



# **NORTH WESSEX DOWNS**

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## **Historic Landscape Characterisation Report**



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**July 2012**

**Collated by Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy**  
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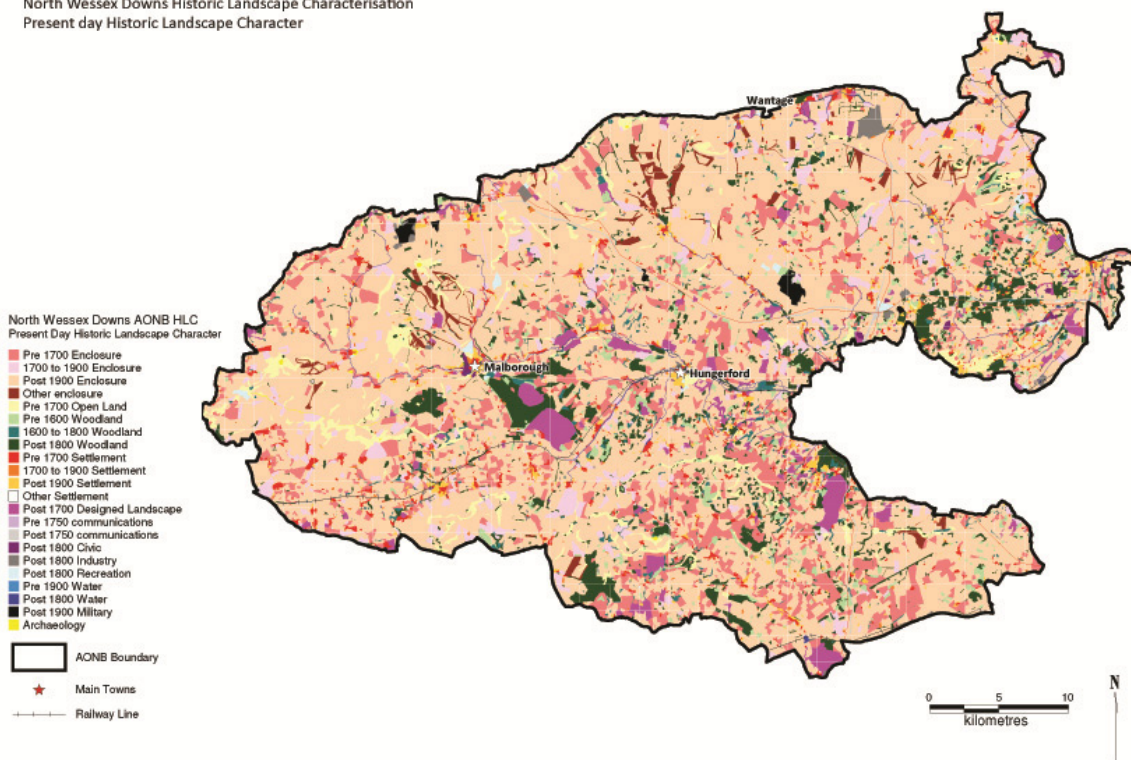


## Historic Landscape Characterisation

# Section 1: Introducing the North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Dataset

Version 1

North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation  
 Present day Historic Landscape Character



### Summary

*A brief introduction to the North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation*



Created by Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy April 2012

## 1.1 Introducing Historic Landscape Characterisation

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

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

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

## 1.2 The Guiding Principles of Historic Landscape Characterisation

All Historic Landscape Characterisation Projects undertaken are underpinned by a series of guiding principles: -

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

It is also crucial that this project has a clear definition of what is meant by landscape.

This project defines Landscape as: -

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

### **1.3 Introducing the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

This is a nationally designated landscape covering 1730 sq km (the third largest AONB nationally with a population of only 125,000 people. It is surrounded by significant urban centres or Reading, Newbury, Basingstoke, Andover, Swindon and Didcot. It encompasses 173 parishes and straddles the boundaries of two counties (Hampshire, Oxfordshire), three unitary authorities (Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, West Berkshire Council) and four district councils (Test Valley, Basingstoke and Deane, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse).

### **1.4 Background to the North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset was completed in 2006 by Melissa Conway. The original dataset was created for the area of the North Wessex Downs AONB and the whole of the district of Wessex Berkshire. The dataset has been subsequently cut to the AONB boundary and the maps and historic landscape descriptions in this report relate to the AONB only.

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

The main aims of the Historic Landscape Characterisation are to help the North Wessex Downs AONB to:

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

The HLC can be used to:

- add to the information about the landscape held by the AONB
- raise awareness of the special nature of the area
- develop a sense of identity for the AONB
- inform planning decision making and minimise the adverse environmental impact of new development
- offer integrated management advice
- feed into the AONB Management Plan

### **1.5 About the North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation consists of two elements

1. A GIS dataset
2. Historic Landscape Type descriptions (see Section 3 of this document)

The HLC dataset was created using a desk-based programme of GIS mapping and analysis which draws on a wide variety of data sources. These included modern maps, historic maps, aerial photographs, place name studies, SMR data and local archaeological and historical knowledge and research.

These sources were used to identify and group archaeological, historic and other environmental attributes attached to land parcels. This allowed the creation of multiple and hierarchical historic landscape types each with their own distinct and recognisable character. The distribution of these types can be mapped in GIS and are supported by written descriptions.

This HLC used modern and historic mapping, aerial photography and archaeological and environmental information to assess how each land parcel has evolved (Conway: pers.comm). Areas of similar evolution are assessed together and mapped as polygons in the GIS with the attributes related in an internal database. Information in the database is split into three sections: current land use; earlier land use; and information about the polygon (land parcel) itself. See Section 4 for more information on how to use the HLC dataset.

Twelve broad character groups were identified and 50 plus Historic Landscape Types. In relation to past Historic Landscape Types the North Wessex Downs AONB HLC adopts an approach which uses a system of multiple previous land types, recorded along with their source, and period of origin.

The North Wiltshire Downs AONB & West Berkshire HLC also incorporates an element of settlement character analysis, for example separating the suburban or village edge from the historic core.

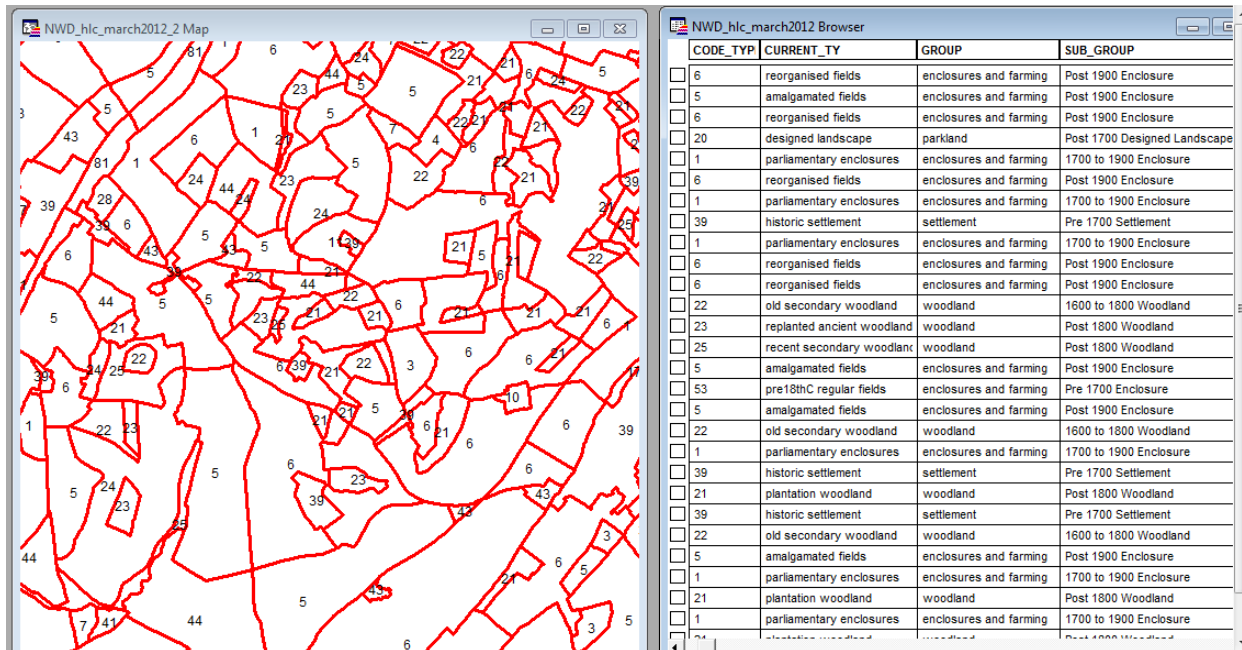




## Historic Landscape Characterisation

# Section 2: Brief Guide to the North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Dataset

Version 1



### Summary

*A brief guide to the North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation*



Created by Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy July 2012

The starting point for the North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation is the present day landscape as observed on modern maps and aerial photographs.

We are looking to record the historic landscape character of the landscape which can be seen today.

*The primary product produced is a computerised map created in GIS (Geographical Information System) attached to a table of data.*

## THIS PRODUCT IS CREATED IN EIGHT STAGES

### ➤ STAGE 1

The first step is to **identify individual parcels of land which share both a common form (technically known as morphology) and a common land use history (often referred to as timedepth)**. In this step comparison between modern maps and historic maps is crucial. These individual parcels are known as ‘polygons’ in GIS.

#### IN ORDER TO BE IN A PARCEL (POLYGON) EACH UNIT OF LAND NEEDS TO HAVE

#### BOTH

##### THE SAME MORPHOLOGY

Any piece of land in the AONB can be attributed to a broad type which can be seen in the landscape. These broad types include fields, woodland, water or settlement. Each of these broad types exhibits variations in appearance. Units of land can be grouped together to form a parcel(polygon) where their form is the same – they can be said to have shared morphology.

*E.g. Shared Morphology in the case of fields, for example, would include factors such as the shape and size of the fields, whether the boundaries are straight or curving, and whether the boundaries are hedge or fenced.*

&

##### THE SAME LAND USE HISTORY

Any area of land in the AONB has a primary character which has evolved from a particular historical process and dates from a certain period of land use. The land might also have evidence of previous land uses which survive as fragments. Units of land can be grouped together to form a parcel(polygon) where they share this layered history of land use often called ‘Timedepth’.

*E.g. Shared Land Use in the case of fields, for example, might be a 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldscape of large irregular fields which contains some surviving hedged boundaries which are traces of earlier, smaller, regular fields first created in the 19th century.*

In order to undertake this process historic map based sources need to be used. These include 18th Century county based maps, Ordnance Survey Historic 6 inch: 1 mile maps (1843-1939) . See section 5 for a full list. These can be used to identify and date changes in land use which can be compared with the modern day landscape, and thereby identify land use history. However these maps only provide snapshots in time, some of them have patchy coverage of the AONB, and the earliest only dates back to the mid 18th Century. This means that the morphology of the land parcels is also crucial in identifying land use history especially for identifying change which occurred before the 18th century.



➤ **STAGE TWO**

Once a parcel of land has been identified **its shape is added to a computerised map (in GIS)** using the Modern OS Mastermap as a base. This shape (polygon) is attached to a table where information about the parcel of land is recorded.

➤ **STAGE THREE**

The next step **is record relevant data on the morphology of each parcel of land (polygon).**

The information added at this stage includes: -

- Unique number for each parcel
- The size of the parcel of land
- The date it was created and the person who undertook the identification
- Place name evidence
- The morphology of the parcel of land where appropriate (recorded for fields, woodland and settlement)
- For fields only information is recorded on field shape, type of boundary, field size and amount of boundary loss or gain since the 20th century.

Field Name	Field Type	Description	Required
ID	Numeric	ID number for HLC polygon	Y
DIGITISER	Text	name of polygon creator	Y
DIGIT_DATE	Date	date of polygon creation	Y
HECTARES	Numeric	area of polygon	Y
MORPH_PATN	Text	dominant morphology pattern of polygon, e.g. curvilinear boundaries, nucleated settlement. Recorded for broad HLC types enclosures, woodland and settlement and not where inappropriate, e.g. Utilities.	Y
MPH_INT_BD	Text	dominant boundary type within a polygon where it contains multiple land parcels, e.g. straight, curving, sinuous.	Y
BNDRY_LOSS	Numeric	number of field boundaries lost in amalgamation of fields	N
BNDRY_GAIN	Numeric	number of field boundaries gained in division of fields	N
NO_OF_FIEL	Numeric	number of fields contained within polygon	N
NAME	Text	name of town, village or farm	N
STATUS	Text	whether the land-use of the polygon is current, values active or inactive, mainly used for army bases and quarries.	N

➤ **STAGE FOUR**

**The parcel of land is then allocated a CURRENT HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE.**

This type represents the historic landscape character present in the modern day landscape.

It is important that it is recorded why each parcel of land/polygon/group was allocated a particular Current Historic Landscape Type, so that the decision making process is transparent.

Therefore, for each parcel of land/polygon/group information is recorded on: -

- The primary map source used to help identify the Current Historic Landscape Type
- The broad time period the parcel of land dates from
- The certainty of identification

Field Name	Field Type	Description	Required
CODE_TYPE	Numeric	coded value for current land-use – term for full land-use type name contained in CURRENT_TY	Y
CURRENT_TY	Text	HLC type of polygon, e.g. <i>ancient woodland, modern settlement, etc.</i>	Y
PERIOD	Text	broad period of land-use origin – <i>prehistoric, medieval, 20<sup>th</sup> Century.</i>	Y
MOD_SOURCE	Text	coded value for source used to identify land-use type	Y
SOURCE_NAM	Text	source from which current land-use identified	Y
SOURCE_DAT	Text	date of source used	Y
CONFIDENCE	Text	how solid the interpretation of a polygon is, four values; cert, prob, poss, unsure	Y

#### ➤ STAGE FIVE

**If there is time depth present, a land parcel/polygon will then be assigned up to three Previous Historic Landscape Types where evidence for previous land uses survives in the modern day landscape.**

*E.g. Example of Previous Historic Landscape Types assigned to a Land Parcel (polygon)*

<b>Current Type</b>	>	<b>Previous Type 1</b>	>	<b>Previous Type 2</b>	>	<b>Previous Type 3</b>
amalgamated fields	>	Parliamentary enclosures	>	open field	>	None
<i>(Period mid-C20<sup>th</sup> to present</i>	>	<i>Mid C18<sup>th</sup> to mid C19<sup>th</sup></i>	>	<i>Medieval</i>	>	<i>N/A)</i>
<i>(Source modern OS map</i>	>	<i>inclosure map</i>	>	<i>inclosure map</i>	>	<i>N/A)</i>

For each Previous Historic Landscape Type parcel of land identified information is recorded on: -

- The primary map source used to help identify the Previous Historic Landscape Type make the decision
- The broad time period the parcel of land dates from

Field Name	Field Type	Description	Required
PREV1_TYP	Numeric	coded value for most recent previous land-use (term for full land-use type name contained in PRV1_TYPE)	N
PRV1_TYPE	Text	most recent (first) previous HLC type of polygon	N
PRV1_PERIO	Text	broad period of land-use origin	N
SOURCE_1	Text	coded value for source used to identify land-use type	N
SOURCE1_NAM	Text	source from which current land-use identified	N
SOURCE1_DA	Text	date of source used	N
PREV2_TYP	Numeric	coded value for most recent previous land-use (term for full land-use type name contained in PRV1_TYPE)	N
PRV2_TYPE	Text	second previous HLC type of polygon	N
PRV2_PERIO	Text	broad period of land-use origin	N
SOURCE_2	Text	coded value for source used to identify land-use type	N
SOURCE2_NAM	Text	source from which current land-use identified	N
SOURCE2_DA	Text	date of source used	N
PREV3_TYP	Numeric	coded value for most recent previous land-use (term for full land-use type name contained in PRV1_TYPE)	N
PRV3_TYPE	Text	third previous HLC type of polygon	N
PRV3_PERIO	Text	broad period of land-use origin	N
SOURCE_3	Text	coded value for source used to identify land-use type	N
SOURCE3_NAM	Text	source from which current land-use identified	N
SOURCE3_DA	Text	date of source used	N

➤ **STAGE SIX**

The mapping and recording process is repeated (Stages 1 to 5) for every unit of land in the AONB until the individual parcels of land seamlessly cover the whole AONB.

**The computerised map with attached data is now complete**

➤ **STAGE SEVEN**

To aid interpretation each current and previous historic landscape type identified was arranged into an hierarchical structure, where Historic Landscape Types were grouped together into Sub Groups and Broad Types

**Broad Type** > **Sub Group** > **Historic Landscape Type**

For example

**Enclosed Land** > **Pre 1700 Enclosure** > **Assarted Enclosures**

This allows maps of Post 1600 woodland or maps of area where pre 1700 enclosure survives to be created quickly and easily without complex querying of the HLC Dataset.

Field Name	Field Type	Description	Required
CODE_TYPE	Numeric	coded value for current land-use – term for full land-use type name contained in CURRENT_TY	Y
BROAD_TYPE	Text	broad HLC type of polygon, e.g. <i>enclosures, civic, industrial, woodland, etc.</i>	Y
SUB_GROUP	Text	Sub Group e.g Pre 1700 open Land or Post 1900 enclosure	Y
CURRENT_TY	Text	HLC type of polygon, e.g. <i>ancient woodland, modern settlement, etc.</i>	Y
PREV1_GROUP*	Text	Broad previous HLC type of polygon, e.g. <i>enclosures, civic, industrial, woodland, etc.</i>	N
PREV1_SUBGROUP	Text	Sub Group e.g Pre 1700 open Land or Pre 1700 enclosure	N
PREV1_TYP	Numeric	Coded value for previous HLC Type of polygon	N
PRV1_TYPE	Text	most recent (first) previous HLC type of polygon	N

\*Repeated for Previous Types 2 & 3 where necessary

## ➤ STAGE EIGHT

The completed dataset of the AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation consisted of 11451 parcels of land recorded in a computerised map called a Geographical Information System (GIS).

Each of these parcels had an entry in an associated data table which contained over 25 different columns into which information could be entered. The dataset therefore contained over 200, 000 separate pieces of information.

**The flexibility of the GIS system means that it is possible to analyse and map any aspect of the data.**

As an example, analysis could include the following: -

- Maps showing which parcels of land have been assigned a particular Historic Landscape Type
- Numerical calculations indicating what percentage of fields have a certain morphology
- Map showing which settlements are associated with a particular place name AND are associated with a particular Previous Historic Landscape Type

This flexibility and power is limited of course by the time constraints of the project, so only certain aspects of the information contained in the dataset could be explored in detail.



**NORTH WESSEX DOWNS**  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## Historic Landscape Characterisation

### Section 3: Present Day Historic Landscape Character Map

Version 2

#### Summary

*The Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset can be used to create a whole range of maps displaying information on the Historic Landscape Character of the North Wessex Downs AONB. This map shows the dominant Historic Landscape Character in the present day landscape of the AONB. This is normally the map that is used for primary display purposes in reports, and for promotion*



**HLC Dataset Created by Melissa Conway August 2006, updated December 2007  
HLC Dataset updated and Present Day HLC Map created by  
Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy July 2012**

North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation  
Present day Historic Landscape Character

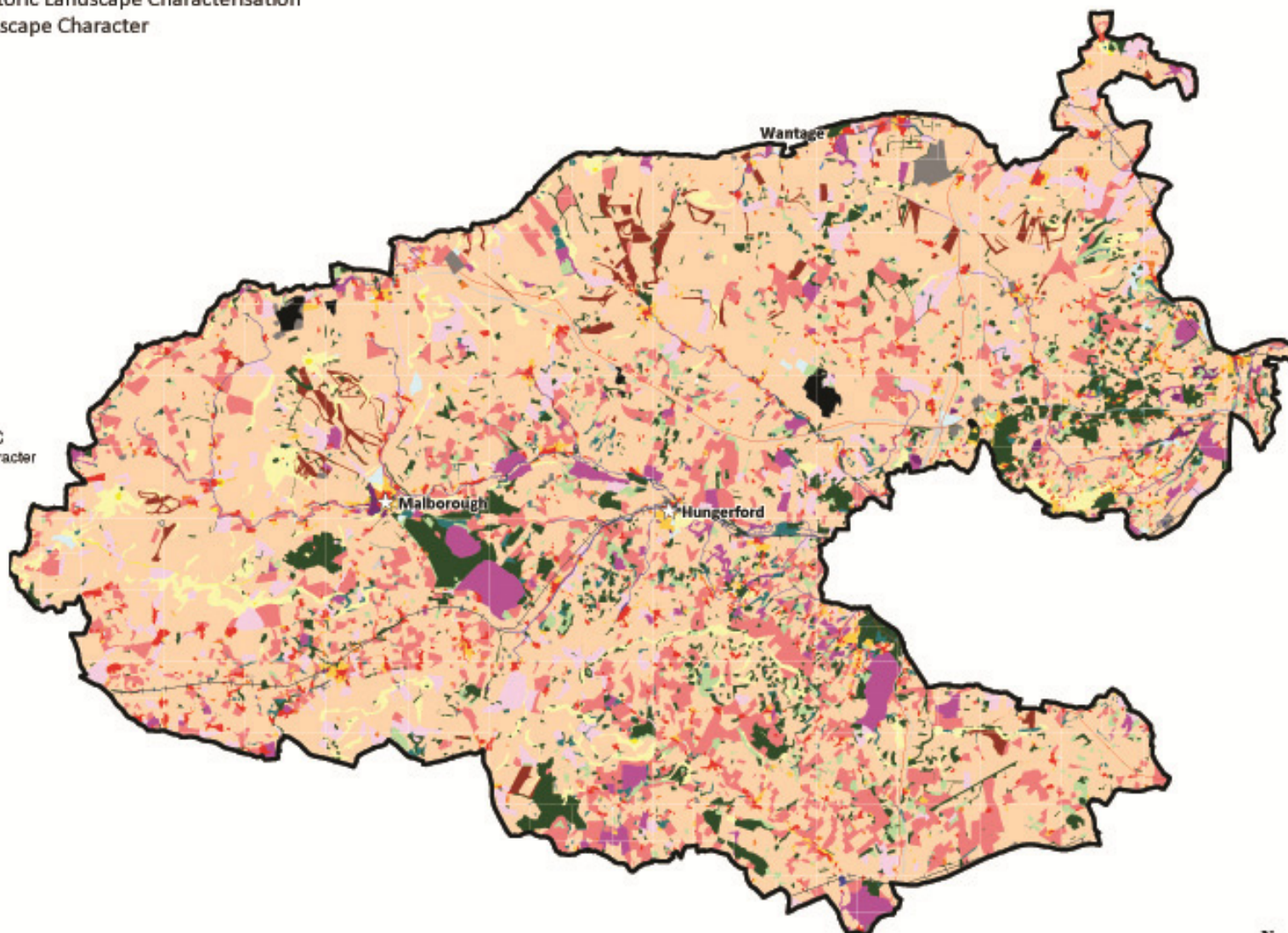
North Wessex Downs AONB HLC  
Present Day Historic Landscape Character

- Pre 1700 Enclosure
- 1700 to 1900 Enclosure
- Post 1900 Enclosure
- Other enclosure
- Pre 1700 Open Land
- Pre 1600 Woodland
- 1600 to 1800 Woodland
- Post 1800 Woodland
- Pre 1700 Settlement
- 1700 to 1900 Settlement
- Post 1900 Settlement
- Other Settlement
- Post 1700 Designed Landscape
- Pre 1750 communications
- Post 1750 communications
- Post 1800 Civic
- Post 1800 Industry
- Post 1800 Recreation
- Pre 1900 Water
- Post 1800 Water
- Post 1900 Military
- Archaeology

