve) and 2023. There is significant brightness from the conurbations around the national landscape; and this is increasing. In contrast, the national landscape retains predominantly dark night skies though there may be a minor expansion of light spillage around Blandford Forum, Codford and Sutton Veny. The NASA satellite is not sensitive to wavelengths below 500 nm, so a shift from higher correlated colour temperature to a lower one (as encouraged by the National Landscape team) can result in an increase in radiance detected because the luminous flux has shifted more into the satellite's spectrum, even if overall it has decreased. The National Landscape team report that light pollution has decreased; this is reported elsewhere.

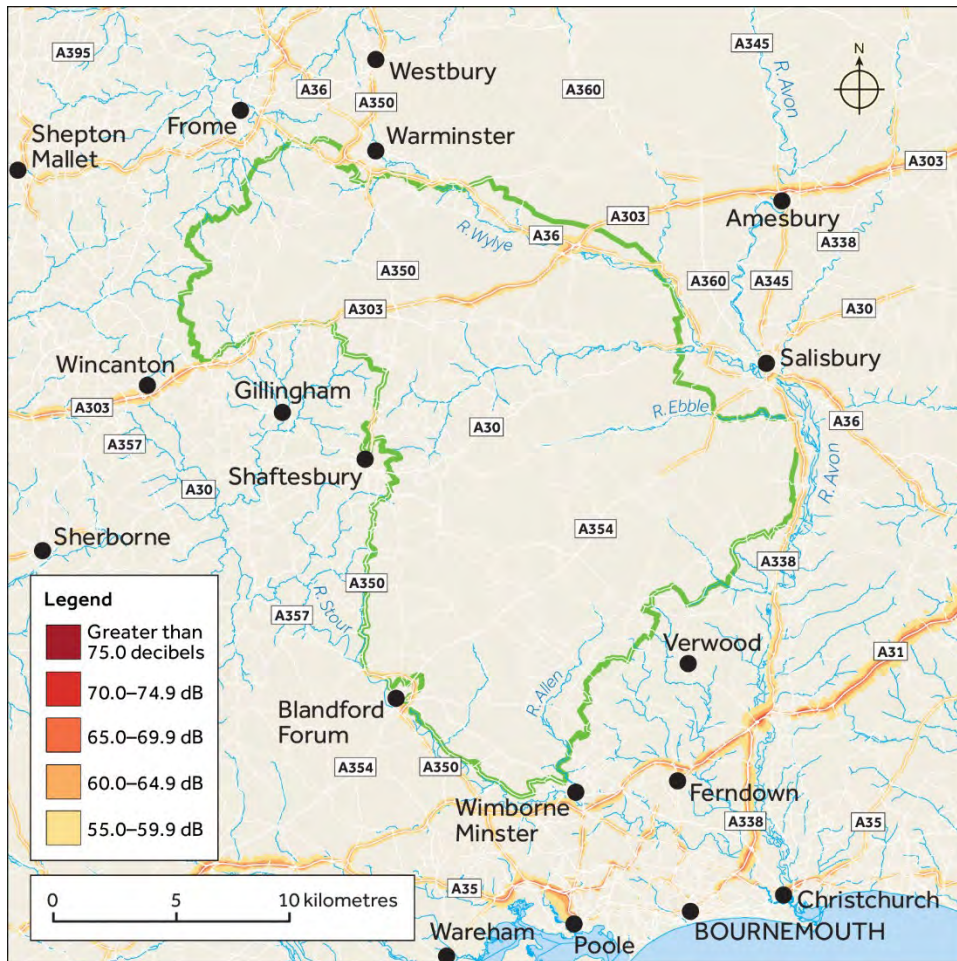
Light pollution is less during 2020 and 2021. This is most likely due to the lockdowns during the Covid pandemic but may also reflect actions to reduce the use of electricity.

Source: The maps come from www.lightpollutionmap.info and the data is NASA Earth Data shown is VNP46A4 - VIIRS/NPP Lunar BRDF-Adjusted Nighttime Lights Yearly L3 Global 15 arc second Linear Lat Lon Grid - for the years 2018 -2023

Citation - Román, M.O., Wang, Z., Sun, Q., Kalb, V., Miller, S.D., Molthan, A., Schultz, L., Bell, J., Stokes, E.C., Pandey, B. and Seto, K.C., et al. (2018). NASA's Black Marble nighttime lights product suite. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 210, 113-143. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2018.03.017.

