

Fareham Borough Landscape Assessment

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for

Fareham Borough Council
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1 Introduction

Background to the study

- 1.1 This study aims to provide a comprehensive and definitive appraisal of the landscape resources of the Borough of Fareham. The impetus for its preparation has come from two main directions.
- 1.2 Firstly, there is a growing recognition generally of the role of landscape assessment as a basis for the planning and management of environmental resources, which was given greater emphasis through the publication of new guidance on landscape assessment by the Countryside Commission in 1993 [1]. The Commission encourages local planning authorities to undertake landscape assessments as part of the Government's policy on sustainable development and sees their general purpose as providing informed background for policy and development control decisions and countryside management priorities and initiatives. It also states that assessments will assist in the preparation of the case for designation of landscapes at the national, county and local level.
- 1.3 Secondly, in 1993 Hampshire County Council undertook an assessment of the landscape of the whole county, presented in their publication "The Hampshire Landscape" [2]. The study was intended to provide the basis for a landscape strategy for the county and to encourage a greater awareness of the character and pressures upon the Hampshire landscape and to stimulate debate about its future. The broad assessment of the county's landscape needs to be supported by more detailed work at a local level and thus the County Council is encouraging the preparation of district-wide landscape assessments by the local planning authorities within Hampshire.
- 1.4 Further impetus to landscape assessment was given by Policy C1 of the approved County Structure Plan (1993) [3] which requires local planning authorities to pay particular regard to avoiding or minimising any adverse effects of development upon areas of special landscape quality. This has prompted a reappraisal of the landscape resources within individual districts in Hampshire to determine which areas may be regarded as being of special importance at the local level. Although the current review of the Hampshire County Structure Plan [4] places a less direct emphasis on identifying areas of special quality, it nevertheless identifies a specific aim to conserve areas which have a particular value, the definition and justification of which are to be contained within local plans and to be based upon locally agreed assessments.

- 1.5 The study is intended to provide an information base on the diversity and qualities of the Borough's landscape and to inform countryside planning and management decisions and priorities within the Borough. It has the following specific objectives:
- to define and delineate **urban and rural Character Areas** based upon the Landscape Types already identified by the County Council and based upon the approach recommended by the Countryside Commission in their guidance document on landscape assessment;
 - to identify and delineate any areas outside of the Urban Area (as defined in the Local Plan Review) which are worthy of being designated as **Areas of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQ)**;
 - to review the existing **Areas of Special Character** (as identified in the Local Plan Review) in order to determine whether they should be retained or amended and to identify and delineate any other areas within the Urban Area which are worthy of being designated as ASC;
 - to review the existing **Coastal Zone** (as identified in the Local Plan Review) and to delineate precise boundaries, following the guidance given in PPG 20;
 - to identify **land management issues** within the Character Areas and those areas which would benefit from improvement or enhancement.
- 1.6 Cobham Resource Consultants were appointed by the Borough Council in late August 1995 to undertake the landscape assessment, steered by officers of the Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

Approach and methodology

- 1.7 Landscape assessment, as a tool for identifying and describing the character of our landscapes, is increasingly recognised as an important first step in conserving and enhancing them. Over recent years, there has been a general trend away from quantitative systems of landscape evaluation towards an approach based on understanding the intrinsic character of a locality and its distinctive features. This approach - which has now become part of established practice - allows land-use planning and management to respond to the local landscape 'vernacular'.
- 1.8 The approach recognises that the character of the landscape relies closely on its physiography, its history and land management in addition to its scenic or visual dimension. Hence, other factors which may influence the ways in which landscape is experienced and valued, such as ecology, history and culture, should be examined although they are not in themselves to be the subject of detailed discussion.

- 1.9 Advice on principles and methods of landscape assessment was first published by the Countryside Commission in 1987 [5] but since then many assessments have been carried out and the approach has been developed and refined. New guidance, prepared by CRC on behalf of the Countryside Commission, has recently been published which builds on the earlier advice but brings it up-to-date [1]. Our approach to the Fareham Borough landscape assessment is based closely upon this guidance, and as an agreed approach adopted by all District Councils in Hampshire co-ordinated by the County Council. Essentially, the assessment relies upon a mix of subjective and objective judgement, used in a systematic and iterative way.
- 1.10 The main steps in the assessment process are:
- defining the purpose
 - preliminary survey
 - desk study
 - field survey
 - analysis
 - presentation of results
- 1.11 The **purpose** of the assessment determines the detailed method to be used and the scale at which the assessment is to be presented. In this case, the assessment is intended to increase understanding of the landscape resources of the Borough as a whole, to assist with policy formulation and development control, and also to assist with the targeting of resources for enhancement and management. Both of these purposes require the assessment to be pitched at a level of detail which lies somewhere between the broad-brush and the field-by-field assessment.
- 1.12 Initially, a rapid **preliminary survey** of the district was undertaken to familiarise the study team with its overall character and range of landscape variation. In the course of this initial survey, a range of different types of landscape type was observed and compiled into a list which formed the basis of a recording system for use during the field survey. Each detailed landscape type was given a reference code which could be used to provide a ‘shorthand’ description of landscape character when annotating field survey plans.
- 1.13 The **desk study** involved the collation of a wide range of existing information from which some of the key formative influences on landscape character could be deduced. A 1:50,000 overlay mapping exercise was undertaken, analysing geology, landform and drainage, landcover, woodland/parkland and sites of ecological and historical importance within the Borough. Review of other landscape assessments, notably the county-wide assessment [2] and those for neighbouring districts, formed a fundamental element of the desk study and provided both broad context and local detail of landscape character upon which to build within the Borough assessment. In addition, various books, plans and reports were also examined in order to build upon our understanding

of the landscape resource. On the basis of this analysis, a preliminary characterisation of the landscape was made, dividing the Borough into broad areas of common character, termed ‘Rural Character Areas’ and ‘Urban Character Areas’.

- 1.14 The purpose of the **field survey** was to confirm or refine the boundaries of the preliminary Urban and Rural Character Areas and to identify and record the range of variation in landscape types within them. It also allowed the recording of emotional responses to the landscape, of features critical to its character and quality, and of its sensitivity to change.
- 1.15 The field survey involved travelling extensively throughout the study area, recording detailed variations in landscape types and key features onto 1:25,000 base maps using the annotations derived from the preliminary survey. Field survey forms, supported by a photographic record, were completed at representative locations to provide further information on the positive and negative attributes of the rural landscape or urban townscape, its ability to accommodate change and its enhancement needs and priorities.
- 1.16 **Analysis** of desk and field information, and discussions within the study team and with the Borough and County Councils, helped to confirm the boundaries of the Character Areas, to refine the classification of Landscape Types and to define enhancement priorities in different parts of the district. It also involved the evaluation of landscape quality within the Borough against a set of designation criteria (see Chapter 5) to provide the basis and justification for defining potential Areas of Special Landscape Quality. Appraisal of the existing Areas of Special Character and the Coastal Zone boundaries were similarly undertaken by assessing the case for designation against a set of broad criteria, described in Chapters 6 and 7.
- 1.17 The results of the assessment are **presented** in this report, supported by appropriate illustrations. The report summarises our findings and attempts to communicate to a wide audience the highly distinctive character and special qualities of the Fareham landscape.

Structure of the report

- 1.18 The report is broken down into seven chapters as follows:
 - Chapter 1 introduces the study and outlines the approach and methodology adopted.
 - Chapter 2 of the report describes - in broad brush terms - the factors responsible for shaping the landscape, focusing upon the **physical influences** of geology, landform, drainage and soils, and the **human influences** that have affected the area through time.

- Chapter 3 then concentrates on the **variations in rural and urban landscape types** that have resulted from the interaction of these various forces, describing the way in which certain landscape and townscape elements combine to produce areas of distinctively different character with a particular local identity.
- Chapter 4 concentrates on the description and analysis of the individual **Rural and Urban Character Areas**, highlighting their distinctive characteristics and qualities and their special features and attributes and outlining priorities for enhancement of landscape or urban quality.
- Chapter 5 focuses on the evaluation of landscape quality within the Borough and identifies those parts of the Borough that are of particularly high landscape value. The basis upon which these areas meet the criteria for designation as **Areas of Special Landscape Quality** and the boundary justification is outlined.
- Chapter 6 outlines our assessment of the existing **Areas of Special Character** together with our recommendations for possible amendments and comments regarding the suitability of other areas for designation;
- Finally, Chapter 7 outlines our assessment of the existing **Coastal Zone** boundary and recommended amendments.

1.19 The report is supplemented by an **Appendix** containing summary descriptions of the urban and rural landscape types. Other technical and background material, including the full set of field survey forms is held by the Borough Council.

2 Formative influences

Introduction

- 2.1 The Borough of Fareham lies in the south-eastern corner of Hampshire sandwiched between chalkland and coast. Covering an area of approximately 75 square kilometres (29 square miles), it is one of the smaller Hampshire districts but it has a remarkably complex landscape for its size. It is bounded to the north by the chalk hills of the Hampshire and South Downs and to the south by the coastal waters of the Solent, with the estuary landscapes of the River Hamble and Portsmouth Harbour framing the Borough to west and east.
- 2.2 Between these distinctive and varied ‘edges’ lies a rich mosaic of valleys and coastal plain, farmland and woodland, extensive built-up areas and open countryside. This pattern is further complicated and fragmented by the motorway, roads and railway lines which cross the Borough from west to east and link the major urban centres of the region - Southampton, Fareham, Gosport and Portsmouth. This mixed pattern of landscape nevertheless contains some notable contrasts, for example between the enclosure of the wooded valleys and the open and expansive landscapes of Portsdown Hill and the coastal plain, and between the predominantly urban and distinctively rural landscapes of the Borough.
- 2.3 This patterning results from the interaction of the physical structure of the landscape and the nature of the vegetation and land uses that clothe it. In this chapter, we aim to draw out the key physical and human influences which have been responsible for shaping the Borough’s landscape over time and which continue to influence the dynamics of landscape change. In chapter three, we then go on to examine in greater detail the way in which the individual components of the landscape interact to produce distinctive patterns and places within the landscape and help us to unravel and understand its overall complexity.

Physical influences

- 2.4 The basic structure of any landscape is formed by its underlying rocks and relief. Geology and the processes of weathering, erosion and deposition, influence the form of the landscape, its drainage, soils and, in turn, its patterns of vegetation and land use. In addition, the landscape of the Borough is also exposed to the influence of marine processes which have contributed significantly to the shape of the land and have affected the character of vegetation, land use and patterns of settlement along the coast.

Geology, landform and drainage

- 2.5 The geological structure underlying Fareham Borough is comparatively simple but it nevertheless has a strong influence on landform and landscape character. The basic underlying geology is formed by a deep chalk bed, laid down in the Cretaceous period when this part of England lay beneath a vast, shallow and warm inlet of the sea. The belt of chalk stretches right across Hampshire and its neighbouring counties of Wiltshire and Sussex, forming the distinctive downland landscapes of southern England. The influence of the chalk is evident in the north-east of Fareham Borough where an outlier of the South Downs forms the prominent landform ridge and scarp of Portsdown Hill and the distinctively rolling, open countryside of its flanks.
- 2.6 Across the remainder of the Borough, however, the chalk strata dip towards the sea and are buried beneath the younger deposits of sands and clays which were laid down in the seas which occupied the Hampshire Basin during Tertiary times. The coastal plain is underlain by the clays and clayey sands of the Bracklesham Beds, while further inland, deeper bands of sands, gravels and clays of the Bagshot Beds, Reading Beds and London Clay are exposed. These are all comparatively soft sedimentary deposits which are easily eroded to form low-lying landscapes of subdued relief.
- 2.7 The coastal margin is consequently 'soft' but is marked for much of its length by low cliffs and shingle beaches. Brownwich Cliffs provide nationally important exposures of the Terrace gravels of the former Solent river system, which overlie the Bracklesham Beds, as well as a rich source of Palaeolithic artefacts. Deposits of alluvium form the coastal marshes and occupy the floor of the main river systems along with deposits of river and valley gravel.
- 2.8 There are three major river systems within the Borough which all follow a predominantly north-south course. The River Hamble flows through a well-defined valley on the western edge of the Borough and is subject to tidal influence for some miles inland. It is flanked by mudflats and marshes and has a predominantly estuarine character. By contrast, the River Meon is much smaller in size and flows through a shallow and less distinct valley form. Once an estuary which reached up as far as the former port of Titchfield, it was dammed by a sea wall at Titchfield Haven and reclaimed from the sea in the early 17th century. The river consequently now has a predominantly freshwater or brackish character. The third river system is formed by the Wallington River, a comparatively small-scale watercourse which flows around the northern and western flanks of Portsdown Hill before entering the tidal system of Portsmouth Harbour where it assumes a more dominant scale and estuarine character. Apart from these three major systems, the Hook and Brownwich valleys also dissect the coastal plain creating some localised landform variation.

Soils and agricultural land capability

- 2.9 A variety of soil types occur across the Borough, related to variations in geology, landform and drainage and influencing the capability of the land to support agriculture. Soils on the chalk tend to be well-drained and calcareous and range from the Grey Rendzinas of the chalk escarpment to the Brown Earths of its flanks. These soils are of good quality and are often intensively farmed but relief and soil depth are limiting factors, with the shallow soils of the steeper slopes being less suitable for cultivation. Agricultural quality therefore ranges from Grade 3 on the thinner soils of the higher land at Portsdown Hill to Grade 2 on the deeper soils to the west.
- 2.10 Brown Earth soils also overlie the terrace gravels and sands of the coastal plain and are typically deep, silty and well-drained. Their high agricultural quality (Grade 2) has given rise to extensive arable cultivation, vegetable production, glass house and cereal crops. Coastal exposure is the main limiting factor and areas closest to the sea tend to remain under pasture, but the coastal plain is a “highlight” area with both the duration and intensity of light being of importance to the horticultural industry.
- 2.11 Some of the best quality soils (Grade 1) in the Borough occur on the river terrace drifts along the river and stream valley sides where they are typically well-drained, flinty, loamy and sandy. In contrast, the alluvium of the valley floors bears stoneless, clay, fine silty and fine loamy soils affected by ground water. These are Grade 4 and 5 in quality and are more suited to permanent pasture. Soils of similar low agricultural quality occur on the London Clay to the north of Swanwick and across the north of the Borough, where poor drainage gives rise to heavy, Stagnogley soils. These soils are less suitable for cultivation and typically support extensive areas of woodland.

Vegetation

- 2.12 The vegetation cover of the Borough has been so modified by man’s activity through time that there is little that can be termed truly ‘natural’, the exception perhaps being the saltmarshes that fringe the River Hamble and Portsmouth Harbour. However, fragments of ‘semi-natural’ vegetation do occur, such as chalk grassland, heathland and broadleaved woodland, representing the plant communities that develop in response to local soil, water, climatic conditions and specific management regimes. These vegetation types, and those which have occurred more obviously as a result of man’s intervention (eg. planted woodland, parkland and hedgerows), are an important part of local distinctiveness within the landscape of different areas.
- 2.13 The Borough contains extensive areas of woodland, much of it semi-natural in origin and important remnants of ancient woodland survive within the river valleys and in isolated blocks within the coastal plain. Woodland occurs principally on the less easily cultivated ground, on the steep slopes of valley

sides and the heavy clay soils to the north of the Borough. Oak is the dominant species throughout but different soil types introduce more localised variations in species composition. For example, on the more acid, sandy soils to the south of Locks Heath, birch and pine lend a heathland character to the woodlands. In contrast, ash and hazel are common components of woodlands on more neutral or calcareous soils to the north. Areas of secondary woodland and scrub are developing on land where mineral extraction has ceased and where land is not in active agricultural use.

- 2.14 Some areas of semi-natural woodland have been modified and interplanted with conifers or more ornamental tree species, for example, within the wooded residential areas between Sarisbury and Warsash. Other woods have been planted specifically for commercial purposes or as part of formal parkland landscapes or grounds of large houses, such as at Cams Hall, Brooklands and Coldeast Hospital.
- 2.15 Chalk downland, with its species-rich grassland and scrub habitats, has virtually disappeared from the Borough through widespread conversion to arable cultivation and agricultural improvement. Only the steepest slopes of Portsdown Hill and scarp have escaped these effects and retain some remnants of unimproved grassland. The same processes have affected the formerly extensive grasslands of the lower-lying areas and coastal plain but pockets of unimproved or semi-improved meadows and pastures do survive along the Meon Valley and on some of the steeper valley sides elsewhere. Low intensity grazing or absence of management have created areas of rank grassland and scrub which are typical of urban fringe and coastal pastures and former parkland at Hook.
- 2.16 To the south of Locks Heath, the grassland takes on an acidic, heathland character with a greater incidence of bracken and gorse scrub. Heathlands would have formerly been much more widespread on the acid sandy soils but have now largely disappeared under woodland, urban development or the plough.
- 2.17 Wetland vegetation is a feature of the Meon and Hook valleys, where drainage is impeded allowing the development of carr woodland, marsh, fen and aquatic plant communities. These areas are particularly species-rich and of high ecological value. The other main vegetation type of particular wildlife value is unimproved saltmarsh which occupies the littoral zone along the River Hamble and Portsmouth Harbour.

Plate 1: Fareham's rural environment

The wide open, intensively farmed chalklands of Portsdown Hill contrast with the densely wooded, enclosed farmland of the Forest of Bere beyond.



The enclosed, pastoral and tranquil character of the river valleys.



The extensive reedswamps and heavily wooded valleysides of the creeks and brackish lagoons.



The flat, expansive and intensively farmed landscape of the coastal plain.



The natural cliffs and shingle beaches of Fareham's coastline.



Human influences

2.18 Superimposed upon the basic physical structure of the landscape are shifting patterns of land use and landcover elements which are the result of man's occupation and activity over several millennia. The landscape has continued to evolve in response to changing human needs but the pace and scale of change has been very different between prehistoric, historic and recent times, with rapid and significant changes taking place within the present century and as recently as the last three to four decades. In particular, Fareham Borough has experienced rapid urban expansion in the past seventy years, leading to the fragmentation and loss of countryside and the coalescence of its settlements and villages. Transportation development and agricultural change are other key factors which have affected the Borough landscape over recent years. This process of landscape evolution is outlined briefly below.

Prehistoric influences

- 2.19 The term 'prehistoric' covers thousands of years but has been divided into five distinct phases: the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. During this time, man experienced a change from a nomadic to a more settled way of life, the introduction of cereal crops, the domestication of animals and the introduction of pottery making and metal working.
- 2.20 At the beginning of the **Palaeolithic** period, some 700,000 years ago, the landscape of the Borough bore little resemblance to that of today. For long periods of time, Hampshire and other parts of southern England were connected to the continent, allowing passage at periods of low sea level. On Portsdown Hill, three raised beaches have been identified by geologists indicating three separate sea level changes over a long period of time [6]. This was basically a time of primitive colonisation and human population would have been very sparse. Towards the end of the Palaeolithic period, a rapid rise in temperature allowed the development of soils and establishment of plants, including forest trees.
- 2.21 During the **Mesolithic** period (7000-4500 BC) the developing tree cover evolved into mixed woodland which would have clothed the whole landscape of the Borough. Early man began to adapt to a new way of living and began to change his environment, possibly through the use of stone tools and fire but made a limited impression. Finds of flints on the sea bed show that the Borough was still joined to the Isle of Wight during the early Mesolithic, with separation possibly occurring around 6,000BC. At the end of this period, the landscape would probably have still been covered by a dense forest of oak, elm, lime, ash, birch, hazel and alder, though differences would exist depending upon local soils and drainage.