□ AONB Boundary

★ Main Towns

—+—+—+—+— Railway Line



0 5 10  
kilometres







**NORTH WESSEX DOWNS**  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## Historic Landscape Characterisation

### Section 4: Previous Historic Landscape Character Map

Version 2

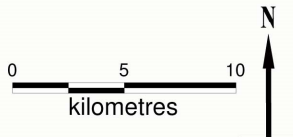
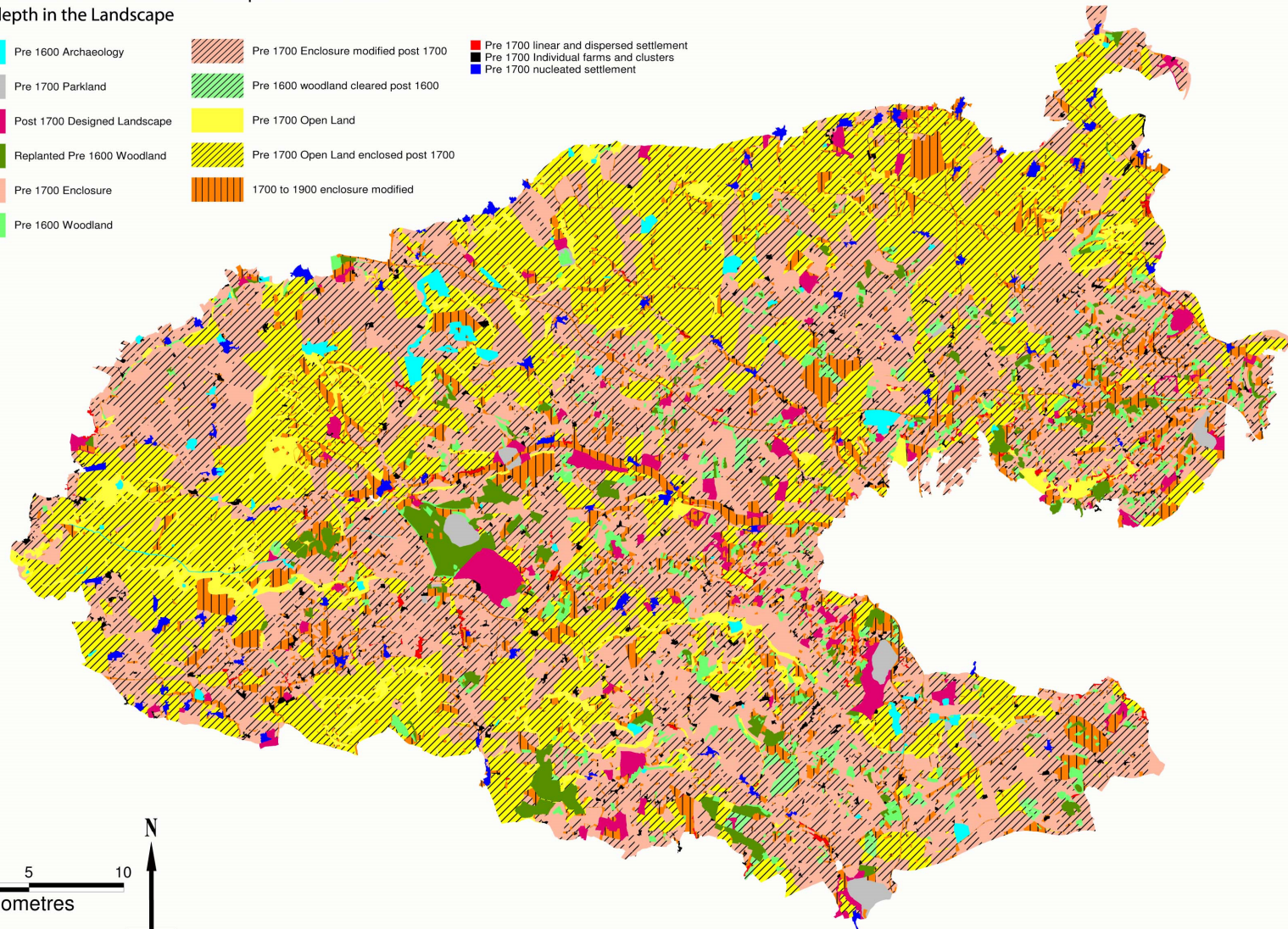
#### Summary

*The Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset can be used to create a whole range of maps displaying information on the Historic Landscape Character of the North Wessex Downs AONB. This map shows an overview of the time depth of human land use present in today's AONB landscape.*



**HLC Dataset Created by Melissa Conway August 2006, updated December 2007  
HLC Dataset updated and Present Day HLC Map created by  
Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy April 2012**

North Wessex Downs Historic Landscape Characterisation  
 Timedepth in the Landscape





**NORTH WESSEX DOWNS**  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

### **Section 5: Description of Historic Landscape Types**

**Version 2**

#### *Summary*

*This section describes each individual Historic Landscape Type identified in the North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset*

**Description of HLT Types Version 1 Created by Melissa Conway August 2006, updated December 2007  
Description of HLT Types Version 2 Created by Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy July 2012**

This section contains descriptions of each Historic Landscape Type identified in the North Wessex Downs AONB. **See Section 2 for a guide to the HLC Dataset.**

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

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

If there is **time depth present** any polygon/parcel of land can be assigned up to three **Previous Historic Landscape Types** where evidence for previous land uses survives in the modern day landscape.

Each Historic Landscape Type exists as a series of nested layers. This hierarchical structure consists of three levels:

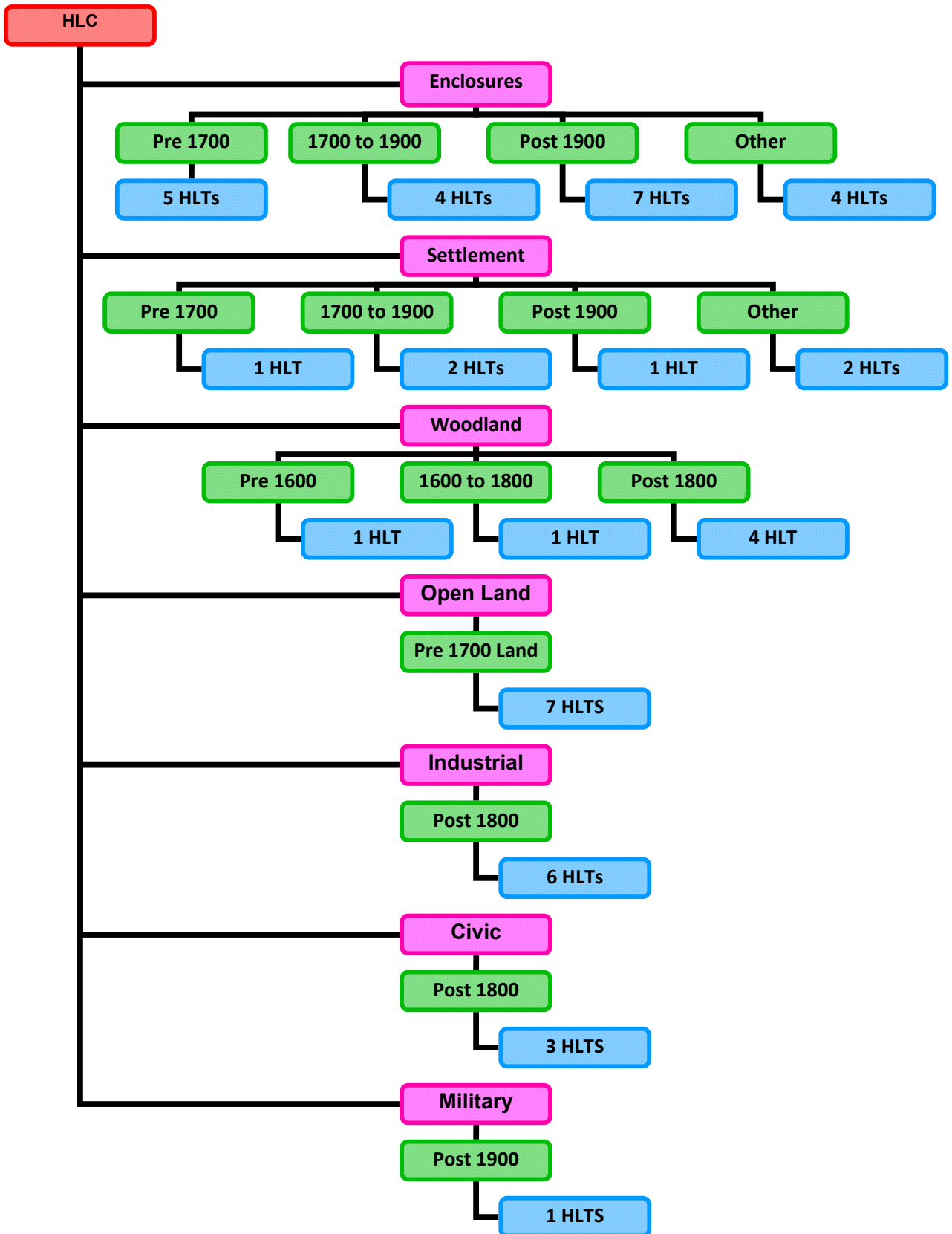
**Broad Type** > **Sub Group** > **Historic Landscape Type.**

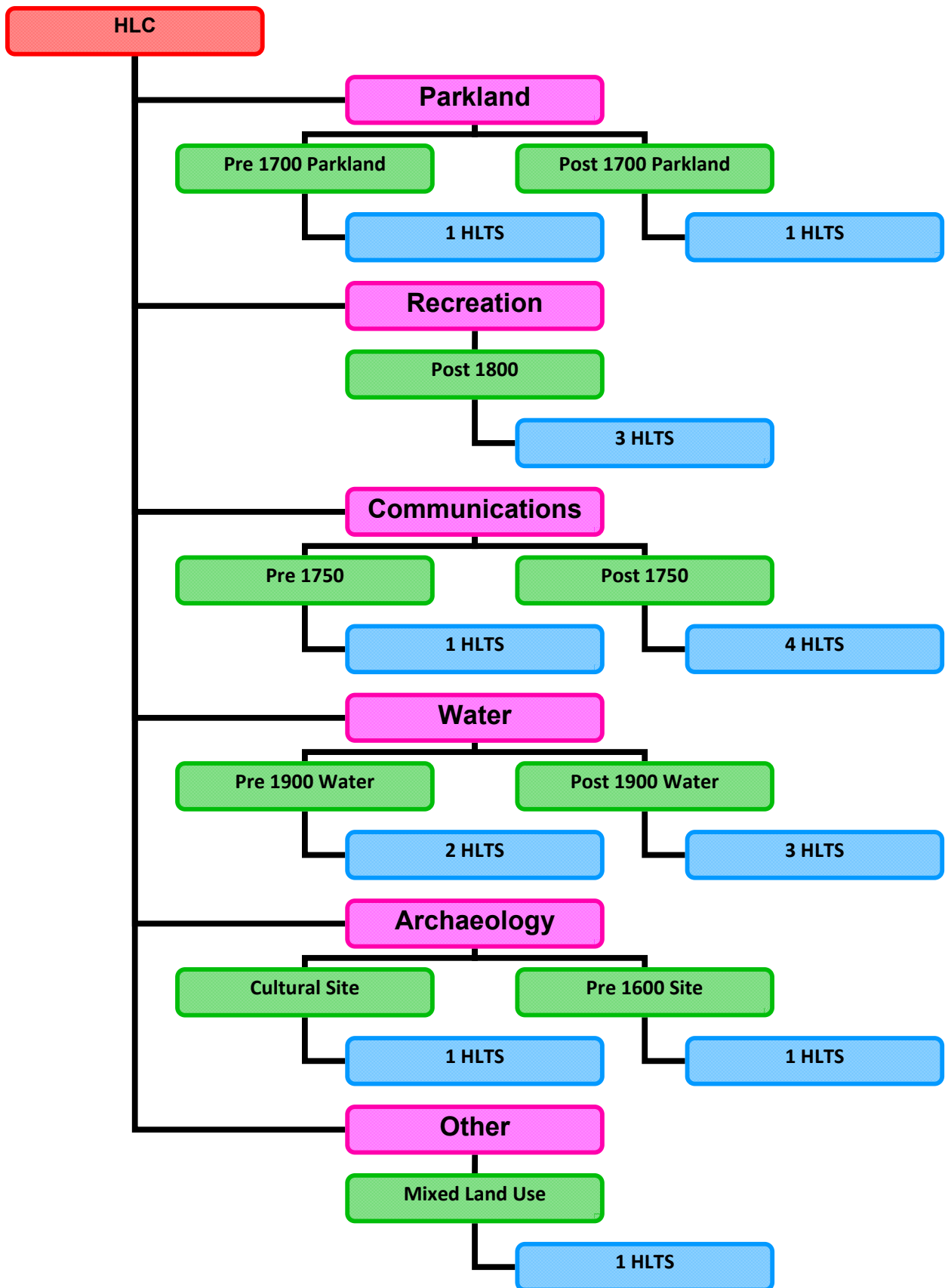
Each **Historic Landscape Type** has its own description

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

Enclosures and Farming .....	23
Settlement.....	45
Woodland .....	54
Open Land .....	62
Industrial and Commercial .....	71
Civic .....	79
Military .....	84
Parkland and Designed.....	87
Recreation .....	91
Communications .....	96
Water and Water Management.....	103
Archaeology.....	110
Other .....	120

Each section includes a general introduction to the Broad Type, and a organisational table illustrating the hierarchy of Historic Landscape Types which are nested under each Broad Historic Landscape Type and key statistics.







Each **Historic Landscape Type** description containing the following information:

<b>Identifier</b>	
Sub Group	The Sub Group in which the Historic Landscape Type sits
Historic Landscape Type Name	Name of the Historic Landscape Type
Historic Landscape Type Number	Unique Number
<b>Table of Statistics</b>	
Present Day (ha)	Area in hectares which the historic landscape type occurs as the dominant present day type (Year 2007 coverage)
% of AONB Area in present day	% of AONB covered in present day
Occurrence Today	assessed relative to other Historic Landscape Types as a measure of how common place or rare the Type is across the AONB as a whole. See below for more detailed note*
Previous (Ha)	the total area in hectares in the AONB at the in which this Historic Landscape Type is recorded as a previous type
Total Coverage (Current (Ha)+Previous(Ha))	the total area in hectares in the AONB that has been allocated this Historic Landscape Type at any identified point in time
% of AONB Area in total	The expression of this total coverage as a % of the AONB.
<b>Descriptive Text</b>	
Description	Description of the type including distribution, principal historical processes and typical historical components
Period	The predominant time period from which the type dates
Trajectory of change since 1700	Amount of change the type has undergone since 1700
Contribution to Potential Biodiversity	The potential of this type to be associated with important habitats
Archaeological Potential	The potential of this type to be associated with archaeological sites or finds
Management Outcomes	Attributes of this type which it would be desirable to retain through management

**\*Calculations to assess Occurance Today %**

<i>Less than 0.01 % of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Very Rare</i>
<i>Greater than 0.01% to 0.1% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Rare</i>
<i>Greater than 0.1% to 1% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Scarce</i>
<i>Greater than 1% to 5% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Uncommon</i>
<i>Greater than 5% to 10% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Occasional</i>
<i>Greater than 10% to 20% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Frequent</i>
<i>Greater than 20% to 30% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Common</i>
<i>Greater than 40% of the Total Area of the AONB</i>	<i>Abundant</i>

*(NB This quantitative, fairly crude, analysis should not be used to replace more nuanced qualitative analysis. For example a common type cannot be automatically associated with a characteristic feature of the AONB or a rare type as a valuable survival. Further more nuanced sensitivity analysis would be needed to make this determination. Similarly settlements have a combined small hectarage but numerically may be quite frequent. This field can only be used within a Broad Type for example fields to give an indication of the frequency of the type soccurance in the dataset).*

## Broad Type: Enclosures and Farming

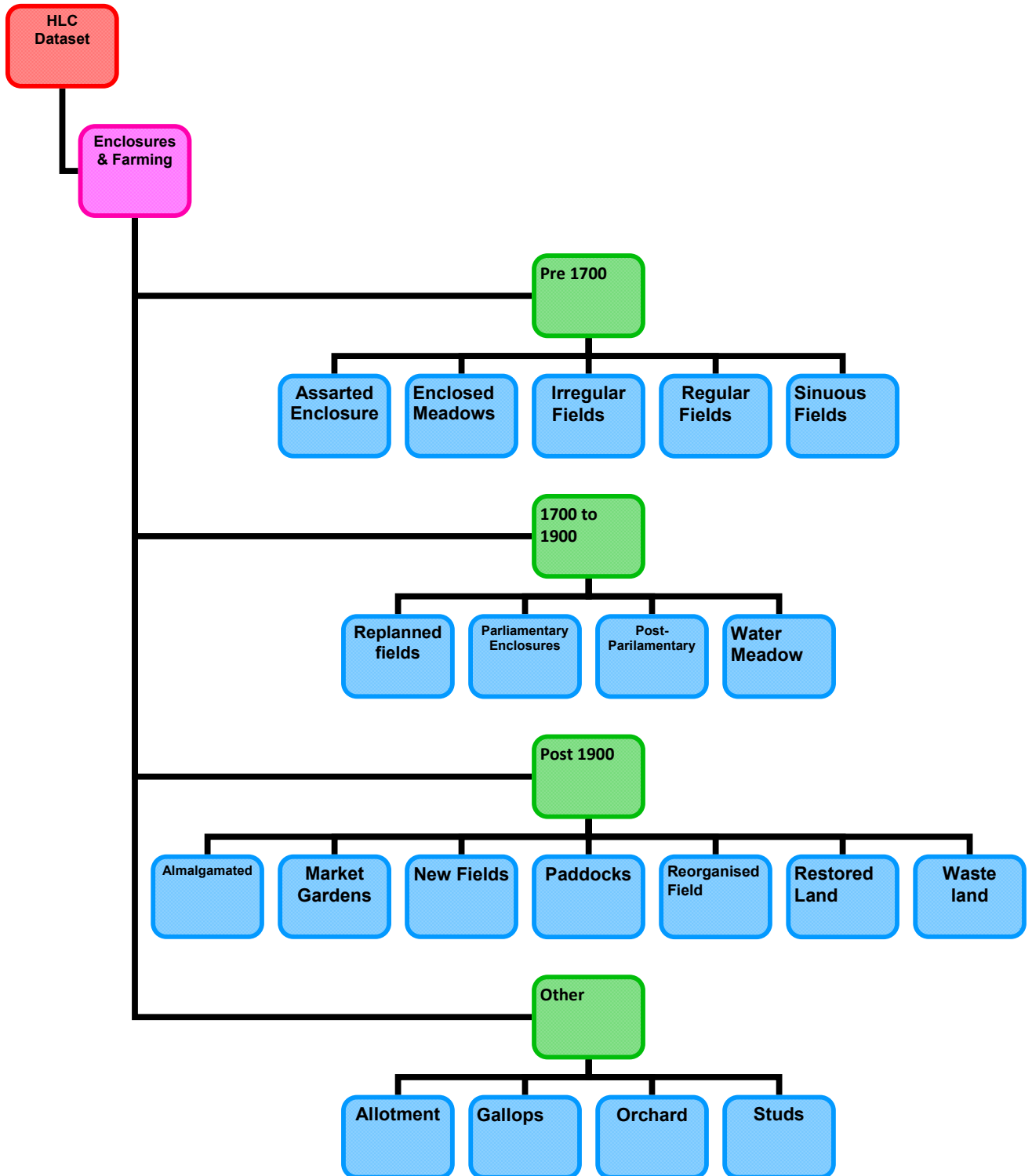
### Enclosed land and fields in the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Sub Group	Historic Landscape Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area in present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area (Total Coverage)
Pre 1700 Enclosure	Assarted Enclosures	7	911	0.52%	Scarce	2057	2968	1.70%
	enclosed meadows	81	697	0.40%	Scarce	601	1299	0.74%
	Pre 1700 irregular fields	3	8878	5.08%	Occasional	32310	41188	23.57%
	Pre 1700 Century regular fields	53	9227	5.28%	Occasional	25750	34977	20.02%
	Pre 1700 Century sinuous fields	15	108	0.06%	Rare	438	545	0.31%
1700 to 1900 Enclosure	19 <sup>th</sup> Century replanned fields	69	308	0.18%	Scarce	371	678	0.39%
	parliamentary enclosures	1	4993	2.86%	Uncommon	27301	32294	18.48%
	post-parliamentary enclosures	4	2788	1.60%	Uncommon	7587	10375	5.94%
	water meadow	35	-	-	-	1158	1158	0.66%
Post 1900 Enclosure	amalgamated fields	5	23015	13.17%	Frequent		23014	13.17%
	market gardens	47	57	0.03%	Rare		57	0.03%
	new field	44	14162	8.11%	Occasional		14162	8.11%
	paddocks	11	3728	2.13%	Uncommon	35	3762	2.15%
	reorganised fields	6	65317	37.38%	Abundant		65316	37.38%
	restored land	37	64	0.04%	Rare		63	0.04%
	wasteland	68	8	0.00%	Very Rare		7	0.00%
Other enclosure	allotment gardens	77	16	0.01%	Very Rare	31	46	0.03%
	gallops	12	1909	1.09%	Uncommon		1909	1.09%
	orchards	70	29	0.02%	Rare	49	78	0.04%
	studs & stables	9	190	0.11%	Scarce	62	252	0.14%

> Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
911	0.52%	Scarce	2057	2968	1.70%

**Description:** Fields created by the enclosure and clearance of woodland or common heath, mostly Medieval in origin. They are typified by small irregular fields with hedged boundaries. They tend to be sited on the edge of commons and former commons or alternatively interspersed with woodland. These fields are thought to be a sign of the expansion of private farmland into shared woodland and common in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, necessitated by existing farmland becoming insufficient to support a rising population. They are concentrated in historically well-wooded areas or with many commons. Many are on present/former common fringes along with contemporary and related common-edge settlements (i.e. around Bucklebury Common). **Assarts** have only been identified as such in the HLC data where assarting is the most likely origin for a field, as a type they are also morphologically very similar to **Pre-18<sup>th</sup> Century irregular enclosures (HLT 3)**. It is likely, therefore, that **Assarts** are under-represented in the HLC data and their distribution and numbers should be regarded as representative but not definitive.

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with Medieval origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Assarts are scarce in the landscape today, and over 1000 hectares have been altered since 1700 through field reorganisation and amalgamation, subdivision to create paddocks, settlement expansion, scrub regeneration, and woodland planting.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Strong likelihood of survival of ancient woodland species in hedgrows, their occurrence alongside surviving ancient woodlands and areas of historic commons means they have the potential to act as corridors of habitat. They also have the potential to be associated with unimproved lowland grassland.

**Archaeological potential:** Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated with field boundaries. Many enclosures remain as pasture so known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** Maintain wooded hedgerows, irregular small fields, sense of enclosure or 'wooded rooms' and visual linkages with remnant common land and ancient woodland. Potential for the restoration of hedgerows following scrubbed out field boundaries.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
81	697	0.40%	Scarce	601	1299

**Description:** Sinuous fields on low-lying ground in valley bottoms, usually next to the course of a river or stream. These were probably originally for hay cultivation but are now mainly grazing and are likely to be medieval or early post medieval in origin. Like Early Enclosures, they represent an important component of the medieval and early post-medieval farming landscape. Enclosed meadows are rare as they are only found in very specific locations by watercourses. They are found mainly adjacent to the Pang and the Enborne and on the Kennet.

**Period:** Pre 1700

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Enclosed Meadows are scarce in the landscape of the AONB as a whole but this is partly a reflection of their specific location in valley bottoms. Half of the recorded examples have been altered since 1700. In addition many more have previously existed than there is evidence for in today's landscape, but would have been transformed into water meadows and therefore all traces would have been removed.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Association with unimproved lowland grassland, mature wooded hedgerows, areas of Wet grassland and valley bottom specific habitats such as areas of reeds. Wet grassland is one of the most rapidly diminishing wetland types in Britain. Wet grassland is important for breeding waders, wintering waterfowl and farmland birds

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval archaeology including Deserted Medieval Villages, most enclosures remain as pasture so known archaeology may be under represented. Valley bottom location means that they may be associated with palaeoenvironmental material.

**Management:** Enclosed Meadows can contribute greatly to the character of individual valleys, management should be focused on maintaining the sinuous shape, the grazed appearance and wooded field boundaries.



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
8878	5.08%	Occasional	32310	41188	23.57%

**Description:** These are typified by irregularly-shaped, small to medium sized fields with boundaries composed mainly of hedges. They are representative of the later medieval/early post-medieval methods of farming in the district and are some of the oldest features in our landscape that remain in use. The majority of early enclosures have few traces of previous land-uses indicating that these areas have been dominated by enclosed farming systems from at least the medieval period. In a number of cases, however, many of these fields show traces of having been created from open fields. These indicate an early privatisation of the medieval communal farming systems that had supported many parishes.

**Period:** Pre 1700

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The majority of the recorded examples of this type do not survive intact. 32000 hectares have been altered since 1700 through amalgamation due to the mechanisation of agriculture, and in some cases subdivision due for example the spread of paddocks due to equine activity. In some cases fields have been subsumed within housing expansion, or in some cases scrub regeneration, and woodland planting means these areas have reverted to woodland.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Long duration of enclosure means there is the potential for these areas to be associated with unimproved grassland. Field boundaries are likely to be associated with mature wooded hedgerows with ancient woodland species in hedgerows which have the potential to act as corridors of habitat.