Noise pollution

There is little traffic noise in the National Landscape except along the A303 and A36; and the eastern part of the A354. There is also some noise pollution along the boundary from the A338 (Salisbury to Breamore) and the A350 (Blandford Forum to Wimborne Minster).



Source: Defra - Road Noise - Lden - England Round 3 <https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/fd1c6327-ad77-42ae-a761-7c6a0866523d> as a part of the Strategic Noise Mapping programme: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-noise-mapping-2019>

Environmental noise mainly consists of noise from transport sources such as road, rail and aviation. One of the ways Defra manages this noise is by implementing the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended). These require that, every 5 years, Defra must adopt noise maps that show people's exposure to environmental noise; this map is for the third round of these 5 yearly cycles (referred to as "Round 3"). Round 3 uses 2017 data.

The data indicates the level of noise according to the strategic noise mapping of road sources within areas with a population of at least 100,000 people (agglomerations) and along major traffic routes. Lden indicates a 24-hour annual average noise level with separate weightings for the evening and night periods. Major Roads are defined as regional or national sections of road which have a bi-directional flow of 3 million vehicle passages or more per year.

Glossary

Access land

Any land that is shown as open country on a map issued by Natural England for the purposes of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; is shown on such a map as registered common land; is registered common land in any area outside Inner London for which no such map relating to registered common land has been issued; is situated more than 600 metres above sea level in any area for which no such map relating to open country has been issued; or is dedicated as access land under the Act.

Accessible Natural Environment

Natural England define it as all Green Infrastructure (GI) (see below) assets identified as accessible green spaces for the development of the England GI Mapping database. It includes places that are available for the public to use free of charge and without time restrictions and includes:

- a) Play space provision
- b) Millennium or Doorstep Green
- c) Cemeteries and religious grounds
- d) Playing fields
- e) Local Nature Reserve
- f) Public park – general
- g) Country Park
- h) Access Land

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

(Also known as a National Landscape) An area of landscape that is of such outstanding natural beauty that it merits designation under the

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. Together, AONBs represent 18% of the finest countryside in England and Wales. The designation helps to protect their special character, for example, through enhanced planning regulations.

Agri-environment schemes

Provided by Natural England, these schemes offer payment to farmers who give an undertaking, or enter into an agreement, to manage their land for biodiversity, landscape, the historic environment, public access or amenity objectives.

Authenticity

Those characteristics that most truthfully reflect and embody the cultural heritage interests of a heritage asset.

Biodiversity

The term given to the variety of life and the natural processes of which living things are a part. The term includes living organisms, the genetic differences between them and the communities in which they occur.

Built heritage

A collective term for heritage assets of local, regional or international significance because of their heritage value(s).

Climate change

Change in global climate patterns apparent from the mid- to late 20th century onwards, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced using fossil fuels.

Common land

Areas where people who do not own the land have rights to use it for livestock grazing or other purposes. See also registered common land.

Conservation

The process of managing change to an asset in its setting in ways that will best sustain its values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

Conservation Area

Designated by the local planning authority as an area which they consider has special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which they consider is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Context

Any relationship between an asset and its setting, including other places and its past, relevant to the values of that asset.

Cultural heritage

Inherited assets that people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others

Designation

The recognition of particular interest(s) of an asset by giving it formal status under legislation or policy intended to sustain its significance.

Designated heritage asset

A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Registered Battlefield, Registered Historic Landscape, Registered Park and Garden, Listed Building, Conservation Area, Area of Townscape/Village Character, Local Landscape Policy Area or Protected Wreck Site.

Distinctive Characteristics

The unique components that give an area its sense of place.

Earth heritage

The rocks, soils and landforms that reveal our geological history, determine the diverse habitats in which wildlife can thrive and create the rich landscapes that we all enjoy.

Earth heritage site

See Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Ecosystem

Natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms (biotic factors) in an area functioning together with all the non-living physical (abiotic) factors of the environment.