- 2.22 It is not until the **Neolithic** period (4500-2600 BC) when man began to make significant changes to the landscape. Hunting and gathering gave way to more settled arable and pastoral farming and, after an initial phase of land clearance in the Neolithic period, an agriculturally-based economy was firmly established with clearance of woodland from the chalk downland areas for cultivation and grazing. Evidence of definitive settlements is sparse in both Fareham Borough and Hampshire as a whole, but flint and pottery finds suggest that there must have been widespread occupation of the chalk where the fertile soils were most easily worked.
- 2.23 Even in the **Bronze Age** (2600-750 BC), there is still little evidence of settlements. Forest clearances continued, however, and resulted in large areas of open country on chalkland as well as the beginnings of colonisation of lower-lying, less exposed areas. During the **Iron Age** (750 BC-AD 43), however, the development of iron, a hard metal suitable for plough shares and for tree felling, resulted in the widespread clearance of woodland cover on the heavier, more clayey soils on the lower slopes of the downs and in the river valleys. This period of prehistory, therefore, saw the greatest destruction of wood and forest cover in Hampshire.

Roman influence

- 2.24 The Romans brought new impetus to woodland clearance. By the late Roman times it was possible, and indeed necessary with an increasing population, to farm all but the heaviest soils. However, many Roman villages and farmsteads would have needed wood as a source of fuel and for their potteries, iron-smelting activities and a brick and tile cottage industry that fringed the Forest of Bere. The wood for kilns was obtained not only from woodland clearance but also by coppicing and it is possible that the Romans introduced sweet chestnut for this purpose.
- 2.25 The network of Roman fortified and unfortified towns, roads, villages, villas and farmsteads was laid over the irregular pattern of earlier settlements, fields and trackways and mainly occupied the lower slopes of the downs, the river valleys and the coastal plain. In Fareham Borough, the most significant reminder of Roman fortification along the coast is the fortress at Portchester, built on a low-lying point bordered on two sides by Portsmouth Harbour in the 3rd Century AD (it was later to be transformed into a medieval castle in the 12th Century). This is a Grade 1 Listed Building and is one of the most significant examples of its type still surviving. Other evidence of late Roman settlement has been found underneath the town of Fareham, indicating that this was a favourable settlement site even at that time.

Anglo-Saxon influence

- 2.26 The impact on the landscape during the Saxon period is not clear as there is very little archaeological evidence available. It is likely that the majority of present day villages date back to this period and many places with ‘ham’ or ‘ing’ endings, such as Fareham, may be indicative of Saxon settlements. Titchfield is known to date back to the seventh century when a Saxon church was established there. Woodland clearance continued at such a pace through this period that it was considered necessary to protect the diminishing stock of tree cover by legislation. However, the Saxon passion for hunting led to the formation of extensive hunting parks (‘haga’), including the Forest of Bere which extended across much of the Borough.

The influence of the Middle Ages and later

- 2.27 Although the hunting forests were established by the Saxons, it was the Normans who codified their management, introducing forest law. By 1231, the forest known as Bere Portchester (part of the larger Forest of Bere) stretched across the north of the Borough and as far south as Titchfield, although these legal ‘forests’ were far larger than the actual physical forests of woodland and heathland.
- 2.28 The Normans were also responsible for introducing a new concept in defence - the castle - and monastic foundations, with their large complexes of stone buildings and extensive estates, as striking features in the landscape. Portchester Castle was transformed into a medieval castle from the earlier Roman fortress in the 12th century and Titchfield Abbey was founded in the early 13th century [6]. At Titchfield Abbey, an outstanding complete example of a great monastic barn is still in use today. The location of the abbey’s former park is marked by Park Gate and Little Park Farm and a series of medieval fish ponds are other important remnants of the former historic landscape.
- 2.29 The early middle ages were a period of relative prosperity and rapid population growth and new towns were being built or villages expanded at this time. The Town Quay at Fareham was developing as a thriving port with a tidal mill and the present alignment of Fareham’s High Street still follows that of the early mediaeval town. Most villages that had a stream or river nearby had at least one water-powered mill, a sign of prosperity. A lost mill site can be seen as bumps in the ground near Longwater Bridge over the River Meon at Funtley.
- 2.30 Villages were typically surrounded by a farming system of large open fields divided into a number of strips, all individually owned but farmed together. It appears that many villages and manors adopted the three or four field system, with the land being cultivated for two years in rotation, producing cereal crops in succession and then left fallow for a third year. Such open field systems have been recorded for the Titchfield Abbey Estates. However, by the 13th

Plate 2: Fareham's historic environment

Remains of the Roman fortress at Portchester, transformed into a medieval castle in the twelfth century.



The medieval monastic foundation of Titchfield Abbey, founded in the early thirteenth century.



The Town Quay at Fareham, a thriving port in medieval times and still graced by fine late Georgian and Victorian buildings.



The splendid Georgian townscape of Fareham's High Street, reputedly one of the best county-town streets in southern England.



Cams Hall, built in 1781, is a Listed Building currently undergoing major restoration.



and 14th century, the pattern of farming changed with the enclosure of fields by hedges, banks and sometimes ditches and many of Titchfield Abbey's lands were enclosed during this period. It was also in the 13th century that sheep rearing started to expand and grazing became a feature of the chalk downland, taking over from the predominance of arable land.

- 2.31 By the mid-sixteenth century, pressures to enlarge the flocks of sheep led to the progressive enclosure of sheep-grazing land to ensure more efficient grazing. The increase in the number of animals also led to shortages of late winter and spring fodder and in the early part of the 17th century, the then Earl of Southampton had the mouth of the River Meon blocked to reclaim the land between the sea and Titchfield for pasture purposes [6]. Water meadows were developed in the valley floor which enabled water to run across valley bottoms early in the year and so produce an early grass crop in late March or April. The 16th century also brought the dissolution of the monasteries and the conversion of part of the former Abbey at Titchfield into a mansion (then known as Place House) by Thomas Wriothesley, very soon after he received the property from the King.

The influence of the early modern period

- 2.32 At the turn of the eighteenth century, the process of enclosure had created a patchwork of small, irregular shaped fields and winding lanes and tracks. However, there were still large areas of woodland, extensive tracts of heathland to the west and open and enclosed chalk downland to the north. The second half of the eighteenth century, however, saw great change as the result of the agricultural revolution. The most significant changes were the virtual extinction of the common field systems, the conversion of down pasture to arable and the enclosure of commons and heaths. In contrast to the older irregular pattern of enclosure, the new enclosures endowed the landscape with square or rectangular fields surrounded by straight hedges of hawthorn, often interspersed with oak and holly. There were also new wide roads with grass verges on either side instead of the winding lanes.
- 2.33 The process was completed by the parliamentary enclosures of the remaining fields during the nineteenth century. During this period, the heaths and commons between Southampton and Fareham were enclosed. It was then discovered that the soils in the area were particularly conducive to strawberry growing and consequently settlements such as Swanwick and Locks Heath grew up as the result of an expanding 'strawberry industry'. Hence, when the railway line between Swanwick and London was opened in the latter part of the century, it was strawberries from this region that were first to reach the tables of the Savoy [6].
- 2.34 The area was also noted for the production of wrought iron at Funtley by Henry Cort in the late eighteenth century, stimulated by the demands of the Navy's ship-building industry. The need to defend the important dockyards

Plate 3: Fareham's built environment

Examples of the changing character of Fareham's residential built environment:

Traditional vernacular architecture and attractive streetscape at Warsash.



Distinctive 'estate' architecture of the Georgian/Victorian period at Hook.



Suburban street at Downend with low-rise housing development, typical of the inter/post-war period, with little reference to locality.



Housing estate development with anonymous styles of volume housebuilding, typical of the post-war period.



Example of very recent housing development making better reference to vernacular materials and character of locality.



and naval bases around Portsmouth Harbour provided the impetus for the construction of a series of Victorian hill forts, completed by 1868, including five along the chalk scarp of Portsdown Hill. The remains of Fort Wallington is the only fort within Fareham Borough itself. The forts were constructed with bricks made in a local brickworks just north of Fareham and their solid red brick walls can be clearly seen from the sea along the ridge of Portsdown Hill.

- 2.35 The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw the growth and development of the Borough's towns and settlements and the construction of many fine Georgian and Victorian buildings, many of which now form the core of Conservation Areas. Fareham's High Street presents a splendid series of Georgian buildings and is one of the best county-town streets in the south of England. The Town Quay is graced by a number of fine examples of late Georgian grainstores and by the adjacent impressive early Victorian railway viaduct. Other attractive settlements with Conservation Area status, such as Titchfield, Portchester village, Wallington and the small hamlet of Hook, are characterised by their Georgian or Victorian architecture.
- 2.36 This period also saw the establishment of the eighteenth century country mansion set within a formal parkland estate, the apotheosis of the classical English landscape [7]. Examples within Fareham include the Cams Hall estate, built in 1781, once one of the grandest mansions in south Hampshire and the mansion at Holly Hill, the landscaped grounds of which are thought to have been the work of Sir Joseph Paxton. Large houses at Cold East, Brooklands and Hook were also established at this time and were set within formal, landscaped 'parks and lawns' [8].

The influence of the twentieth century

- 2.37 The most significant change the Borough has experienced during the present century has been the rapid and widespread expansion of its urban areas. Major urban growth from 1920 onwards has meant the loss of large areas of countryside to development and the total or partial coalescence of towns and villages: Fareham with Catisfield and Funtley; Stubbington with Crofton and Hill Head; Portchester with Downend and Paulsgrove; and Locks Heath with Park Gate, Warsash and Titchfield Common [9]. This has resulted in a weakening of the identity of these formerly separate settlements and increasing pressures on the fragmented pieces of countryside that lie between and within the built-up area. The need to protect the remaining areas of countryside and areas of landscape that form 'gaps' or green wedges between urban areas is recognised in current planning policy. Although the attractions of the coast have encouraged some residential development during this century at Hill Head and Hook Park, and leisure development along the River Hamble, on the whole the coastline of the Borough has remained remarkably undeveloped.

Plate 4: Pressures on the landscape

Rapid urban expansion continues to place countryside areas under pressures, as here at Whiteley.

Ribbon development along road corridors, 'horsiculture' and poorly managed farmland all contribute to the erosion of rural and urban character and quality.

As above.

Typical 'landscaping' of new development pays little respect to the locality and erodes local distinctiveness in the landscape.

Denudation of the landscape through intensive agricultural management and the intrusion of overhead powerlines have led to a decline in quality in some rural areas.



- 2.38 Other forms of development, such as the defence establishments of HMS Collingwood and HMS Daedalus and the construction of new roads and the M27 motorway, have also affected countryside areas in the Borough. Improved communications bring with them increased impetus and pressures for further development along transportation corridors. Mineral extraction has also had an impact on parts of the coastal plain and near Swanwick, leading to loss of farmland and woodland cover but introducing new features into the landscape in the form of wetland habitats following cessation of working.
- 2.39 The other main impacts on the landscape have arisen from post-war agricultural change, which has encouraged the removal of hedgerows and trees, field enlargement and the conversion of grasslands to arable land. These effects are most marked on the chalklands to the north of Fareham. In recent years, the trend has slowed and new 'agri-environment' policies now attempt to integrate agricultural activity with wider environmental benefits.

3 The Landscape Types

Introduction and rationale

- 3.1 The broad processes of change described in the previous chapter help to explain the overall pattern of landscape elements and character within the Borough. However, this picture needs to be simplified if it is to be properly understood and used to inform planning and management policy. The sorting of landscape resources into units of distinct and recognisable character is an important way of achieving this understanding and is now common practice in landscape assessment.
- 3.2 This study differs from most other assessments, however, in that it embraces urban as well as rural landscapes. In the context of this study, urban ‘landscapes’ are really ‘townscapes’ and embrace the form and character of buildings, their relationship to each other and the spaces which lie between and around them. The character of urban and rural landscapes are, nonetheless, both defined by particular combinations of landscape elements and factors such as scale and enclosure and the activities that take place within them. The process of characterisation is therefore as valid in an urban context as in the more rural parts of the Borough, although the basis for the classification will obviously differ.
- 3.3 This study examines landscape and townscape character at two levels. Firstly, it looks at the way in which particular landform and landcover elements combine to produce distinctive **landscape types** in both the urban and rural context. These are generic descriptions and the types can repeat across the study area without being specifically related to geographical location. Landscape types are particularly useful as a tool for understanding the detailed pattern of landscape variation that occurs across the Borough as a whole.
- 3.4 However, in planning and management terms, and particularly in the urban context, it is often more important to understand the landscape character and qualities of particular **places** or **areas** within the study area so that appropriate policies and action can be applied at a local level. Therefore, it is common practice to define landscape **character areas**, units of landscape which may embrace areas of differing character but which in some way have a coherent and recognisable local identity or ‘sense of place’.
- 3.5 The landscape types and character areas defined in this study are described below and in the following chapter, with a clear explanation of the different approaches adopted for the rural and urban parts of the Borough. Chapter 4 also includes details of the planning and management issues that relate to each individual character area.

Landscape types

- 3.6 As described in the previous chapter, the processes of urban growth and landscape change have produced a landscape of very mixed character that embraces the broad spectrum of essentially rural areas of unspoilt countryside, through transitional landscapes on the fringes of built-up areas and along roads, to the true urban landscapes, or townscapes, of the Borough's towns and settlements. This transition means that the boundaries between types are not always clear and that the urban/rural boundary is blurred by the fringe landscapes.
- 3.7 For the sake of clarity, however, we have made a distinction between those landscapes that are **predominantly** rural and those which are **predominantly** urban in character. The transitional or fringe landscapes are included in one or other category depending upon which of the urban or rural influence is considered to be most dominant. This means that the boundary between urban and rural does not necessarily accord with the Urban Area Boundary as defined in the Local Plan. It also means that there may be small-scale pockets of rural landscapes that are contained within a wider urban landscape and vice versa.
- 3.8 It is important to stress that the boundaries between any of the landscape types are rarely distinct, although they may be easier to determine in some cases such as where an incised wooded valley runs through open farmland. Instead, as a general rule, the boundaries tend to be best approximations of a gradual but discernible change in character. It is also important to stress that landscape character rarely stops at the Borough boundary and will usually extend beyond into neighbouring districts.

Rural types

- 3.9 The starting point for the definition of rural landscape types is the county-wide assessment produced by the County Council, which defines a range of generic landscape types for the rural areas of Hampshire (urban areas being defined as a separate type) divided into two broad groupings: the **chalklands** and **lowland mosaic**. The county-wide assessment identifies a total of ten rural types in the Borough of Fareham and these formed the basis for our initial landscape characterisation. However, further sub-divisions of these types were recognised during the course of the assessment along with a number of additional types that are too localised or small-scale to be recorded at a county-wide level. The range of landscape types and their relationship with the county-wide assessment is shown in Table 1 and summarised briefly below. The individual landscape types identified in the Fareham assessment are also listed and summarised in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Relationship between landscape types identified within the county-wide and Fareham Borough landscape assessments

County-wide Landscape Types	Fareham Borough Landscape Types
CHALKLANDS Open arable	Open arable downs Open arable downs: fringe character
Scarps: downland	Scarp face
LOWLAND MOSAIC Pasture and woodland: heath associated	Wooded valley: heath associated
Mixed farmland and woodland	Mixed farmland and woodland: large-scale Mixed farmland and woodland: small-scale Mixed farmland and woodland: fringe character
Horticulture and smallholdings	Horticulture and small-holdings: large-scale, open Horticulture and small-holdings: small-scale, enclosed
Open coastal plain	Open coastal plain farmland: weak structure Open coastal plain farmland: strong structure Open coastal plain farmland: fringe character Open coastal amenity land
Enclosed coastal plain	Enclosed coastal amenity land
Coastline	Open estuary Enclosed tidal river
Cliff coastline	Cliff coastline
River valley	Small-scale enclosed valley Open floodplain farmland Enclosed floodplain farmland Reedswamp and brackish lagoon Enclosed valley side Open valley side
—	Parkland and grounds
—	Airfield/large-scale utilities
—	Disturbed landscapes (inc. quarries, landfill etc.) Recolonising landscapes (including vacant land and disused gravel pits, quarries)

Chalklands

- 3.10 Landscape types associated with the chalk occur in a broad sweeping band across the north-eastern part of the Borough. The county assessment distinguishes between the distinctive *scarp face* of Portsdown Hill and the rolling, *open arable downs* farmland of its western flanks. The scarp landscape is distinguished by its prominent and distinctive steeply sloping landform, thin soils and rough vegetation cover, whereas the open arable landscapes are typically large-scale, expansive and comparatively featureless landscapes dominated by smoothly rolling landforms and intensive arable cultivation.
- 3.11 The Borough assessment recognises these principal types but identifies an additional landscape type where the proximity to urban development or roads and less intensive land use has introduced a *fringe character* to areas of open arable farmland. These areas are typically severed from the wider countryside or affected by the motorway and lie on the edge of the chalk. They include land lying between the railway line and the motorway above Downend; and land to the north of the motorway below Fort Nelson. Despite the influence of the urban area or roads, these pieces of landscape are an important part of the wider landscape setting of the motorway corridor and Fareham itself.

Lowland mosaic

- 3.12 Lowland mosaic landscape types account for the remaining eight county-wide types and the majority of the Borough's non-urban landscapes. Although the pattern is complex and fragmented, a broad distinction can be drawn between the landscapes of the coastal plain and those that lie further inland, to the north and west of the Borough.
- 3.13 The county-wide assessment identifies quite extensive areas of *mixed farmland and woodland*, which occur to the north of the Borough, flanking the areas of open downland to the north of Fareham, stretching alongside the northern section of the Meon Valley, and covering most of the area to the east of the Hamble around Burrige and Swanwick. This broad type has been subdivided in this assessment to distinguish between the *large-scale* pattern of big fields with large blocks of woodland found in the area around Crockerhill and the *small-scale*, more intimate mosaic of farmland and woodland which occurs in the Burrige area. The *fringe character* of the mixed farmland and woodland alongside the M27 at Fareham Common and to the north around Dean Farm. Again, despite such influences, these pieces of landscape are an important part of the wider landscape setting of the motorway corridor and Fareham itself.
- 3.14 The dominance of *horticulture and small-holdings* amidst the woodlands at Swanwick and around Titchfield Common and Abbey is recognised by both the county-wide and Borough assessments. These landscapes are characterised

by neatly patterned, unfenced fields growing a wide variety of horticultural crops, with glasshouses, storage buildings, polythene tunnels and agricultural dwellings. Such characteristics do occur and dominate the landscape elsewhere, however, and the Borough assessment recognises a distinction between the predominantly *small-scale*, enclosed character of the horticultural landscapes to the north and the more open, *large-scale* character of those located in and around the coastal plain.

- 3.15 The other main type identified by the county-wide assessment that occurs behind the coastal plain is *pasture and woodland: heath associated*, which covers quite extensive areas of former heathland in the area of Sarisbury, Locks Heath and Titchfield Common. Much of this area has been so affected by urban development or land management practices that its heathland origins are now difficult to detect on the ground. Furthermore, much of this landscape type occurs on the wooded slopes of the Hamble and Hook Valleys where landform has a more dominant influence on landscape character. For these reasons, only limited areas this landscape type were confirmed by the Borough assessment (and termed *wooded valley: heath associated*) although the acid soils and remnants of former heathland in the area undoubtedly do have an influence on vegetation character.
- 3.16 The county-wide assessment recognises only the larger Meon Valley as a *river valley* landscape within the Borough. However, other smaller-scale valley features do exist at the local level and, indeed, the character of the Meon Valley varies along the length of its valley floor and sides. The Borough assessment therefore distinguishes between *open* and *enclosed floodplain farmland* of the Meon Valley and Wallington River and the *reedswamp and brackish lagoon* that characterises the valley floor of the Meon Valley; between *open* and *enclosed valley sides* along the Rivers Hamble and Meon; and picks out the *smaller-scale enclosed valleys* of the Hook River and Brownwich Stream.
- 3.17 The remainder of the Borough is classified in the county-wide assessment as one of four coastal landscape types. The most extensive of these is the *open coastal plain*, a broad band of predominantly open landscape that occupies most of the coastal belt between Hook and Portchester. The area is typically characterised by a wide expanse of predominantly arable farmland with a sense of remoteness and exposure. Within this broader character, however, the influence of urban areas and vegetation structure create some variation in character. The Borough assessment distinguishes between those areas of open farmland with a *weak hedgerow and tree structure* and those areas with a smaller-scale field pattern or where blocks of woodland and belts of trees provide a *strong structure* and create some visual containment. It also recognises parts of the coastal plain that are influenced by adjacent urban development and consequently have a *fringe character* and areas where *amenity* uses, such as golf courses and playing fields, have their own distinctive character.