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval and later archaeology. Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated with field boundaries. Many enclosures remain as pasture so known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** Only a small percentage of this type remains intact management should focus on these areas and the maintenance of the distinctive pattern and structure of fields and hedgerows. Potential for the restoration of hedgerows following scrubbed out field boundaries.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
9227	5.28%	Occasional	25750	34977	20.02%

**Description:** typified by regularly-shaped, small to medium sized fields with boundaries composed mainly of hedges. Like HLC Types **Pre 1700 Sinuous Fields (HLT 15)** and **Pre 1700 Irregular Fields (HLT 3)** they are medieval or early post-medieval in date but have a greater degree of regularity in their form than either of these types, this is likely to be because these fields are the result of phases of planned, but undocumented, enclosure. The mechanisms through which this enclosure occurred will not be known without more research; the enclosure of open fields for Tudor sheep pastures, for example, is not easily recognisable without documentary support. The majority of these fields have been enclosed from land formerly under communal usage, most has been enclosed from open-field arable though several examples of enclosure from commons and downland also exist.

**Period:** Pre 1700

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The majority of the recorded examples of this type do not survive in tact. 25750 hectares have been altered since 1700 through amalgamation due to the mechanisation of agriculture, and in some cases subdivision due for example the spread of paddocks due to equine activity. In some cases fields have been subsumed within housing expansion, or in some cases scrub regeneration, and woodland planting means these areas have reverted to woodland.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Long duration of enclosure means there is the potential for these areas to be associated with unimproved grassland. Field boundaries are likely to be associated with mature wooded hedgerows with ancient woodland species in hedgerows which have the potential to act as corridors of habitat.

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval and later archaeology. Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated with field boundaries. Many enclosures remain as pasture so known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** Only a small percentage of this type remains intact management should focus on these areas and the maintenance of the distinctive pattern and structure of fields and hedgerows. Potential for the restoration of hedgerows following scrubbed out field boundaries.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
108	0.06%	Rare	438	545.	0.31%

**Description:** a sinuous form of early enclosures usually bounded by hedges, which are similar in origin to HLC type **Pre 18<sup>th</sup> Century Irregular Fields (HLT3)**. The shape of these enclosures reflects a preceding open field regime, their sinuous boundaries preserving the pattern of strips within the common fields. It is likely that these fields were formed through piecemeal enclosure of these strips. Some of the curving boundaries may also be a response to the contours of the topography on which these fields are found. Further research may reveal that the field boundaries may be associated with relic lynchet, which is a terraced field usually found on hillsides. This type has a very limited distribution.

**Period:** Pre 1700

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The majority of the recorded examples of this type do not survive in tact. 545 hectares have been altered since 1700 in most cases through the expansion of settlement although amalgamation due to the mechanisation of agriculture, and in some cases subdivision due for example the spread of paddocks due to equine activity are also factors.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Long duration of enclosure means there is the potential for these areas to be associated with unimproved grassland. Field boundaries are likely to be associated with mature wooded hedgerows with ancient woodland species in hedgerows which have the potential to act as corridors of habitat.

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval and later archaeology. Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated with field boundaries. Many enclosures remain as pasture so known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** Only a small percentage of this type remains intact management should focus on these areas and the maintenance of the distinctive pattern and structure of fields and hedgerows. Potential for the restoration of hedgerows following scrubbed out field boundaries.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
308	0.18%	Scarce	371	678	0.39%

**Description:** Fields created through the wholesale re-organisation of existing agricultural units during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The creations of these fields involve the reorganisation of earlier pre 1800 enclosed fields. The new fields are more regular in size and shape and have the same morphology as newly created 19<sup>th</sup> century fields in the form of parliamentary and planned enclosure. Unlike these they contain traces of the early field boundaries within their overall form. They form part of the major reorganization of the landscape which occurred from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and can be linked to the intensification of agricultural practice which occurred with the industrial revolution. This led to an increasing regularity in field shape and form which could transform the appearance of the landscape. The creation of this type seems to be driven by two forces (not mutually exclusive) firstly a rationalisation of agricultural holdings and secondly less common large estates improving the agricultural setting to their parks. The best example of the latter is at Englefield where land to the north, south and east of the Park, along with its roads, was remodelled along with roads to focus on and frame the approach to the park itself. They are relatively uncommon in the AONB.

**Period:** 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Factors influencing change:** Since 1900 half of the known examples have been further altered in the 10<sup>th</sup> century

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Since 1900 half of the known examples have been further altered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to further agricultural intensification.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Some potential for the survival of unimproved grassland and mature wooded field boundaries, also association with historical arable land associated with rare arable plants and weeds.

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval and later archaeology. Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated within field boundaries. Where enclosures remain as pasture known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** Identification and maintenance of surviving historic boundaries.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
4993	2.86%	Uncommon	27301	32294	18.48%

**Description:** These fields have been created through a process of Parliamentary Enclosure (often referred to as Inclosure in older documents) which occurred in England mostly in the period between 1750 and 1850. Enclosure is the process “by which land that has formerly been owned and exploited collectively is divided into separate parcels, each owner exchanging rights in part of it” (Sandell 1971: 1). The process of enclosure could transform landscapes at a stroke by imposing a new angular geometry where previously there had been winding lanes and sinuous fields. The scale of the impact, however, varies quite considerably between areas. Until 1836 it was normal to obtain a separate Act for each individual manor or parish subject to enclosure, but after this date blanket authorisation for enclosure by agreement was introduced, which allowed enclosure to occur automatically if certain conditions were met. The fields created by this process are usually regular in shape with straight boundaries and the boundaries are usually hedged and/or fenced. Enclosure by Act of Parliament was employed when no local agreement could be attained on how to divide the open fields or common grazing amongst local landowners/holders. The AONB area was already very heavily enclosed by the time of the Enclosure Acts so the process brought about less of a total transformation of the landscape than in the other counties. In the easrerb area as much of the landscape was enclosed by this time, the **Parliamentary Enclosures** in are somewhat less regular and regimented than observed in other areas since they were slotting into niches amongst well-defined fieldscapes. Parliamentary enclosure was responsible for the enclosure of the majority of the common meadows, common grazing and heaths. It is notable that although considerable amounts of open-field were enclosed through this process, much more had already been enclosed informally by the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Period:** 1750-1850

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Since 1900 27000 hectares of parliamentary enclosure has been altered through amalgamation due to the mechanisation of agriculture, and in some cases subdivision due for example the spread of paddocks due to equine activity especially on Downland areas. In some cases fields have been subsumed within housing expansion, or in some cases scrub regeneration, and woodland planting means these areas have reverted to woodland.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Potential for association with historical arable land associated with rare arable plants and weeds, some potential for mature wooded hedgerows

**Archaeological potential:** Good potential especially on downland areas where extant earthworks survived until enclosure occurred; many pre Medieval sites are now buried visible only as cropworks.

**Management:** Only a small percentage of this type remains intact management should focus on these areas and the maintenance of the distinctive pattern and structure of fields and hedgerows.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
2788	1.60%	Uncommon	7587	10375	5.94%

**Description:** Fields created in the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century, usually through private enclosure of parkland, woods, commons, downland and some remaining areas of open-field arable. The majority of fields of this type are morphologically similar to **Parliamentary Enclosures**; although some are more irregular in shape often reflecting the land that they have been enclosed from (i.e. sinuous fields from grubbing woodland or enclosure on downs). The type under discussion is not formed by Act of Parliament and therefore their creation appears to be through more informal methods for which there is no easily traceable documentary evidence, such as formal agreement, or imposition.

**Period:** 1850 to 1900

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Since 1900 7500 hectares of planned enclosure has been altered has been modified, reorganised or enlarged through the creation of 20th century fields.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Potential for association with historical arable land associated with rare arable plants and weeds, some potential for mature wooded hedgerows

**Archaeological potential:** Good potential especially on downland areas where extant earthworks survived until enclosure occurred; many pre Medieval sites are now buried and visible only as cropworks.

**Management:** Only a small percentage of this type remains intact management should focus on these areas and the maintenance of the distinctive pattern and structure of fields and hedgerows.

Enclosed Land > 1700 to 1900 Enclosure > Water Meadows (previous type) HLT 35

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
			1158	1158	0.66%

**Description:** Utilised sophisticated water management systems (leats, sluices, ridges) to flood meadows during winter months to prevent ground freezing and so ensure an early growth of spring grass for grazing animals (mostly sheep and lambs). The meadows formed a central feature of the local sheep/corn system of agriculture. They are comprised of enclosed fields with channels and sluices to ensure stable water flow over the meadow. Though rare nationally, large tracts of relic water meadows are found in the AONB, most are found along the Lambourn and the Kennet (west of Newbury), there are also several examples along the Pang. East of Newbury there are few water meadows and they seem to be replaced along this stretch of the Kennet by **enclosed meadows** and **common meadows**. There are no active water meadows in the district and many have been converted to other uses, either through active measures (arable fields, plantations) or neglect (scrub, rough grazing). Despite this, water meadows are not entirely destroyed and there are many instances where earthworks of the system (channels and ridges) still survive in the midst of these new land uses and could be restored or enhanced.

**Period:** 1600 to 1900

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** There are no active water meadows in the district and many have been converted since 1900 to other uses, either through active measures (the creation of arable fields or plantations) or through neglect (scrub, rough grazing).

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Wet grassland, such as relic water meadows, is one of the most rapidly diminishing wetland types in Britain. Wet grassland is important for breeding waders, wintering waterfowl and farmland birds

**Archaeological potential:** The system of sluices, bedworks and infrastructure associated with water meadows are important historic assets in their own right. The construction of water meadows has tended to obscure or even obliterate earlier archaeological traces.

**Management:** Despite their relic nature the water meadow systems are not entirely destroyed and there are many instances where earthworks of the system (channels and ridges) still survive in the midst of these new land uses and could be restored or enhanced. The value of the wet grassland habitat preserved in water meadows is becoming increasingly recognised beyond the benefits it provides over and above its conservation value. Flood alleviation, nutrient and pollution absorption and groundwater recharge are all additional benefits being utilised. The management of relic water meadows and the possibility of its restoration or creation could aim to take advantage of these functional values whilst retaining the historic assets with which the watermeadow systems are associated.



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
23015	13.17%	Frequent		23014	13.17%

**Description:** Modern fields formed through the consolidation of existing, historic, enclosures into larger holdings, usually to enable more efficient, mechanised arable agriculture. They are widely distributed, but are commonest on the downs and immediately away from the valley floors, significant amounts are, however, found in the Kennet Valley between Thatcham and Theale. These enclosures are created by the removal of boundaries between fields and are also often known as prairie fields (large open arable expanses where many boundaries, hedges and woods have been ripped out and the only surviving historic feature is the occasional farm or ruined barn). Many of the examples are true prairie fields, especially those on the downs, however significant numbers are also found that do not fit the prairie field pattern – many are in-use as pasture and/or remain as small to medium sized units following boundary removal. There is usually some trace of the prior field-system visible in these modernised fields. The numbers of field boundaries lost in the creation of each of these examples is recorded in the database.

**Period:** 1900 – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Fields created since 1900 and may continue to increase in more prime agricultural areas. However Environmental Stewardship Schemes and payments for hedgerow maintenance/reinstatement have in some areas even halted or reversed this trend.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Some potential for the survival of unimproved grassland and mature wooded field boundaries, also association with historical arable land associated with rare arable plants and weeds.

**Archaeological potential:** Good potential especially on downland areas where extant earthworks survived until enclosure occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; many pre Medieval sites are now buried visible only as cropworks.

**Management:** No intrinsic management issues for the type, however importance of maintaining/enhancing any extant historic features (hedgerows) inherited from prior land-use and not causing any more denudation to them.

Enclosed Land > Post 1900 Enclosure > Reorganised Field HLT 6

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
65317	37.38%	Abundant		65316	37.38%

**Description:** modern fields formed through the consolidation of existing, historic, enclosures into more regular holdings, usually to enable more efficient, mechanised arable agriculture. Although also driven by modern agriculture's need for larger and more conveniently shaped fields these are different to **Amalgamated Fields** as they are formed not simply through boundary removal. This type is usually created through a mixture of boundary removal and realignment of existing fields. The commonest origin of this type is where irregular boundaries of historic fields are straightened and more regularly-shaped fields are created in their place. There is usually some trace of the prior field-system visible in these modernised fields. Like **Amalgamated Fields** they are found in both arable and pasture usage and in a wide array of sizes. Reorganised fields are fairly evenly distributed but are more widespread in the arable sections of the district, especially the downs. This type is now the commonest land-use in the district and it is fair to say that it and the other types that reflect 20<sup>th</sup> century agricultural regimes dominates our countryside.

**Period:** 1900 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Fields created since 1900 and may continue to increase in more prime agricultural areas. However Environmental Stewardship Schemes and payments for hedgerow maintenance/reinstatement have in some areas even halted or reversed this trend.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Some potential for the survival of unimproved grassland and mature wooded field boundaries, also association with historical arable land associated with rare arable plants and weeds.

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval and later archaeology. Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated within field boundaries. Where enclosures remain as pasture known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** No intrinsic management issues for the type, however importance of maintaining/enhancing any extant historic features (hedgerows) inherited from prior land-use and not causing any more denudation to them.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
14162	8.11%	Occasional		14162	8.11%

**Description:** Fields (usually arable) created in the later 20<sup>th</sup> Century through enclosure of land not previously part of the farmed landscape. These fields are usually regular in shape and have straight boundaries. The majority of these fields have been created due to the expansion of agriculture onto downland areas, traditionally used as grazing, that had escaped historic enclosure. Many **New Fields** have also been created on areas previously used as water meadows and significant numbers have also been created through the removal of woodland. The majority of **New Fields** are found on the Downs and adjacent to the district’s rivers, scattered examples are found elsewhere. This process started in the first half of the 20th century and accelerated markedly in the second half of the 20th century. The fact that these fields occur in very large blocks, points to the planned nature of these fields. However, the semi regular nature of the fields and the irregular nature of the field boundaries suggest that rather than being created as part of an imposed grid system, as is often seen with parliamentary enclosure, they were created in an organic fashion, respecting topography and pre-existing features such as track ways. This means they have preserved the character of the previous open land use. This type is fairly recognisable in the landscape, due to the fact that it occurs in large discrete blocks and due to the large size of its constituent fields. It reflects one of the most recent historical processes to have occurred in the landscape and, as such, it demonstrates a high level of coherence and intactness.

**Period:** 1900 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Fields created since 1900 and may continue to increase in more prime agricultural areas. However Environmental Stewardship Schemes and payments for hedgerow maintenance/reinstatement have in some areas even halted or reversed this trend.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Derives from surviving pockets of habitats from earlier land use including wet grassland, unimproved chalk downland, historical arable.

**Archaeological potential:** Good potential especially on downland areas where extant earthworks survived until enclosure occurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; many pre Medieval sites now only exist under the topsoil and are visible only as cropworks.

**Management:** The large scale of the fields, their respect for local topography and the more frequent occurrence of fences, mean that these fields can feel very open and can maintain wide vistas across the landscape. Management should aim to retain this sense of openness. The maintenance of any extant historic features (wood boundaries, water meadow earthworks) inherited from prior land-use should also be considered.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
64	0.04%	Rare		63	0.04%

**Description:** areas in-filled and re-instated following gravel extraction. The main areas are on the far eastern side of the AONB. Most areas have been restored as fields; however some have been restored to grassland or have been planted with trees. The nature of the restoration is stored in the database under MORPHOLOGY as either grassland or woodland.

**Period:** 1950 to Present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Areas of land newly created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century after the radical alteration of the original land surface through gravel extraction.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Some of the restoration will have occurred with the express aim of enhancing the biodiversity of an area including new areas of grassland or native woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** Negilible due to the removal of the original land surface as part of the gravel extraction process.

**Management:** Management should aim to harmonise newly created land with surrounding original historic landscape character.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
57	0.03%	Rare		57	0.03%

**Description:** Nurseries and market gardens for horticultural production. Very rare and found scattered across the eastern half of the AONB.

**Period:** 20th C – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Newly created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century they mostly contain traces of previous historic landscape types including parliamentary enclosure and pre 1700 enclosure.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Potential to contribute to biodiversity depending on species under cultivation and level of intensity. Polytunnels provide less of a contribution than open areas

**Archaeological potential:** Association with Medieval and later archaeology where previous types survive. Survival of earlier pre Medieval extant banks and ditches associated within field boundaries. Known archaeology may be under represented.

**Management:** The maintenance of any extant historic features (wood boundaries, hedgerows) inherited from prior land-use should be considered.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
3728	2.13%	Uncommon	35	3762	2.15%

**Description:** small fields for keeping of horses and ponies, usually created by the sub-division of existing fields most often pre 1700 irregular fields. A significant amount of **Paddocks** are an essential element of the AONBs racing industry and are located adjacent to the many **Studs and Stables** (HLT 9) on the Downs. Paddocks have also become widespread in the area as a whole, with concentrations along the Pang and the Kennet, but these have been established on a more ad-hoc basis. Many of these are sited next to settlements and are used to accommodate pet or hobby ponies. These types of paddocks can have an erosive affect as they blur the boundary between settlement and countryside and suburbanise the area around towns and villages. The process appears to be happening on an ad hoc and piecemeal basis. This is leading to gradual erosion of older enclosure forms, including 18th and 19th century enclosure patterns and older pre 1700 fields.

**Period:** 20th C – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Fields created since 1900 and still being created on the edge of settlements.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Some potential for the survival of unimproved grassland and mature wooded field boundaries.

**Archaeological potential:** Good potential especially on downland areas where extant earthworks survived until enclosure occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; predominance of grassland means that archaeology may be underrepresented.

**Management:** Paddocks associated with the edge of settlements can have an erosive affect on historic landscape character as they blur the boundary between settlement and countryside and suburbanise the area around towns and villages. This affect should be closely monitored.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
8	0.00%	Very Rare		7	0.00%

**Description:** Areas of derelict or waste ground with no obvious current land-use. In most instances Wasteland appears to be a transitional land-use and only areas of long-term dereliction have been mapped under this category. There are few examples in the AONB

**Period:** Mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This historic landscape character type fluctuates considerably as areas are bought in and out of the development. Areas of wasteland are small compared to in larger urban centres such as Reading.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Wastelands can play an important role in preserving urban and semi-urban biodiversity especially in supporting a wider range of floristic diversity.

**Archaeological potential:** Variable depending on previous land use history and location within the AONB.

**Management:** The maintenance of any extant historic features (boundaries, hedgerows, built features) inherited from prior land-use should be considered.



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
16	0.01%	Very Rare	31	46	0.03%

**Description:** areas of land divided into small plots and rented for growing vegetables, some also support animal rearing (e.g. chickens). Some allotments date from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and have their roots in “Poor Allotments” created by some Parliamentary Enclosure Acts to account for the loss of access to common resources by very minor tenants or agricultural labourers caused through enclosure. The majority of the AONB’s allotments are 20<sup>th</sup> Century in origin and reflect the development of allotments as a means for urban dwellers to grow their own food. This was promoted by the government during the World Wars as a means of supplementing diets and remaining healthy despite commercial food shortage and rationing. Allotments very rare, reflecting the overall low levels of urbanisation in the area, and are located within established settlements. The greatest numbers are found around Newbury. Allotments are usually consisting of a plot of land bounded by a hedge and fence which is subdivided by unenclosed cultivated plots. These plots are often associated with garden sheds, water butts and stand pipes. The Allotments are always associated with villages or small settlements which have the rights to lease them.

**Period:** 1850 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** A new historic landscape character type created from 1800 onwards which reached its greatest extent in the post war period, and many allotments have since been removed. Renewed emphasis on sustainability and food security means that the numbers of allotments in the AONB is likely to increase in the future.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Allotments have a significant role to play in the protection and promotion of biodiversity. They are important habitats for wildlife as they provide food, shelter and breeding sites. They also provide an important link for wildlife with other green spaces in the area.

**Archaeological potential:** Variable depending on previous land use history and location within the AONB.

**Management:** The maintenance of any extant historic features (boundaries, hedgerows, built features) inherited from prior land-use should be considered.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
1909	1.09%	Uncommon		1909	1.09%

**Description:** Grassed runs for training horses on. These are characterised by long, often sinuous, strips of grass which are sometimes demarked by white rails. They are found only on the Downs where the racing industry is concentrated. Gallops are an iconic component of the AONB's Downland landscape. Probably under-recorded by the HLC dataset as some examples are too small to be mapped by the project, though the distribution is accurate.

**Period:** 19th C – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Created since 1800 this is a dynamic historic landscape type with new examples being created and existing examples being reshaped or modified.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Potential to be associated with unimproved chalk grassland.

**Archaeological potential:** Good potential, depending on earlier land use, especially on downland areas where extant earthworks survived until enclosure occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century; many pre Medieval sites may now only exist under the topsoil and may be under represented in existing datasets.

**Management:** The large scale of their gallops, their respect for local topography and the more frequent occurrence of fences, mean that this historic landscape character can feel very open and can maintain wide vistas across the landscape. Management should aim to retain this sense of openness

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
29	0.02%	Rare	49	78	0.04%

**Description:** plantations of fruit trees for both private and commercial fruit growing. This type may be under-represented in the data as some examples may have been too small to be mapped by the project methodology. The orchards in question are at least 19th century in date; these traditional orchards would have been planted at much lower densities than would be common today. The traces for orchards which survive in the modern day landscape reach their peak in the 19th century, but orchards have a long tradition in the area. This type is dominated by small enclosures which are typically hedged or walled, containing a variety of fruit trees

**Period:** Medieval – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Since the 19th century just under 50 hectares of orchards have been lost as recorded in the dataset and this is likely to be a much wider phenomenon.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** In 2007, Traditional Orchards were designated a 'priority habitat' under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). With their trees, dead wood, pasture and hedgerows, a Traditional Orchard creates a mosaic of different habitats. Traditional Orchards support a diverse fauna including bumblebees, woodpeckers, small mammals and an array of scarce deadwood invertebrates.

**Archaeological potential:** Variable depending on previous land use history and location within the AONB.

**Management:** The orchards which survive are still very recognisable in the landscape due to the specific ways in which the trees were planted, grown and cultivated, and the varieties of tree which were chosen and the special way the areas were enclosed. Management should aim to preserve these special characteristics.

Enclosed Land > Other Enclosure > Studs and Stables HLT 9

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
190	0.11%	Scarce	62	252	0.14%

**Description:** an essential element of the AONBs racing industry and are located adjacent to the many **Paddocks** (11) on the Downs. Some of the 19<sup>th</sup> century examples may be associated with important and locally important buildings and built features sometimes associated with larger country estates.

**Period:** Post 1800 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Created since 1800 this is a dynamic type which is continually modified as the race horse industry evolves.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Low, surrounding area may have higher potential see Paddocks (HLT 11)and Gallops (HLT 12)

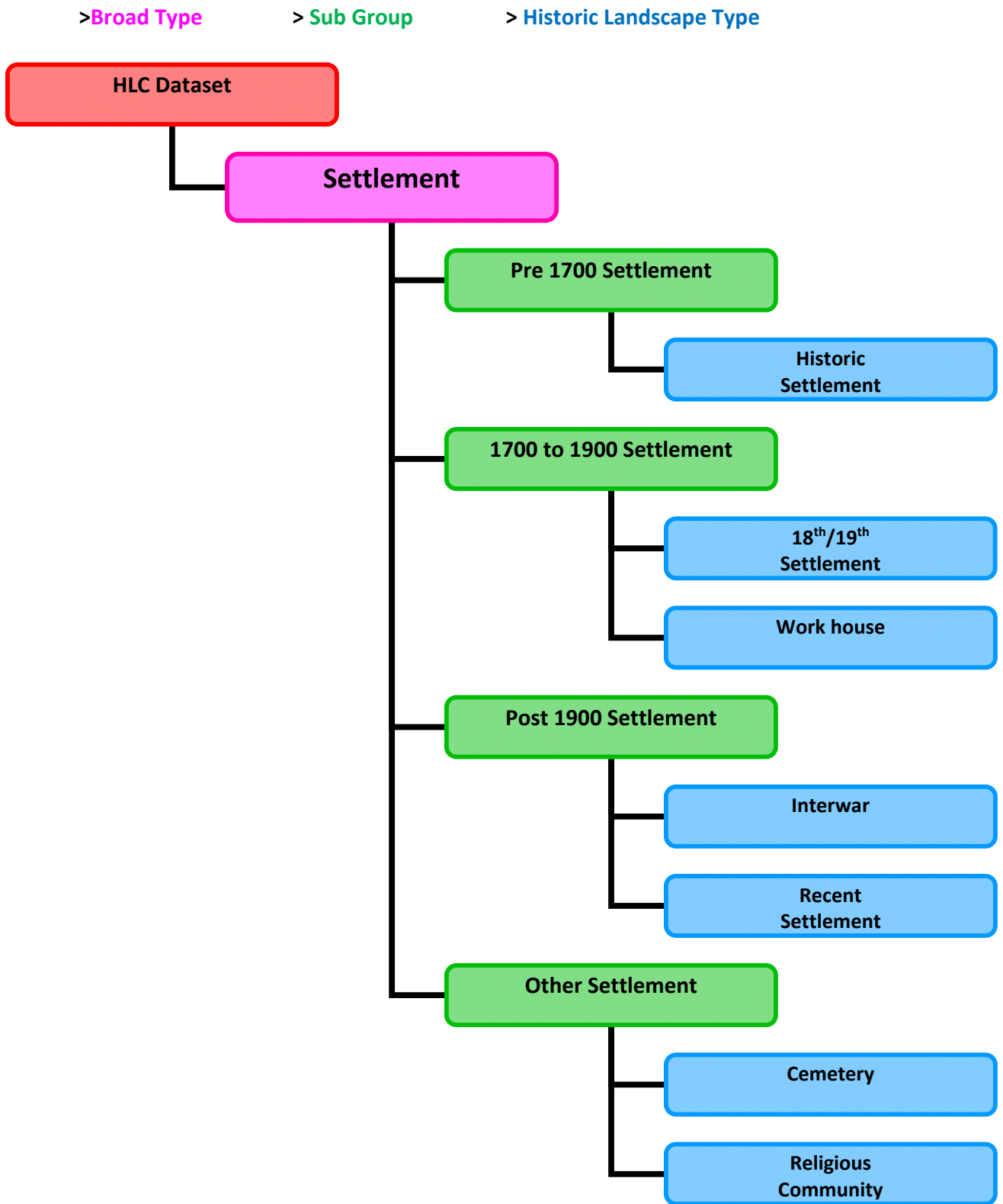
**Archaeological potential:** Construction of the studs and stables may have obliterated earlier archaeology; surrounding area may have higher potential see Paddocks (HLT 11)and Gallops (HLT 12)

**Management:** Historic built features associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century examples should be maintained.