Ecosystem services

Ecosystem services (sometimes called environmental services) are the essential services and benefits that are derived from a fully functioning natural environment, including the management of basic resources such as water, and the sequestration of carbon.

Enhancement

Increase the quality, value or attractiveness of an area or asset.

Environmental capital

Environmental capital is the environmental assets, such as soils, from which beneficial services flow supplying resources to the economy. Four basic categories of environmental capital are generally recognised: air, water (fresh, groundwater and marine), land (including soil, space and landscape) and habitats (including the ecosystems, flora and fauna which they both comprise and support).

Environmental services

See ecosystem services.

Geodiversity

The term geodiversity incorporates the variety of rocks, minerals and landforms, and the processes that have formed them through geological time. The breadth of geodiversity gives insight to past climates, earlier environments and life on earth.

Green infrastructure

Strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high-quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality-of-life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability.

Heritage

All inherited resources that people value for reasons beyond mere utility.

Heritage Asset

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Historic environment

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed flora.

Integrity

A measure of the wholeness and intactness of an asset and the survival and condition of those elements that contribute to its significance.

Intervention

Any action that has a physical effect on the fabric or appreciation of a place or feature.

Invasive species

Plants, animals and microbes not native to a region which, when introduced either accidentally or intentionally, are harmful to the

environment by out-competing native species for available resources, reproducing prolifically or dominating regions and ecosystems.

Joint Advisory Committee

This is a formally constituted body made up of representatives from a wide range of public, private and voluntary groups. Its main roles are to coordinate management of the National Landscape and implementation of the National Landscape management plan.

Key Features

The landmarks, locations or landscape features that are regionally distinctive.

Landscape

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

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

The LCA is a method for identifying, understanding and expressing the different patterns and elements of the landscape. These elements include the woodlands, hedgerows, building styles and historic artefacts that give a place a distinctive character.

Listed building

Listed buildings are structures considered to be of high architectural or historic interest that are placed on a statutory list to help protect their important features. The list is compiled by the secretary of state for Culture, Media and Sport on advice from Historic England.

List of locally important features

Each local authority produces an informal list of locally important features, recommended by the draft Heritage Protection Bill. These represent assets of local special interest as defined by councils.

Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)

Since 2004, LDFs are part of the new two-tier structure of the planning system (the higher tier is the regional spatial strategy – see below). The LDF replaces the structure Plan and the Local Plan. It consists of several Local Development Documents (LDDs) including a Core strategy, site-specific Allocations of Land, and a Proposals Map. It may also contain additional optional development documents such as Area Action Plans. Production of the LDF must be accompanied by a statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Partnerships led by local authorities and businesses across natural economic areas. They aim to provide the vision, knowledge and strategic leadership needed to drive sustainable private sector growth and job creation in their area.

Local Geological Sites

Previously known as Regionally Important Geological Sites, sites that are selected by voluntary geo-conservation groups, according to nationally agreed criteria.

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs)

LNPs are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. They work strategically to help their local area manage the natural environment.

Local Sites

Local Sites are non-statutory areas of local importance for conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

LSPs are non-statutory, multi-agency partnerships that match local authority boundaries. They are a crucial part of the participation process in local development planning and implementation, bringing together public, private, community and voluntary sectors. They help

to deliver joint working at the local level to improve public services and meet the needs of local communities.

Local Wildlife Sites

There are several different terms in use to describe Local Wildlife Sites, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and County Wildlife Sites. National advice is to use the term, Local Wildlife Sites. Local Wildlife Sites are usually selected within a local authority area through Local Nature Partnerships. They support both locally and nationally threatened wildlife, and many sites will contain English priority habitats and species.

Maintenance

Routine work necessary to keep the fabric of a place, feature or asset, including its setting, in good order.

Monitoring environmental outcomes in protected landscapes (MEOPL)

A national framework for monitoring environmental outcomes in National Parks and National Landscapes. Natural England leads in this work, in close partnership with Defra, the English National Park Authorities Association, Historic England and the National Landscapes Association.

National Heritage List

The National Heritage List for England is the only official and up to date database of all nationally designated heritage assets including: Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, World Heritage Sites, applications for Certificates of Immunity, current Building Preservation Notices.