- 3.18 *Enclosed coastal plain* landscapes are uncommon. The county-wide assessment recognises two small areas, one to the north of Warsash, the other in the vicinity of Chark Common. Although the enclosed character and amenity use of the latter is recognised in the Borough assessment, the Warsash area is classified on the basis of its dominant horticultural character instead.
- 3.19 The *coastline* landscape type includes the whole of the River Hamble and the lower Wallington River where it enters Portsmouth Harbour. These landscapes have a distinctively maritime character, with their tidal fluctuation, fringing saltmarshes and mudflats and boating activity. However, the Borough assessment distinguishes between the character of the *open, estuary* at the mouth of the rivers and the *enclosed tidal river* character further inland. The strip of *cliff coastline* stretching between the Solent Breezes caravan site and Hill Head is recognised in both assessments and is a distinctive feature of the Borough coastline when viewed from the sea.
- 3.20 In addition to these sub-divisions of the county landscape types, the Borough assessment identifies a number of small-scale, ‘stand alone’ landscape types. These include areas of *parkland and grounds* of large houses or institutions, where the landscape is characterised by mature trees and a formal character; *airfields and large-scale utilities*, which are non-agricultural and urbanised land uses set within a rural context; *disturbed landscapes*, including quarries, landfill sites or vacant land, where the landscape has a degraded, disturbed character; and former quarry sites where the creation of wetlands and the re-establishment of vegetation is developing a new, *recolonising landscape* character.

Urban types

- 3.21 In comparison with the assessment of landscape character in the rural context, there is less guidance available on the basis for defining urban character types. However, townscape assessments and urban design principles typically focus upon the morphology of urban areas and how this affects their character and use. Key factors include the scale, form and character of buildings, the pattern of the urban block structure and the relationship between streets and buildings, and the actual land uses and functions of particular parts of the town.
- 3.22 Although urban character is the product of all these influences, land use and function seems to be the primary determinant. Thus, our initial characterisation has been on the basis of predominant land use type and we have distinguished between the mixed, **commercial types**, mainly in the town centres; different **residential types**; a range of **industrial types**; various forms of **urban greenspace**; and other particular land uses that do not fit

easily into these categories of urban character, such as institutional landscapes, rural villages and ribbon development. The main distinctions in urban character that occur within these broad categories are outlined below and the distribution of the various types is shown on Figure 5.

Town centre/commercial types

- 3.23 These are areas of shops, offices and a general predominance of commercial activity, although they can also include residential uses. A distinction is made between the *traditional high street* shopping areas that typify our town centres, and the modern *shopping precincts* and *retail parks* that are typical of more recent housing areas or edge of town sites.
- 3.24 The traditional high street is characterised by its town centre location and buildings of mixed age, character and uses. Shops and businesses predominate but there can also be some residential usage, particularly above the shops, and public services. The only true example recorded within the Borough is in Fareham's town centre where its high density, traditional buildings and mixed character creates a particularly lively atmosphere and colourful character.
- 3.25 Modern, in-town shopping precincts often try to mimic the character of the traditional high street but lack the mix of buildings styles, ages and uses and are characterised by service areas and car parking. Local shopping centres are found in Portchester, at Stubbington and Locks Heath. Out-of-town retail parks are even more dominated by car parking and service yards and the scale and character of the large-scale warehouses is in stark contrast to in-town commercial centres. These areas are virtually lifeless at night. The most significant example of this type occurs at Southampton Road, Segensworth with smaller areas along Newgate Lane, Fareham.

Residential types

- 3.26 Extensive residential suburbs of varying ages and character cover the majority of the urban landscape of the Borough. Seven broad residential types have been distinguished on the basis of housing age, form and relationship with street pattern and open space.
- 3.27 *Traditional village centre* residential types characterise the oldest parts of the Borough's towns and villages. These are typically areas of close-knit housing of mixed character and ages but predominantly traditional or vernacular in style. They usually form the core of an historic settlement and have a strongly linear or nucleated form, often focused upon an area of communal open space. The centre of Portchester Village, Titchfield, Wallington and Sarisbury are good examples of this type. Another distinctive 'traditional' residential type is typified by housing along Osborn Road, Fareham, where grand *Victorian town*

houses are set within large, private walled gardens with mature trees, creating a low-density, 'suburban villa' character.

- 3.28 Areas of *post-war public housing* have a very distinctive character and include mixed estates of high-rise and low-rise public housing set within large areas of communal open space with limited private parking areas or gardens. This type occurs principally at West End, Fareham. In contrast, the Borough contains very extensive areas of *inter-war and post-war suburban housing* of mixed density. Although the character of the individual houses may vary between *bungalows, semi-detached* or larger *detached* houses, these areas are all typified by well-defined private front and back gardens, usually hedged, and a regular pattern of straight streets, often with street trees. Unlike more recent housing, the car does not dominate the fronts of houses and is confined to the garage or to the street. A distinctive variants of this ubiquitous character occurs at Portchester, where the regular streets of low bungalows with painted fences and woodwork create a 'sea-side' character.
- 3.29 *Modern volume housebuilding* has created a distinctive urban character of its own, irrespective of architectural styles. Typically forming 'housing estates', the most distinctive features of these residential areas are the contorted pattern of streets, with frequent cul-de-sacs, turning heads and a lack of orientation, the absence of private front gardens and the dominance of the car within the open street frontage. Street trees are uncommon and any public open space tends to be tucked away and sterile in character, usually bounded by back garden fences. This character dominates the outer fringes of the main urban areas in the Borough. A final, distinctive residential type is the '*mobile home*' or *caravan park*, where the style of dwelling, the layout of roads and plots and the treatment of external spaces has a unique character. Examples of this type were recorded on the edge of Portchester and along the coast at Sea Breezes.

Industrial types

- 3.30 Industrial land uses seem to fall within four main groups. Around the edge of the town centres, typically close to railways or rivers, there are a concentration of *traditional industrial* uses. These typically comprise small-scale workshops and enterprises such as scrap yards, timber yards, coal merchants that occupy buildings and sites of mixed age and character and form part of the urban fabric. This type is rare in Fareham with the only example located between Fareham's town centre and the river. The inter-war and post-war *industrial estates*, however, tend to be located further out on the edges of towns and typically comprise a range of buildings or warehouses of a more uniform scale and character surrounded by parking and service areas and often security fencing. These are areas dominated by industrial uses only and are consequently lifeless out-of-hours. The more *modern industrial* estates have typically assumed the title of *business park* and have strong affinities with the retail parks. They comprise peripheral low-density estates of large-scale

buildings within a landscaped setting. They too, however, have large areas of parking and service access and are lifeless at night.

- 3.31 *Coastal industry* has similarities with the traditional types in that it is often small-scale and mixed in with other land uses. Its particular distinctiveness comes from its coastal location and the maritime character of its activities, such as boat-building.

Urban greenspace

- 3.32 These are areas of open landscape within the fabric of the town or settlement. Their character varies considerably depending upon their use and their urban context but eight distinctive types have been recognised. *Playing fields* and formal recreation grounds are the most common type of urban greenspace within the Borough. These are usually associated with schools and are dotted around the Borough's urban areas. They typically comprise a somewhat sterile expanse of open grassland with sports pitches and few landscape features. They fulfil a function as sportsfields and areas for casual recreation but usually fall short of their potential as an urban greenspace or ecological resource. However, in recent years the County Council has improved many school sites.
- 3.33 There are no formal urban parks as such within the Borough, but there are opportunities for casual recreation on *village greens and commons* and along *green corridors*, such as at Sarisbury and Titchfield Common. Other areas of *open land and green corridors* comprise paddocks and small fields, or land which is currently vacant, and form valuable oases of greenspace within the built environment. Limited areas of *modern greenspace* are associated with recent housing estates, such as north Portchester, but these are typically bland and sterile in character and do not fulfil their potential as a focus of community activity. Finally, *allotments* and *cemeteries* provide other areas of open greenspace within the built environment.

Other types

- 3.34 Urban types that have a distinctive character but do not fit comfortably within the above categories include *isolated rural villages* and *low-density fringe-and ribbon-development*. These have an 'urban' character but are located within a more rural or urban fringe context, such as the hamlet of Hook, with its attractive village streetscape, and the more recent straggling settlements of Swanwick and Burr ridge. Finally, *large-scale institutional uses*, such as defence establishments, have a unique character determined by distinctive building styles and layout and their isolation behind perimeter fencing. Hospitals are other institutions that tend to be set apart within the urban context but typically have a more formal, mature parkland setting.

4 The Landscape Character Areas

Introduction

- 4.1 The distribution of landscape types shown in the previous chapter illustrates two important aspects of the Borough's landscape:
- firstly, it illustrates in considerable detail the range and variety of landscapes of different character that occur across the Borough as a whole, ie. the breadth and nature of the total landscape resource;
 - secondly, it begins to show how the pattern of landscape types contributes to the particular character and qualities of different parts of the Borough.
- 4.2 By analysing this pattern of landscape character, we have identified a number of areas that seem to display a coherent character or recognisable identity. In this chapter, we describe the criteria used to define rural and urban character areas and then go on to describe the essential characteristics of each area and its land management priorities.

The rural areas

- 4.3 The main criteria used to define rural Character Areas in this study are as follows:
- each area should contain strong unifying or defining elements which create a distinctive sense of place and distinguish it from its neighbours;
 - the boundaries of the areas should follow well-defined 'edges' (such as obvious changes in landscape character and physical edges formed by topography, rivers and coastal margins);
 - the scale of the areas should reflect the complexity of the study area landscape, the purpose for which the assessment is to be used and should, as far as possible, be consistent with the scale of other landscape characterisations within Hampshire.
- 4.4 The boundaries of the rural character areas are shown on Figure 6 and brief descriptions for the individual areas are outlined below together with a summary of the key enhancement priorities that relate to each area.

The Upper Hamble Valley (Area 1)

Summary description

- 4.5 The Upper Hamble Valley covers the upper, more enclosed reaches of the River Hamble and its wooded valley sides to the north of the M27 motorway crossing. The character area extends eastwards from the river to include the mosaic of mixed farmland and woodland within which the buildings, lakes and grounds of the CAA complex have been integrated.
- 4.6 The essential characteristics of the Upper Hamble Valley are:
- the strong landform of the Hamble Valley itself;
 - dense woodland cover which clothes the valley sides and surrounding farmland, providing a strong sense of enclosure and privacy;
 - the River Hamble, with its distinctive tidal creek character, semi-natural mudflats and saltings (part SSSI), and changing patterns of light and texture;
 - intimate mosaic of broad-leaved woodland and farmland, with strong enclosure and fields seemingly carved out of the woodland;
 - relative absence of human influence or activity and, apart from the CAA complex that is relatively well-absorbed within the woodland structure, no settlements and relatively few buildings;
 - peaceful, private and relatively undisturbed character.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.7 This is an area of comparatively unspoilt landscape of high quality and the emphasis should be on the conservation and management of its important features to retain the area's quiet, rural character.
- 4.8 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain a quiet, remote and rural character along the river and within the mosaic of wooded farmland;
 - to protect the semi-natural habitats associated with the river and its foreshore and maintain the natural tidal regime;
 - to protect and manage the extensive areas of broadleaved woodland to maintain their long-term presence in the landscape;
 - to enhance the M27 corridor on the southern edge of the area.

The Lower Hamble Valley (Area 2)

Summary description

- 4.9 The Lower Hamble Valley covers the lower reaches of the River Hamble and its extensively wooded hillsides, from the M27 crossing to just beyond the mouth of the Hook Valley. It excludes the quayside areas of Lower Swanwick and Warsash which form part of separate, distinct urban character areas.
- 4.10 The essential characteristics of the Lower Hamble Valley are:
- well-defined and strong landform of the steep valley sides and complex of tributary valleys;
 - dense semi-natural woodland cover which clothes the valley sides and tops, reinforcing a sense of enclosure and naturalness;
 - the River Hamble, with its distinctive estuarine character, semi-natural mudflats and saltings (part SSSI), and changing patterns of light and texture;
 - lively, colourful and distinctive character provided by boats, boat-yards/marinas and very active recreational use of the river and waterside areas;
 - relatively sparsely settled but with large, detached residences set within mature woodland along the valley tops and at the water's edge, with large gardens or grounds and a private, secluded character;
 - historic parklands at Brooklands and Holly Hill, the latter now owned and managed by the Borough Council as a public park;
 - small-scale field pattern 'carved out' of the valley-side woodland, occupied by horticultural activities or horse grazing.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.11 This character area is also comparatively unspoilt and includes important landscape, ecological and recreational resources. The main emphasis should be to maintain and enhance these resources and retain the rural, unspoilt qualities of the landscape.
- 4.12 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to protect the semi-natural habitats associated with the river and its foreshore and to maintain the natural tidal regime;
 - to protect and manage the historic parkland landscapes of Brooklands and Holly Hill Park as important landscape and, in the case of Holly Hill, recreational resource;
 - to maintain the pattern of woodland and small-scale fields that characterise the valley sides and successfully absorbs built development on the hill top;
 - to resist the loss of woodland cover or intrusion into the hillside and valley.

The Hook Valley (Area 3)

Summary description

- 4.13 The Hook Valley lies to the south of Warsash and Locks Heath and forms a tributary of the Hamble, unified by its valley form and its heavily wooded and ‘natural’ character. The character area covers the valley floor and sides upstream of where the road crosses the valley below the School of Nautical Studies. The more open valley mouth is contained within the Lower Hamble Valley character area.
- 4.14 The essential characteristics of the Hook Valley are:
- strong valley form with dense woodland clothing the valley sides, increasing the sense of enclosure and naturalness;
 - enclosed valley floor containing dense carr woodland and the open water and reed beds of Hook Lake, of high nature conservation value (SSSI/SINC) and with unspoilt, natural qualities;
 - dominance of mature semi-natural woodland (partly Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland) forming a mosaic with small areas of grassland on upper slopes and higher ground, marking the remnants of former heathland and characterised by presence of oak, birch, pine, gorse, bracken etc.;
 - remnant parkland at Hook Park, with a neglected parkland character, old parkland trees and horse-grazed, rough pasture;
 - relatively sparsely settled with a few isolated dwellings and the attractive estate hamlet of Hook (a Conservation Area) with its well-treed character, and limited intrusion from urban development or influences.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.15 This is an area of generally unspoilt landscape of high visual quality and ecological value. The emphasis should be to conserve and manage its key features and to maintain its generally quiet, unspoilt character.
- 4.16 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to protect and manage the important wetland and woodland habitats of Hook Lake and the valley sides;
 - to resist encroachment into the valley, especially where this could affect woodland cover or sensitive wetland habitats;
 - to encourage appropriate management of Hook Park to restore its former parkland character and features;
 - to maintain the character of the fringing areas of farmland, including a strong hedgerow structure and remnants of rough pasture and heath;
 - to protect the attractive townscape qualities of Hook Village and the well-treed character of its immediate surroundings;
 - to conserve the rural character of the minor lanes and tracks.

Chilling/Brownwich Coastal Plain (Area 4)

Summary description

- 4.17 The Chilling/Brownwich Coastal Plain forms a discrete topographic and landscape unit that extends from the top of the Hook valley eastwards to the edge of the Meon valley. It is defined to the north by the urban edge of Titchfield Common and to the south by the coast.
- 4.18 The essential characteristics of the Chilling/Brownwich Coastal Plain are:
- expansive flat or gently undulating landform forming an extensive, relatively homogenous coastal plain broken only by the small-scale, heavily wooded Brownwich river valley;
 - extensive area of farmland with a predominantly rural character, typically under arable cultivation, horticultural use or pasture but with occasional intrusive elements, such as prominent overhead power lines, an active landfill site and caravan/chalet site, which detract from the rural qualities of the landscape;
 - isolated remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland at Chilling Copse and Thatchers Coppice and along the Brownwich Valley, and regenerating scrub/woodland/wetland habitats associated with former mineral extraction sites, which are all of wildlife value;
 - generally very open, large-scale field pattern and weak hedgerow structure with windswept character and evidence of coastal exposure, e.g. windpruning, to the south;
 - a somewhat more sheltered character to the north and centre of the plain, with a stronger hedgerow structure (e.g. around Chilling Farm) and woodland in the Brownwich Valley providing some visual containment and incidence;
 - scattered farm buildings sited inland from the coastal margin to reduce exposure accessed by long, often rough, rural lanes with limited east-west access, increasing the sense of remoteness within this area;
 - an undeveloped coastal margin (apart from the Solent Breezes Caravan Site) with steep cliffs (of national geological significance) and shingle beach, with extensive views out to sea and a windswept, natural and generally unspoilt character.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.19 This area forms one of the most extensive remaining area of undeveloped coastline in Hampshire and maintenance of this rural character must be the highest priority. This should be achieved by avoiding potentially intrusive activities such as mineral extraction and landfill and the erection of features such as masts and pylons that would be highly prominent in this flat, open and visually exposed landscape. Other priorities include the enhancement of degraded areas and introduction of a stronger landscape structure in particularly denuded areas.

- 4.20 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to protect the agricultural, unbuilt character of the coastal plain;
 - to avoid the introduction of buildings or structures that would be visually prominent within the open, flat landscape;
 - to protect and manage important areas of woodland, particularly remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland in the Brownwich Valley, at Chilling Copse and Thatchers Coppice, as features of landscape and ecological significance;
 - to encourage further woodland, shelterbelt and hedgerow planting to improve landscape structure, reduce exposure and to soften the impact of urban development or intrusive land uses in and around the area;
 - to maintain the informal character and distinctive alignment of the rural lanes;
 - to maximise landscape and ecological value of restored mineral and landfill sites.

Titchfield Corridor (Area 5)

Summary description

- 4.21 The Titchfield Corridor follows the northern section of the Brownwich Valley and forms a distinctive and important wedge of greenspace between the urban edge of Locks Heath and the residential and industrial development at Titchfield Park and Segensworth.
- 4.22 The essential characteristics of the Titchfield Corridor are:
- distinctive valley form and enclosed, well-wooded character along the Brownwich stream;
 - valuable areas of broad-leaved woodland, including Kite's Croft and Lambert's Coppice which follow the stream valley, forming an important green corridor and recreational and landscape resource within this area;
 - a mixed, fringe character with areas of horticulture, small-holdings and small-scale pasture, interspersed with houses, gardens and educational uses near Titchfield;
 - fragmentation by roads and intrusion of overhead power lines which introduce an urbanising influence on the valley and surrounding landscape.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.23 The Titchfield Corridor is a landscape under pressure, with development bordering it on either side and intrusion of the road network and electricity pylons. It nevertheless performs an important role in separating neighbouring urban areas and as a green corridor of strategic landscape, wildlife and recreational value. The emphasis should be to protect the integrity of the existing woodland and open greenspace and to maintain separation between

urban areas. Reinforcement and extension of the woodland corridor through new planting could enhance its value and reduce the impacts of intrusive influences.

4.24 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to protect the woodlands and greenspace of the Titchfield Corridor and to maintain the integrity and function of this important green corridor/wedge;
- to manage the woodlands of the corridor to maximise their ecological and landscape potential;
- to encourage new planting to absorb urban fringe influences and reinforce the character and value of the corridor.

Meon Valley (Area 6)

Summary description

4.25 The Meon Valley character area embraces the whole length of the valley within the Borough, from Funtley in the north to the coast at Titchfield Haven. Although the immediate floor and valley sides are quite narrow in places, the character area embraces a wider swathe of landscape on either side of the valley that broadly defines the extent of open countryside within the corridor between the urban edges of Stubbington, Hill Head and Fareham to the east and Titchfield Village and Titchfield Park to the west.