## Broad Type: Settlement

### Settlement in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Pre 1700 Settlement	historic settlement	39	4062	2.33%	Uncommon	98	4160.65	2.38%
1700 to 1900 Settlement	18 - 19thC settlement	41	536	0.31%	Scarce	12	548.67	0.31%
	workhouse/asylum	73		0.00%	N/A	10	10.32	0.01%
Post 1900 Settlement	interwar settlement	42	37	0.02%	Rare		37.87	0.02%
	recent settlement growth	43	2683	1.54%	Uncommon		2683.15	1.54%
Other Settlement	cemetery	36	7	0.00%	Very Rare	1158	1166.13	0.67%
	religious community	71	23	0.01%	Very Rare		23.33	0.01%



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
4062.628	2.33%	Uncommon	98.022	4160.65	2.38%

**Description:** Pre 1700 settlement identified using 18<sup>th</sup> century county maps. This type is mainly comprised of the core of modern settlements forming the extant area of the original medieval settlements. Several settlements have possible earlier Saxon origin (e.g. Thatcham, Lambourn, Kintbury). Details on the morphology of settlements are stored in the database field MORPHOLOGY. These types have discrete geographical distributions across the AONB and a close relationship to patterns of historic land use, for example, the relationship between common edge settlement and remenant common land or nucleated regular row settlements and the chalk valleys. The morphologies are:

- **common edge settlement** – dispersed settlements found on the edge of common land
- **hamlet/farm cluster** - Groups of farms or farm buildings forming a subtle but discernable settlement pattern. These can be regular spaced or clustered around a central point. They can also be regularly sized, reflecting a consistent holding size.
- **individual/isolated farm** - Farm situated away from other settlement.
- **interrupted/irregular row settlement** - Dispersed Settlements intermittently found along a Routeway. Settlement plots interspersed with fields.
- **medieval planned town** - Agglomerated Settlements which have been planned as one block.
- **nucleated regular row settlement** - Linear Settlements arranged contiguously along a road. The plots can be of regular width.
- **nucleated settlement cluster** - Agglomerated Settlement grouped around a single point, often a green, market place, church or manor house
- **other old settlement** – settlement morphology not part of one of the above types

**Period:** Pre 1700 mostly Medieval in origin some earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The footprint of the historic settlement has survived since 1700 in the vast majority of cases albeit surrounded by a halo of post 1700 settlement expansion. This is most noticeable in the market towns of the AONB. The HLC does not provide information on the survival of individual buildings within this pattern, most have been occupied and re-modelled over hundreds of years. In addition some of the settlement types have been eroded due to infilling or the removal of plot boundaries, a common occurrence with interrupted or common edge settlements.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Gardens, patches of rough ground and small allotments all have the potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds and insects. Historic buildings may be associated with particular rare species including providing roosts for bats.

**Archaeological potential:** Evidence for settlement origins and history

**Management:** Maintaining the particular morphological character of each historical settlement.



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
536.502	0.31%	Scarce	12.174	548.676	0.31%

**Description:** settlement dating to between 1700 and 1900 Centuries. Although not as numerous as **Historic Settlements** these also display a wide variety of forms; some are simply expansion of existing settlements whilst others are new foundations relating to changes in agriculture and communications. Many of the new settlements are farms established away from villages and located at the centre of holdings created through the enclosure of open fields and commons, and mark a break with the pattern established in the medieval period. There are also examples of settlements founded along the canal (Aldermaston Wharf). Details on the morphology of settlements are stored in the database field MORPHOLOGY. These types have discrete geographical distributions across the AONB and a close relationship to patterns of historic land use. The morphologies are:

- **individual/isolated farm** - Farm situated away from other settlement.
- **common edge settlement** - dispersed settlements found on the edge of common land
- **planned estate housing** – regular block of planned housing often on the edge of historic settlements
- **rail/canalside settlement** – settlement which has spread alongside the line of railways or canals after the construction of these features.
- **settlement infill or fringe growth** – settlement which has been built on the edge of historic settlement or which infills the gaps between existing pre 1700 settlements.
- **housing (isolated)** – house which are not farms and which are situated away from other settlement

**Period:** 1700 to 1900

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The footprint of 1700 to 1900 historic settlement post 1900 in the vast majority of cases albeit surrounded by a halo of post 1900 settlement expansion. This is most noticeable in the market towns of the AONB. The HLC does not provide information on the survival of individual buildings within this pattern, most have been occupied and re-modelled. In addition some of the settlement types have been eroded due to infilling.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Gardens, patches of rough ground and small allotments all have the potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds and insects. Historic buildings may be associated with particular rare species including providing roosts for bats.

**Archaeological potential:** Evidence for settlement origins and history

**Management:** Maintaining the particular morphological character of each 1700 to 1900 settlement type.

Settlement > 1700 to 1900 Settlement > Workhouse (Previous Type) HLT 73

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	10.325	10.325	0.01%

**Description:** Victorian institutions for the housing of the poor or the mentally ill. No current examples but some have been recorded as a previous type where they have been re-developed or re-used and influence the subsequent land-use.

**Period:** 1800 to 1900

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** No current examples survive but where they have been reused or developed they still have the potential to contribute to the historic character of the settlement.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Gardens, patches of rough ground associated with these buildings all have the potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds and insects. Historic buildings may be associated with particular rare species including providing roosts for bats.

**Archaeological potential:** Evidence for settlement origins and history.

**Management:** Maintaining the particular built characteristics of this type.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
37.876	0.02%	Rare		37.876	0.02%

**Description:** Early planned suburbs on the fringes of market towns such as Newbury, characterised by rows of terraces. These are often divorced from earlier patterns of historic land use.

**Period:** 1900 to 1950

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The morphology of these settlements remains in the landscape due to their recent origin. The HLC does not provide information on the survival of individual buildings within this pattern, some may have been rebuilt or re-modelled.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Gardens, patches of rough ground and small allotments all have the potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds and insects.

**Archaeological potential:** Evidence for settlement origins and history, or buried archaeological sites beyond the fringes of the original historic settlement.

**Management:** Establish linkages with earlier historic landscape character.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
1.54%	Uncommon		2683.153	1.54%	1.54%

**Description:** late 20<sup>th</sup> Century settlement, most examples of this type are housing of some sort. There is a small but significant number of farms that have been established over this period. These types have discrete geographical distributions across the AONB and a close relationship to patterns of historic land use. The morphologies are:

- **individual/isolated farm** – Farm situated away from other settlement.
- **hamlet/farm cluster** – Groups of farms or farm buildings forming a subtle but discernable settlement pattern. These can be regular spaced or clustered around a central point. They can also be regularly sized, reflecting a consistent holding size
- **military housing** – blocks of housing for military personnel separated from other settlement.
- **housing (isolated)** – house which are not farms and which are situated away from other settlement
- **housing (large developments)** – large blocks of planned housing estates on the edge of existing settlements
- **settlement infill or fringe growth** – settlement which has been built on the edge of historic settlement or which infills the gaps between existing pre 1700 settlements.
- **static caravan park** – static mobile home parks

**Period:** 1950 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The morphology of these settlements remains in the landscape due to their recent origin. The HLC does not provide information on the survival of individual buildings within this pattern, some may have been rebuilt or re-modelled.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Gardens, patches of rough ground and small allotments all have the potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds and insects.

**Archaeological potential:** Evidence for settlement origins and history, or buried archaeological sites beyond the fringes of the original historic settlement.

**Management:** Establish linkages with earlier historic landscape character.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
7.662	0.00%	Very Rare	1158.472	1166.134	0.67%

**Description:** municipal cemeteries not on previous church sites, mainly later 19<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. There are few examples, the majority are sited on the fringes of major settlements (examples at Hungerford, Thatcham, and Newbury) with one exception at Upper Lambourn.

**Period:** 1800 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The morphology of these cemeteries remains in the landscape due to their recent origin.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** they have good potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds, insects and lichens.

**Archaeological potential:** Earlier traces removed by burial activity.

**Management:** The cemeteries are likely to already be in active management, focus could be placed on maintaining historic headstones and boundaries.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
23.331	0.01%	Very Rare		23.331	0.01%

**Description:** modern religious foundations, such as Douai Abbey.

**Period:** 1950 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The morphology of these settlements remains in the landscape due to their recent origin. The HLC does not provide information on the survival of individual buildings within this pattern, but this settlement type is likely to have a distinctive historic character.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Gardens, patches of rough ground and small allotments all have the potential to support biodiversity, particularly birds and insects.

**Archaeological potential:** Evidence for settlement origins and history, or buried archaeological sites beyond the fringes of the original historic settlement.

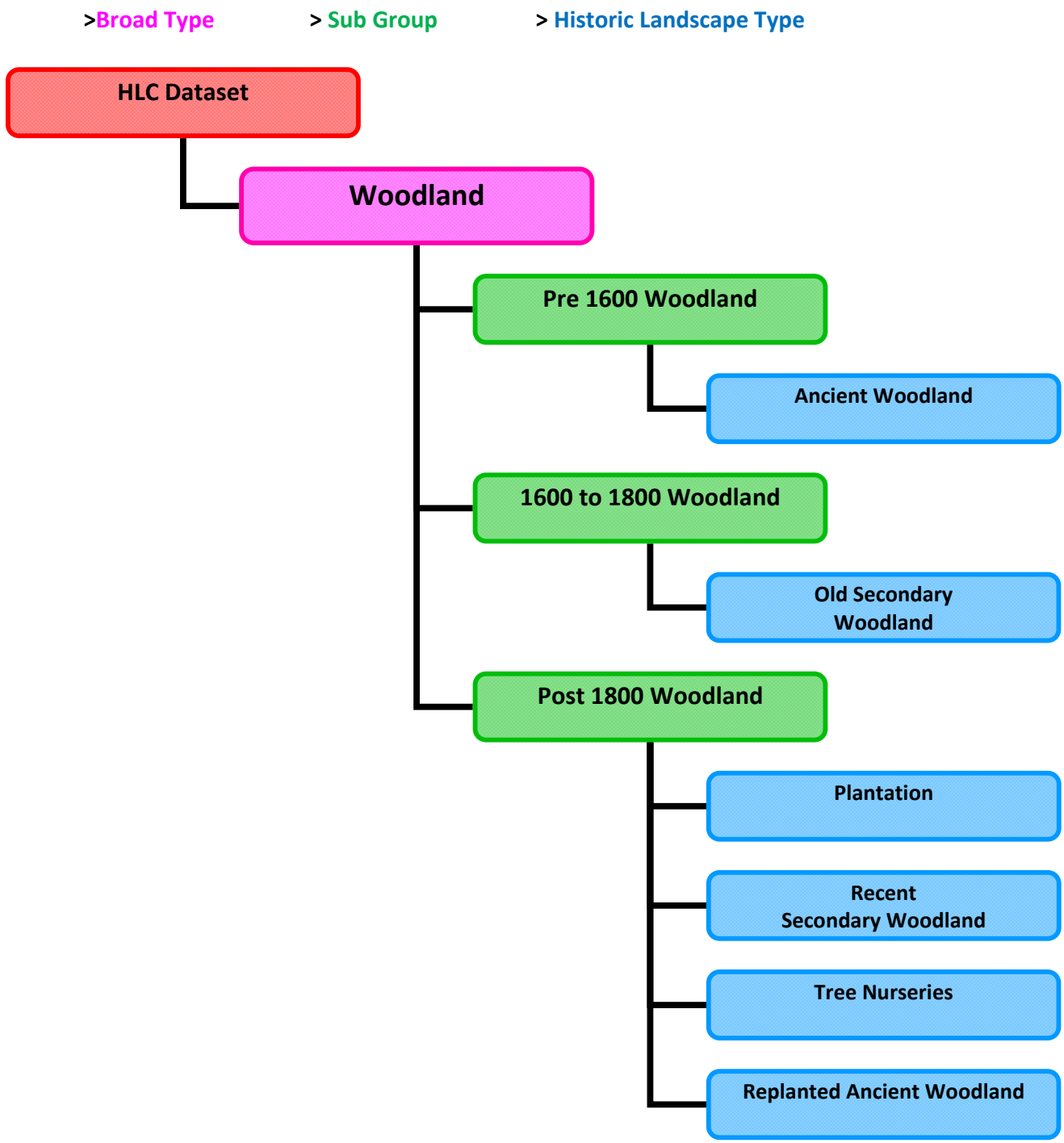
**Management:** Establish linkages with earlier historic landscape character.

## Broad Type: Woodland

### Woodland in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Pre 1600 Woodland	ancient woodland	24	4118	2.36%	Uncommon	1310.084	5428	3.11%
1600 to 1800 Woodland	old secondary woodland	22	2244	1.28%	Uncommon	378.96	2623	1.50%
Post 1800 Woodland	plantation woodland	21	5012	2.87%	Uncommon	93.778	5106	2.92%
	recent secondary woodland	25	1226	0.70%	Scarce		1226	0.70%
	replanted ancient woodland	23	4143	2.37%	Uncommon		4143	2.37%
	tree nursery	80	16	0.01%	Very Rare		16	0.01%





Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
4118	2.36%	Uncommon	1310	5428	3.11%

**Description:** The oldest surviving wooded areas in the district, characterised by species-rich broadleaf woodland. They have been identified through comparison of English Nature's Ancient Woodlands Inventory and historic mapping sources. English Nature defines **Ancient-Semi Natural Woodland** as land that has been continuously wooded since at least 1600 AD. Most have been exploited as an important and dynamic economic resource from at least the medieval period through coppicing and other woodland management. ASNW is almost entirely absent from the high Downs and the floor of the Kennet Valley, but is widely found elsewhere across the rest of the AONB.

**Period:** Medieval and earlier

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Over 1300 hectares of Ancient Woodland has been removed in the AONB since 1600 due to grubbing-up for agricultural land, the construction of housing and industrial development. This trend has slowed in the last 50 years due to greater protection for Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and recognition of its importance as an asset for biodiversity, recreation, and heritage. Changes in management mean that the composition of woodland continues to change.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is a national priority habitat due to the wealth of species it supports

**Archaeological potential:** Ancient woodland tends to be associated with historic (Medieval and later) traces for historic woodland management and exploitation. It also contains a wealth of earlier archaeological traces including Prehistoric sites which survive as extant earthworks. Many sites remain undiscovered due to tree cover but techniques such as LiDAR which has been used in Savernake can be used to identify these monuments.

**Management:** There will be subtle differences in the shape, size and composition of woodland across the AONB management should aim to preserve this variety. Continuing efforts should be made to identify woodland archaeology and to promote its active management.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
2244	1.28%	Uncommon	379	2623	1.50%

**Description:** non-ancient woodlands in existence by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; most have grown up on land that has, at some point, been used for other purposes. Many of these woodlands date back to the earliest mapping sources and are historic landscape features in their own right. Many have been subject to active management, such as coppicing, and have served as important resources. Most Secondary Woodland has come about through natural processes of woodland regeneration and colonisation however some examples of planted woods also exist.

**Period:** 1600 to 1800

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Only 379 hectares of Old Secondary Woodland has been removed in the AONB since 1800 due to grubbing-up for agricultural land, the construction of housing and industrial development. This is much less than the removal rates of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland over the same periods. The importance of this woodland as an asset for biodiversity, recreation, and heritage is now recognised. Changes in management mean that the composition of woodland continues to change.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Supports native woodland trees and the bird and insect species on which they depend, can be used to provide habitat linkages for Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** May be associated with historic (1600 to 1800) traces for historic woodland management and exploitation. May contain some earlier archaeological traces including Prehistoric sites but these are less likely to survive as extant earthworks than in Pre 1600 Woodland.

**Management:** There will be subtle differences in the shape, size and composition of woodland across the AONB management should aim to preserve this variety. Continuing efforts should be made to identify woodland archaeology and to promote its active management.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
5012	2.87%	Uncommon	94	5106	2.92%

**Description:** blocks of trees, usually of a single species, planted mostly for forestry. Plantations are usually regular in shape and the larger examples have features such as fire-breaks and access tracks. The majority of plantations are of conifers although plantations of broadleaf species are also found. Most were created for commercial forestry to produce crops of trees. A significant number have also been established to provide cover for animals. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century during the heyday of hunting numerous fox coverts were planted. More recently shelter belts for livestock have been created in many locations especially on the Downs. Some small plantations have been established for aesthetic reasons either to prettify the landscape or to screen houses or industrial sites. They are found all over the area but are most concentrated around the Pang and adjacent to the Hampshire border between Mortimer and Aldermaston.

**Period:** 1900 to Present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The creation of plantations peaked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century more recently the number of new regular regimented plantations has declined in favour of the establishment of more organically composed Recent Secondary Woodland.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** The woodland on the fringes of plantation can support native woodland trees and the bird and insect species on which they depend, can be used to provide habitat linkages for Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland networks.

**Archaeological potential:** May contain some earlier archaeological traces including Prehistoric sites but these are less likely to survive as extant earthworks than in Pre 1600 Woodland.

**Management:** There will be subtle differences in the shape, size and composition of woodland across the AONB management should aim to preserve this variety. Plantations may be an important element within deisgned landscapes or an important aesthetic element in open landscapes such as Downland, the characteristics of which should be preserved. Continuing efforts should be made to identify woodland archaeology and to promote its active management.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
1226	0.70%	Scarce		1226	0.70%

**Description:** non-ancient woodlands that have developed through woodland regeneration and colonisation since the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These are becoming commoner as the appreciation of broadleaf woodland grows, and such woods are seen as desirable things to create (especially community woodlands and the Woodland Grant Scheme).

**Period:** 1900 to Present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These are becoming commoner as the appreciation of broadleaf woodland grows, and such woods are seen as desirable things to create (especially through the creation community woodlands or through payments provided by the England Woodland Grant Scheme. Changes in management mean that the composition of woodland continues to change.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Supports native woodland trees and the bird and insect species on which they depend, can be used to provide habitat linkages for Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** May contain some earlier archaeological traces including Prehistoric sites but these are less likely to survive as extant earthworks than in Pre 1600 Woodland.

**Management:** There will be subtle differences in the shape, size and composition of woodland across the AONB management should aim to preserve this variety. Continuing efforts should be made to identify woodland archaeology and to promote its active management.

Woodland > Post 1800 Woodland > Replanted Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland

HLT 23

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
4143	2.37%	Uncommon		4143	2.37%

**Description:** Defined by English Nature as ancient woodland sites where the original native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting. Plantation is usually of conifers and carried out with more mechanised forestry practices, it has taken place from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. The extent and boundary of a woodland usually remains the same but the planted species replace the broadleaf trees characteristic of ASNW. Features characteristic of modern forestry practices such as fire breaks and access tracks (usually rectilinear) may also be introduced into the wood during replanting. Numerous examples of RASNW are found in those areas where Ancient Woodland is distributed and the type is commonest in the Pang Valley and its watersheds.

**Period:** 1800 to Present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** It is unlikely that significant amounts of extra RASNW will be created, due to the recognition of the importance of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland for biodiversity. Changes in management mean that the composition of woodland continues to change.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** potential for the survival of pockets of Ancient and Semi-Natural species.

**Archaeological potential:** May contain a wealth of earlier archaeological traces including Prehistoric sites which survive as extant earthworks. This may be in a poorer condition than in Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland due to the more intensive management of these areas.

**Management:** There will be subtle differences in the shape, size and composition of woodland across the AONB management should aim to preserve this variety. Continuing efforts should be made to identify woodland archaeology and to promote its active management.

Woodland > Post 1800 Woodland > Tree Nurseries HLT 80

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
16	0.01%	Very Rare		16	0.01%

**Description:** areas for the growth of young trees for sale or transplantation elsewhere. Several examples have been recorded in Savernake forest. These are often rectangular enclosure with regimented rows of young trees many of which are coniferous.

**Period:** 1950 to Present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type has increased in number and is stable in terms of size and number of sites.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Much less potential than surrounding Woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** As they are established within existing woodland they may contain some earlier archaeological traces including Prehistoric sites which survive as extant earthworks. This may be in a poorer condition than in Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland due to the more intensive management of these areas.

**Management:** These blocks should be allowed to blend with surrounding historic woodland.

## Broad Type: Open Land

### Open Land in the North Wessex Downs AONB

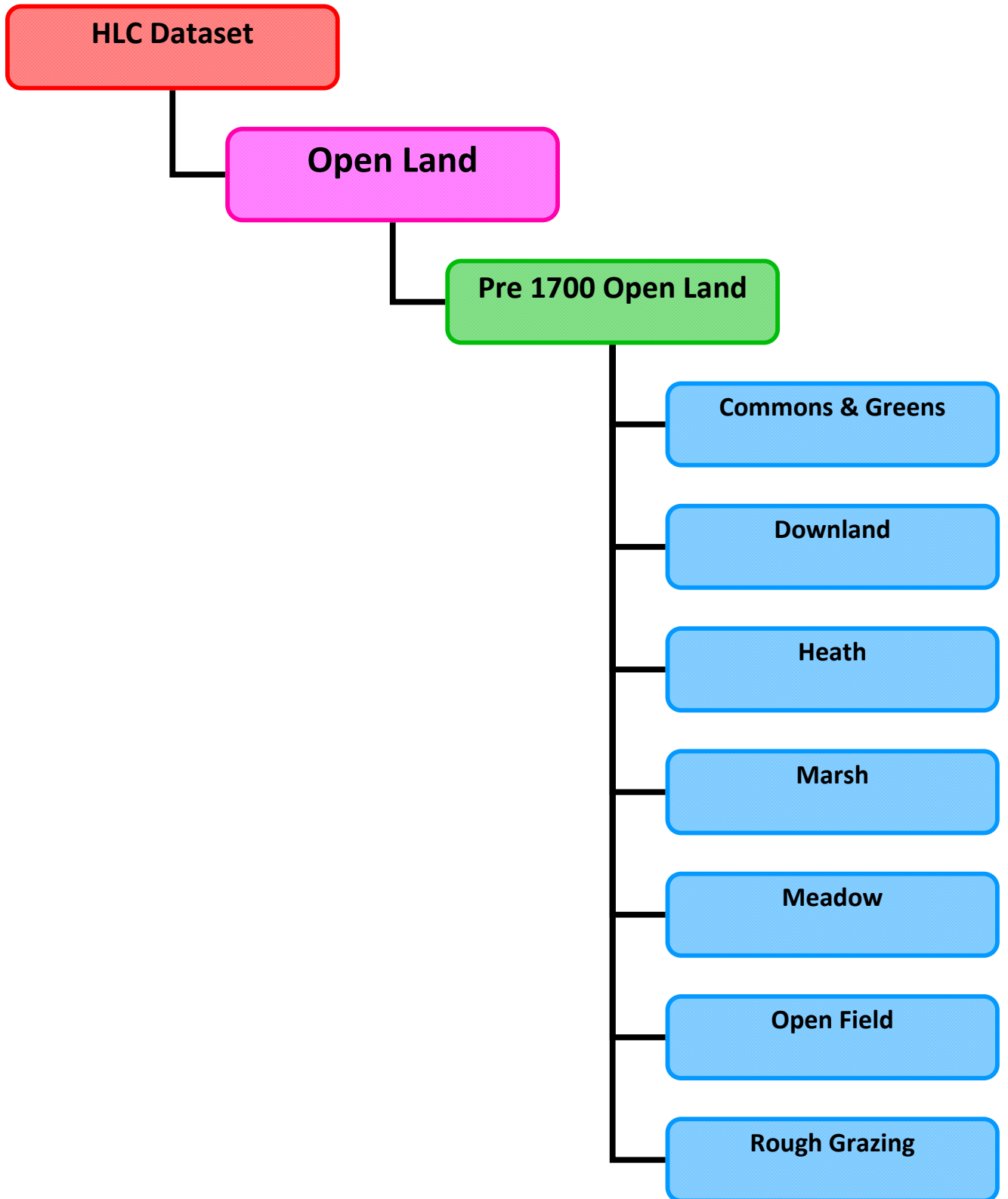
Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Pre 1700 Open Land	commons & greens	14	664	0.38%	Scarce	2051	2715	1.55%
	downland	65	4960	2.84%	Uncommon	26864	31824	18.21%
	heath	49		0.00%	N/A	869	869	0.50%
	marsh	45	4	0.00%	Very Rare	150	153	0.09%
	meadow	61	29	0.02%	Rare	783	812	0.46%
	open field	66		0.00%	N/A	74126	74126	42.42%
	rough grazing	13	95	0.05%	Rare		95	0.05%



>Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
664	0.38%	Scarce	2051	2715	1.55%

**Description:** open areas established in/by Medieval period and used for grazing, as a fuel source and for the location of certain industries (kilns, etc.). The majority of the AONBs commons were extensive irregularly-shaped tracts of heath unsuited to agricultural production, e.g. Greenham and Crookham commons and Bucklebury Common. There are some examples of smaller village greens, these are very varied in form. Over the later medieval and post-medieval periods many of the AONBs commons were a focus for settlement for those eager to exploit the resources of the common and many small “common-edge” settlements were established on their fringes. Commons are mostly sited in the south and eastern parts of the AONB and concentrate on the gravelly upper valley slopes and watersheds, particularly those around the Kennet, Pang, and Winterbourn

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with Medieval or earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Over 1400 hectares of common land or greens have been lost since 1700. Large tracts of commons were enclosed through Parliamentary Enclosure; many were subsequently found to be ill-suited for agriculture and are now the sites of plantations. A significant amount has also been lost to woodland uses either through neglect and natural regeneration (fringes of Greenham Common lying outside the USAF base extent) or through formal commercial plantation (hermitage, Ashampstead). Surviving commons may still be under threat from woodland regeneration.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Surviving commons remain agriculturally unimproved so may be associated with rare lowland grasses and related species as well as areas of native woodlands. Greens may provide important wildlife islands surrounded by areas of densier settlement.