National Landscapes

The new name for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (see Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

Natural Capital

Those elements of the natural environment that provide valuable goods and services to people, such as the stock of forests, water, land, minerals and oceans.

Natural Character Areas (NCAs)

Areas defined at the national level, which describe the geographical, ecological and historical variations in landscape character that make one area different from another. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.

Natural Character Area (NCA) profiles

Total of 159 distinct profiles produced by Natural England to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience.

National Cycle Network (NCN)

The National Cycle Network is a UK-wide network of signed paths and routes for walking, wheeling, cycling and exploring outdoors. Ideally, the route will be traffic-free. If it is not, it should either be on a quiet-way section of road or be fully separated from the adjacent carriageway.

Natural beauty

A combination of distinctive characteristics and key features. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949 states that natural beauty includes 'flora, fauna, and geological and physiographical features. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 confirms that land can be of natural beauty because of human intervention.

Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)

NIAs operate over large areas within which significant enhancements of ecological networks are achieved, by enhancing existing wildlife

sites, improving ecological connections and restoring ecological processes. A consortium of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and voluntary conservation organisations, supported by national agencies, manages them. Following a national competition, England's first NIAs started work on the 1 April 2012. Government can designate additional NIAs on the recommendation of Local Nature Partnerships.

Nature recovery

Local Nature Recovery is the successor to the Countryside Stewardship scheme in England. It will pay for locally-targeted actions to make space for nature in the farmed landscape and the wider countryside, alongside food production.

Nature Recovery Network (NRN)

A national network of wildlife-rich places intended to expand, improve and connect these places across our cities, towns, countryside and coast.

Preserve

To keep safe from harm.

Proportionality

The quality of being appropriately related to something else in size, degree, or other measurable characteristics.

Protected landscape area

Defined by the IUCN as a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

Public

Of or concerning the people.

Renewable energy

Natural energy that can be used repeatedly and will not run out. Sources of renewable energy include wind, water and solar power.

Restoration

To return an asset to a known earlier state, based on compelling evidence, without conjecture.

Scheduled Monument

A Scheduled Monument is defined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the National Heritage Act 1983 as a protected archaeological site or historic building of national importance. Nationally, they range from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds to more recent structures such as collieries and wartime pill-boxes. The scheduling of a monument means that permission is required for works affecting that monument.

Setting

The immediate and extended environment that is part of – and contributes to – the significance and distinctive character of an asset, and through which an asset is understood, seen, experienced and enjoyed.

Significance

The value of an asset to past, present and future generations because of the sum of its embodied interests. Significance also derives from its setting.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

SSSIs are the best examples of our natural heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. An SSSI is an area that has been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Social capital

Social capital describes the pattern and intensity of networks among people and the shared values that arise from those networks. While

definitions of social capital vary, the main aspects are citizenship, neighbourliness, trust and shared values, community involvement, volunteering, social networks and civic participation.

Special Characteristics

The unique components that give the area its sense of place.

Special Features

The physical elements in the landscape that are regionally distinctive.

Special Qualities

The combination of distinctive characteristics and key features that make an area important and valued (see Distinctive Characteristics and Key Features).

Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)

SNAs are areas of Devon's countryside that contain higher than average concentrations of existing wildlife habitats such as native woodlands, flower-rich grasslands, bogs and heathland (many of these habitats will have an international, national or local designation).

Sustain

Maintain, treasure and affirm significance.

Sustainable

Capable of meeting present needs without compromising ability to meet future needs.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development means meeting four objectives at the same time: social progress that meets the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Sustainable communities

Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future, that meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment and contribute to a high quality of life.

Sustainable tourism

Sustainable tourism is tourism that attempts to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment and the conservation of local ecosystem services. It is responsible tourism that is both ecologically and culturally sensitive.

Transparent

Open to public scrutiny.

Value-based judgement

An assessment that reflects the values of the person or group making the assessment.