4.26 The Meon Valley is characterised by:

- a relatively gentle but distinctive valley landform, running through the Borough from Funtley in the north to the coast at Hill Head;
- distinct valley floor characterised by small-scale pasture and variable cover of trees (typically willow and alder) in the narrower, upper reaches and broadening into open floodplain pasture and complex of wetland communities to the south at Titchfield Haven, where the natural qualities of the valley and maritime influences are most strongly evident;
- restricted vehicular access to the valley floor resulting in a generally quiet and intimate character in the northern and southern sections of the valley, making it attractive for quiet recreation and for wildlife;
- a mosaic of open farmland (part of the wider coastal plain farmland), minor wooded valleys and smaller, enclosed pastures bordering the valley to the south of Titchfield, the latter helping to buffer the intrusion of adjacent urban development and fringe farmland to the east on the setting of Titchfield Haven;
- a more fragmented character and stronger influences of urban development and roads within the central section of the valley, resulting in some damage to the integrity of the valley form and a more suburban character;
- garden centre and horticultural activity around Titchfield Abbey which detract from the setting of the historic Abbey and associated buildings (a Conservation Area);

- dense mosaic of wooded farmland mainly to the north of the railway which provides an intimate, rural context for the river valley, but with localised intrusion of the M27 motorway bridge.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.27 On the whole, the landscape of the Meon Valley is comparatively unspoilt and of a high quality but it is affected by roads, commercial horticultural activities and urban intrusion, particularly in the central section. The emphasis should be to protect the important landscape and ecological resources of the river corridor, mitigate the effects of intrusive activities and undertake measures to reinforce the river valley character and strengthen its overall integrity.
- 4.28 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to protect the important landscape, ecological and historical resources of the valley corridor, particularly the wetlands at Titchfield Haven (NNR/SSSI), the pastoral character and features of the valley floor, the complex of wooded farmland to the north and the important historic building and landscape at Titchfield Abbey;
 - to protect the overall integrity of the valley system from further fragmentation;
 - to resist changes that would have an adverse impact on the rural character of the valley;
 - to reduce the impact of roads, urban edges and horticultural development, possibly through new planting;
 - to encourage enhancement of the historic landscape setting of Titchfield Abbey.

Fareham/Stubbington Gap (Area 7)

Summary description

- 4.29 The Fareham/Stubbington Gap comprises the major part of a strategic wedge of open landscape which separates the urban areas of Fareham to the north, Stubbington to the south and Gosport to the east. It excludes the built area of HMS Collingwood (included within an urban area) and also the corridor of the Alver Valley to the east which has a different character.
- 4.30 The essential characteristics of the Fareham/Stubbington Gap are:
- level or gently undulating landform which physically forms part of the coastal plain but which has become isolated from the coast by the development of Stubbington;
 - open, predominantly arable farmland and horticulture with a weak hedgerow structure and few trees and a relatively homogenous character;

- a somewhat degraded, ‘fringe’ character as a result of the intrusion of the urban edges of Fareham, Stubbington, HMS Collingwood and HMS Daedalus which are visible across much of the area;
- a few scattered farmsteads/horticultural holdings with a few limited north-south access routes and little or no east-west access, reinforcing the sense of a true gap between the built-up areas of Fareham and Stubbington;
- activity associated with airfield;
- a mosaic of small fragments of open farmland and horse-grazed pastures sandwiched between large-scale non-agricultural, but predominantly unbuilt, land uses of the HMS Daedalus airfield and the Peel Common Waste Water Treatment Works.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.31 The priority for this area must be to maintain its function in separating the urban areas. However, emphasis should also be given to landscape enhancement, in particular the strengthening of landscape structure through planting of hedgerows and woodland, to improve landscape and ecological diversity and reduce the impact of intrusive urban edges and features.
- 4.32 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain the rural character of the area and the separate identity of the settlements;
 - to encourage planting of hedgerows, shelterbelts and copses to provide diversity, shelter, visual enclosure and wildlife habitat and to reduce the impact of urban development on the fringes of the area.

Woodcot/Alver Valley (Area 8)

Summary description

- 4.33 The Alver Valley also forms part of the strategic gap separating Fareham and Gosport but it is very different in character and scale from the open farmed landscape to the west. It comprises a mixed pattern of wooded common, small-scale pasture and ribbon development along the corridors of the River Alver and Newgate Lane and is bounded to the east by the urban edge of Gosport and to the north by the outskirts of Fareham.
- 4.34 The essential characteristics of the Alver Valley are:
- a mosaic of small and medium scale fields at Woodcot, forming a mixture of small horse-grazed pasture and larger arable fields divided by fences, ditches and gappy hedgerows;
 - although this area forms the upper part of the Alver Valley it lacks a distinct valley character;
 - the hedgerow pattern is gradually replaced by scrubby woodland to the south, enclosing Chark Common and the golf course;

- the character is influenced by the busy road corridor and the urban characteristics of Peel Common and HMS Daedalus on one side and the urban edge of Bridgemary on the other.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.35 Like the previous area, the priority must be to maintain separation between settlements but also to improve the quality of the landscape through management and new planting.
- 4.36 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain the rural character of the area and the separate identity of settlements;
 - to protect existing features of landscape and ecological value, such as areas of woodland, trees, hedgerows, rough grassland and heath and the small-scale field pattern;
 - to encourage new planting to reinforce these characteristics and to reduce the impact of the urban fringes of Gosport and of the roads and ribbon development.

North Fareham Downs (Area 9)

Summary description

- 4.37 The North Fareham Downs form part of an extensive tract of countryside to the north of the Borough which once extended right up to the fringes of Fareham but is now severed by the M27 motorway (the southern boundary of the area). To the north it is bounded by the wooded clay landscape of the Forest of Bere, to the east by the prominent ridge of Portsdown Hill, and to the west by the railway line near Funtley which marks a sharp change in character.
- 4.38 The essential characteristics of the North Fareham Downs are:
- distinctively rolling landform, typical of chalk downland;
 - small-scale landscape features, such as the area of former parkland at Roche Court and the Wallington River valley, which have a distinctive and important local character but a localised influence on the wider arable landscape;
 - a distinctively rural, agrarian character with scattered farmsteads and rural lanes but few other buildings or urban fringe influences within the landscape aside from the immediate M27 motorway corridor and intrusive pylons and transmission lines;
 - dominance of intensive arable farmland with a large field pattern and an open, and denuded character to the south, with a very weak hedgerow structure and very few trees, but with expansive views and a sense of space and airiness;

- visual containment to the north by the strong woodland structure of the Forest of Bere character area.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.39 This is the most extensive area of open countryside within Fareham Borough and the emphasis should be primarily on the maintenance of its predominantly rural character. However, its quality has been affected by intensive farming practice and the intrusion of power lines and the M27 motorway. Emphasis should therefore also be given to landscape enhancement, primarily through planting of hedgerows, shelterbelts and copses, to mitigate such effects.
- 4.40 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to protect the rural, agricultural character of this extensive tract of open countryside;
 - to avoid the introduction of buildings or structures that would be visually prominent within the open, rolling landscape;
 - to protect and manage important areas of woodland and historic parkland along the Wallington Valley and at Roche Court;
 - to encourage reintroduction of hedgerows, shelterbelts and small copses to improve landscape structure and reduce exposure;
 - to enhance the M27 corridor on the southern edge of the area by new hedgerow and tree planting.

Forest of Bere (Area 10)

Summary description

- 4.41 The Forest of Bere character area lies in the extreme north of the Borough beyond the North Fareham Downs. It forms a distinctive area of large-scale, wooded farmland on clay soils that forms part of the wider landscape of the Forest of Bere that extends northwards across the Borough boundary into Winchester District.
- 4.42 The essential characteristics of the Forest of Bere are:
- a distinctive and attractive, enclosed character formed by large blocks of mixed woodland connected by mature hedgerows, including important remnants of ancient woodland;
 - the woodland blocks form the southern edge of a much larger character area that extends to the north beyond the Borough boundary;
 - the woodland edge is continuous and forms an attractive backdrop to the open arable farmland of the North Fareham Downs;
 - the woodland blocks contains a matrix of medium scale farmland with a strong sense of enclosure.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.43 This is an area of unspoilt and attractive landscape with extensive areas of valuable woodland, some of ancient origin. The emphasis should be on the conservation and management of this resource and on maintaining the rural qualities of the area.
- 4.44 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain a quiet, remote and rural character to the area;
 - to protect and manage the extensive areas of woodland, particularly those of ancient origin which are of the highest landscape and ecological value.

Portsdown Hill (Area 11)

Summary description

- 4.45 This character area embraces the distinctive scarp and downland landscape that forms the western flanks of Portsdown Hill, a landscape unit that extends beyond the Borough boundary into neighbouring Winchester District. It is defined on its western boundary by the minor valley of the Wallington River and to the south by the urban edge of Downend and Portchester. Although the scarp slopes form a single landscape unit, the lower slopes are severed from the upper by the M27, effectively dividing the area into two separate but associated parts.
- 4.46 The essential characteristics of the Portsdown Hill area are:
- large to medium-scale mosaic of pasture and arable fields with an open character and few hedgerows or trees;
 - the distinctive chalk downland above the Wallington River valley and the dramatic landform ridge and steep, south-facing scarp of Portsdown Hill itself, which provides the setting for a number of landmark features such as Nelsons Monument and Fort Nelson (both outside the Borough boundary) and spectacular views over Portsmouth Harbour and the Solent;
 - the prominence of a number of unsightly elements in the form of masts, fences and typical roadside clutter;
 - the intrusion of the M27 motorway which cuts through the chalk scarp and divides its upper and lower slopes;
 - the physical isolation of the lower slopes by roads, railways and urban development, and the impact of quarrying, all of which intrude upon its open, rural character.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.47 This forms part of the extensive open countryside area to the north of Fareham and the upper scarp face and ridge top are particularly visible from surrounding areas. The emphasis should, therefore, primarily be on the maintenance of this rural character and an undeveloped scarp face and skyline.

However, the quality of the upper slopes has already been affected by intensive farming practice and the intrusion of power lines and the M27 motorway. Here, the emphasis should be on landscape enhancement to mitigate such effects. The lower slopes provide a valuable open backdrop to the urban area of Downend but their character is affected by adjacent roads and built development. Particular account needs to be taken of the visual sensitivity of this area and the quality of the motorway corridor. Extensive planting could be an effective way of integrating and reducing the impacts of existing roads and housing.

- 4.48 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to protect the rural, agricultural character of this area of open countryside;
 - to avoid the introduction of buildings or structures that would be visually prominent within the open, rolling landscape and particularly along the prominent scarp face and ridge line;
 - to encourage the re-creation of chalk grassland on the scarp top and upper face;
 - to encourage reintroduction of hedgerows, shelterbelts and small copses on the western, lower flanks of the area, to improve landscape structure and reduce exposure;
 - to encourage new woodland planting on the southern lower slopes, to reduce the impact of existing residential development to the east and to buffer the effects of the motorway and slip road to north and west;
 - to maximise landscape and ecological opportunities as part of quarry restoration proposals.

Cams/Wicor Coastal Fringe (Area 12)

Summary description

- 4.49 This area forms a discrete parcel of open landscape contained by the coast and the urban fringes of Downend and Portchester. One of its main features is the extensive parkland and woodlands of the Cams Hall Estate but it also includes other areas of open amenity landscape, fringe pasture and coastal industry to the east.
- 4.50 The essential characteristics of the Cams/Wicor Coastal Fringe are:
- an area of flat or gently undulating landform occupied by mixed but open land-uses, sandwiched between the urban fringes of Downend and Portchester and the shores of Fareham Lake;
 - strong coastal influence with wind-pruned trees and bushes and an exposed, windswept character and salty smell;
 - strong fringe character influenced by proximity of built form along the urban edge and non-agricultural land uses, such as the golf course, recreation ground and areas of neglected pasture;

- valuable areas of open space with attractive views out across Portsmouth Harbour and to Portsdown Hill which provide an important recreational resource for nearby built areas;
- Cams Hall Estate (a Conservation Area) with its important historic buildings, historic parkland and Cams Plantation. The estate is undergoing restoration and redevelopment for recreational and business use which will preserve the buildings and grounds;
- small-scale coastal industry adjacent to Wicor Lake.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.51 The emphasis in this area is on maintaining its predominantly open character, particularly next to the estuary and coast, and in maintaining the historic buildings and parkland features of the Cams Hall Estate. Otherwise, there is a need for enhancement of the strip of land which lies between the coast and the boundaries of new housing development at Cams Bay which provides an important open space and recreational resource but is currently of poor landscape quality.
- 4.52 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain the open, unbuilt character of the area, particularly the estuary and coastal margins;
 - to protect and, where possible, enhance the features of historic importance at the Cams Hall Estate as part of restoration proposals for buildings and parkland landscape;
 - to improve the landscape quality of areas which lie between property boundaries and the coast;
 - to manage areas of public open space to maximise their landscape, ecological and recreational value.

BurrIDGE/Swanwick/Whiteley (Area 13)

Summary description

- 4.53 This area lies to the north-west of the Borough and has similarities with the wooded farmland mosaic to the west alongside the Hamble. However, it differs in that it contains the existing settlements of Swanwick and BurrIDGE, strung out along the roads in extensive ribbon development, and is to contain one third of the major new settlement of Whiteley, the remainder of which will lie over the boundary in Winchester District. Up to 1500 dwellings and industry/facilities are planned in the Fareham part and over 500 houses have already been built. This is therefore an area undergoing considerable change.
- 4.54 The essential characteristics of the BurrIDGE, Swanwick and Whiteley area are:
- a strong, mature woodland framework within which is set a complex mixture of settlements, landfill and mineral operations, large-scale horticultural activity and farmland;
 - significant landscape change, with extensive new development taking place at the new settlement of Whiteley, and disturbed landscapes arising from mineral extraction, former brickworks or landfill operations which are undergoing restoration or have been occupied by new uses;
 - continuous residential ribbon development along the main roads of relatively recent origin and without special townscape or architectural merits, but typified by a leafy streetscape, long garden plots and a distinctively suburban character;
 - a distinctive pattern of small-scale fields, typically occupied by pasture or horticultural land uses, and defined by a strong hedgerow and woodland structure, providing a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy which helps to mitigate the effects of potentially intrusive land uses;
 - more extensive areas of glasshouses and large-scale horticulture or farmland with a more open character but visually contained by fringing woodland;
 - strong associations with the wooded landscape of the Upper Hamble Valley.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.55 As an area where quite radical change is planned and indeed already underway, the emphasis should be on high standards of design to ensure that new development is integrated within the landscape with the minimum of adverse impact and with the maximum benefit. It will be important to maintain the separate identity of settlements and to ensure that the landscape around the fringes of the urban areas does not become degraded by urban intrusion or fringe activities. A strong and well-managed woodland framework is an effective way of preventing such effects and extensive new planting should be continued and encouraged to help absorb new development in this part of the Borough.

- 4.56 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to encourage high standards of design in proposals for new development and to minimise negative and maximise positive effects on the landscape;
 - to maintain the rural character of the road network and promote appropriate rural treatments in the design of new access roads;
 - to protect and manage areas of woodland as important landscape features and habitats;
 - to maximise landscape and ecological benefits following cessation of landfill or quarrying activities;
 - to encourage extensive new native broadleaved woodland planting as a buffer against the intrusion of development or other suburbanising influences in the landscape generally.

North Sarisbury Fringe (Area 14)

Summary description

4.57 This is a small area of semi-rural, wooded landscape that is sandwiched between the M27 to the north and the urban edges of Lower Swanwick, Sarisbury and Park Gate. It was formerly part of the mosaic of wooded farmland that characterise this general area before it became isolated from open countryside by roads and urban development. It lies on a north-facing valley side and is unified by its physical characteristics and its intimate and strongly wooded character.

- 4.58 The essential characteristics of the North Sarisbury Fringe are:
- a steep north facing valley side;
 - a small-scale complex of horse-grazed pasture, farmland and horticulture set within mature hedgerows and small woodland copses;
 - parts of the area have a somewhat neglected and scrubby character, particularly at Beacon Bottom;
 - the presence of detracting urban elements, such as the northern urban edge at Addison Road, the M27 Motorway and the proximity of the landfill site.

Enhancement priorities

4.59 This forms another fragment of rural landscape that has been severed from the wider countryside and is affected by a variety of urban influences. The priority should be to minimise those influences and to reduce the barrier effect of the motorway to the north. This would best be achieved through maintenance and extension of the wooded character that links both sides.

- 4.60 The priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain the predominantly rural character of the landscape and its complex of small-scale pastures, woodlands, mature hedgerows and copses;

- to manage areas of woodland and to extend them by new planting, especially along the motorway corridor and along the urban edges;
- to encourage a high standard of land management and enhancement of areas currently suffering from neglect.

The urban areas

- 4.61 The criteria for defining the character areas within the urban envelope are different from those in the rural areas. By using the term *character area* in an urban context we are really describing *neighbourhoods*, places where it is still possible to walk to the nearest shops or to the local school or the park, and a place which still has an identifiable centre. Dependence on the private car has changed the pattern of neighbourhoods and large parts of residential Fareham Borough have few or no local facilities and residents travel by car to do their weekly shopping or to take their children to school.
- 4.62 The main effect of this change has been the segregation of land uses and the separation of the normal activities and functions of a neighbourhood. As a result the district is mostly made up of large areas of segregated uses in the form of modern housing estates, retail parks, industrial estates or business parks, with a smaller number of clearly identifiable neighbourhoods or local centres. These areas are generally the older parts of town, such as the traditional village centres, or some of the older inter-war suburbs. The pattern and distribution of neighbourhoods and the segregated land uses is further fragmented by roads and other barriers.
- 4.63 Although the concept of landscape character-based areas is difficult to apply in the urban context, it is nevertheless useful to break the area down into smaller units to help us understand how each part of the town functions individually and as part of the whole. We have therefore divided the urban parts of the district into a series of 'urban areas' defined by the following criteria:
- areas that have a recognisable **edge** or boundary in either physical or land use terms;
 - areas that have clear **functional characteristics**, such as a residential area, a commercial centre or an employment zone;
 - areas that have a clear **centre** or a 'heart' around which activities are focused;
 - areas that have a clear **circulation pattern** or road hierarchy;
 - areas that have a distinctive **block structure**, in other words the size of built areas between the roads.

Lower Swanwick (Area 15)

Description

- 4.64 The Lower Swanwick area is located close to the historic bridging point of the Hamble. The settlement is divided by the A27 with a compact residential area on one side occupying the valley side and moorings, boatyards and the old village core on the other side along the waterfront. Lower Swanwick's separate identity is reinforced by the 'undeveloped' gap between it and Sarisbury.
- 4.65 The main characteristics of the Lower Swanwick character area are:
- an attractive and close-knit arrangement of waterside buildings and spaces that form the Swanwick Shore Conservation Area, located on a prominent bend in the River Hamble;
 - the degree of activity at the waterside, giving it a busy feel;
 - the strong sense of enclosure provided by its valley-side location;
 - the sense of identity created by the presence of the bridge and the sense of arrival on crossing the Hamble;
 - the busy nature of the A27 creating a barrier between the main residential area and the older waterfront settlement;
 - the compact form and concentration of older terraced housing which helps reinforce identity;
 - more recent infill housing, particularly between larger detached houses, which is generally eroding local identity;
 - landlocked areas between the railway and the motorway containing the Burlesdon Brickwork Museum and playing fields;
 - views along an unspoilt wooded part of the River Hamble.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.66 Lower Swanwick benefits from a very special setting on the Hamble. Most of its characteristics are very positive and the emphasis should be on conservation. Despite this, there are a number of areas where improvements in urban quality are necessary and there is a need for a more obvious focal point beside the waterfront at Lower Swanwick.
- 4.67 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to improve the pedestrian environment on the A27 in the form of better traffic management;
 - to make the junction of Swanwick Lane and Bridge Road (A27) a much more attractive focus in urban design terms for the village as a whole;
 - to protect the residential area from development that would harm its character;
 - making the public realm more attractive with more street trees, lighting, paving, signage etc., particularly on the waterfront.