**Archaeological potential:** Areas of surviving common have a strong association with extant archaeology from all periods. The late enclosure of common land and the subsequent recent ploughing means that there is a strong association between surviving archaeology (prehistoric, roman, early medieval) and areas which were formerly open common. Potential to reveal information in historic settlement activity and industrial activity.

**Management:** Management should focus on maintaining open nature of commons, and retaining traditional grazing regimes and other traditional management such as areas of coppice. In areas of dispersed common and common edge settlement the dispersed nature of the settlement should be maintained and excessive infill limited.

Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
4960	2.84%	Uncommon	26864	31824	18.21%

**Description:** Open areas of close-cropped chalk grassland, used as grazing for animals, mostly sheep.. The land is also associated with small patches of scrub, gorse and open chalk track ways. Formerly much more extensive and used as part of the common grazing regime that operated in many Downs parishes in the medieval period. Large swathes of common Downland were enclosed during parliamentary enclosure in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, though significant reserves remained as a major part of the sheep/corn system of agriculture. That is a system of grain production made possible by the large sheep flocks, supported by early crops of grass produced by the water meadows, which fed all day on the high open chalk downland and by night were folded on arable lands to enrich the soils. With the collapse of this system in the 20<sup>th</sup> century further enclosure and ploughing up of chalk grassland occurred. Today comparatively very little downland survives and large areas are found only on steep scarps where arable agriculture is impractical or uneconomic.

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with Medieval or earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The surviving open area of chalk downland only represents a fraction of the former extent of this downland. The previous evidence for past land uses recorded, which includes how former open land has affected the shape and morphology of more recent fields and place name evidence, suggests that the 4960 hectares of open downland surviving today previously covered an area in excess of 30,000 hectares around 1700. Significant tracts of the AONB chalk downland have been lost since 1700 through parliamentary enclosure and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the expansion of arable and the creation of New Fields out of what had been surviving open Downland. Some downland has been lost in recent years through woodland regeneration due to insufficient grazing expansion of arable agriculture, woodland regeneration where insufficient management through grazing exists.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Strong likely hood of association with rare chalkland grasslands and the species which they are associated.

**Archaeological potential:** Areas of surviving Downland have a strong association with extant archaeology from all periods. The survival of areas on predominant positions on the edge of chalk escarpments means that there is a strong association with iconic monuments such as Long Barrows. The late enclosure of Downland areas and the subsequent recent ploughing means that there is a strong association between surviving archaeology (prehistoric, roman, early medieval) and areas which were formerly open Downland although this often is now buried.

**Management:** Maintain the close cropped grass cover characteristic of Downland and the sense of openness and wide vistas. Prevent woodland regeneration and scrub encroachment. Restore grass Downland in areas which were historically Downland and limit hedgerow creation.

Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
	0.00%	N/A	869	869	0.50%

**Description:** A heath or heathland is a shrubland habitat found mainly on low quality acidic soils, and is characterised by open, low growing woody vegetation. Former heathland in the AONB was frequently used as common grazing.

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with Medieval or earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** No open heath survives in the AONB but 869 hectares has been recorded as a previous type. It has been identified where it is depicted and/or labelled as such on historic mapping. Former heathlands have been enclosed or planted with plantations.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Heaths are related to range of plants and animals due to the acidic soils, unique low growing vegetation structures and areas of open land. Remenant plant populations may survive in these areas.

**Archaeological potential:** The late enclosure of these heathland areas means there could be a strong association between surviving archaeology (prehistoric, roman, early medieval) and areas which were formerly heaths.

**Management:** Maintain the unqiue vegetation structure (if it survives) and the sense of openness and wide vistas

Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
4	0.00%	Very Rare	150	153	0.09%

**Description:** wet, boggy areas unsuited for use as pasture or fields. A marsh is a type of wetland that is dominated by herbaceous rather than woody plant species. Marshes can often be found at the edges of lakes and streams, where they form a transition between the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. They are often dominated by grasses, rushes or reeds. If woody plants are present they tend to be low-growing shrubs.

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with likely Medieval or earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Only 4 hectares survive today and 146 hectares has been recorded as a previous type. Many areas of marsh have been obscured under watermeadows or were drained to create enclosed meadows. It has been identified where it is depicted and/or labelled as such on historic mapping.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Wet meadows have high plant diversity and high densities of buried seeds.

**Archaeological potential:** Archaeological potential for marshes for palaeoenvironmental information, waterlogged cultural artefacts and information about the past human exploitation of water channels.

**Management:** Maintain the unique vegetation structure (if it survives) and the sense of openness.

Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
29	0.02%	Rare	783	812	0.46%

**Description:** A type of common land, riverside meadow originally used for both grazing and for the growth of hay for livestock feed. The majority of meadows were on the Kennet with a handful of examples from the Lambourn and the Thames.

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with likely Medieval or earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Identified where depicted/labelled as such on historic mapping only 29 hectares survive from 812 hectares many of these were enclosed post 1700 still more will have been obscured by relic water meadows.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Potenteial for species-rich grassland and historic boundaries with native woodland species.

**Archaeological potential:** Potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental information and Early Medieval and later archaeology including settlements.

**Management:** Maintain the unqie vegetation structure (if it survives) and the sense of openness.

Open Land > Pre 1700 Open Land > Open Field (Previous Type Only) HLT 66

Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
	0.00%	N/A	74126	74126	42.42%

**Description:** Large, usually unhedged, arable fields divided into strips and worked communally. The origin of the open field farming system is contested, however it seems to be broadly medieval in date and to have developed either in the late Saxon or early post-conquest period. The adoption of this system seems to be linked with nucleated village settlement. These traces have probably been created through the fossilisation of medieval open strip fields which would have originally been characterised by features such as ridge and furrow, headlands, and furlongs. The traces left of this type are sinuous reverse-S shaped and curving boundaries, narrow strip fields and indicative place names. In some case there are indications that these fields were still open during the 1880s. Open fields were mainly found in the Downs parishes, in the Kennet and Thames Valley and intermittently along the lower slopes of the Kennet Valley.

**Period:** Medieval

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** There are no current examples of this type in the AONB, all examples recorded are previous types. Most of the open fields recorded were enclosed either through early piecemeal enclosures (32% of recorded became Irregular pre-18th Century enclosures, 19% Regular pre-18th Century enclosures) or were enclosed by Parliamentary Enclosures (40%). The few remaining examples were enclosed during the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** In examples which were enclosed early potential to be associated with un-improved grassland and boundaries with mature trees and ancient woodland species.

**Archaeological potential:** This type is intrinsically linked with other fossilised medieval types, including deer parks, and earthworks such as strip lynchets. There should also be a correlation with archaeological evidence for Medieval nucleated settlements, industry and other archaeological traces, the open fields having been worked in common by the several members of a small agricultural community.

**Management:** Retain field boundary patterns which fossilise the distinctive pattern of open fields.

Current (ha)	% of AONB Area	Occurrence Today	Previous (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of Area of AONB
95	0.05%	Rare		95	0.05%

**Description:** Surviving areas of marginal scrubland and rough grazing where some kind of grassed cover (usually very rough) is present. These areas are not formally designated as a common of any kind and there appears to be no other over-arching land-use.

**Period:** Pre 1700 many with a possible Medieval or earlier origin

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The surviving scrubland and rough grazing represent traces of what would have once been larger areas of marginal open land on the edges of settlement and fields.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Potential to be associated with unimproved lowland grassland and ancient woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** Potential for extant archaeological earthworks dating to all periods.

**Management:** Maintain the unique vegetation structure (if it survives) and the sense of openness and wide vistas.



## Broad Type: Industrial and Commercial

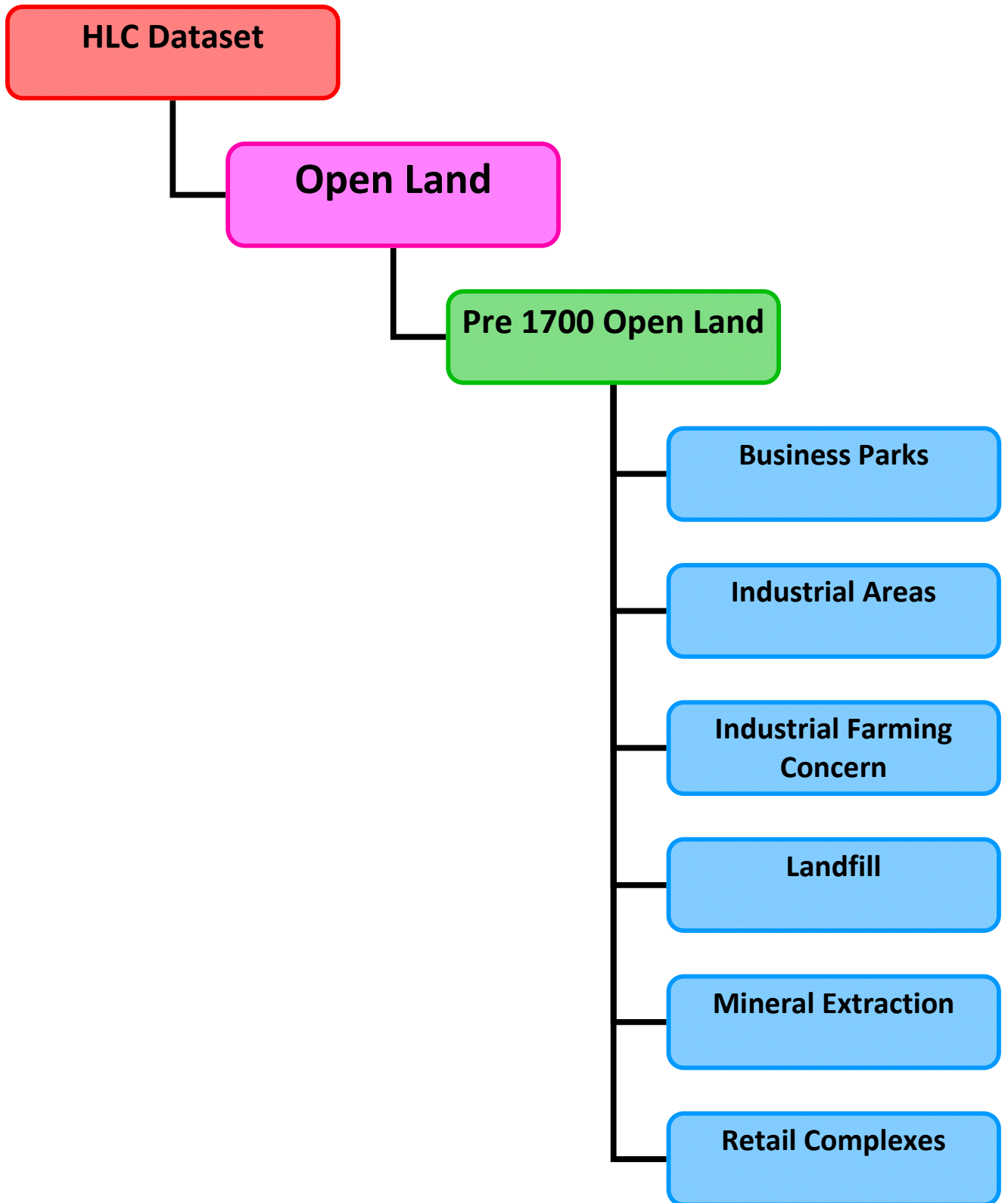
### Industrial and Commercial Land in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Post 1800 Industry	business parks	59	353	0.20%	Scarce		353	0.20%
	industrial area	18	219	0.13%	Scarce	33	252	0.14%
	industrial farming concern	10	172	0.10%	Rare	3	175	0.10%
	landfill	38	36	0.02%	Rare		36	0.02%
	mineral extraction	19	111	0.06%	Rare	152	263	0.15%
	retail complexes	79	3	0.00%	Very Rare		3	0.00%

>Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
353	0.20%	Scarce		353	0.20%

**Description:** areas devoted entirely to office complexes and constructed solely for this purpose. They often possess large swathes of car parks and are set in landscaped grounds, e.g. Vodafone Park and developments at Theale.

**Period:** Mid 20<sup>th</sup> century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These parks have been built since 1950 likely to increase in number in future.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential since construction but may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintenance of surviving boundaries and place names.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
219	0.13%	Scarce	33	252	0.14%

**Description:** industrial sites dating to from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. There is little heavy industry in the district, therefore the majority of sites are of recent light industry and industrial estates, more historic industries, such as pottery kilns, have also been recorded as a previous type under this heading. The distribution of current industrial areas is concentrated on the district's population centres and/or transport network, most are found adjacent to the A4 and railway through the Kennet Valley (especially around Newbury and Thatcham) or are located near the A34 or M4. Historic industries (pottery kilns, etc.) are less common but more widely distributed across the district, several are focussed on commons (e.g. kilns at Hermitage). The HLC dataset is not a definitive record of all industrial areas (especially historic Industrial areas) as the methodology only maps items larger than one hectare in size and will not, therefore, pick up all examples of this type,

**Period:** 19th C – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These commercial sites are linked to a process of increasing industrialisation in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 20<sup>th</sup> centurt examples are often a direct result of the planning system and the zoning of activity within specific areas. They mark a departure from the historical pattern which survived into the 19<sup>th</sup> century of smaller scale commercial endeavours occurring within villages or within existing farm complexes. Small historic industrial sites have gone out of use and may be associated with areas of woodland and scrub.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Relic industrial areas may be associated with wasteland, scrub and bats.

**Archaeological potential:** Potential for wealth of information on historic industry in the AONB.

**Management:** Focus attention on recording traces of historic industry and maintaining surviving important historic industrial built stuctures.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
172	0.10%	Rare	3	175	0.10%

**Description:** sheds and infrastructure associated with poultry farms, fish farms and piggeries. Not common in the AONB and concentrated in the Upper Lambourn valley and the Pang Valley, scattered examples elsewhere.

**Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Created in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with increase since 1950.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Likely to be low but may be surrounded by historic boundaries with ancient woodland species.

**Archaeological potential:** Likely to have obscured or removed archaeology.

**Management:** May be surrounded by historic boundaries worth maintaining.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
36	0.02%	Rare		36	0.02%

**Description:** Areas of refuse dumping and landfill. Rare within the AONB

**Period:** 1950 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Created since 1950.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Likely to be low but may be surrounded by historic boundaries with ancient woodland species. These areas may be restored in the future to provide for biodiversity.

**Archaeological potential:** Likely to have obscured or removed archaeology.

**Management:** May be surrounded by historic boundaries worth maintaining.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
111	0.06%	Rare	152	263	0.15%

**Description:** Areas of gravel extraction, distribution is associated with the presence of workable gravel deposits. Mineral extraction is most common in the Kennet Valley east of Newbury. A few scattered examples of this type are also found in the Pang Valley and around Hermitage and Chieveley.

**Period:** 19<sup>th</sup> century to present.

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** There is a long history of small scale extraction in the area. Large scale extraction is a 20<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon which may increase as gravel is still an important commodity for the construction. Kennet Valley east of Newbury will eventually be worked out, presumably significant deposits exist to its west but these lie in the AONB therefore obtaining quarrying permission will be more difficult to obtain and implement.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Likely to be low but may be surrounded by historic boundaries with ancient woodland species. Former gravel pits left open can become important wetland reserves. These areas may be restored in the future to provide for biodiversity.

**Archaeological potential:** Likely to have obscured or removed archaeology.

**Management:** May be surrounded by historic boundaries worth maintaining.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
3	0.00%	Very Rare		3	0.00%

**Description:** out-of-town shopping areas, ranging from large (Newbury Retail Park) to smaller scale operations (garden centre on edge of Hungerford).

**Period:** Mid 20<sup>th</sup> century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These parks have been built since 1950 likely to increase in number in future.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential since construction but may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries and place names.



## Broad Type: Civic

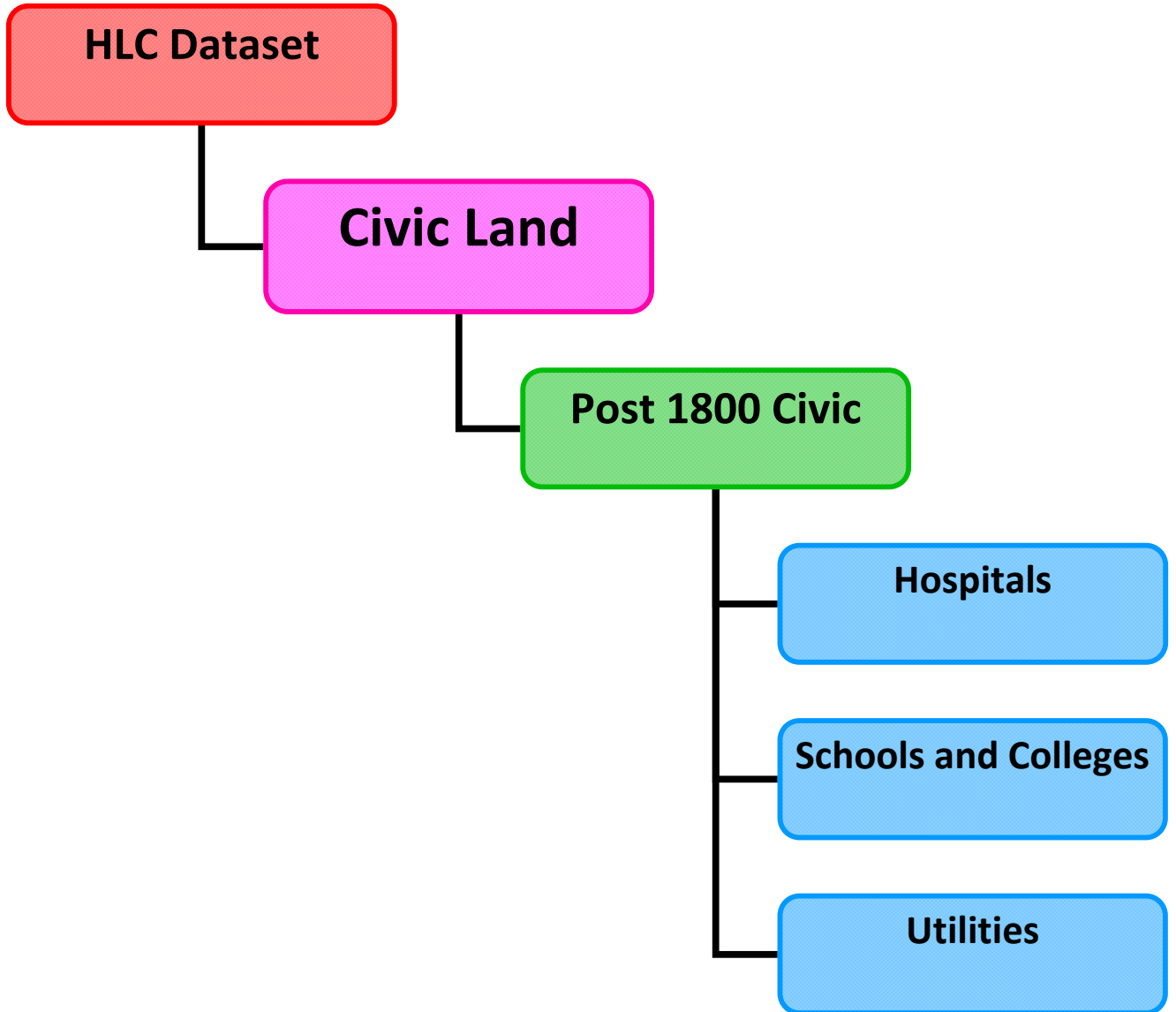
### Civic Land in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Post 1800 Civic	hospital	72	52	0.03%	Rare	3	55	0.03%
	schools & colleges	26	292	0.17%	Scarce	8	300	0.17%
	utilities	27	38	0.02%	Rare		38	0.02%

Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
52	0.03%	Rare	3	55	0.03%

**Description:** institutions for the care of the sick, and their grounds, that are distinct at a landscape scale.

**Period:** 19th C - present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These parks have been built since 1800. New hospitals may be built on edge of major towns in the future on brown field sites.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential since construction but newer examples may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries and place names

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
292	0.17%	Scarce	8	300	0.17%

**Description:** educational institutions, and their grounds, that are distinct at a landscape scale. This type encompasses mainstream Local Authority establishments, private schools such as St. Gabriel's and Bradfield School, and professional training campuses such as the Thames Valley Police Training College at Sulhamstead.

**Period:** 19th C - present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** New schools have been built since 1800. New schools may be built on on edge of settlements in the future on brown field or green field sites.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential since construction but newer examples may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction. Potential for archaeology under playing fields

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries and place names

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
38	0.02%	Rare		38	0.02%

**Description:** utility installations that are distinct at a landscape scale, mainly sewage works and other water treatment facilities. Not all such facilities will be mapped by the HLC methodology as many, especially electricity sub-stations, are smaller than one hectare.

**Period:** 19th C – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** New utilities have been built since 1800. New utilities s may be built on edge of settlements in the future on brown or green field sites.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential since construction but newer examples may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries.