Appendix 1: Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework 2024

Target indicators

TI 1	Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites
TI 2	Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition
TI 3	Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition
TI 4	Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes
TI 5	Percentage of land managers adopting nature friendly farming on a percentage of their land
TI 6	Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes
TI 7	Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes
TI 8	Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes
TI 9	Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme:
TI 9a	Metres of accessible path as a % of total path
TI 9b	Number of accessible toilets and rest stops
TI 9c	Number of disability accessible parking spaces
TI 9d	Number of accessible gates and gaps
TI 9f	Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment
TI 9g	Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary
TI 9h	Number of volunteer days
TI 9i	Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved
TI 10	Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk

Appendix 2: Census Output Areas for 2021 and 2011

Wiltshire				Dorset	East Dorset	New Forest		South Somerset	
2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011
E00163143	E00163143	E00163228	E00163228	E00103310	E00103310	E00116923	E00116923	E00148850	E00148850
E00163144	E00163144	E00163229	E00163229	E00103311	E00103311	E00116924	E00116924		
E00163145	E00163145	E00163255	E00163255	E00103312	E00103312	E00116927	E00116927		
E00163146	E00163146	E00163256	E00163256	E00103313	E00103313	E00116928	E00116928		
E00163147	E00163147		E00163257	E00103314	E00103314	E00116929	E00116929		
E00163148	E00163148	E00163258	E00163258	E00103350	E00103350	E00116930	E00116930		
E00163149	E00163149		E00163259	E00103351	E00103351				
E00163150	E00163150	E00163260	E00163260	E00103352	E00103352				
E00163151	E00163151	E00163261	E00163261	E00103353	E00103353				
E00163152	E00163152	E00163262	E00163262	E00103354	E00103354				
E00163153	E00163153	E00163361	E00163361	E00103355	E00103355				
E00163154	E00163154	E00163362	E00163362	E00103356	E00103356				
E00163155	E00163155	E00163365	E00163365	E00103357	E00103357				
E00163156	E00163156	E00163366	E00163366	E00103358	E00103358				
E00163157	E00163157	E00163367	E00163367	E00103360	E00103360				
E00163198	E00163198	E00163368	E00163368	E00103421	E00103421				
E00163199	E00163199	E00163369	E00163369		North Dorset				
E00163202	E00163202	E00163370	E00163370		E00103560				
E00163203	E00163203	E00163371	E00163371	E00103596	E00103596				
E00163222	E00163222	E00163372	E00163372	E00103597	E00103597				
E00163223	E00163223	E00163373	E00163373	E00103598	E00103598				
E00163224	E00163224	E00163374	E00163374	E00103599	E00103599				
	E00163225	E00163375	E00163375	E00103600	E00103600				
E00163226	E00163226	E00163376	E00163376	E00103601	E00103601				
	E00163227	E00163377	E00163377	E00103602	E00103602				
E00163228	E00163228	E00163378	E00163378	E00103617	E00103617				
E00163229	E00163229	E00163379	E00163379	E00103622	E00103622				
E00163255	E00163255	E00163380	E00163380	E00103710	E00103710				

E00163256	E00163256	E00163397	E00163397	E00103713	E00103713
	E00163257	E00163398	E00163398		E00103715
E00163258	E00163258	E00163409	E00163409	E00103716	E00103716
	E00163259	E00163410	E00163410	E00103717	E00103717
E00163260	E00163260	E00163411	E00163411	E00103719	E00103719
E00163261	E00163261	E00163412	E00163412	E00103720	E00103720
E00163262	E00163262	E00163482	E00163482	E00103721	E00103721
E00163361	E00163361	E00163596	E00163596	E00103722	E00103722
E00163362	E00163362	E00163598	E00163598	E00183036	
E00163365	E00163365	E00163599	E00163599	E00183048	
E00163366	E00163366	E00163600	E00163600	E00183080	
E00163367	E00163367	E00163604	E00163604	E00183082	
E00163368	E00163368	E00163605	E00163605	E00171764	E00171764
E00163369	E00163369	E00163627	E00163627	E00171766	E00171766
E00163370	E00163370	E00163628	E00163628	E00171769	E00171769
E00163371	E00163371	E00163629	E00163629		
E00163372	E00163372	E00163630	E00163630		
E00163373	E00163373	E00163631	E00163631		
E00163374	E00163374	E00163633	E00163633		
E00163375	E00163375	E00163634	E00163634		
E00163376	E00163376	E00166465	E00166465		
E00163377	E00163377	E00184152			
E00163378	E00163378	E00184153			

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