Sarisbury (Area 16)

Description

- 4.68 Sarisbury is located on Bridge Road (A27), the historic route between Portsmouth and Southampton. To some extent, the area has been linked to Park Gate by infill housing and, for this reason, the visible edge to Sarisbury is confined to an area of fringe farmland in the north and the wooded valley sides in the west. In the south east it is separated from Locks Heath by the grounds of Coldeast Hospital.
- 4.69 The essential characteristics of Sarisbury are:
- a village green providing valuable local open space and a focus for activity;
 - a core area of older housing and St Paul's Church grouped around the village green, making up the Sarisbury Conservation Area;
 - a focus of local shops and other facilities on the main road (A27), facing the village green;
 - the extensive tree cover in the grounds of Coldeast Hospital, which forms a strategic landscape resource.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.70 The emphasis should primarily be on conservation and enhancement, particularly around the village green, but improvements to the A27 corridor for the pedestrian should also be a priority.
- 4.71 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to conserve and enhance the landscape character of the green;
 - to maintain the landscape character of the Coldeast Hospital grounds;
 - to improve the environmental quality of the A27 corridor for the pedestrian in the form of avenue trees and traffic management measures;
 - to improve the area around the local shops.

Park Gate (Area 17)

Description

- 4.72 Park Gate takes its name from the historic gateway to Titchfield Park. It now occupies the triangular piece of land at the junction of the A27 and Botley Road. Although it is largely contiguous with Locks Heath/Titchfield Common, it is bounded by the M27 to the north, the A27 to the south, Segensworth to the east and Sarisbury to the west.
- 4.73 The essential characteristics of Park Gate are:

- its mixture of local shops, community facilities, school, larger detached and semi-detached houses and industry;
- its busy character;
- its focus as a local centre reinforced by the radial pattern of roads;
- the presence of the railway and the station;
- the location of the Park Gate Business Centre adjacent to the M27 motorway;
- its distinctive sloping topography.

Enhancement priorities

4.74 Park Gate is a natural focus for much of the activity that takes place in the larger area of Locks Heath/Titchfield Common. Its busy character is attractive but its immediate environmental quality is poor.

4.75 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to improve the immediate street environment either by traffic management or through environmental improvements, particularly in Middle Road;
- to improve the environmental qualities of Botley Road in particular;
- to reinforce the image of Park Gate as a local centre by environmental improvements;
- to improve pedestrian connections between the local centre and the station;
- to improve the urban fringe edge north of Beacon Bottom and adjacent to the M27.

Locks Heath/Titchfield Common (Area 18)

Description

4.76 Locks Heath/Titchfield Common is a large suburban area defined by the A27 in the north, the Hook Valley in the south, the Brownwich Valley to the east and Holly Hill to the west. The form of Locks Heath/Titchfield Common is a result of recent sustained suburban growth which has subsumed the older parts. Although there are distinct areas within it, particularly the areas of lower density older housing, they do not have clearly defined limits. Therefore, instead of attempting to define different areas with boundaries, we have identified important activity nodes, taking the form of small groups of local shops, the local pub, community centres etc. These are as follows:

- Locks Heath Centre;
- Locks Road/Warsash Road/ Fleetend;
- Hunts Pond Road/Church Road;
- Holly Close;
- Retail Park at Old Southampton Road.

4.77 The essential characteristics of Locks Heath/Titchfield Common are;

- low to medium-density, semi-detached housing largely located on the main radial roads leading from Park Gate;
- more recent suburban housing which has infilled between the radial ‘spokes’;
- low density housing with large gardens and good street trees which give parts of Locks Heath/Titchfield Common a very leafy character;
- a modern local shopping/civic centre;
- a fairly even distribution of open space in the form of playing fields, recreation areas and green corridors;
- the nursery/horticultural area on Brook Lane and east of Hunts Pond Road;
- the retail warehouses along Old Southampton Road adjacent to the Titchfield Corridor.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.78 Locks Heath/Titchfield Common has few obvious environmental problems and its overall character is leafy and pleasant. The main priorities are conservation and management of this character, although there is a clear need to reinforce the local identity of its component areas and to improve the pedestrian links between the local centre and surrounding suburbs by completing and extending the network of greenways.
- 4.79 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to reinforce local identity particularly at the local activity nodes described above;
 - to maintain and enhance the green character of the radial roads with more street trees;
 - to introduce traffic management measures at key activity nodes, not only to slow traffic down but also to create the sense of a place;
 - to seek opportunities to improve pedestrian and cycle connections through large housing areas as an alternative to the main radial routes;
 - to improve pedestrian connections to the local centre.

Warsash Village (Area 19)

Description

- 4.80 The area defined as Warsash Village includes the historic riverside settlement, the small shopping area, and suburban housing accessed from Newtown Road/Brook Lane, Shore Road, Warsash Road, and Church Road.
- 4.81 The essential characteristics of Warsash Village are:
- the historic core on the riverside, and the adjoining open space, forming part of the Conservation Area;
 - the lively marine character of the quayside;

- the arrangement of local shops centred on the crossroads;
- the townscape qualities of the quayside, Shore Road and the local shops;
- important views out over the Hamble particularly from properties down at the quayside, but also from elevated parts of Warsash;
- larger, detached and semi-detached houses on Newtown Road;
- the leafy character of housing areas formed by large gardens and street trees.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.82 The emphasis in Warsash in management terms is on conservation, particularly in relation to townscape qualities and landscape character and resisting development which would erode existing character.
- 4.83 Priorities for enhancement are:
- maintaining and enhancing townscape qualities between the quayside and the local shops;
 - making environmental improvements in key locations such as the quayside car park and on the two corner plots on the Warsash Road side of the village crossroads;
 - making the village crossroads more pedestrian-friendly;
 - maintaining the leafy character of Newtown Road and making improvements to Warsash Road with more street trees.

Segensworth Corridor (Area 20)

Description

- 4.84 The Segensworth Corridor generally follows the A27. It is defined by the M27 and railway in the north, by open land of the Meon Valley in the east, and by Titchfield in the south. It is an extension to Locks Heath/Park Gate in the form of ribbon development, combined with more recent out-of-town employment uses.
- 4.85 The essential characteristics of the Segensworth Corridor are:
- large single use areas, large office, industrial and distribution buildings, extensive areas of car parking and service areas;
 - some traditional larger industrial sites such as GEC Marconi and OPCS;
 - generally poor environmental quality due to heavy traffic, unsightly sheds, poor pedestrian environment;
 - the northern fringe of the Titchfield Corridor woodland;
 - an isolated area of residential land use, largely formed by residential ribbon development;
 - the presence of the electricity transmission line;

Enhancement priorities

- 4.86 Although there are parts of the corridor where environmental quality is raised by existing woodland and landscape treatment, the area is still dominated by traffic and large buildings. The emphasis should be on mitigation of these effects and enhancement of these areas.
- 4.87 Priorities for enhancement are:
- improving the road corridor landscape on the A27 and encouraging business and industrial areas to undertake environmental improvements;
 - making business and industrial areas more pedestrian-friendly through better surfacing, lighting etc.;
 - improving pedestrian links from the residential area to Park Gate;
 - better definition of the urban edge through strengthening landscape structure.

Titchfield Village (Area 21)

Description

- 4.88 Titchfield Village is located on the Southampton Road close to the bridging point of the Meon Valley and close to Titchfield Abbey. The village edge in the east is defined by the Meon, in the north by the Abbey grounds, and in the west by Titchfield Common.
- 4.89 The essential characteristics of Titchfield Village are:
- the historic village centre defined by the Conservation Area;
 - the particular architectural and historic townscape qualities, with buildings on the edge of the highway but with generous gardens and spaces behind;
 - the pedestrian scale of the village and the importance of local shops;
 - the mature landscape in both private gardens and in the public realm;
 - suburban extensions to the village in the west and south;
 - Meon Valley setting.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.90 The main emphasis in Titchfield is to conserve its particular architectural and townscape qualities. The other issue is maintaining its separate identity within the strategic gap between Titchfield Common and Catisfield.
- 4.91 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to ensure that the qualities described above are not eroded by inappropriate development, increased traffic and car parking;
 - to reinforce landscape structure on the urban edge to minimise the impact of the A27;

- to make environmental improvements to the more recent suburban areas on the edge of Titchfield.

Stubbington/Hill Head (Area 22)

Description

4.92 The area we have defined as Stubbington/Hill Head includes the whole urban envelope with the exception of the coastal strip. The urban area is defined by the Meon Valley to the west, farmland to the north, and HMS Deadalus and Peel Common Waste Water Treatment Works in the east. The area is predominantly suburban housing of a similar age. It also has a pattern of radial roads meeting at a local centre.

- 4.93 The essential characteristics of Stubbington/ Hill Head are:
- a predominantly residential area with a leafy suburban character;
 - a mature landscape in private gardens;
 - large parts of the urban area are distant from the local centre (over 1 km);
 - poor pedestrian connections mainly as a result of the circuitous residential road layouts and the number of cul-de-sacs;
 - a good sized centrally located open space;
 - village centre with village green.

Enhancement priorities

4.94 The main emphasis in this area is to conserve its landscape character at the same time as trying to reinforce local identity. The area suffers from a lack of identity and there is a need to identify and enhance local neighbourhoods characteristics.

- 4.95 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to reinforce local identity through environmental improvements;
 - to improve the pedestrian connections through residential areas;
 - to make environmental improvements to the village centre;
 - to increase the number of street trees on main radial routes, around the local centre, and in some residential areas.

Hill Head Seafront (Area 23)

Description

- 4.96 We have defined the seafront area as a separate and distinct part of Hill Head because of its relationship with the sea. The area is centred on Hill Head Road and Salterns Road and it includes those properties which either face or back onto the seafront.
- 4.97 The essential characteristics of Hill Head Seafront are:
- the orientation of properties, private space and public space to the sea;
 - the architecture of typical inter war seaside villas;
 - the landscape character of the seafront in the form of private gardens, paving and walls;
 - the presence of typical seafront facilities and activities such as the harbour, boat launching, fishing, promenading etc;
 - the seaside character of Seafield Park and Salterns Park.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.98 Although the emphasis in management terms is on the conservation of the existing character, there are many aspects of the public realm that are in need of improvement. This particularly applies to the main road and to the area around the local shops and to the large paved areas around the harbour and the promenade/car parking area.
- 4.99 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to create a more pedestrian friendly environment in Hill Head Road/Salterns Road;
 - to reinforce and enhance the seaside character of the public realm;
 - to improve pedestrian links between residential parts and the shore line;
 - to improve pedestrian links between Seafield Park and Salterns Park;
 - to consider the urban quality around the harbour and the promenade to reduce the dominance of traffic while at the same time accommodating car parking.

Fareham Urban Areas

- 4.100 We have divided Fareham into 11 different urban areas. These have largely been determined by physical and visual barriers, such as the main routes into the town, railway lines or new roads, such as the elevated part of the A27.

Newgate Lane Corridor (Area 24)

Description

- 4.101 This area includes a mix of major land uses in the form of a large military establishment, HMS Collingwood, industrial/ business uses at Fort Fareham, and industrial/ retail on Newgate Lane. This area forms the urban edge of Fareham.
- 4.102 The essential characteristics of Newgate Lane are:
- very large scale land uses served by the main road corridor;
 - poor environmental quality created by heavy traffic;
 - poor quality urban form, typified by out-of-town developments and older industrial estates;
 - very poor accessibility for pedestrians, largely as a result of the type of land use and security requirements;
 - the road corridor landscape treatment improves environmental quality in places.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.103 The main emphasis in this area is the need for immediate improvements to environmental quality and the creation of a more cohesive framework for such large scale land uses.
- 4.104 Priorities for enhancement are:
- building upon the road corridor landscape to better integrate large scale uses;
 - improving the immediate environment for pedestrians and cyclists;
 - maintaining a well defined and high quality urban edge through reinforcement to edge landscapes;
 - maximising opportunities for pedestrian links from other areas such as Gosport Road and West End.

Hill Park /Stow Estate (Area 25)

Description

- 4.105 This area is effectively defined by two railway lines feeding into the town centre, although the northern line is now dismantled. The area is mostly suburban residential and is served by an orbital road (Highlands Road).
- 4.106 The essential characteristics of Hill Park/Stow Estate are:
- a fairly legible street pattern, that helps pedestrian circulation, except Stow Estate where this pattern breaks down;

- a local centre on Highlands Road;
- the barriers to pedestrian movements created by both railways;
- the concentration of schools and playing fields on the urban edge
- the lack of dedicated public open space.

Enhancement priorities

4.107 Although this area has a predominantly leafy suburban character, there are aspects of urban quality that need addressing particularly in relation to the streetscape and the distribution and accessibility of open space.

4.108 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to improve the environmental quality on key routes in the form of street trees on Highlands Road, Privett Road and Fareham Park Road;
- to improve the environmental quality in key locations such as the local shopping area, and around Stow Estate;
- to investigate opportunities to enhance green corridors/pedestrian/cycle routes using the dismantled railway and through establishing routes to the Meon Valley;
- to investigate improving open space provision such as dual use of school playing fields.

Hill Park North (Area 26)

Description

4.109 Hill Park North has similar characteristics to its neighbouring area. It shares the same characteristics and it also is constrained by railway lines. Its northern boundary is defined by the M27.

4.110 The essential characteristics of Hill Park North are:

- a less structured street pattern than its neighbouring area, chiefly because most of the residential development is more recent;
- a similar deficit of public open space;
- the lack of a local centre;
- a more leafy public and private realm south of Highlands Road;
- elevated at the northern part of the area with good views south.

Enhancement priorities

4.111 This area is generally less leafy than its neighbour and it has a less well-defined public realm. As a result, there is a general need to improve environmental quality in public areas. There is also a need to improve public open space provision.

- 4.112 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to improve the environmental quality of the public realm, particularly north of Highland Road;
 - to investigate opportunities to establish green corridors/pedestrian/cycle links to the existing route along the dismantled railway.

North Fareham (Area 27)

Description

4.113 The area defined as North Fareham includes the area east of the main railway line, south of the M27 motorway, and north of the town centre. The area mostly comprises inter- and post-war detached and semi-detached suburban housing and it shares many of the same characteristics as the other suburbs in Fareham. The area of countryside between the M27 and Kiln Road, which has been separated from the North Fareham Downs by the construction of the motorway, has been included in this area because it is of great importance to the character of the area. It provides the setting for North Fareham, allows views of the countryside and is very important in views from the north.

- 4.114 The essential characteristics of North Fareham are:
- a large area of similar age, detached and semi-detached housing, with a well defined public/private realm and large private gardens;
 - a well structured street pattern with good pedestrian links to the town centre and to the recreation ground;
 - a leafy character resulting from larger mature gardens and good street trees;
 - a large central recreation ground and leisure centre;
 - the open land at Fareham Common.

Enhancement priorities

4.115 The main priority for North Fareham is to conserve the landscape setting of the urban edge at Fareham Common and its leafy character through the protection of private gardens and street trees. There are few urban quality issues that require urgent attention.

- 4.116 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to maintain environmental quality through protection of private garden space and important street trees;
 - to reinforce local identity through environmental improvements, particularly in the recreation ground and around the leisure centre;
 - to reinforce pedestrian routes between the town centre and the recreation area/leisure centre.

Furzehall/Broadcut (Area 28)

Description

- 4.117 This area is made up of a number of different land uses. It is bounded in the north by the M27 motorway, in the east by the Wallington River, and in the west by Wickham Road.
- 4.118 The essential characteristics of Furzehall/Broadcut are:
- a mixture of industry, allotments, cemetery, retail, hospital, residential uses and open space;
 - distinctive valleyside topography;
 - a disjointed pattern of land use and roads;
 - the prominence of the M27 motorway;
 - the busy traffic on Wallington Way;
 - the poor pedestrian links with the town centre.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.119 The main emphasis in this area is improving the integration of such a wide range land uses and developing a more cohesive environmental framework and protecting and enhancing green space.
- 4.120 Priorities for enhancement are:
- improving the overall landscape structure of the area with more tree planting and better landscape management of existing green space;
 - creating a much more legible pattern of pedestrian links, particularly between new housing, open space and the town centre;
 - creating more effective buffers between industry and housing;
 - strengthening the landscape structure between the urban edge and the motorway;
 - improving the pedestrian environment on Wickham Road.

Fareham Town Centre (Area 29)

Description

- 4.121 We have defined the town centre as the area centred on High Street and West Street. In the north it is defined by Southampton Road and in the south by Western Way. The area is mostly commercial and retail, however it does include a large area of older residential and a small area of traditional industry.
- 4.122 The essential characteristics of the town centre are:

- two adjoining conservation areas, one including the historic High Street, the other including the fine detached villas on Osborn Road, brick/flint walls, large gardens and mature trees;
- West Street is smaller scale and trafficked at its western end becoming larger scale and pedestrianised at its eastern end;
- the Civic Centre area is large scale, but lacks the street pattern and human scale evident in the High Street and other parts of the town centre;
- large vehicled areas such as service yards, large areas of car parking, and the bus depot;
- the main shopping and Civic Centre area has very few street trees or good quality public spaces;
- the High Street has exceptional architectural and townscape qualities;
- very close to the town centre there is a mixture of suburban housing, semi-detached, large detached and some terraced housing;
- Eastern Way, Western Way and the railway form a strong barrier to pedestrian links from the south;
- the undeveloped valley side east of High Street and west of Wallington Way.

Enhancement priorities

4.123 There are widely contrasting approaches to urban quality in the town centre. At one end of the scale there is the need to conserve the exceptional urban quality found in both Conservation Areas. At the other end of the scale there is the need to overcome the vehicle-dominated landscape surrounding the shopping and Civic Centre end of town and to improve the environment at the western end of West Street.

4.124 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to improve the environmental quality on West Street and around the shopping and Civic Centre;
- to make the pedestrian links under Western Way much more attractive;
- to create much better pedestrian links between North Fareham through the shopping and Civic Centre to West Street;
- to enclose and to screen the large open areas forming car parks and service areas.
- where possible to extend the urban quality of the High Street round onto West Street;
- to improve the area around the railway station and to improve pedestrian links to it;
- to improve the environmental quality of the key gateways into the town centre, such as the station roundabout, the Quay Street roundabout and the Delmé roundabout;
- to protect the mature trees in private gardens and public areas;
- to greatly increase the number of street trees particularly in the southern half of the town centre.

Wallington Village (Area 30)

Description

- 4.125 Wallington Village occupies a prominent knoll, partly circumscribed by the Wallington River. Its boundaries are defined by the river to the west, the M27 motorway to the north, and the A27 to the east. It is mostly older residential with Fort Wallington now occupied by industrial uses.
- 4.126 The essential characteristics of Wallington Village are:
- a close knit arrangement of cottages facing the river on a single-sided narrow main street, largely forming the Conservation Area;
 - a very leafy waterside character;
 - good townscape qualities;
 - more recent infill housing behind the main street (North Wallington);
 - character spoilt in places by views over the river into industrial units;
 - very leafy character mostly as a result of trees in private gardens;
 - Fort Wallington is now occupied by industry but retains its prominent hilltop position and largely undeveloped setting;
 - the Wallington Water Meadows.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.127 The main emphasis should be to conserve the landscape and townscape qualities of the village. The village is quite isolated by natural features such as the river, but also by man-made barriers such as busy roads.
- 4.128 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to improve pedestrian connections to the town centre and down to the quayside;
 - to improve buffer zones between industrial uses and residential;
 - to improve the pedestrian character of North Wallington;
 - to form a better buffer with the motorway and the A27;
 - to conserve and to enhance the Wallington Water Meadows;
 - to retain and enhance the setting of the Fort.

Fareham Quayside (Area 31)

Description

- 4.129 Fareham Quayside includes the Town Quay, the Upper Quay and the area around Deanes Park Road. The area represents the historic core of the Town Quay. Its main attribute is its water side setting. The area is a mixture of

residential and small scale, waterside industry isolated from Fareham Town Centre by roads and the railway.