**Broad Type: Military**

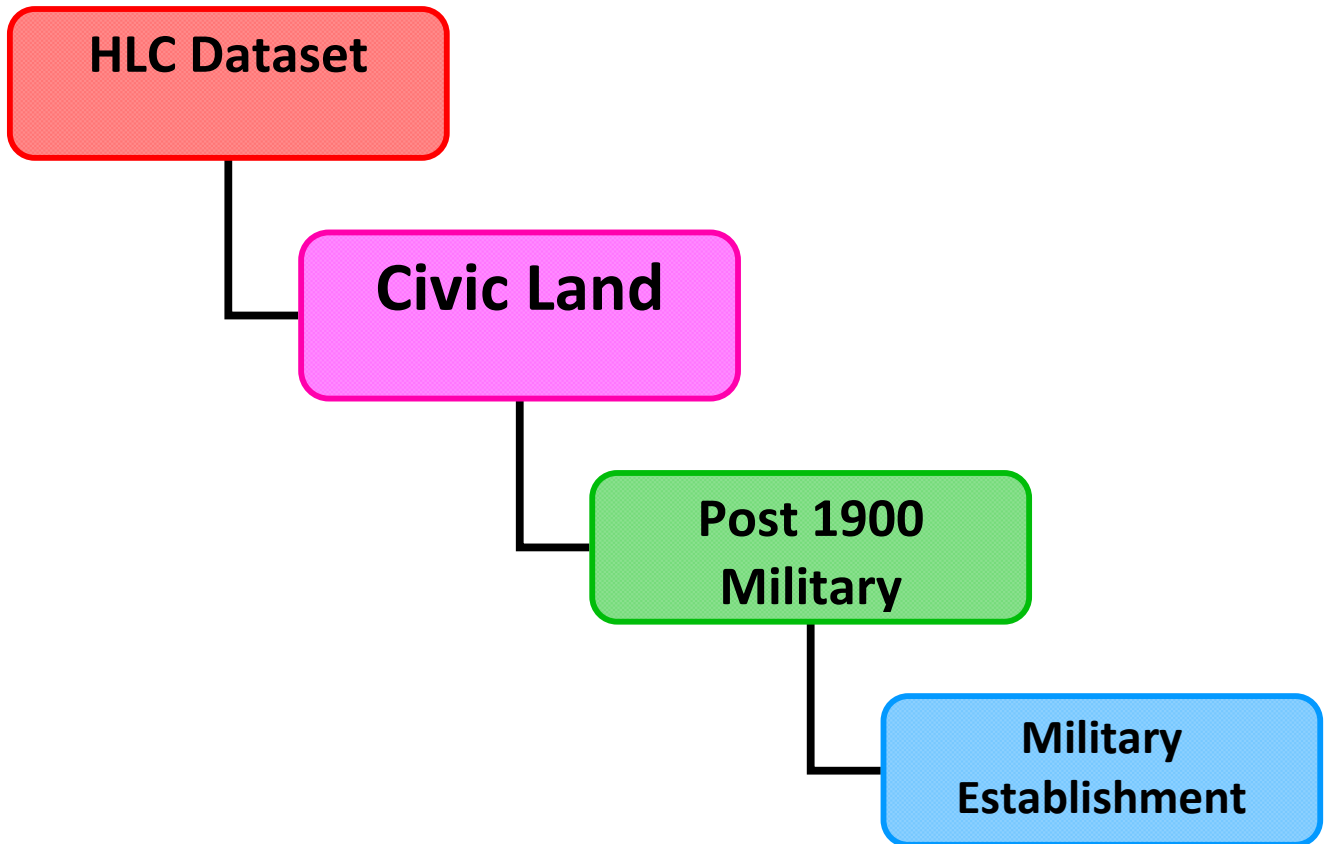
**Military Land in the North Wessex Downs AONB**

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Post 1900 Military	military establishment	34	500.225	0.29%	Scarce	1611.407	2111.632	1.21%

Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
500.225	0.29%	Scarce	1611.407	2111.632	1.21%

**Description:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century Military bases, includes airfields and other installations such as AWE Aldermaston and associated off-site infrastructure (bunkers and storage).

**Period:** 1900 to present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Military establishments that have been built since 1900, may contain traces of earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century activity, following the end of the Cold War and rationalising of military operations nationally many sites have been decommissioned or are being scaled back.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential where buildings have been construction but newer buildings may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction. Potential for survival of military archaeology (WW1, WW2 and Cold War)

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries, record and preserve military heritage assets..



## Broad Type: Parkland and Designed

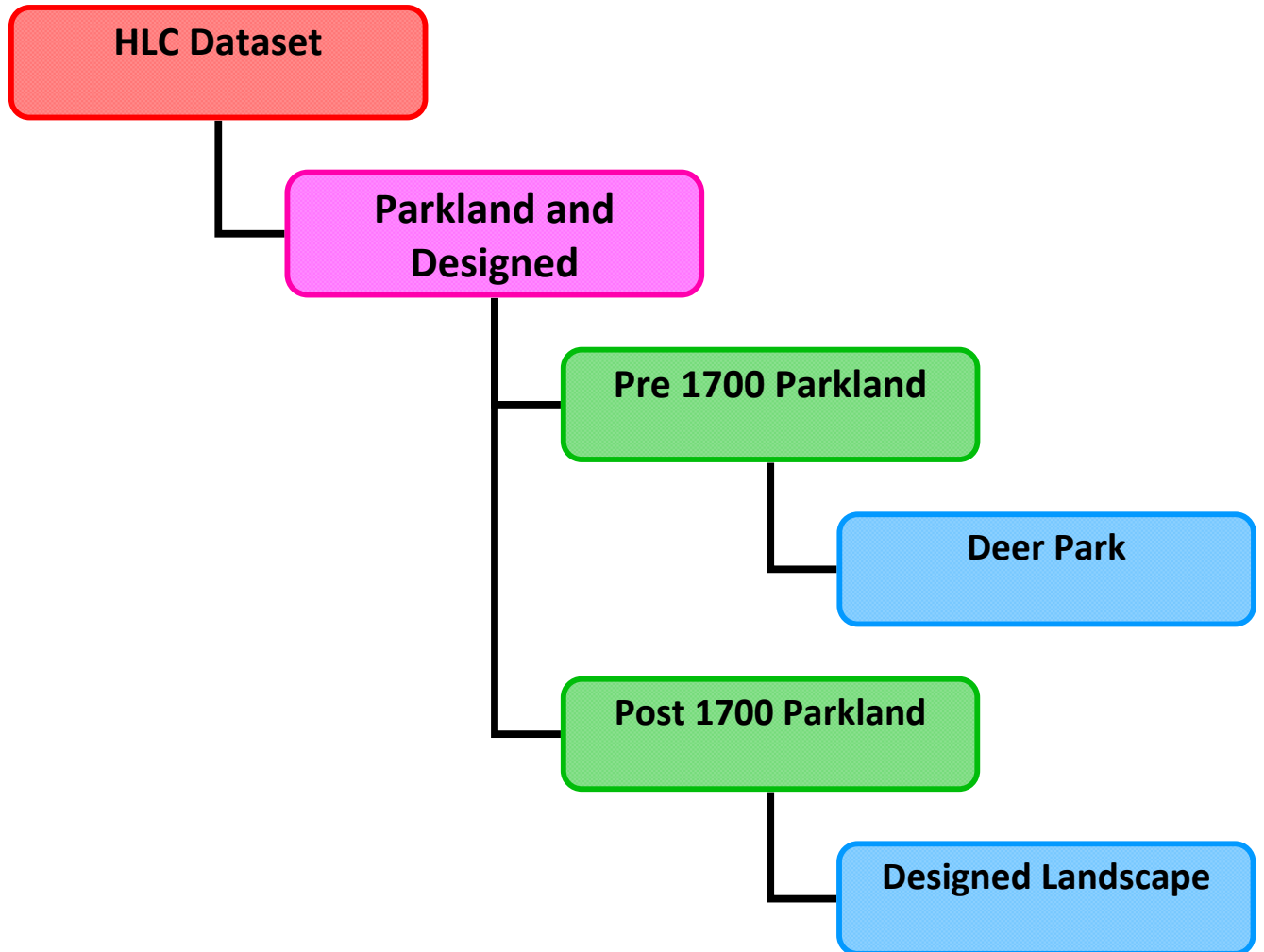
### Parkland and Designed Landscapes in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Pre 1700 Parkland	Deer Park	60				1600	1600	0.92%
Post 1700 Designed Landscape	designed landscape	20	4823	2.76%	Uncommon	1597	6420	3.67%

Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Parkland and Designed > Pre 1700 Parkland > Deer Park (previous type) HLT 60

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
			1600	1600	0.92%

**Description:** A preserve for the keeping and hunting of deer, usually demarked by an external earthen bank and ditch, or park pale, to prevent deer escaping and deter poaching. The peak time for the creation of deer parks was the medieval period. The primary function of these parks was as game reserves and hunting grounds, but they also contributed to the wider medieval economy and as areas of contemplation and recreation. In contrast to medieval hunting forests or chases medieval deer parks cover relatively compact areas, sometimes as small as 40 hectares. They were strongly enclosed by earthworks, paling fences, hedges and walls. Features associated with deer parks, and often still associated with indicative place names, including; kennels, lodges, hunting stands, warrens, fishponds, quarries, gardens and barns. Common place names associated with deer parks include park, hay, hatch, and lawn.

**Period:** Medieval

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The peak time for the creation of deer parks was the medieval period. Some of these deer parks continued into the post medieval period, and were incorporated into the 18th century landscaped park.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Likely to be associated with ancient veteran trees, ancient woodland and wood pasture habitat.

**Archaeological potential:** Potential for Medieval archaeological features within the bounds of the former deer park.

**Management:** The distinctive shape of the boundaries of the deer parks including the park pales should be maintained through careful boundary management. Within the areas of former deer parks

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
4823	2.76%	Uncommon	1597	6420	3.67%

**Description:** formal and informal parklands around country houses. These range from the great parks associated with large grand houses, such as Basildon Park, to the smaller park gardens of larger landowners and the minor gentry, such as Chaddleworth House and Frilsham Rectory. Several of the designed parklands in the AONB are associated with known designers. The majority of the the parks are in the Kennet Valley, significant numbers of designed landscapes are also found in the lower reaches of the Pang and Lambourn Valley and adjacent to the Thames. The elements within these parklands are carefully composed with carefully planted avenues and clumps of trees, and ornamental features such as grottos and statues.

**Period:** 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Many areas of parkland declined in the 20th century due to increasing maintenance costs. This means that some of the parkland in the AONB today is in a neglected or eroded state. In some cases the woodland which forms part of their design has grown up obscuring both wide and focused views. The creation of housing developments within parklands is another important factor and parks are increasingly being taken over for business and hotel use – Benham Valence and Elcot Park.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Likely to be associated with ancient veteran trees, ancient woodland and wood pasture habitat.

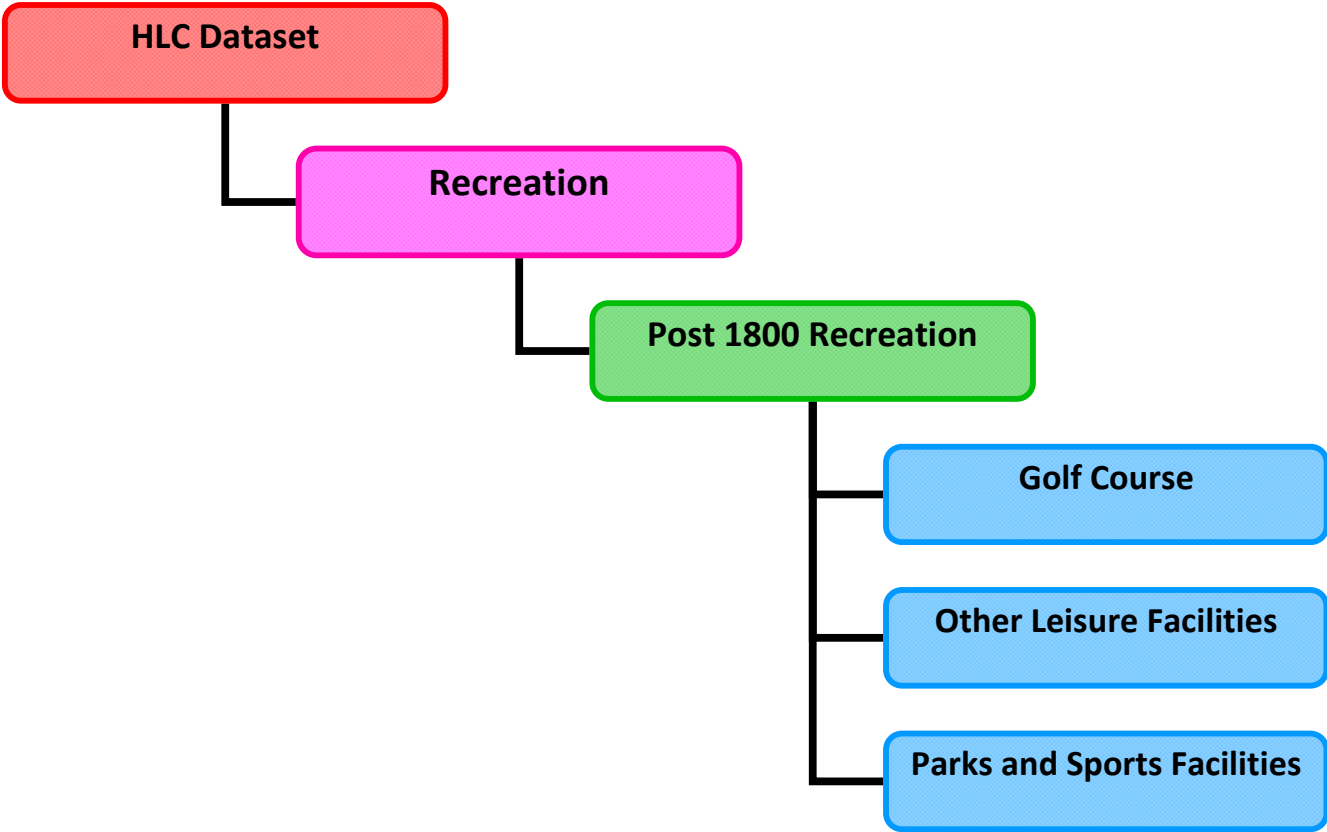
**Archaeological potential:** Survival of archaeological traces of former earlier gardens and park arrangements, as well as earlier Medieval activity such as settlement or deer parks. Areas of lawns and grazed lands may protect extant Medieval or earlier earthworks or buried archaeology.

**Management:** Attention on retaining parkland character, including key historic views and vistas, individual heritage assets including ornamental features may need careful management.

## Broad Type: Recreation

### Recreational Land in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Post 1800 Recreation	golf course	29	362	0.21%	Scarce		362	0.21%
	other leisure facilities	78	152	0.09%	Rare		152	0.09%
	parks & sports facilities	28	240	0.14%	Scarce		240	0.14%



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
362	0.21%	Scarce		362	0.21%

**Description:** formal areas for playing golf, area mapped will include clubhouses and associated infrastructure and any new tree planting and water features created as part of the course. Some have been created on the sites of designed landscapes and preserve many of their features by utilising them as elements of the course (Donnington Grove). The majority are located in the hinterlands of Reading and the Newbury-Thatcham conurbation reflecting golf's role as a pastime of urbanites. The only exception is the course near Chaddleworth, which seems to have been constructed for/by service personnel based at the adjacent RAF Welford. Golf courses created for recreational purposes. These have to be of sufficient scale to be included within this survey and have to include features which have had a significant impact on the landscape. These are created landscapes for the sole purpose of playing golf. They consist of grass drives and tees and are associated with bunkers, created water features and new areas of planting. They tend to be associated with ancillary features such as club houses and parking.

**Period:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the course, and existing habitats such as ancient trees incorporated within the overall design.

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential in areas of construction especially where extensive remodelling has occurred. Potential for buried archaeology under fareways.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
152	0.09%	Rare		152	0.09%

**Description:** a diverse type containing all other leisure facilities (such as marinas, shooting schools, animal parks and fishing sites) not covered by the above types. The majority are very recent developments.

**Period:** Mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of these areas and existing habitats such as ancient trees incorporated within the overall design.

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential in areas of construction especially where extensive remodelling has occurred. Potential for buried archaeology under areas of grass.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible.



Recreational Land > Post 1800 Recreation > Parks and Sports Facilities HLT 28

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
240	0.14%	Scarce		240	0.14%

**Description:** Areas for recreational usage, encompasses both sports fields and leisure centres and public parks.

**Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of these areas and existing habitats such as ancient trees incorporated within the overall design.

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential in areas of construction especially where extensive remodelling has occurred. Potential for buried archaeology under areas of grass.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible.

## Broad Type: Communications

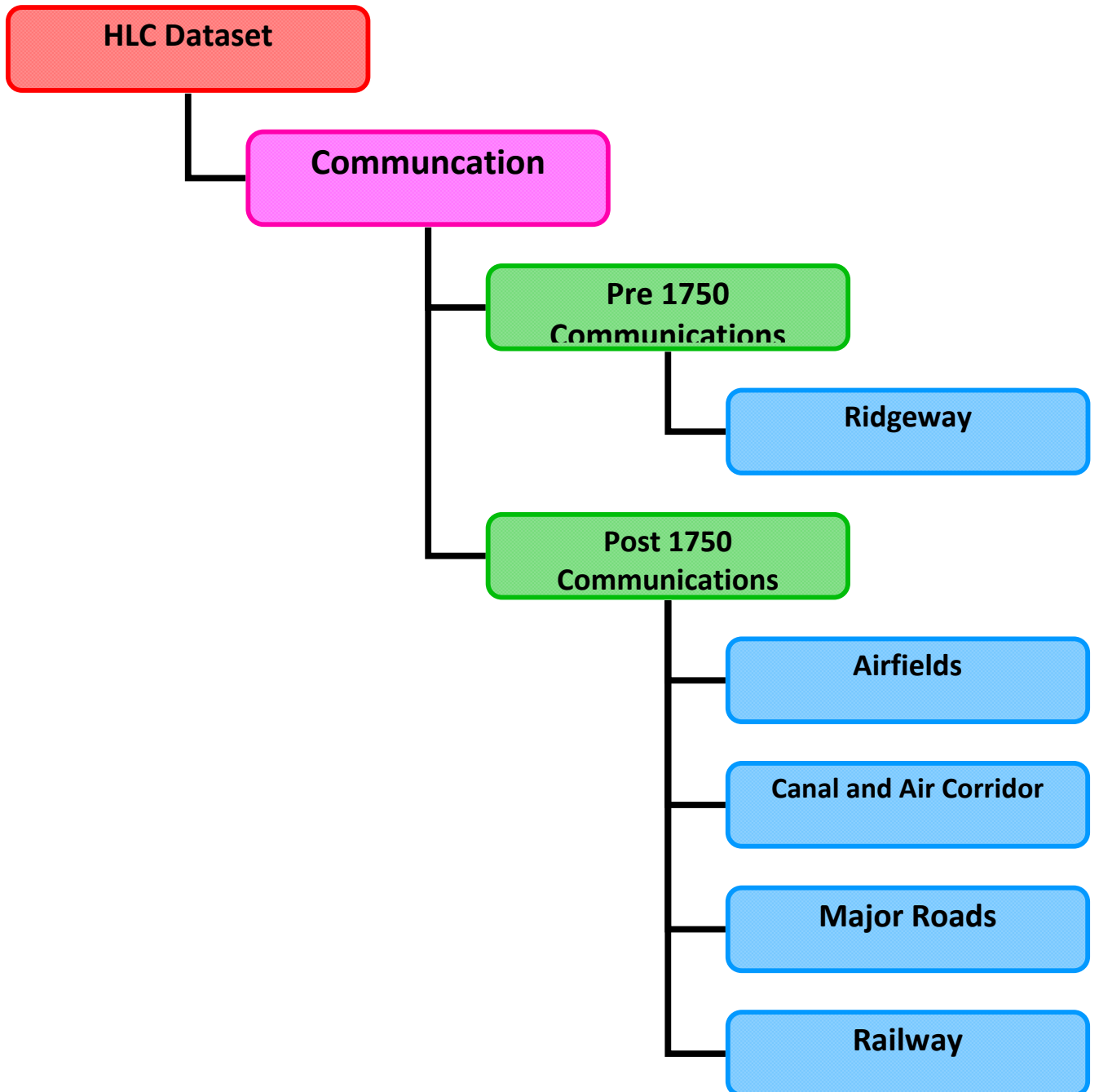
### Communications in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Pre 1750 communications	ridgeway	74	53	0.03%	Rare		53	0.03%
Post 1750 communications	airfield	33	17	0.01%	Very Rare		17	0.01%
	canal & rail corridor	48	106	0.06%	Rare		106	0.06%
	major roads	31	676	0.39%	Scarce	85	760	0.44%
	railway	32	58	0.03%	Rare		58	0.03%

Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
53	0.03%	Rare		53	0.03%

**Description:** The line of the ancient droveway known as the Ridgeway. The extensive use of this route, including in the present day, has created a wide compacted and in places eroded chalk trackway which is of sufficient scale to be captured within the HLC dataset.

**Period:** prehistoric – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Further erosion and abraiding of the route due to recreational use in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some areas have been converted to road especially where the route crosses lower ground.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** The boundary of the ridgeway may be associated with unimproved chalk grassland, ancient woodland and veteran trees.

**Archaeological potential:** The boundary of the ridgeway may be associated with earlier archaeology including prehistoric monuments.

**Management:** Focus should be placed on retaining character of boundaries, and unsurfaced nature of the trackway.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
17	0.01%	Very Rare		17	0.01%

**Description:** Civil airfields, mostly private landing strips, military airfields are recorded under **Military Establishment**.

**Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Areas for wildlife may have been created on edge of the areas

**Archaeological potential:** Less potential where buildings or runways have been construction but newer buildings may have been subject to archaeological investigation prior to construction. Potential for survival of military archaeology (WW1, WW2 and Cold War) where this was the original origin of the airfield

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries, record and preserve military heritage assets..

Communications > Post 1750 Communications> Canal and Rail Corridor HLT 48

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
106	0.06%	Rare		106	0.06%

**Description:** areas of the Kennet Valley where the railway and canal run adjacent and parallel to each other creating a wide transport corridor.

**Period:** 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** In this instance both the canal and railway line are still in use, some elements of the infrastructure will have been upgraded in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Boundaries of these areas may be associated with a range of quality habitat including ancient woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** Construction is likely to have removed earlier archaeological traces but likely to be associated with a range of transport heritage assets

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries, record and preserve transport heritage assets such as bridges.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
676	0.39%	Scarce	85	760	0.44%

**Description:** one on the only linear features recorded, these are the motorway and major dual-carriageway trunk roads of the district. They have been recorded as they are large enough to be a landscape feature in their own right and as their construction causes disruption to the landscape and usually leads to differential development on either side of the routeway. The road and any associated service areas and embankments and cuttings are mapped under this heading.

**Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Boundaries of these areas may be associated with a range of quality habitat including ancient woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** Construction is likely to have removed earlier archaeological traces.

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintainance of surviving boundaries

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
32	58	0.03%	Rare		58

**Description:** railways and associated features large enough to occur at a landscape scale.

**Period:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** In this instance the railway line is still in use, some elements of the infrastructure will have been upgraded in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Boundaries of these areas may be associated with a range of quality habitat including ancient woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** Construction is likely to have removed earlier archaeological traces but likely to be associated with a range of transport heritage assets

**Management:** Retain linkages to past land uses where possible through maintenance of surviving boundaries, record and preserve transport heritage assets such as bridges.



## Broad Type: Water and Water Management

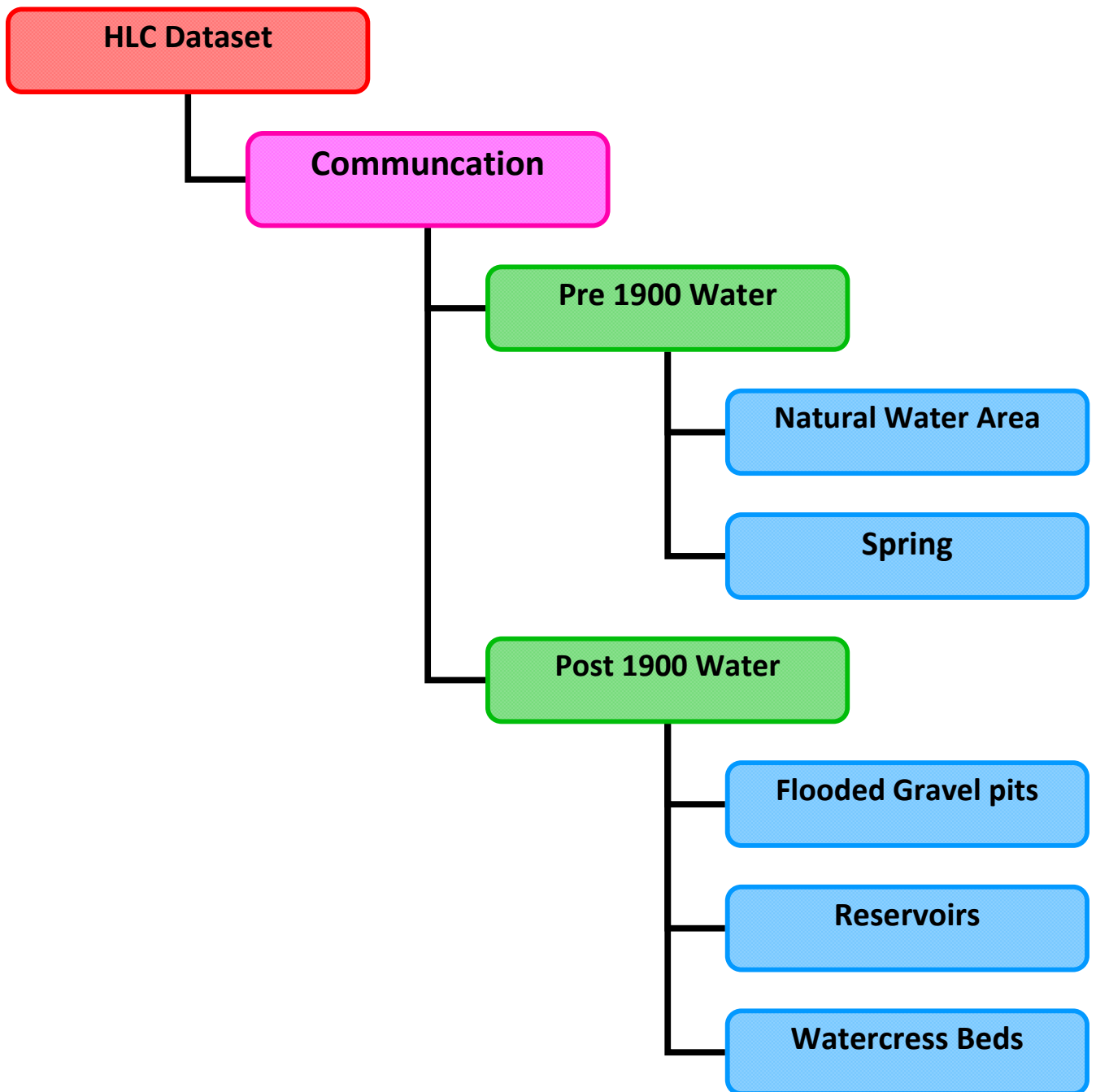
### Water and Water Management in the North Wessex Downs AONB

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Pre 1900 Water	natural water area	8	6	0.00%	Very Rare		6	0.00%
	spring	82	6	0.00%	Very Rare	1	8	0.00%
Post 1900 Water	flooded gravel pits	67	8	0.00%	Very Rare		8	0.00%
	reservoir	16	14	0.01%	Very Rare		14	0.01%
	watercress bed	17	25	0.01%	Very Rare	1	27	0.02%

Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
6	0.00%	Very Rare		6	0.00%

**Description:** natural water bodies that are extensive enough (longer than 200m and consistently wider than 50 -100m) to be mapped. Few natural water bodies in the area are of this size and only a handful exist in the dataset, for example the Kennet at Chilton Foliat and Wilton Water near Burbage.

**Period:** undated – prehistoric.

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Recreational land has often been created on the edge of these features or they have been incorporated into designed landscapes

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Associated with rare wetland habitats.

**Archaeological potential:** Generally low though there is the possibility for waterlogged finds or deposits

**Management:** Not Applicable

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
6	0.00%	Very Rare	1	8	0.00%

**Description:** areas of depressed ground from which a spring issues, these are mapped only when they exceed one hectare. There are only three in the data and all are on the springline on the downs scarp south of Wantage.

**Period:** Undated – prehistoric.

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Springs have tended to be less used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century replaced by modern water infrastructure.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Wet ground may be associated with wetland habitats.

**Archaeological potential:** Generally low though there is the possibility for waterlogged finds or deposits

**Management:** Focus on relationship between springs and historic settlement

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
8	0.00%	Very Rare		8	0.00%

**Description:** man-made water areas created from flooding gravel workings. These are often now in use as recreational areas, mainly as lakes for fishing clubs.

**Period:** mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. The flooding occurred as a natural process post extraction.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Associated with rare wetland habitats.

**Archaeological potential:** Quarry activity will have removed archaeological traces.

**Management:** May be surrounded by historic boundaries worth maintaining.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
14	0.01%	Very Rare		14	0.01%

**Description:** any man-made water bodies (not flooded gravel as they were made as pits not water bodies), also includes covered reservoirs. Not common in the district.

**Period:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. They are operational and well maintained.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Associated with rare wetland habitats.

**Archaeological potential:** Construction will have removed archaeological traces.

**Management:** May be surrounded by historic boundaries worth maintaining.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
25	0.01%	Very Rare	1	27	0.02%

**Description:** shallow artificial tanks or beds used solely for the growth of watercress. Watercress beds first appear at the beginning the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first British watercress farm was opened in 1808 by William Bradbury at Springhead in Northfleet, near Gravesend in Kent. Watercress is grown in specially constructed beds and thrives in slightly alkaline water.

This type is consistently associated, therefore, with groups of small rectangular beds and associated ancillary buildings at the head of chalk streams

**Period:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** This type represents the most recent phase of activity in this area in the landscape. The heyday of Watercress production was the 19<sup>th</sup> century and these are the surviving remnants of this industry.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Associated with rare wetland habitats.

**Archaeological potential:** Construction will have removed archaeological traces.

**Management:** May be surrounded by historic boundaries worth maintaining.

## Broad Type: Archaeology

### Archaeology in the North Wessex Downs AONB

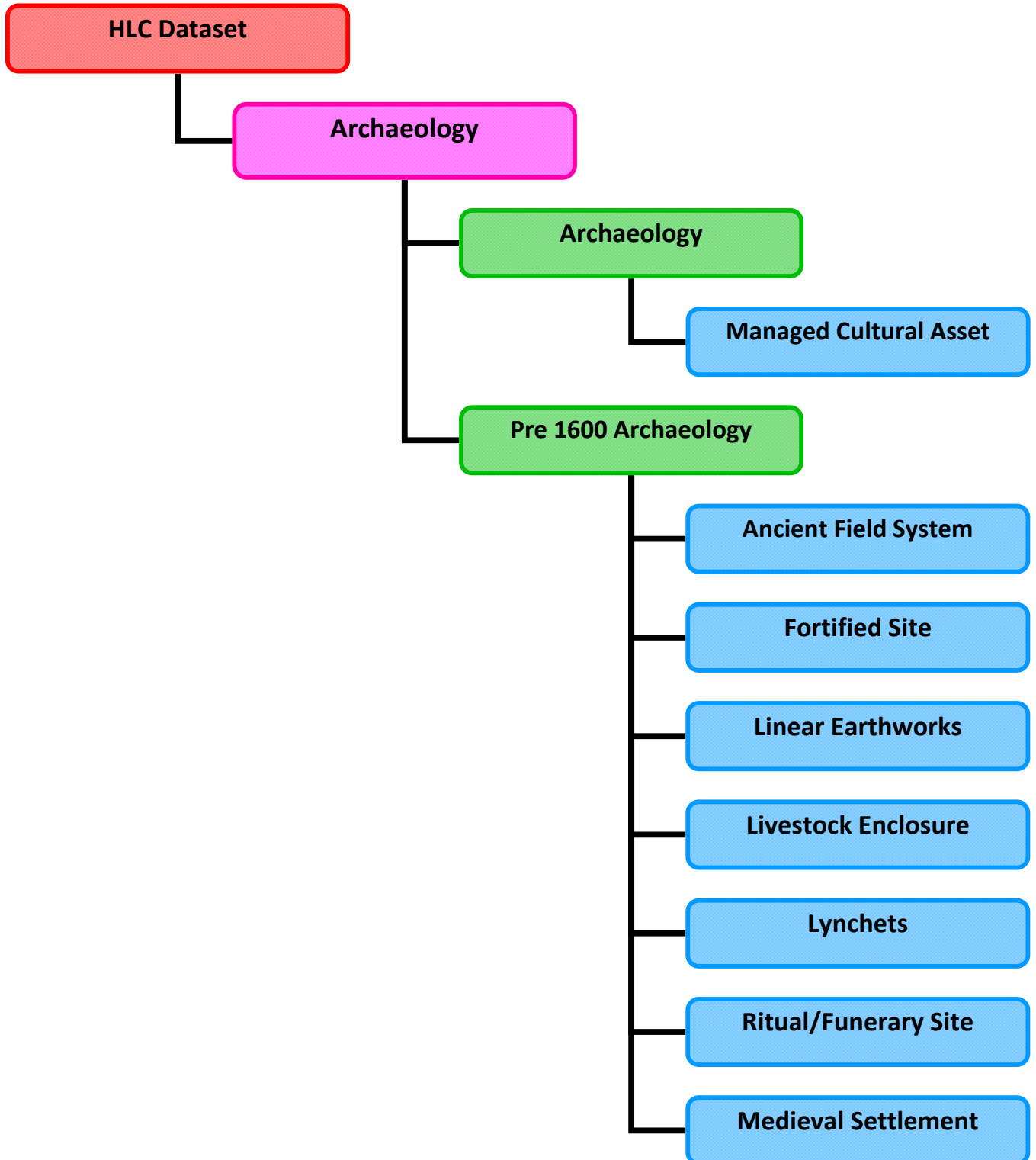
Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Archaeology	Managed Cultural Asset	58	139	0.08%	Rare			0.08%
Pre 1600 Archaeology Site	ancient field system	63		0.00%	N/A	873	873	0.50%
	fortified site	52		0.00%	N/A	222	222	0.13%
	linear earthworks	54		0.00%	N/A	47	47	0.03%
	livestock enclosure	56		0.00%	N/A	7	7	0.00%
	lynchets	64		0.00%	N/A	22	22	0.01%
	ritual/funerary site	50		0.00%	N/A	143	143	0.08%
	medieval settlement	57		0.00%	N/A	248	248	0.14%



Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
139	0.08%	Rare			0.08%

**Description:** Archaeological and historic sites whose main function is as a visitor attraction and/or where there is no other over-arching modern land-use. Examples include Donnington Castle.

**Period:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century – present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** The archaeological and heritage features in this area have been managed in such a way to present a coherent story to visitors; additional ancillary features may have been created such as gift shops or cafes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Extant earthworks may be associated with unimproved chalk grassland or ancient woodland.

**Archaeological potential:** Further archaeological traces will be associated with such sites which may not have been subject to investigation.

**Management:** These sites are already under active management.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	873	873	0.50%

**Description:** earthworks and cropmarks of complexes of fields which appear to form a coherent system, used only as a previous type. These are hard to date morphologically but seem to be broadly Late Bronze Age to Roman in date on the basis of excavated examples. Numerous examples of ancient field systems are documented, as cropmarks, across the district but they are only mapped in the HLC dataset where they influence the layout of the Current HLC Type. Where Ancient Field System is found as a previous type, a landscape of considerable antiquity is present.

**Period:** Later Prehistoric – Roman

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised fieldscapes but higher where large tracts exist on surviving downland.

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation (e.g. as a parish boundary) have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks. Large numbers of cropmarked examples have been shown, on excavation, to retain little in the way of deposits with scant information to be gained from them to elucidate the actual form, function and date of the features represented.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	222	222	0.13%

**Description:** defensive enclosures bounded by one or more substantial banks, ramparts and ditches, e.g. Walbury Hill. **Fortified Sites** are found only as a previous type and are recorded where they cover at least one hectare and have an impact on the form of the Current HLC type. The distribution of **Fortified Sites** shown by the HLC data, therefore, is not definitive. Further information on **Fortified Sites** can be gained from the county HER.

**Period:** Prehistoric

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised landscapes but higher where large tracts exist on surviving downland.

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	47	47	0.03%

**Description:** linear earthworks, such as the Wansdyke, that have an impact at landscape scale. None mapped in West Berkshire, all mapped examples come from the AONB HLC dataset. **Linear Earthworks** are found only as a previous type and are recorded where they cover at least one hectare and have an impact on the form of the Current HLC type. The distribution of **Linear Earthworks** shown by the HLC data, therefore, is not definitive. Further information about the distribution of **Linear Earthworks** can be gained from the West Berkshire HER.

**Period:** prehistoric – early medieval

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised fieldscapes but higher where large tracts exist on surviving downland.

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation (e.g. as a parish boundary) have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	7	7	0.00%

**Description:** Prehistoric enclosure, Further information on **Livestock enclosures** can be gained from the county HER.

**Period:** prehistoric

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised fieldscapes but higher where large tracts exist on surviving downland.

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation (e.g. as a parish boundary) have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	22	22	0.01%

**Description:** Earthwork banks formed by ploughing on a slope, probably medieval in date. Lynchets visible on scarp slopes are thought to be indicative of an expansion of cultivation onto less-suitable land in the medieval period. Lynchets are found only as a previous type and are recorded where they cover at least one hectare and have an impact on the form of the Current HLC type. The distribution of lynchets shown by the HLC data, therefore, is not definitive. Further information about the distribution of Lynchets can be gained from the West Berkshire HER.

**Period:** prehistoric to medieval

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised fieldscapes but higher where large tracts exist on surviving downland.

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation (e.g. as a parish boundary) have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	143	143	0.08%

**Description:** prehistoric and roman ritual and/or funerary sites. **Ritual/funerary Sites** are found only as a previous type and are recorded where they cover at least one hectare and have an impact on the form of the Current HLC type. The distribution of **Ritual/funerary Sites** shown by the HLC data, therefore, is not definitive. Further information about the distribution of **Ritual/funerary Sites** can be gained from the West Berkshire HER.

**Period:** prehistoric

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised fieldscapes but higher where large tracts exist on surviving downland.

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.



Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	248	248	0.14%

**Description:** archaeological remains of medieval settlement, these are recorded in the HLC dataset where they have an influence on the layout of subsequent land-use. This type is usually represented by manorial earthworks (e.g. moats) or the earthwork remains of deserted or shrunken villages. **Medieval Settlement** is found only as a previous type and is recorded where it covers at least one hectare and has an impact on the form of the Current HLC type. The distribution of **Medieval Settlement** shown by the HLC data, therefore, is not definitive. Further information about the distribution of **Medieval Settlement** can be gained from the West Berkshire HER.

**Period:** Medieval

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** These features may have been subject to ploughing erosion of, scrub growth. In some instances they may have be in active management to aid their preservation through agri-environment or monument management schemes.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Variable and not a function of the type itself; low where underlie industrialised fieldscapes but higher where areas of ancient woodland or umimproved grazing survive..

**Archaeological potential:** Those that survive above ground, earthwork examples on downland, or are preserved as elements of later land organisation have a higher potential than those known only from cropmarks.

**Management:** Management should focus on preserving extant earthworks and protecting buried archaeology from further disturbance.

**Broad Type: Other**

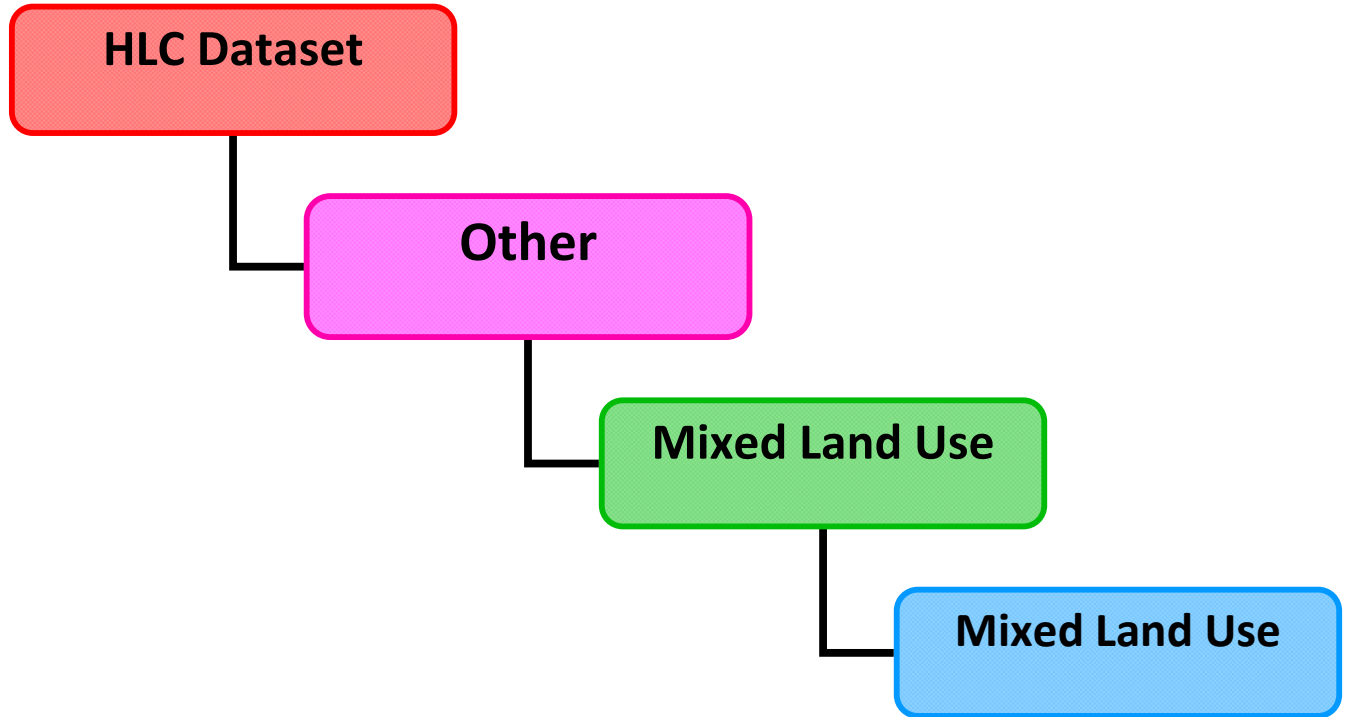
**Other Land in the North Wessex Downs AONB**

Sub Group	Type	HLT No.	Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
Mixed Land Use	mixed land-use	76		0.00%	N/A	2638.52	2638.52	1.51%

Broad Type

> Sub Group

> Historic Landscape Type



Other > Mixed Land Use > Mixed Land Use HLT 76

Present Day (ha)	% of AONB Area In Present day	Occurrence Today	Previous Traces (Ha)	Total Coverage (Ha)	% of AONB Area Total Coverage
	0.00%	N/A	2638.52	2638.52	1.51%

**Description:** used as a previous type for areas of recent land-use (such as reorganised fields or recent settlement growth) where the prior land-use was comprised of several, differing, HLC Types.

**Period:** Medieval to Present

**Trajectory of Change since 1700:** Replaced by recent land-use such as reorganised fields.

**Contribution to Potential Biodiversity:** Not Applicable

**Archaeological potential:** Not Applicable

**Management:** Not Applicable



# NORTH WESSEX DOWNS

AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## Historic Landscape Characterisation

### Section 6: User Guide

Version 1

#### Summary

*This section gives an overview of the aims of the North Wessex Downs AONB and West Berkshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, its methodology and guidance on the use of the HLC dataset. The project covers the overlapping areas of the North Wessex Downs AONB and West Berkshire District. Historic Landscape Characterisation is a national initiative of English Heritage that provides an overarching view of the whole historic landscape. It is an archaeological method which defines and maps the historic dimension of the present day landscape as a GIS dataset and aims to facilitate better understanding and management of this resource. This is a permanent but renewable dataset of information on many facets of the landscape that can be used to provide information for a variety of planning, conservation, research and management-led applications*



Created by Melissa Conway August 2006, updated December 2007 HLC Dataset  
Updated by Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy July 2012

## North Wessex Downs AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation Project: A User Guide

### 1.0 What is Historic Landscape Characterisation?

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is a way of analysing and recording how several millennia of human interaction with the land has produced the rural landscape we experience today. The method was pioneered in Cornwall in the 1990s and is now one of English Heritage's key programmes. It is recognised as a means for understanding and managing the entire landscape and not just the archaeological sites and buildings traditionally protected by scheduling or listing. HLC treats the landscape like an archaeological site and explores the multi-layered and multi-phased nature of the world around us, through maps, aerial photographs and other sources. It picks apart its components, features of widely differing usage and periods of origin like woodlands, field systems and industrial estates, and then maps and stores information about them in a GIS dataset. This end-product can be used by landscape managers, planners, farmers, archaeologists, local historians and anyone else interested in their surroundings.

The area covered by the North Wessex Downs & West Berkshire (NWD & WB) HLC project comprises the overlapping areas of the North Wessex Downs AONB and West Berkshire Unitary Authority. It spans all of West Berkshire, a large portion of Wiltshire, part of Swindon Borough Council and smaller areas within south Oxfordshire and north Hampshire (Figure 1). The dataset has subsequently been cut to the AONB boundary



Figure 1 – Project Coverage

The project was undertaken due to the complementary needs of the North Wessex Downs AONB and the West Berkshire Archaeology Service to better understand this landscape. In preparing its Management Plan, the North Wessex Downs AONB Team identified that a lack of understanding of their landscape, particularly its cultural depth, presented a considerable threat to effective and sympathetic management of the area (NWD 2004). The West Berkshire Archaeology Service also felt that an enhanced understanding of the district's landscape would enable them to provide better advice on the historic environment by putting known sites into context and by deepening understanding of the rural settlement pattern. The Project was carried out by a project officer working within the West Berkshire Archaeology Service between 2004 – 6 assisted by support from the AONB team, English Heritage and the environmental, archaeological and GIS officers of the other constituent local authorities.

## **2.0 Project Methodology and Resources**

HLC uses modern and historic mapping, aerial photography and archaeological and environmental information to assess how each land parcel has evolved to its current state. This is done by firstly looking at the nature of land-cover, i.e. is it fields or woods, then looking at the morphology of the parcels of land, including size and shape and boundary form. Traces of earlier land-uses that influence the layout of current land-use are also noted. Following this process, an assessment of the origin of the land-use can be made. Areas of like evolution are grouped together and mapped as polygons in a GIS coverage and their attributes recorded in an allied database. This methodology can only map what remains within the landscape today and does not try to reconstruct past landscapes which survive patchily, for example prehistoric ritual landscapes, or those which no longer have physical, above ground, traces. The cut off point below which a land-use was considered too small to be mapped was set at one hectare.

As the project covered a variety of administrative areas and historic counties, sources were not consistent across the area. Datasets that covered the whole project area formed the core sources;

- modern Ordnance Survey mapping
- historic Ordnance Survey mapping (epochs 1 - 4)
- digital aerial photographs
- SMR and HER data
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century county maps and
- the Natural England Ancient Woodlands Inventory and Common Land Register.

The effects of parliamentary enclosure on the landscape were also mapped and enclosure records covering the area held by the Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire and Swindon Record Offices were consulted. A full list of sources used is contained in Appendix 2.

Mapping and recording was carried out using a combination of ESRI's ArcView 3.3 and ArcGIS 9 packages. Areas of the same characteristics were manually digitised off-screen as polygons into an ESRI *shapefile* and the information about each stored in the allied ESRI database file.

### **Database structure**

The database records attributes in three sections:

- information about the current land-use (coloured blue in the following examples).
- information about earlier land-uses evident within the mapped area (coloured green). Where multiple previous land-uses have been identified this set of fields is repeated for each land-use and are ordered from most recent to oldest in the database (PRV1\_ fields most recent, then PRV\_2 fields, then PRV\_3).

- information about the polygon itself (coloured pink).

Field Name	Field Type	Description	Required
ID	Numeric	ID number for HLC polygon	Y
CODE_TYPE	Numeric	coded value for current land-use – term for full land-use type name contained in CURRENT_TY	Y
BROAD_TYPE	Text	broad HLC type of polygon, e.g. <i>enclosures, civic, industrial, woodland</i> , etc.	Y
SUB_GROUP	Text	Sub Group e.g Pre 1700 open Land or Post 1900 enclosure	Y
CURRENT_TY	Text	HLC type of polygon, e.g. <i>ancient woodland, modern settlement</i> , etc.	Y
PERIOD	Text	broad period of land-use origin – <i>prehistoric, medieval, 20<sup>th</sup> Century</i> .	Y
MOD_SOURCE	Text	coded value for source used to identify land-use type	Y
SOURCE_NAM	Text	source from which current land-use identified	Y
SOURCE_DAT	Text	date of source used	Y
MORPH_PATN	Text	dominant morphology pattern of polygon, e.g. curvilinear boundaries, nucleated settlement. Recorded for broad HLC types <i>enclosures, woodland</i> and <i>settlement</i> and not where inappropriate, e.g. <i>Utilities</i> .	Y
MPH_INT_BD	Text	dominant boundary type within a polygon where it contains multiple land parcels, e.g. <i>straight, curving, sinuous</i> .	Y
BNDRY_LOSS	Numeric	number of field boundaries lost in amalgamation of fields	N
BNDRY_GAIN	Numeric	number of field boundaries gained in division of fields	N
NO_OF_FIEL	Numeric	number of fields contained within polygon	N
NAME	Text	name of town, village or farm	N
STATUS	Text	whether the land-use of the polygon is current, values <i>active</i> or <i>inactive</i> , mainly used for army bases and quarries.	N
PREV1_TYP	Numeric	coded value for most recent previous land-use (term for full land-use type name contained in PRV1_TYPE)	N
PRV1_TYPE	Text	most recent previous HLC type of polygon	N
PRV1_PERIO	Text	broad period of land-use origin	N
SOURCE_1	Text	coded value for source used to identify land-use type	N
SOURCE1_NAM	Text	source from which current land-use identified	N
SOURCE1_DA	Text	date of source used	N
CONFIDENCE	Text	how solid the interpretation of a polygon is, four values; <i>cert, prob, poss, unsure</i>	Y
DIGITISER	Text	name of polygon creator	Y
DIGIT_DATE	Date	date of polygon creation	Y
HECTARES	Numeric	area of polygon	Y



The following example shows how this works in practice. The villages of Shalbourne and Ham (Wiltshire) were surrounded by open fields farmed in common in the medieval period. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century parts of these had been enclosed by agreement and encroachment into smaller fields owned and farmed by private individuals. The remaining areas of open field were enclosed into private fields under the process of Parliamentary enclosure in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Figure 2.1.1 shows two areas comprising parliamentary fields enclosed from open fields.