4.130 The essential characteristics of Fareham Quayside are:

- the historic Town Quay Area which forms the Conservation Area;
- the architectural, townscape and landscape qualities, particularly around the Town Quay and the railway viaducts;
- a complex of older buildings along the upper and lower quaysides (a Conservation Area) which are reminders of its former character as a thriving port, including grainstores, a flour mill, houses and other waterfront buildings of historical importance and maritime character;
- the estuarine reaches of the Wallington River with its intertidal mudflats, saltings and wildlife and the changing moods and patterns of the river according to the tides;
- lively, colourful and distinctive character of the waterside provided by boats, gravel dredgers, open space/ recreational activities on land and water and the range of attractive waterside buildings;
- the mixture of residential, small scale industry and leisure/recreation;
- the open prospect across the estuary to Cams/Wicor;
- valuable waterside green space in the form of the Bath Lane recreation ground;
- generally good public access to the waterside;
- barriers created by the railway and busy roads such as Eastern Way and Gosport Road.

Enhancement priorities

4.131 The main emphasis in this area is conservation of the existing character but there are issues relating to its connections and its accessibility from the town centre and other areas. It is clearly a very valuable architectural and historic asset and very close to the town centre.

4.132 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to overcome the barriers created by the railway and busy Eastern Way and Gosport Roads, and to make much better connections between the town centre and the Town Quay;
- to improve the overall environmental quality of the area in the form of lighting, signage, shared surfacing, tree planting etc.;
- to maximise nature conservation /green corridor opportunities between the Gillies and the quayside;
- to improve pedestrian environment between the Upper Quay and the Town Quay.

Gosport Road Corridor (Area 32)

Description

- 4.133 This area is contained by barriers on all sides. Its northern, southern and western boundaries are formed by roads and railways and on the eastern side it is contained by the estuary. The area is predominantly residential with small pockets of industrial/utilities use.
- 4.134 The essential characteristics of Gosport Road are:
- very busy arterial road, Gosport Road;
 - extremely fragmented area, largely as a result of busy roads, flyovers, the railway and natural watercourses and creeks;
 - poor environmental quality in residential area, particularly on Gosport Road;
 - grid road layout which helps permeability and pedestrian connections;
 - generous area of open space adjacent to waterside;
 - important green corridor at the Gillies.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.135 As the name suggests, the main emphasis should be on minimising the impact of busy roads and overcoming barriers and making environmental improvements to the main road corridor.
- 4.136 Priorities for enhancement are:
- improving pedestrian connections between the waterside, the residential area and the town centre;
 - improving the immediate road corridor environment through traffic management (where possible), tree planting, lighting etc.;
 - making more of pedestrian access to the waterside;
 - maximising green corridor/nature conservation opportunities in the Gillies;
 - making more of pedestrian connections to West End and the town centre;
 - maximising the nature conservation/recreational potential of green space at Eastern Parade/Salterns Quay;
 - improving the environmental quality around the remaining sewage pumping station.

West End (Area 33)

Description

- 4.137 The area described as West End is formed by a large area of residential housing including public housing centred on Bishopfield Road. The northern

boundary is defined by the Avenue (A27) and the southern boundary, Longfield Avenue, forms the urban edge of Fareham.

- 4.138 The essential characteristics of the West End are:
- large residential area including a core of public housing;
 - large scale school and college grounds;
 - large areas of green space associated with schools and Fareham College, Bishopswood and Cams Alders Recreation Ground;
 - mixed environmental quality of the public realm, from poor quality on Bishopsfield Road to higher quality on the Avenue;
 - railway forms a major barrier to pedestrian movement between West End and the town centre;
 - large detached and semi-detached houses with large gardens located on the Avenue.

Enhancement priorities

4.139 Because there is a wide variation in environmental quality throughout the area the emphasis shifts from a conservation priority on the Avenue towards intervention and enhancement around Bishopsfield Road.

- 4.140 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to form a much more cohesive environmental framework connecting the better quality public areas with those in need of improvement;
 - to enhance the external environment around the local centre and around public housing;
 - to form a stronger, better quality urban edge along Longfield Avenue;
 - to establish better pedestrian links with the town centre;
 - to enhance the quality of existing public open space, school and college grounds;
 - to improve green links between open spaces;
 - to encourage facelifts to medium rise apartment blocks and school/college buildings.

Heathfield

4.141 This area is large in comparison to some of the other urban areas identified in Fareham and we have divided it into North and South on either side of The Avenue (A27).

Heathfield North (Area 34)

Description

- 4.142 The area defined as Heathfield North includes the large residential area between the A27 and the railway line. At the eastern end it links with the town centre and at the western end it forms the urban edge. This area also includes the old village centre of Catisfield.
- 4.143 The essential characteristics of Heathfield North are;
- large semi-detached and detached houses with large mature gardens,(some converted to flats);
 - the small industrial area on Blackbrook Road;
 - the old village centre of Catisfield that forms the Conservation Area;
 - mature street trees give the area a leafy character;
 - the predominant street pattern makes north/south pedestrian links difficult;
 - more recent infill housing has further complicated pedestrian connections.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.1443 The main emphasis here is on conservation, as the leafy character of this area is reliant on the protection of mature public and private realm landscape.
- 4.145 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to ensure that changes to residential patterns, such as conversion to flats does not erode the landscape character of the area;
 - to improve the pedestrian links from Heathfield North into the town centre;
 - to improve public open space provision where possible;
 - to enhance the environmental quality of the area around Blackbrook Road;
 - to strengthen the urban edge landscape.

Heathfield South (Area 35)

Description

- 4.146 The area defined as Heathfield South includes the residential area south of the Avenue (A27). It mostly forms the south west urban edge of Fareham and is separated from West End by Peak Lane.
- 4.147 The essential characteristics of Heathfield South are:
- a core of larger, older, detached and semi-detached houses with large mature gardens located on the Avenue and Ranvilles Lane;
 - behind the larger houses there is an area of more recent infill housing with a much less mature public and private realm;
 - school and playing fields occupy central location.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.148 The main emphasis is very similar to Heathfield North, which is mainly to do with protecting landscape character. There is a need to improve landscape character in more recent housing area and to improve the landscape quality of the school playing fields.
- 4.149 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to ensure that changes to residential patterns, such as conversion to flats does not erode the landscape character of the area;
 - to strengthen the urban edge landscape;
 - to make improve the landscape character of the public realm in newer housing areas
 - to create better green links between the open countryside and the town.

Portchester Urban Areas

- 4.150 The road pattern and the urban block structure of Portchester is much less fragmented than Fareham. Portchester is also more evenly-aged in its development and has not been radically affected by either modern road schemes or large scale developments. Consequently, we have only identified four distinct urban areas within the part of Portchester that lies within the Borough.

Downend (Area 36)

Description

- 4.151 Downend is a large leafy suburban residential area served by the A27, midway between Fareham and Portchester. Its northern boundary is formed by the railway and its southern boundary is the urban edge adjacent to the Cams Wicor Coastal Fringe.
- 4.152 The essential characteristics of Downend are:
- large detached and semi-detached villas and houses with large mature gardens;
 - mature street trees on a grid road pattern;
 - a busy road, A27 , running through the middle of the area;
 - reasonable access to the open coastal area and to public open space;
 - new housing area currently under construction south of the A27.

Enhancement priorities

4.153 The main emphasis is conservation and, in particular, the protection of the high quality public and private realm landscape in residential areas. There are also issues relating to the barriers created by the A27 and the need to enhance identity.

4.154 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to protect the mature landscape character in residential areas;
- to create a more pedestrian friendly environment on Portchester Road;
- to reinforce identity, particularly along the A27 corridor;
- to improve pedestrian links between the northern part of Downend and the coastal fringe;
- to create green links between the coast and Downend.

Portchester North (Area 37)

Description

4.155 Portchester North includes the large residential area sandwiched between the main railway line and the M27 motorway. The area is made up of older suburban properties mainly served from Hill Road. It also includes a large area of recent housing located on higher ground

4.156 The essential characteristics of Portchester North are:

- an older grid pattern of roads serving inter war suburban housing and particularly bungalows;
- relatively poor street landscape;
- spectacular coastal views from elevated ground;
- open uncomfortable public realm, particularly in the newer housing area;
- tortuous street pattern and urban block structure in newer housing area reduces permeability and affects pedestrian links;
- railway line creates a barrier to pedestrian movement.

Enhancement priorities

4.157 The main emphasis in Portchester North is on enhancement, particularly of the public realm areas which are relatively poor in landscape character terms. There is also the general need to reinforce the identity of the area.

4.158 Priorities for enhancement are:

- to make environmental improvements to public realm areas;
- to reinforce local identity through environmental improvements;
- to reinforce pedestrian routes;
- to enhance public open space particularly on Dore Avenue;
- to reinforce the urban edge landscape.

Portchester South (Area 38)

Description

- 4.159 Portchester South includes the large residential area between the railway line and the coast. It includes Portchester town centre and the edge of a larger industrial area on East Street.
- 4.160 The essential characteristics of Portchester South are:
- a larger concentration of older, inter war suburban housing with a grid street pattern and block structure, allowing good permeability;
 - a generally poor public and private realm landscape with few street trees and scattered trees in gardens;
 - a ‘modern’ local shopping centre on the old high street, pedestrianised in part and served by car parks;
 - a busy main road corridor
 - lack of variety in built form, homogenous character;
 - public open space provision mostly outside the urban area next to the coastline and not very accessible;
 - no coastal character in residential areas despite the proximity of the coast.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.161 The emphasis in Portchester South is similar to the area to the north. There is a general need to enhance the public realm areas and to try and reinforce the identity of the area through environmental improvements.
- 4.162 Priorities for enhancement are:
- to undertake environmental improvements, particularly along the main road corridor, around the town centre;
 - to reinforce the urban edge/ coastal fringe landscapes;
 - to create better pedestrian links between the town centre and residential areas and the coastal fringe;
 - to reinforce local identity through environmental improvements, such as creating a more coastal feel to residential areas, through colour treatment and planting.

Portchester Village (Area 39)

Description

- 4.163 The area defined as Portchester Village includes the historic core of the village centred on the Castle and extending up Castle Street. The area is predominantly residential.

- 4.164 The essential characteristics of Portchester Village are:
- a coherent grouping of mainly 18C houses with a tight frontage to Castle Street which together form a delightful, traditional village streetscape of high visual and urban quality (a Conservation Area);
 - the small-scale and intimate character of the streetscape and the varied but harmonious rooflines and building heights;
 - the dominance of Portchester Castle with its impressive keep and stone walls and its attractive coastal setting;
 - important areas of open space east of Castle Street and surrounding the Castle which are vital to its setting and provide a valuable recreational resource in their own right.

Enhancement priorities

- 4.165 The main emphasis here is on the conservation of this area. Key issues are the possible environmental effect of increased visitor traffic to the Castle and other issues such as car parking.
- 4.166 Priorities for enhancement are:
- maintaining and protecting the exceptional urban quality of the village and the setting of the Castle;
 - managing the coastal greenspace to maintain the castle's setting.

5 Areas of Special Landscape Quality

Planning context

- 5.1 The landscape assessment has emphasised both the complexity of the Borough's landscape and the changes that it has experienced in the recent past, mainly through a process of rapid urban expansion. The loss of large areas of countryside to development is starkly illustrated in Figure 7, which shows the extent of urban growth over the last seventy years.
- 5.2 The pressures on the remaining areas of countryside are explicitly recognised within the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (Consultation Draft, June 1995) which identifies the 'countryside and coast' as key elements of the landscape character of Fareham Borough. It also recognises that these areas are valuable as a resource for agriculture, nature conservation and recreation and perform an important function in separating and providing a setting for distinctive settlements. The Proposals contained within the Local Plan therefore seek to safeguard the character and integrity of the countryside and coast and to resist development that would be harmful to important landscape, agricultural, nature conservation and recreational resources.
- 5.3 Proposal C1 of the Local Plan Review is a general policy of restraint but it makes specific reference to certain landscape resources, including 'areas of special landscape quality, the historic landscape or other landscape features including river valleys, [and] woodland...'[9]. While other interests are already more explicitly defined by designations, such as *Sites of Special Scientific Interest*, *Scheduled Ancient Monuments* and *Conservation Areas* (see Figure 8), there are currently no such designations in place that relate specifically to landscape interests. Landscape is an important component, however, of the Forest of Bere *Countryside Heritage Area*, a County Council designation within which management and enhancement of the landscape is to be encouraged through strategic and local plan policies.
- 5.4 Landscape is also a major consideration in the definition and protection of the *Coastal Zone* (Proposal C7) and in the protection of *Strategic* and *Local Gaps* (Proposals C2 and 3), that separate and provide the setting for settlements. Within the built environment, the urban landscape is a factor influencing the designation of *Areas of Special Character* (Proposal H4).
- 5.5 The impetus for further landscape evaluation and the identification of 'areas of special landscape quality' originally arose as a result of strategic policy contained within the approved Hampshire County Structure Plan (1993) [3]. Policy C1 of the County Structure Plan currently requires local planning authorities to:

- a) promote the conservation enhancement of the countryside; and
- b) pay particular regard to avoiding or minimising any adverse effect which development would have for:
 - i) the best and most versatile agricultural and horticultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a);
 - ii) *areas of special landscape quality*;
 - iii) valuable wildlife habitats and areas of nature conservation interest;
 - iv) sites of historic or archaeological importance;
 - v) areas of importance for countryside recreation;
 - vi) mineral or water resources;
 - vii) countryside of importance for the landscape setting of towns and villages, particularly those of historic or architectural interest.

5.6 Although the current review of the County Structure Plan [4] places a less specific emphasis on identifying areas for designation, it nevertheless identifies a specific aim to conserve areas which have a particular value, the definition and justification for which are to be contained within local plans and based upon locally agreed assessments. A key objective of this study, therefore, was to identify those parts of the Borough outside of the Urban Area which are worthy of being designated as Areas of Special Landscape Quality.

ASLQ evaluation criteria

5.7 In his letter approving the County Structure Plan in 1993, the Secretary of State for the Environment made two important references to landscape designations, namely:

- that areas of special landscape quality should be defined on the basis of their intrinsic quality and their special character or contribution to the landscape, which will need to be stated and justified;
- that the delineation of these areas should be co-ordinated by the County Council and that authorities should agree jointly how this might be done to ensure a consistent approach in defining areas that extend across boundaries.

5.8 Following extensive discussions between the County Council and the Hampshire District Councils a consensus has been reached on the criteria to be used in designation, based upon guidelines provided by the Countryside Commission in CCP423. These criteria determine that Landscape Character Areas, in whole or in part, appropriate for ASLQ designation should have the following attributes:

- **Scenic quality:** the landscape should be of high scenic quality with pleasing patterns and combinations of landscape features;

- **Sense of place:** the landscape should have a distinctive and common character, including topographic and visual unity and a clear ‘sense of place’;
- **Unspoilt character:** the landscape within the ASLQ should be unspoilt by visually intrusive development;
- **Landscape as a resource:** the landscape should be a resource of at least Borough-wide importance due to it being:
 - especially representative of a landscape type; and/or
 - of scarcity value; and/or
 - in a fragile condition and therefore vulnerable to change from natural or man-made forces
- **Conservation interests:** in addition to its scenic qualities, it could include other notable conservation interests, such as features of historic, wildlife or architectural interest;
- **Consensus:** there should be a consensus of both professional and public opinion as to its importance, for example, as reflected through writings and paintings about the local landscape.

5.9 Although scenic quality is the most fundamental factor in designation, in order to be designated, the relevant landscape character area should represent a combination of the criteria listed above. It is not necessary for the ASLQ to meet all of the criteria providing that strong support for the designation is given by the remaining criteria. ASLQ designation should also reflect, where appropriate, consistency with designations on adjoining land outside of the Borough.

Approach to evaluation in Fareham Borough

5.10 Our preliminary evaluation has been firmly focused upon identifying Areas of Special Landscape Quality within the **Borough** context. However, we have also addressed the question of consistency with neighbouring districts and have made some comparisons with the quality standard set within other proposed ASLQs within other parts of the County. In neighbouring Winchester District there are three proposed ASLQs adjacent to the Borough boundary, the Whiteley Woodlands, the Lower Meon Valley and Portsdown Hill. These are illustrated in Figure 9. At this stage Eastleigh District have not yet decided on ASLQ designations.

5.11 Our breakdown of the Borough into detailed landscape types has allowed us to examine intrinsic landscape quality at a local level and to obtain a very detailed picture of the pattern of quality variation that exists across the Borough. As a first step towards identifying those landscapes which could qualify for designation, each individual landscape type was assessed broadly in accordance with the agreed criteria, using the experience and judgement of the survey team. It must be stressed that this evaluation was based upon an assessment of **intrinsic value** of different landscape types within the Borough,

rather than a relative assessment of one against another, since such comparisons are generally unhelpful and highly subjective.

5.12 Our preliminary evaluation indicated that the following Character Areas contain landscapes of a sufficiently high quality to be eligible for ASLQ designation:

- the Upper and Lower Hamble Valleys
- the Hook Valley
- the Meon Valley
- the Forest of Bere
- Portsdown Hill

5.13 In addition, the BurrIDGE/Swanwick Whiteley area contains part of the mosaic of woodlands and farmland that have been proposed for ASLQ designation within neighbouring Winchester District.

5.14 The guidance produced by the Hampshire Authorities suggests that such designation should be related to Character Areas, as a whole **or in part**. Although there is evidently a close relationship between the higher quality landscapes and the Character Area boundaries, there are inevitably parts of these areas that fall short of the quality standard. More detailed appraisal of these candidate areas was therefore undertaken to identify precise and defensible boundaries for the proposed ASLQs. These are shown on Figures 10-15 and the justification for designation of the six candidate areas and the definition of their boundaries is set out below. It should be appreciated, however, that the land either side of a boundary may not always show clear differences in value, due to the subtle gradations in landscape quality which do not always provide an obvious cut-off point.

The Hamble Valley

Case for designation

- 5.15 The Hamble Valley is a prime candidate for ASLQ designation because:
- it is of exceptional **scenic quality**, with particularly pleasing patterns and combinations of landscape features, including the tidal river, intertidal habitats, dense broad-leaved woodland, colourful boats and waterside buildings, wildlife etc.;
 - it has a strong **sense of place** with topographic and visual unity and a very distinct ‘creek’ or estuarine character with a sense of privacy and enclosure;
 - it has a generally **unspoilt character**, with only localised detracting elements (e.g. the M27/A27 road crossings) and has strong natural qualities;
 - it is of at least **Borough-wide importance** as a representative example of a tidal river valley, the only example within the Borough, and one which could be significantly affected by unsympathetic development affecting the foreshore or destruction of the valuable valley-side woodlands;
 - it has notable conservation interests, in particular the ecologically important inter-tidal habitats and valley-side woodlands;
 - we currently have no specific evidence of a consensus of opinion as to its value but it is likely that this would exist.

Boundary definition

- 5.16 The proposed Hamble Valley ASLQ includes virtually the whole of the Upper and Lower Hamble Valley Character Areas. The boundary is broadly defined as follows:
- the western boundary of the proposed ASLQ is defined by the Borough boundary which runs along the centre of the river channel, although clearly the character and quality of the valley continue across to the other side;
 - in the most northerly section, the eastern ASLQ boundary skirts around the edge of properties to the north-east of Burr ridge, includes the woods and wetlands around Lynwood but excludes the buildings and immediate grounds of the Air Traffic Control centre;
 - the boundary follows the edge of the river around Lower Swanwick, excluding the built waterfront, and then extends inland to include the woods and parkland of the Brooklands Estate;
 - between Lower Swanwick and Warsash, the boundary has been drawn to include the woods, fields and parkland along the Hamble valley sides and, generally, to exclude the built-up areas of Sarisbury and Lock’s Heath;
 - at Warsash, the boundary follows the edge of the river, excluding the built waterfront, and then extends inland to include the immediate riverside areas between Warsash and the mouth of the Hook Valley;
 - the southern boundary connects the southern edge of the Hook Valley with the Borough boundary.

The Hook Valley

Case for designation

- 5.17 We would recommend that the Hook Valley also be designated as an ASLQ because:
- it is of high **scenic quality**, with a pleasing combination of wetland and woodland habitats;
 - it has a strong **sense of place**, reinforced by its natural qualities and sense of enclosure;
 - it has a predominantly **unspoilt character** and strong natural qualities;
 - it is of **Borough-wide importance** as one of the few remaining areas of intact ‘natural’ landscape, including valuable remnants of ancient woodland and former parkland which would be vulnerable to change;
 - it contains wetland, woodland, grassland and heathland habitats of high **nature conservation importance** and features of historic interest, including the remnants of Hook Park;
 - there is a local **consensus** as to its importance as a wildlife resource within the Borough, although a landscape consensus is less well-established.

Boundary definition

- 5.18 The proposed Hook Valley ASLQ includes the majority of the Hook Valley Character Area. The boundary is broadly defined as follows:
- along its northern side, the boundary of the proposed ASLQ generally follows the urban edge of Newtown and Fleetend;
 - along its southern side, the boundary includes most of the farmland and woodland along the valley sides and floor but excludes the buildings and playing fields to the north of Hook Lane;
 - from the village of Hook, which is included within the proposed ASLQ, the boundary follows Hook Park Road for a short distance before skirting southwards around the edge of the parkland and following the backs of the properties at Hook Park;
 - it then includes the remaining stretch of wooded valley side before returning northwards across the valley floor to the seaward side of the bridge.

The Meon Valley

Case for designation

- 5.19 We would recommend designation of parts of the Meon Valley because:
- it is generally of high **scenic quality**, particularly in the lower reaches, with a pleasing combination of wetland and woodland habitats and small-scale floodplain pasture;
 - the valley has a coherent sense of place along its length, although this is strongest to the south of Titchfield;
 - it has a predominantly **unspoilt character** and strong natural qualities, particularly in the lower reaches, but parts of the central section are subject to intrusion from neighbouring urban areas and intensive horticultural activities;
 - it is of **Borough-wide importance** as the only example of an open river valley landscape within the Borough, which is in a fragile condition and would be very vulnerable to urban expansion and other forms of development pressure;
 - it contains notable **conservation interests** in the form of ecologically important wetland, woodland and grassland habitats and the historically important complex of buildings, landscape and fish ponds at nearby Titchfield Abbey;
 - there is probably a local consensus as to its importance as a wildlife, landscape and historical resource within the Borough.

Boundary definition

- 5.20 The proposed Meon Valley ASLQ includes most of the Meon Valley Character Area with the exception of parts of the central section around Titchfield Abbey and along the valley sides to the south of Titchfield. The boundary is broadly defined as follows:
- in the northern section of the valley, the ASLQ boundary follows the Borough boundary to the west and the urban edge to the east, and excludes the abattoir and disturbed land to the west of Funtley;
 - the central section of the proposed ASLQ includes the valley floor and the historic buildings and features at Titchfield Abbey. It also includes land surrounding the Abbey which is of a somewhat inferior quality but which has historical associations with it and forms an integral part of the valley landscape unit. Its eastern boundary follows the urban edge;
 - to the south of Titchfield, the boundary follows features that broadly define the edge of the valley sides and the areas of highest landscape quality to the east and west, excluding some areas of farmland under more intensive management or with a fringe quality.

Forest of Bere

Case for designation

- 5.21 The case for designation of the Forest of Bere rests mainly upon its overall significance within the context of Fareham Borough, rather than the intrinsic quality of its landscape in a wider context. It has a certain rarity value in that it represents large scale mature woodland structure set within open countryside and in addition it forms an important backdrop to the open farmland to the south.
- 5.22 It is our opinion that the Forest of Bere area could qualify for designation on the grounds that:
- it contains areas of **high scenic quality**, particularly the mature mixed woodland which contains the areas of farmland;
 - it has a sense of place, with strong **topographical and visual unity** particularly in its degree of enclosure and its clearly defined woodland edge;
 - its landscape has escaped the intrusion of urban development and it retains a largely **unspoilt rural** character, a **scarce resource** within the Borough;
 - it contains areas of nature conservation value, in particular important remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland.
- 5.23 This area forms part of the wider landscape of the Forest of Bere which extends northwards and eastwards into Winchester District. Although not currently proposed as an ASLQ within Winchester, its scarcity value and general landscape quality make it suitable for designation in the context of Fareham.

Boundary definition

- 5.24 The proposed Forest of Bere ASLQ includes most of the Forest of Bere Character Area but includes a number of fields to the south which are an important part of its landscape setting and which lie within the North Fareham Downs Character Area. The boundary is broadly defined as follows:
- to the north and west it follows the Borough boundary but excludes houses along the Wickham Road;
 - to the south and to the south-east, the boundary follows the course of the Wallington River;
 - to the east of the Wickham Road, the southern boundary excludes the saw mills but includes the fields which lie along the south-facing side of a minor valley and which provide an important foreground and setting for the wooded landscape of the Forest of Bere to the north;

- to the west of the Wickham Road, the boundary follows a lane that roughly defines the edge of the characteristically wooded landscape of the Forest of Bere.

Portsmouth Hill

Case for designation

5.25 Portsmouth Hill forms an integral part of the distinct chalk landscape which extends into Winchester District and which is proposed by that District Council for ASLQ designation. Although, the parts of Portsmouth Hill that lie within Fareham Borough are affected by some detracting features (such as the M27 motorway), its distinctive landform and scarcity value within the Borough confirm its potential ASLQ status on this side of the boundary also. Unfortunately, the lower slopes which are severed by the motorway are too isolated and affected by urban fringe influences to qualify for designation too, although they remain an important area of open landscape within the Borough context. We would recommend designation of the upper slopes of Portsmouth Hill as an ASLQ because:

- it is of **high scenic quality**, particularly in its open rolling character and its sweeping views across neighbouring countryside and across to the coast;
- it has a strong sense of place, particularly as the highest ground in the Borough and as a highly prominent landscape feature, giving the area a strong **topographical and visual unity**;
- the open rolling downland is mostly **unspoilt** in character, although there are some detracting influences such as the M27 motorway and some intrusive buildings, and the landscape has a somewhat denuded character in parts;
- it is the most distinctive area of chalk scenery within the Borough, giving it some scarcity value, and its visually open and exposed character makes it particularly **vulnerable to change**.

Boundary definition

5.26 The proposed Portsmouth ASLQ includes the upper part of the Portsmouth Character Area and extends westwards into the North Fareham Downs Character Area to include part of the Wallington River valley. The boundary is broadly defined as follows:

- the eastern boundary follows the Borough boundary and is contiguous with the proposed Portsmouth ASLQ in Winchester District;
- the southern boundary runs along the top of the motorway embankment;
- the western and northern boundaries follow the course of the Wallington River.

Whiteley Woods

Case for designation

5.27 This small area of wooded landscape forms an integral part of a much larger complex of mixed farmland and woodland that lies within the neighbouring district of Winchester and is proposed for ASLQ designation by Winchester District Council. It is proposed as a candidate area for ASLQ designation in Fareham principally to provide contiguity across the district boundaries, as the area is too small to warrant designation in its own right. However it nevertheless forms an important part of Fareham Borough's landscape and ecological resources and has the following positive attributes:

- the woodland forms part of a wider area of **high scenic quality**, comprising an attractive mosaic of mature woodland and farmland;
- it has a sense of place, with strong **visual unity** created by the consistent pattern of woodland and farmland;
- its landscape has escaped the intrusion of urban development and it retains a largely **unspoilt rural** character, a **scarce resource** within the Borough;
- it contains areas of nature conservation value, in particular important remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland.

Boundary definition

5.28 The proposed boundary is drawn tightly to embrace the main blocks of important woodland that lie within Fareham Borough and are considered to form the most obvious extension of the wooded landscape across the boundary in Winchester District.

6 Areas of Special Character

Background

- 6.1 The Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (Consultation Draft) identifies a number of areas within the residential parts of the Borough which have a character that would be adversely affected by further infill development. These are designated as Areas of Special Character (ASC) and within such areas it is proposed that residential infilling will not normally be permitted.
- 6.2 Our brief was to review the seven ASCs identified in the Local Plan Review and to comment upon whether they should be retained or amended, and to identify further areas that may also be worthy of designation.
- 6.3 The basis upon which the ASCs were identified has been discussed with Borough Council officers. It is our understanding that the designation is primarily intended to protect areas of mature landscape within the grounds and gardens of private, generally older, houses and to maintain the present relationship between the size of plot and the house. This has arisen from a concern over the potential for subdivision of large gardens and loss of mature trees through residential infill, which could also have an adverse effect upon the overall character of the residential area and urban streetscape. We note that these areas are **not** intended to represent special townscape qualities or buildings of architectural merit.
- 6.4 We have applied these criteria to the seven ASCs to assess their validity and the need for any amendments. We have also considered other parts of the residential area of Fareham Borough during the course of our survey in order to identify any other candidate areas for designation. Our comments are outlined below and illustrated on Figures 16-17.

Comments on existing Areas of Special Character

Green Lane, Swanwick (Area 1 - Figure 17a)

- 6.5 This area contains a grouping of private houses with large gardens within a mature landscape setting and therefore qualifies under the ASC criteria. However, the definition of the urban boundary means that several large gardens are excluded from the ASC. Since these contain a large proportion of the mature landscape resource, we would recommend that the ASC boundary be extended to include them.

West side of Newtown Road, Warsash (Area 2 - Figure 17a)

- 6.6 The ASC mainly contains large houses and gardens with a particularly strong and mature landscape setting which clearly qualify under the criteria. However, it also includes Garden Mews, a recent development which has been very well conceived and executed, retaining many mature trees, but which does not qualify under the criterion for large gardens. We would therefore recommend exclusion of the Garden Mews development and the isolated houses to the north

Thornton Avenue/Crofton Way area, Warsash (Area 3 - Figure 17a)

- 6.7 This area has a mixed character. The properties to the north of Crofton Way have large gardens and a mature landscape setting and clearly qualify for ASC designation. However, to the south of Crofton Way, plot sizes are significantly smaller and there are fewer mature trees. We would therefore suggest exclusion of all of the ASC area to the south of Crofton Way.
- 6.8 We did note the particular townscape qualities of the village centre, Shore Road and quayside, only part of which are included within the Conservation Area and which clearly are not relevant to the ASC designation. We make further comments on the merits of protecting such areas of valuable townscape below (paragraph 6.20).

Parts of Hook Park Road, Warsash (Area 4 - Figure 17a)

- 6.9 This area comprises large houses with large gardens within a mature landscape setting which therefore qualifies for ASC designation. Our only comments relate to the adjacent properties to the west which lie outside of the Urban Area (as defined within the Local Plan Review), and which therefore are excluded from the ASC but which would otherwise qualify for designation. We make further comments on the inclusion of areas outside of the Urban Area boundary below (paragraph 6.18).

Monks Way/Hill Head Road/Cliff Road/Knights Bank Road, Hill Head (Area 5 - Figure 17b)

- 6.10 The area currently designated appears to fulfil the criteria of large plot sizes and a mature landscape structure. However, these characteristics also seem to be common to quite extensive areas of housing outside of the ASC, especially along Solent Road, Osborne View Road, the lower parts of Cottes Way, parts of Crofton Lane and along Seafield Park Road and Pilgrims Way. These areas are indicated on Figure 17b but we would recommend that further, detailed consideration be given to the detailed boundary by the Council in order to ensure consistency in the application of the ASC designation. We would particularly recommend that the ASC boundary is extended to include back gardens in properties on Hill Head Road and Knights Bank Road.

Crofton Avenue, Hill Head (Area 6 - Figure 17b)

- 6.11 Similarly, the characteristics of these properties appear to be common to large properties along Saltern Road and we therefore suggest that the ASC boundary be extended to include these.

Kiln Road/Park Lane, Fareham (Area 7 - Figure 17b)

- 6.12 The properties to the north of this ASC have large plot sizes and a mature landscape setting and appear to meet the criteria for designation. However, further to the south along Park Lane, plot sizes decrease and there is a reduced case for designation. The landscape resource in this area is primarily within the public, rather than private, realm and comprises a fine avenue of mature street trees which contribute significantly to the quality of the streetscape. Although these merit protection (see comments below), they are insufficient justification in themselves for ASC designation. We would therefore recommend the exclusion of the properties to the east of Park Lane and those along the lower part of the Lane on its eastern side.

Additional areas

6.13 Apart from the extensions to the existing ASCs suggested above, the following areas (located in Figure 16 and shown in more detail in Figure 17c) appear to contain similar characteristics to those identified above and may therefore warrant consideration for ASC designation:

- properties which lie behind the Portchester Road and to the west of Downend Road;
- properties along The Avenue;
- properties to north and south of Kiln Road behind Fareham Common.

Portchester Road/Downend Road, Fareham (Area 8 - Figure 17c)

6.14 This area has a coherent character comprising large suburban villas, both detached and semi-detached, set within large, mature gardens. This area also benefits from a particularly leafy streetscape formed by mature street trees, well-defined front gardens with hedgerows and walls.

The Avenue, Fareham (Area 9 - Figure 17c)

6.15 There are a number of substantial suburban villas lining The Avenue, the main approach into Fareham from the west. Many of the back gardens have been lost to infill housing over the years and we have identified the main area where large gardens remain substantially intact. The Avenue also benefits from a mature street landscape and well-defined front gardens.

Kiln Road, Fareham (Area 9 - Figure 17c)

6.16 Kiln Road has large suburban villas particularly on the north side of the road with large mature gardens. This mature landscape is important as a landscape resource in its own right but also forms a strong landscape feature defining the northern urban edge of Fareham and thus worthy of protection for this reason also.

Other issues

- 6.17 The review of ASCs has raised a number of issues relating to the conservation of urban quality within the Borough. These are:
- the definition of the boundary of the Urban Area;
 - the need to protect areas of high townscape quality that are outside of designated Conservation Areas;
 - the need to protect important street trees and other important ‘landscape’ resources within the urban area.

Urban Area boundary

- 6.18 The definition of the Urban Area boundary within the Local Plan Review has two important consequences for the designation of ASCs: firstly, it means that important landscape resources within back gardens are often excluded from the ASC boundary; and secondly, it means that residential areas are sometimes excluded which may otherwise qualify for ASC designation, such as the large properties set within woodland above the Hamble Valley.
- 6.19 We would therefore recommend that consideration be given to the application of the ASC designation to areas outwith the Urban Area boundary.

Areas of high townscape quality

- 6.20 During the course of our survey, we have noted that there are parts of the urban area which are of high townscape quality but which fall between the Conservation Area and ASC designations, e.g. between the village and shore at Warsash.
- 6.21 We would therefore recommend that consideration be given to appropriate means of identifying and protecting such areas, possibly through the reinstatement of a proposal for the enhancement of areas and buildings of townscape interest, as contained within the Adopted Local Plan. A more detailed townscape study would be required in order to identify the full range of candidate areas.

Important street trees and other urban landscapes

- 6.22 Similarly, in the course of our survey we have also noted important street trees and urban greenspace which do not currently qualify for inclusion within Conservation Area or ASC designations. These are important landscape resources which merit protection and enhancement. We would therefore also recommend consideration of suitable mechanisms for identifying and protecting these resources.

7 The Coastal Zone

Background

- 7.1 PPG20 on Coastal Planning encourages local authorities to define a Coastal Zone which extends seawards and landwards of the coastline. For planning purposes, it recommends that the seaward boundary be defined by the mean low water mark but leaves the definition of the inland boundary to the discretion of the individual authority, to be based upon local circumstances and the key coast-related planning issues to be covered in their planning policies.
- 7.2 Our brief was to examine the boundary defined on the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review Proposals Map and, in particular, to advise on the treatment of the boundary through the urban areas which lie within the Coastal Zone. In order to do this, we devised a set of broad criteria, based upon the general guidance provided by PPG20 and discussions with Fareham Borough Council, against which the validity of the Coastal Zone boundary could be tested.
- 7.3 It was our view that inclusion of inland areas within the Coastal Zone should depend upon there being a **direct** and obvious relationship with the coast in respect of:
- natural or ecological processes and systems
 - landscape or townscape character
 - views
 - human activity and land use

Comment on Coastal Zone boundary

- 7.4 The boundary was examined against these broad criteria both during desk work and in detail on the ground. We concluded that the current boundary stands up very well against the criteria and that only minor adjustments were considered appropriate. These adjustments mainly relate to the inclusion of parts of the urban area within the Coastal Zone (CZ) and minor modifications of the inland boundary to conform more closely to our judgement of the extent of the direct visual relationship between land and water.
- 7.5 The suggested amendments are identified by letters on Figures 18-19 and are briefly justified as follows.

A: Area to north of A27. Lower Swanwick

- 7.6 The area immediately to the north of the A27 road bridge has strong visual links with the river and the boat-related activities on the south side of the road and therefore should be included. Upstream of the railway bridge the influence of the coast diminishes and the bridge therefore forms a sensible limit to the CZ.

B: Upper slopes of the Hamble Valley

- 7.7 A minor modification is proposed to the boundary of the CZ to reflect more accurately the physical and visual boundary of the river valley.

C: Warsash village

- 7.8 Currently excluded from the CZ. We have suggested a boundary for the CZ through the built-up area which includes properties with a direct physical or visual relationship with the coast. It also includes Shore Road and the village centre at the top which, in our view, have a maritime character and include coastal-related activities (e.g. yacht brokers, mobile fishmongers etc.). The boundary also includes properties along Newtown Road with a coastal aspect.

D: Hook Lake

- 7.9 The current boundary of the CZ in this area does not appear to follow any obvious feature on the ground. There are two possible alternatives depending upon whether there is a direct physical and ecological relationship between the Hamble and the Lake in terms of tidal influence. If there is, the boundary should include the whole of this area up to the Church Road crossing. If the two are hydrologically discrete, then the boundary should be drawn along the lower road crossing below the School of Navigation.

E: Houses along Hook Park Road

- 7.10 Currently excluded from the CZ. We have suggested a boundary which includes properties with a direct physical or visual relationship with the coast.

F: Thatchers Coppice

- 7.11 We suggest exclusion of this area from the CZ but this is a very minor modification.

G: Titchfield Haven/Meon Valley

- 7.12 As with the Hook Valley, the current boundary appears not to follow any obvious feature on the ground or relate to any obvious change in ecological or visual character. The extent of coastal influence is difficult to define and so we suggest a minor extension of the CZ to conform with the Nature Reserve boundary.

H: Properties along Cliff Road and Hill Head Road, Hill Head

- 7.13 Currently excluded from the CZ. We have suggested a boundary which includes properties with a direct physical or visual relationship with the coast.

I: South East Hill Head

- 7.14 We suggest inclusion of land to the east of Seafeld Park , including properties along Saltern Road and Crofton Avenue, as these have a direct physical, visual or character relationship with the coast.

J: Fareham Quays

- 7.15 We suggest minor modifications to the CZ boundary to include properties which front the estuary and other buildings which have coast-related uses and associations.

K: Cams Park

- 7.16 We suggest exclusion of the school from the CZ as it is visually isolated from the coast by the woodland belts in Cams Park and has no obvious special coastal character or associations.

L: Portchester Village

- 7.17 We suggest a very minor modification of the CZ to exclude the gardens of properties along Castle Street.

Appendix 1: Examples of field survey forms

FIELD SURVEY FORM (RURAL AREAS) • SHEET 1

Survey point no:

Location:

Local Character Area:

Landscape type:

Film/photo no:

Brief description

Positive features	Negative features
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FIELD SURVEY FORM (RURAL AREAS) • SHEET 2

Location:

Landform:	<i>flat</i>	<i>gently rolling</i>	<i>strongly undulating</i>	<i>steep</i>	<i>complex topography</i>
	<i>plateau</i>	<i>plain</i>	<i>downland</i>	<i>scarp</i>	<i>hills</i>
	<i>broad valley</i>	<i>narrow valley</i>	<i>dry valley</i>	<i>floodplain</i>	
Land use:	<i>built land</i>	<i>industrial uses</i>	<i>mineral working</i>	<i>military uses</i>	<i>derelict land</i>
	<i>arable farmland</i>	<i>pasture</i>	<i>mixed farmland</i>	<i>estate farmland</i>	<i>parkland</i>
	<i>set-aside</i>	<i>amenity uses</i>			
Woodland:	<i>broadleaved woodland</i>	<i>coniferous woodland</i>	<i>mixed woodland</i>	<i>scrub</i>	<i>carr woodland</i>
	<i>coppice</i>	<i>wood pasture</i>	<i>hangers</i>	<i>semi-natural</i>	<i>plantation</i>
Habitats/species:	<i>wetland/marsh</i>	<i>open water</i>	<i>heath</i>	<i>chalk grassland</i>	<i>meadow grassland</i>
	<i>oak dominant</i>	<i>ash dominant</i>	<i>hazel coppice</i>	<i>alder/willow carr</i>	<i>beech</i>
	<i>sycamore</i>	<i>lime</i>	<i>yew</i>	<i>holly</i>	<i>field maple</i>
Other species:					
Field pattern/boundaries:	<i>strong pattern</i>	<i>weak pattern</i>	<i>no discernible pattern</i>	<i>ditch system</i>	
	<i>clipped hedges</i>	<i>overgrown hedges</i>	<i>gappy fences</i>	<i>layered hedges</i>	<i>hedgerow trees</i>
	<i>banks</i>	<i>drystone walls</i>		<i>railings</i>	<i>formal gates</i>
Settlement and buildings:	<i>linear village</i>	<i>nucleated village</i>	<i>scattered dwellings</i>	<i>scattered farm buildings</i>	<i>urban area</i>
	<i>vernacular buildings</i>	<i>modern buildings</i>	<i>historic buildings</i>	<i>churches</i>	<i>industrial buildings</i>
Roads, tracks and paths:	<i>rural lanes</i>	<i>major roads</i>	<i>sunken lanes</i>	<i>broad verges</i>	<i>road signs</i>
	<i>lighting</i>	<i>footpaths</i>	<i>bridleways</i>	<i>green lane</i>	<i>track</i>
Other features:	<i>pylons</i>	<i>poles</i>	<i>masts</i>	<i>firing range</i>	
	<i>earthworks</i>				

Aesthetic factors:

BALANCE:	<i>harmonious</i>	<i>balanced</i>	<i>discordant</i>	<i>chaotic</i>
SCALE:	<i>intimate</i>	<i>small</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>large</i>
ENCLOSURE:	<i>confined</i>	<i>enclosed</i>	<i>open</i>	<i>exposed</i>
TEXTURE:	<i>smooth</i>	<i>textured</i>	<i>rough</i>	<i>very rough</i>
COLOUR:	<i>monochrome</i>	<i>muted</i>	<i>colourful</i>	<i>garish</i>
DIVERSITY:	<i>uniform</i>	<i>simple</i>	<i>diverse</i>	<i>complex</i>

MOVEMENT:	<i>remote</i>	<i>vacant</i>	<i>peaceful</i>	<i>active</i>
UNITY:	<i>unified</i>	<i>interrupted</i>	<i>fragmented</i>	<i>chaotic</i>
FORM:	<i>straight</i>	<i>angular</i>	<i>curved</i>	<i>sinuous</i>
SECURITY:	<i>comfortable</i>	<i>safe</i>	<i>unsettling</i>	<i>threatening</i>
STIMULUS:	<i>boring</i>	<i>bland</i>	<i>interesting</i>	<i>invigorating</i>
PLEASURE:	<i>offensive</i>	<i>unpleasant</i>	<i>pleasant</i>	<i>beautiful</i>

FIELD SURVEY FORM (URBAN AREAS) • SHEET 1

Survey point no:

Location:

Local Character Area:

Urban type:

Film/photo no:

Brief description

Positive features	Negative features

FIELD SURVEY FORM (URBAN AREAS) • SHEET 2

Location:

Urban built form and structure

Predominant land use:	<i>retail</i>	<i>commercial/business</i>	<i>industrial</i>	<i>residential</i>	<i>mixed</i>
	<i>urban greenspace</i>	<i>playing fields</i>	<i>allotments</i>	<i>cemetries</i>	<i>vacant land</i>
	<i>village green/commons</i>	<i>communal open space</i>	<i>private gardens</i>	<i>institutional uses</i>	
Urban form and morphology:	<i>high-density urban form</i>	<i>medium density</i>	<i>low density</i>	<i>permeable block structure</i>	<i>impermeable block structure</i>
	<i>linear form</i>	<i>nucleated form</i>	<i>node</i>	<i>neighbourhood</i>	<i>local centre</i>
	<i>suburb</i>	<i>corridor</i>	<i>ribbon devt.</i>		
Street pattern:	<i>orthogonal</i>	<i>contorted</i>	<i>intricate/traditional</i>		

Architectural character

Predominant age:	<i>Historic</i>	<i>Georgian</i>	<i>Victorian</i>	<i>Pre-war</i>	<i>Inter-war</i>
	<i>Post-war</i>	<i>Recent</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Single age</i>	<i>Mixed age</i>
Predominant type and style:	<i>High-rise</i>	<i>Two-storey</i>	<i>Single-storey</i>	<i>Chalet</i>	
	<i>Detached</i>	<i>Semi-detached</i>	<i>Terrace</i>	<i>Blocks of flats</i>	<i>Mixed</i>
	<i>Vernacular</i>	<i>Non-vernacular</i>			
Materials:	<i>Stone</i>	<i>Brick</i>	<i>Flint</i>	<i>Other:</i>	
	<i>Thatch</i>	<i>Red tiles</i>	<i>Slate tiles</i>	<i>Other:</i>	

Townscape characteristics

Enclosure:	<i>Intimate</i>	<i>Confined</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Exposed</i>	
Activity:	<i>Busy</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Quiet</i>	<i>Remote</i>	<i>Variable</i>
Landmark features:	<i>Specify</i>				
Sense of place:	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Discernible</i>	<i>Declining</i>	<i>Weak</i>	
Views and vistas:	<i>Long-distance views</i>	<i>Medium distance views</i>	<i>Confined views</i>	<i>View corridors</i>	

Green character

Green character:	<i>Very significant</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Weak</i>	<i>Lacking</i>	
Trees/planting:	<i>Important street trees</i>	<i>Formal avenues</i>	<i>Private gardens</i>	<i>Landscaped settings</i>	<i>Parkland and grounds</i>
	<i>Woodland</i>	<i>Hedgerows</i>	<i>Other habitats</i>		

Aesthetic factors:

BALANCE:	<i>harmonious</i>	<i>balanced</i>	<i>discordant</i>	<i>chaotic</i>
SCALE:	<i>intimate</i>	<i>small</i>	<i>medium</i>	<i>large</i>
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Appendix 2: Summary descriptions of rural landscape types

Rural Types

Chalkland types

1 Open arable chalk downland

Smoothly rolling chalk landform; very open character with few trees or hedgerows; dominance of intensive arable cultivation with only occasional areas of pasture; exposed and elevated character with sweeping views; rural and generally unspoilt character; sparse settlement and road pattern.

114 Open arable chalk downland: urban fringe character

Smoothly rolling chalk landform but with intrusive influences of roads, masts, buildings, urban development and quarrying; poorly maintained field boundaries; rough pasture grazed by horses with unkempt, neglected appearance.

19 Open chalk downland: scarp face

Steep, chalk scarps with rough grassland, weak hedgerow structure and treeless; open, exposed character; dominated by pasture; sweeping views across surrounding landscape or townscape.

Pasture and woodland: heath associated types

88 Wooded valley: heath associated

Distinctive valley landform; strong woodland cover with ‘heathy’ characteristics in the vegetation, including birch, pine, bracken, gorse, broom etc.

Mixed farmland and woodland types

25 Mixed farmland and woodland: large-scale

Mainly arable farmland with large fields; strong hedgerow and tree structure and backdrop of woodland blocks; contained views; absence of ‘heathy’ characteristics.

29 Mixed farmland and woodland: small-scale

More intimate mix of farmland and woodland; small-scale fields of pasture or arable; strong hedgerow and tree structure; enclosed character; absence of obvious ‘heathy’ characteristics.

119 Mixed farmland and woodland: fringe character

As mixed farmland and woodland: large-scale above but with intrusive influences of roads, buildings and urban development; poorly maintained field boundaries; unkempt, somewhat neglected appearance.

Horticulture and small-holdings types

55 Horticulture and small-holdings: large-scale

Distinctive, large-scale and neat pattern of crops or pasture in plots and strips, usually in unfenced large fields; weak hedgerow and tree structure; open, exposed and coastal character; frequent glasshouses, polythene tunnels and buildings; scattered dwellings.

56 Horticulture and small-holdings: small-scale

Strong, small-scale pattern of crops or pasture in plots and strips; either in unfenced larger fields or within a small-scale field pattern; stronger landscape framework of hedges, trees and woods creates a more enclosed character; scattered glasshouses, buildings and dwellings; somewhat suburbanised character.

Coastal types

58 Open coastal plain farmland: weak structure

Flat, coastal plain; open character with very weak hedgerow and tree structure; coastal exposure evident in wind-pruning and salty air; sparse settlement pattern and remote, undeveloped character; extensive views across coastal plain and out to sea.

59 Open coastal plain farmland: strong structure

Similar to above but with the presence of woodland blocks and a stronger hedgerow structure which provides some shelter and containment of views.

123 Open coastal plain farmland: fringe character

Flat, open landscape with weak hedgerow and tree structure; influenced by proximity of urban development, poorly maintained field boundaries and non-agricultural land-uses (eg. waste water treatment works, military land); sense of exposure but built form provides protection from coastal influences and reduces sense of remoteness.

65 Open coastal amenity land

Similar characteristics to the open coastal plain farmland but with a distinctive amenity character; typically occupied by intensively managed sports pitches or rough, unkempt grassland; benches and other municipal landscape elements; windswept, coastal character; recreational activity reduces sense of remoteness.

69 Enclosed coastal amenity land

Similar to above but with a stronger structure of woodland and trees which creates a smaller-scale, more enclosed and sheltered landscape; the only example of this type is

occupied by a golf course, with its own distinctive landscape ‘vernacular’ features and manicured character.

72 Open estuary

The lower reaches of the tidal rivers where they enter the wider landscape of Portsmouth Harbour; strongly estuarine and maritime character; tidal fluctuations and inter-tidal habitats of saltmarsh, mudflats and shingle beaches; dominance of sea and sky; open, exposed character and extensive views; changing light conditions; presence of wildfowl and waders, rough water and salty smells; presence of ships and other craft.

76 Enclosed tidal river

The more enclosed reaches of the tidal rivers inland from the estuary mouth; enclosed character, often fringed by heavily wooded valley sides, which limit views inland; fringing mudflats and saltmarshes; recreational boating activity, marinas and boatyards; tidal fluctuation and changing patterns of light and texture; generally unspoilt, natural qualities.

71 Cliff coastline

Similar qualities to the open estuary landscape but with the coastal margin defined by a steep, abrupt cliff face; generally undeveloped, unspoilt character; shingle beach at foot of cliffs and strong visual separation between the beach and the farmland of the coastal plain beyond.

River valley types

89 Small-scale enclosed valley

Small-scale but strong valley landform which reads as a single landscape unit rather than as separate valleys sides and floor, minor watercourse with a floodplain very narrow or absent; visually and physically enclosed by valley form and dense woodland; natural, unspoilt qualities.

83 Open floodplain farmland

Low-lying, flat floodplain farmland, dominated by pasture; generally weak hedgerow and tree structure; open character but with more extensive views contained by valley landform; rural, pastoral character; generally unspoilt and tranquil but with some intrusive influences from road crossings or valley side development.

85 Enclosed floodplain farmland

As above but with greater degree of enclosure provided by stronger structure of hedgerows, blocks of woodland and trees along watercourses (typically willow and alder).

92 Reedswamp and brackish lagoon

Areas of open water and marsh within the floodplain, dominated by semi-natural marshland or fen vegetation; tranquil unspoilt character with strong natural qualities

and important wildlife communities; valley form and vegetation, including carr woodland, creates enclosed, private character.

85 Enclosed valley side

Distinctive valley-side landform sloping, sometimes steeply, down to flat floodplain farmland or tidal creek; strong landscape structure of woods, hedges and trees create a sense of enclosure and privacy; natural, unspoilt qualities.

83 Open valley side

Distinctive valley-side landform sloping, sometimes steeply, down to flat floodplain farmland or tidal creek; lack of woodland or strong hedgerow/tree cover creates a more open valley-side landscape with views out across the valley floor; generally pastoral and unspoilt character but with some intrusive influences of roads or built development.

Other types

93 Parkland and grounds

Landscapes with characteristics of formal parkland, or farmland and woodland with a managed, 'estate' character, forming the grounds of large houses and institutions; usually well-wooded but with areas of open grassland and individual or avenues of mature trees, often of exotic, ornamental species.

103 Airfield/military land

Large-scale, flat landscapes dominated by airfield or military barracks uses; extensive areas of hard-standing or built development; hard, un-natural and unwelcoming character; unsightly security fencing and dominant signage; exposed and somewhat hostile character.

107 Disturbed landscapes

Land which has been substantially disturbed through such activities as quarrying, landfill or construction works etc. and has a modified, un-natural character.

109 Recolonising landscapes

As above but where the process of recolonisation has begun or is substantially advanced and the landscape is taking on a new character; typically areas of recolonised open water created following gravel workings or areas of vacant land, with developing wetland, scrub and woodland habitats with a 'quasi-natural' and unmanaged character.

Plate 5: Rural landscape types (sheet 1)



Downland scarp



Open arable downs



Open fringe farmland



**Mixed farmland and woodland large-scale
(open arable in foreground)**



Mixed farmland and woodland (small-scale)



**Mixed farmland and woodland (fringe
character)**



Horticulture and small-holdings (large-scale)



Horticulture and small-holdings (small-scale)

Plate 5: Rural landscape types (sheet 2)



Small-scale wooded valley



Wooded valley: heath associated



Enclosed valley side



Open floodplain farmland



Enclosed floodplain farmland



Reedswamp and brackish lagoon



Open coastal plain farmland (weak structure)



Open coastal plain farmland (fringe character)

Plate 5: Rural landscape types (sheet 3)



Open coastal amenity land



Enclosed coastal amenity land



Open estuary



Enclosed tidal creek



Cliff coastline



Parkland and grounds



Airfields/military land



Disturbed landscapes

Appendix 3: Summary descriptions of urban landscape types

Urban types

Town centre/commercial types

Traditional high street

Town centre location; buildings of mixed age and character; traditional high street shops and businesses, often with residential usage on upper floors, and public services; high density; lively atmosphere and colourful character; pubs/restaurants provide some life at night.

Modern shopping precinct

In-town, modern precinct with many of the typical high street characteristics but lacking the mix of ages and styles of building; commercial uses predominate; car based with large areas of car parking and servicing; quiet out of business hours.

Modern retail/business parks

Large-scale modern developments with single dedicated uses (either retail or offices); large anonymous buildings of similar style, scale and character, unrelated to local vernacular; dominated by expansive areas of car parking and service yards; 'landscaped' setting; lifeless at night.

Residential types

Traditional village centre

Historic core of towns and villages; close-knit housing of varying ages and character mixed in with other buildings, usually including a church; predominance of traditional, vernacular architecture; strongly linear or nucleated form, often focused upon area of communal open space; attractive street-scapes with street trees; private gardens or yards mainly to the rear of dwellings.

Victorian town houses and villas

Low-density housing typified by grand, detached Victorian town houses or villas; set in large, private and often walled gardens with mature trees at the front and back; 'suburban villa' character; houses often divided into flats.

Post-war public housing

Mixed estates of high-rise and low-rise public housing of uniform age; set within large areas of typically bland and sterile communal open space, with limited private gardens; low car ownership and limited parking areas; often associated and close to schools and other public facilities.

Inter war/post-war suburban housing

Medium to low-density housing of a suburban style and character, concentrated into distinctive groupings of bungalows, semi-detached or detached houses; all have typically uniform layout and regular pattern of streets, often with street trees; large private spaces at front and rear of properties, defined by hedges, fences or walls; cars confined to the street or garages.

Modern volume housebuilding

Low density housing estates; contorted street pattern with frequent cul-de-sacs, turning heads and lack of orientation; introspective with houses facing each other across the feeder roads; typically open frontage to road with private space at rear of house; car-orientated with parking spaces provided up to the front door, as well as on the street and in integral garages; street trees uncommon; public space provision minimal and often tucked away and sterile in character; frontage of houses onto open space uncommon.

Chalet/caravan parks

Typical caravan or chalet-style homes arranged in a particularly distinctive layout; personalised external areas but with lack of boundary definition between plots; dedicated public open space uncommon; distinctive but low-key site 'landscaping'.

Industrial types

Traditional town centre industrial areas

Edge of town-centre location; traditional high density but small-scale, mixed industrial uses, such as timber yards, scrap yards, coal merchants, workshops etc.; traditionally in close proximity to railway or river; integral part of urban fabric.

Inter-war/post-war peripheral industrial estates

Peripheral, edge-of-town estates; buildings of more uniform scale, age and character; typically large sheds or warehouses surrounded by parking and service areas and often behind security fencing; hard, urban character with absence of landscaped setting; lifeless at night.

Coastal industrial areas

Areas of generally small-scale industry that have a distinctively maritime character (eg. boatyards) ; coastal location.

Modern, peripheral industrial parks

Similar in scale and character to the peripheral retail and business parks; large-scale modern developments with single dedicated use; large anonymous buildings of similar style, scale and character, unrelated to local vernacular; dominated by expansive areas of car parking and service yards; 'landscaped' setting; lifeless at night.

Urban greenspace types

Playing fields/school grounds

Areas of open greenspace used for formal recreation; usually flat, expansive areas of mown grassland with sports pitches; distinctively 'managed' landscape with little diversity or interest; often a somewhat bleak, exposed character but some areas, bounded by a strong landscape structure of woods and hedgerows, are more enclosed and sheltered.

Village greens/commons

Small-scale areas of public open space associated with traditional village centres; usually fairly bland areas of grassland but enhanced by surrounding built development; intimate and enclosed character; focus of community; used for casual recreation.

Modern urban greenspace

Areas of public open space within the urban context, with no formal recreation provision but serving an important open space function and used for casual recreation. Typically comprise areas of closely mown grass with a generally bland or sterile character lacking landscape structure, definition or sense of place.

Open land and green corridors

Areas of 'open land' within the urban context which are in low-key management (eg. as small-scale paddocks), are not currently occupied by any specific land use (ie. are vacant) or are managed specifically as a wildlife resource; provide valuable oases and corridors of less intensively managed habitat (rough grassland, scrub, woodland) for wildlife and informal recreation; more 'natural' and 'wild' character; usually small-scale and enclosed character.

Allotments

Areas occupied by allotments or urban small-holdings; typical pattern of cultivated plots and sheds; small-scale features associated with the built environment.

Cemeteries

Reasonably extensive areas of land occupied by cemeteries with characteristic ornamental planting, some parkland qualities (eg. mature standard trees), a quiet atmosphere and typical pattern of gravestones, paths etc.

Other urban types

Isolated rural settlements

Small-scale settlements which are situated in isolation within a rural context but which have typical and attractive rural townscape qualities (eg. Hook Village).

Low-density fringe- and ribbon-development

Areas of low-density built development (usually residential) which lie on the outskirts of the main urban centres or which form continuous ribbon development along roads outside of the main urban areas; suburbanised character of built frontages and gardens, backed by open countryside.

Large-scale institutional types

Large-scale but low-density institutional uses, eg. hospitals and defence establishments; isolated and private character with buildings set within extensive grounds and secured by distinctive perimeter fencing or walls; distinctive signage and institutional character to buildings; sited within buildings and parkland of large country houses (eg. Coldeast Hospital) or in a complex of more modern buildings within a more open, sterile landscape on the periphery of the urban area (eg. HMS Collingwood).

Plate 6: Urban types (sheet 1)



Traditional high street commercial



Modern shopping precinct



Modern retail/business park



Traditional village centre residential



Victorian town houses and villas



Fast-war public housing



Inter/post-war suburban housing



Modern volume housebuilding

Plate 6: Urban types (sheet 2)



Traditional town centre industrial



Coastal industrial areas



Modern peripheral industrial parks



Village greens and commons



Modern urban greenspace



Isolated rural settlements



Low-density ribbon development



Large-scale institutional