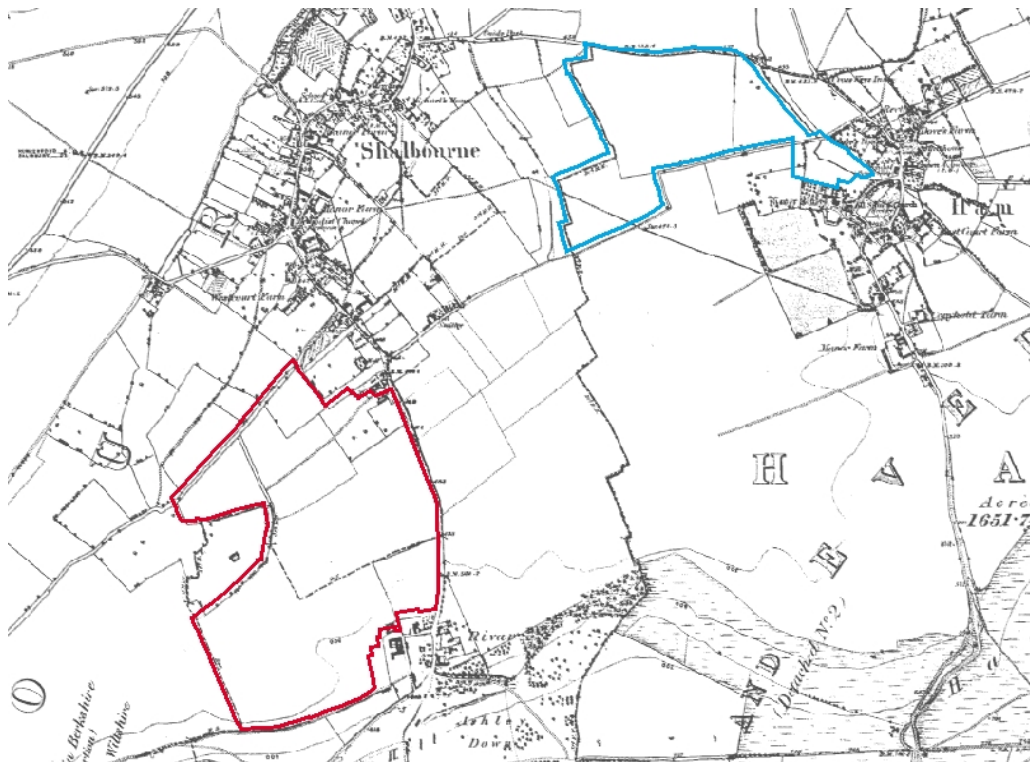


Figure 2.1.1: parliamentary enclosure fields in Shalbourne and Ham (OS 1<sup>st</sup> ed)

In recent years the boundaries of the fields in the red area have been ripped out and amalgamated into a single large field, whilst those in the blue area have remained unaltered (Figure 2.1.2).



Figure 2.1.2: current land-use in Shalbourne and Ham (1999 aerial photographs).

These two areas have similar influences on their evolution but the red area has been subject to much recent alteration. Both are recorded in the database as follows:

	red area	blue area
CODE_TYPE	5	1
BROAD_TYPE	enclosures	enclosures
CURRENT_TY	amalgamated fields	parliamentary enclosures
PERIOD	mid-20 <sup>th</sup> C – present	mid 18 <sup>th</sup> mid 19 <sup>th</sup> C
MOD_SOURCE	OS_m	im
SOURCE_NAM	modern Ordnance Survey map	inclosure map
SOURCE_DAT	c.2003	1738-1858
MORPH_PATN	irr	reg
MPH_INT_BD	n/a	str
BNDRY_LOSS	7	0
BNDRY_GAIN	0	0
NO_OF_FIEL	1	4
SETT_NAME	n/a	n/a
STATUS	n/a	n/a
ENC_ORIG	enclosed from open fields	enclosed from open fields
WOOD_ORIG	n/a	n/a
PREV1_TYP	1	66
PRV1_TYPE	Parliamentary enclosures	open field
PRV1_PERIO	mid-18 <sup>th</sup> – mid-19 <sup>th</sup> C	medieval
SOURCE_1	im	im
SOURCE1_NA	inclosure map	inclosure map
SOURCE1_DA	1738-1858	1738-1858
PREV2_TYP	66	
PREV2_TYP	open field	
PRV2_PERIO	medieval	
SOURCE_2	im	
SOURCE2_NA	inclosure map	
SOURCE2_DA	1738-1858	
CONFIDENCE	prob	prob
DIGITISER	M.Conway	M.Conway
DIGIT_DATE	24/08/2005	24/08/2005
HECTARES	49.39	23.96

### 3.0 Using the data

#### 3.1 Displaying the data

The HLC data can be used in many ways, the simplest is as a thematic map. Maps can be prepared of several facets of the data by applying legends to the data fields within the GIS. The following figures show examples of maps created by applying legends to database fields.

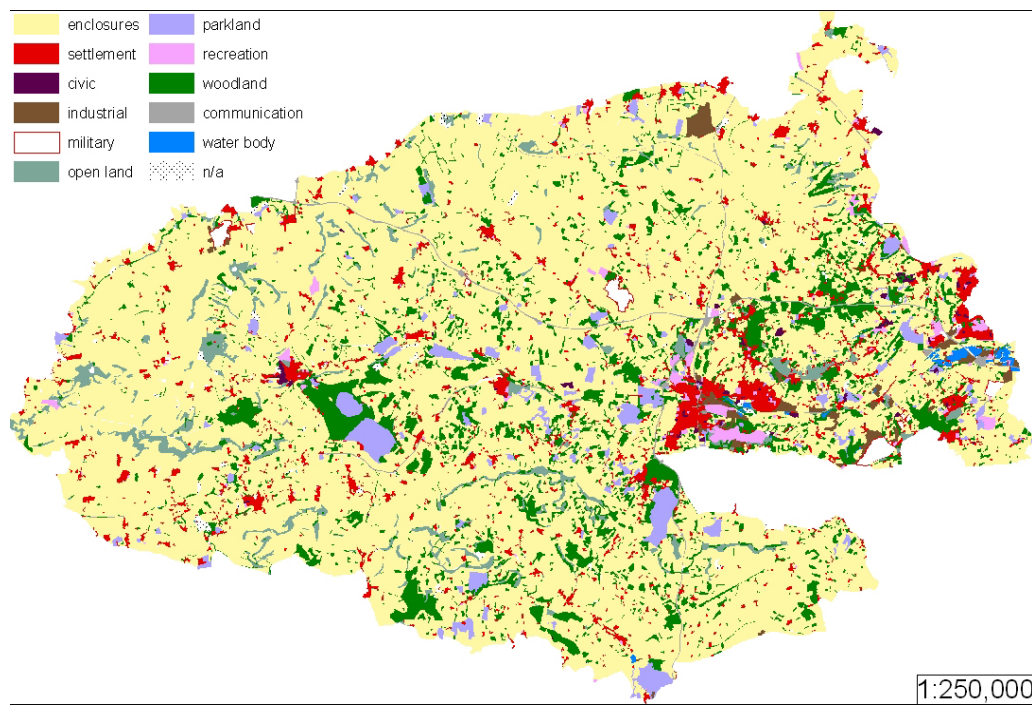


Figure 3.1.1: HLC displayed as landscape groups using GROUP database field.



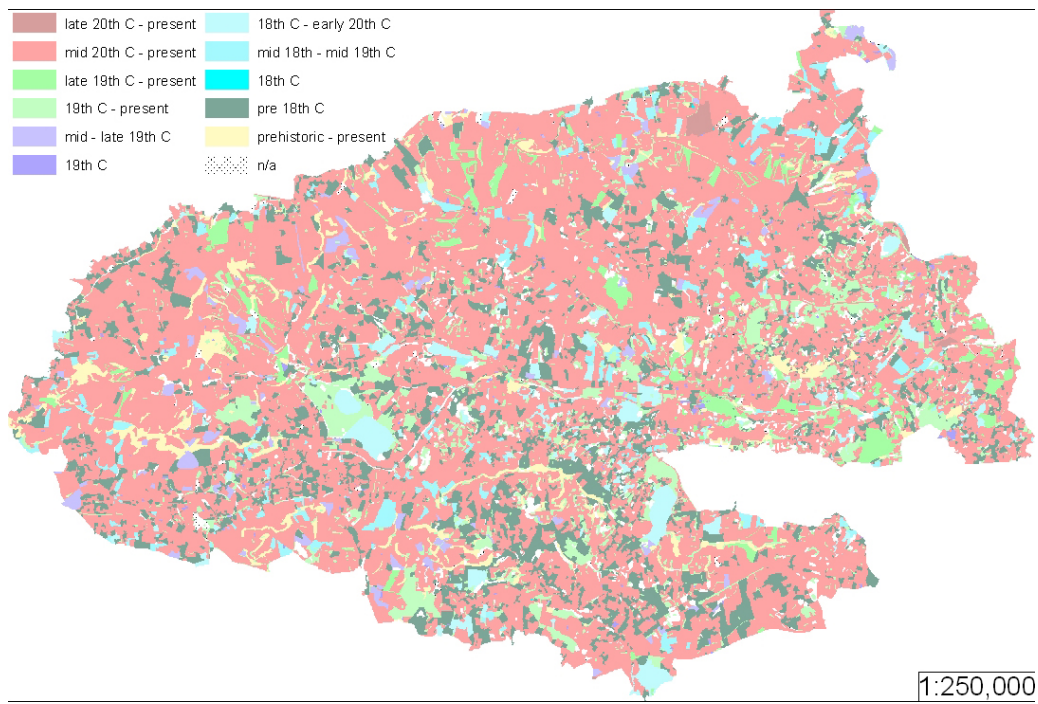


Figure 3.1.2: HLC displayed by period of land-use origin using PERIOD database field.

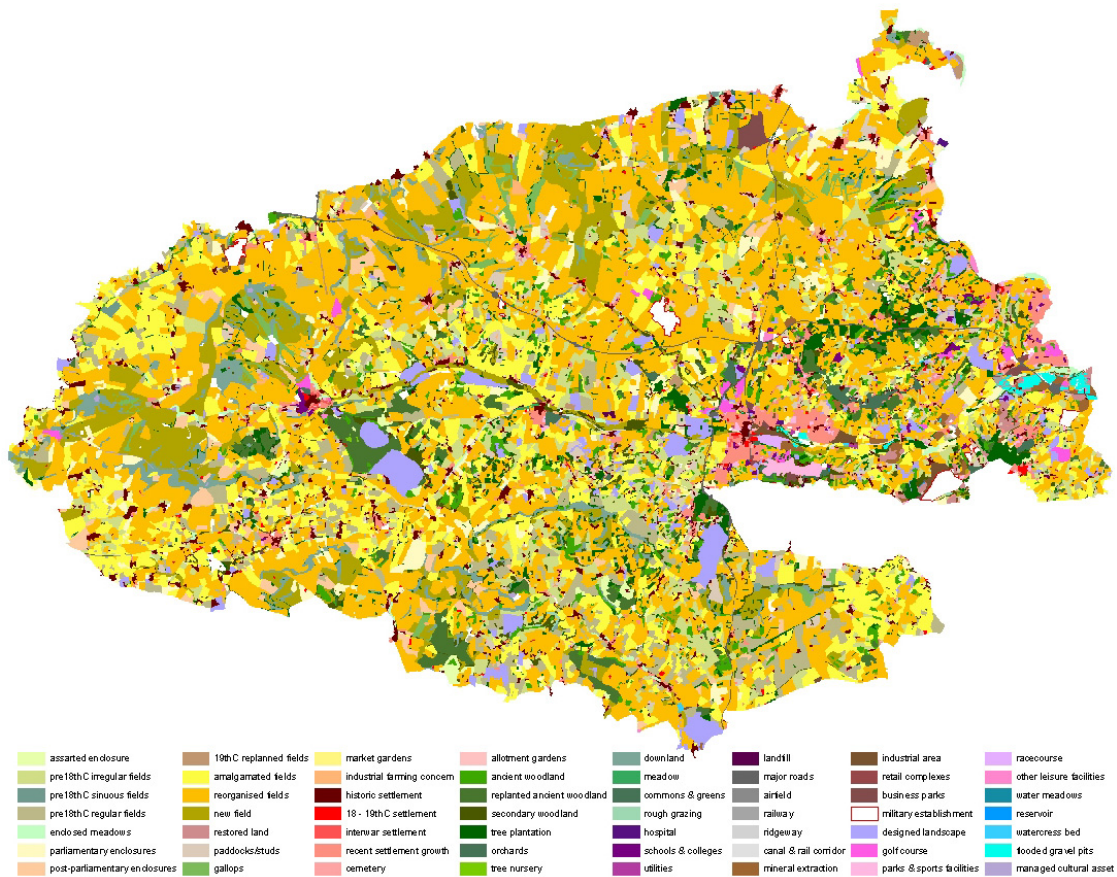


Figure 3.1.2: HLC data displayed by current land-use type using CURRENT\_TY database field.

### 3.2 Querying the data

Thematic maps are a good way of initially visualising the data and provide a way into what is a quite complex dataset but they can explore only one layer of the data at a time. More meaningful questions can be answered by querying the dataset within the GIS. Analysing data with ESRI's Arc GIS package is done through use of SQL – the same querying language which underpins MS Access and other database applications – and it is therefore fairly easy to query data once the logic of the question has been thought through. The flat nature of the HLC database means that, in order to produce results for complex questions, several queries may need to be performed.

A simple query that might be performed with the HLC data is to locate all areas of common land (Figure 3.2.1).

- open the GIS package's querying utility (**select by attributes** in Arc GIS 9);
- search for all records that match the criteria "CURRENT\_TY" = 'commons';

The records matching this criterion are highlighted.

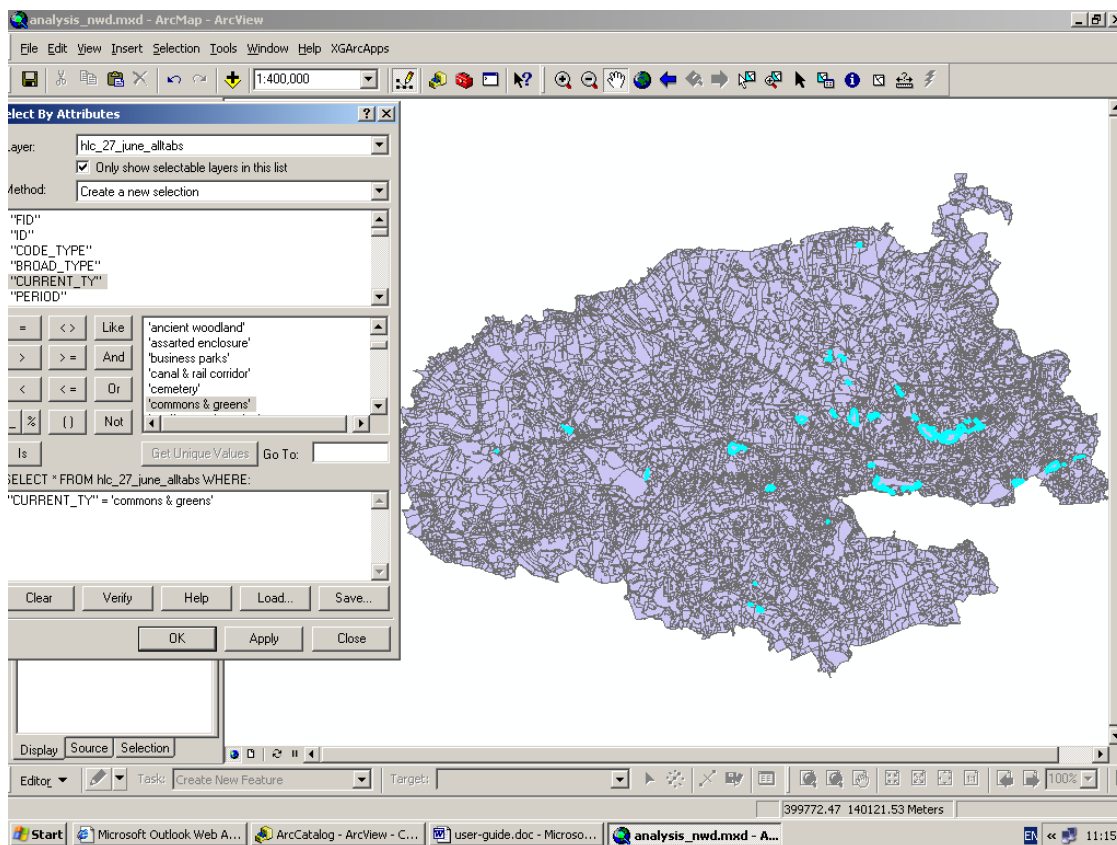


Figure 3.2.1: Query to locate commons

This query would not find areas of former common land that have been converted to other uses, for instance farming or tree plantation. To locate these areas a more complex query would be required. A previous land use type of commons could occur in any level of the database. A query would need to be executed on each previous land-use type field (PRV1\_TYPE, PRV2\_TYPE and PRV3\_TYPE) to find all former commons.

In Arc GIS this can be achieved by running the following query;

```
"PRV1_TYPE" = 'commons' OR "PRV2_TYPE" = 'commons' OR "PRV3_TYPE" = 'commons'
```

The results are shown in Figure 3.2.2 and illustrate that common land was previously much more extensive and widespread. Further things that could be explored from the result of this query are the proportions of common land remaining and lost (using the HECTARES field) and looking at the sorts of land-uses that have succeeded commons.

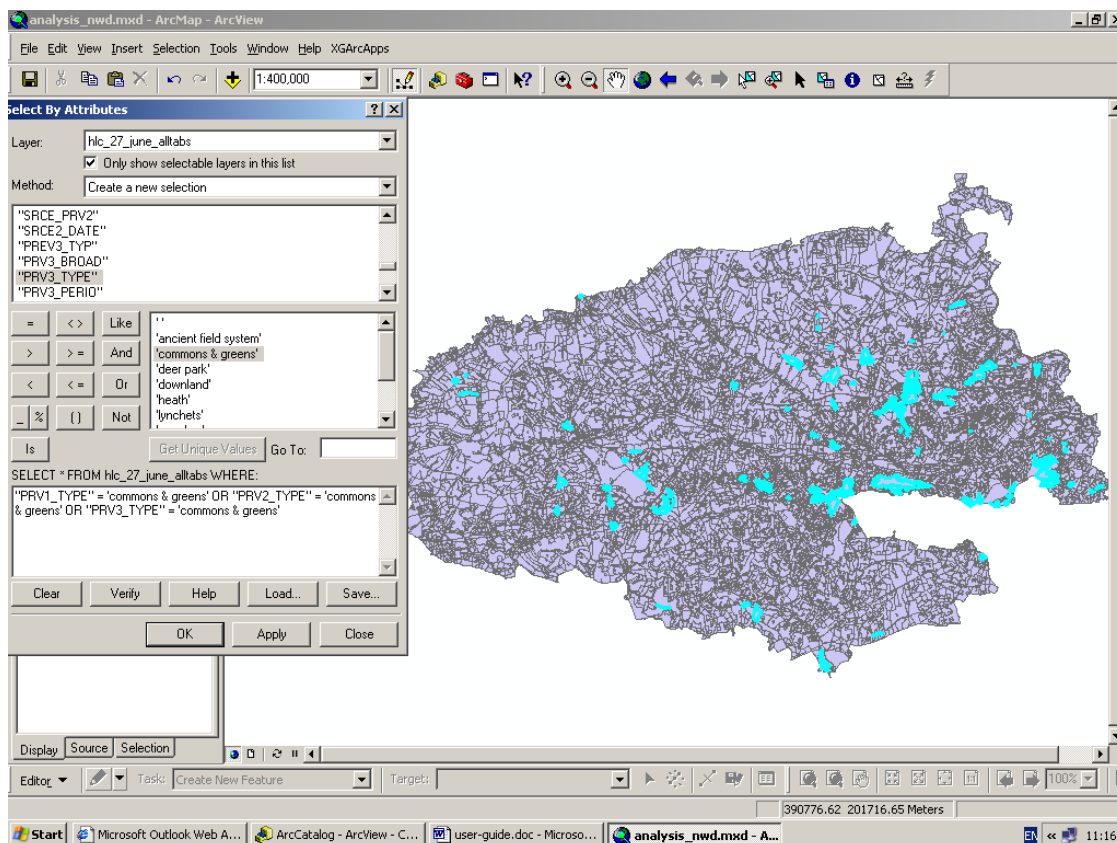


Figure 3.2.2: Query to locate former commons

HLC data can also be used to investigate the effects of recent agricultural trends on the landscape. Increasingly mechanised arable cultivation has led to an enlargement of fields on many farms, this has been either through simple boundary removal or through reorganisation and reshaping of holdings.

Areas where this has occurred can be located by querying the HLC data as follows;

"CURRENT\_TY" = 'amalgamated fields' OR "CURRENT\_TY" = 'reorganised fields'

The result of this query is shown in Figure 3.2.3 and demonstrates that much of the agricultural landscape has been heavily modified.

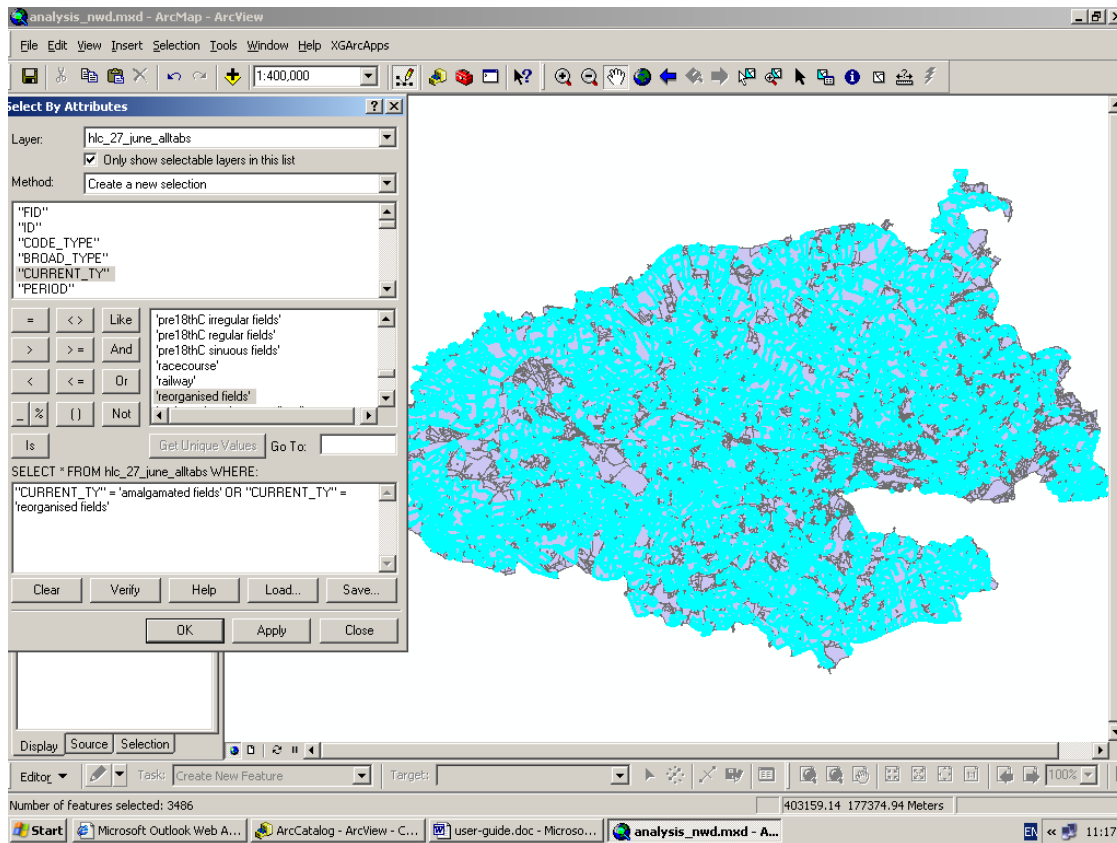


Figure 3.2.3: distribution of recently altered fields

Opportunities for landscape improvement, for example by hedge restoration, can be explored by identifying areas where earlier field systems show through this modern alteration. This can be done by refining this selection by selecting out those that have a previous land-use type of some form of 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier fields, such as 'parliamentary enclosures', 'pre 18<sup>th</sup> century fields' or 'assarts'. Those areas that retain earlier historic features are shown in Figure 3.2.4. A large amount of seemingly modern fields can be demonstrated to retain elements of their earlier antecedents that could be enhanced by sympathetic management.



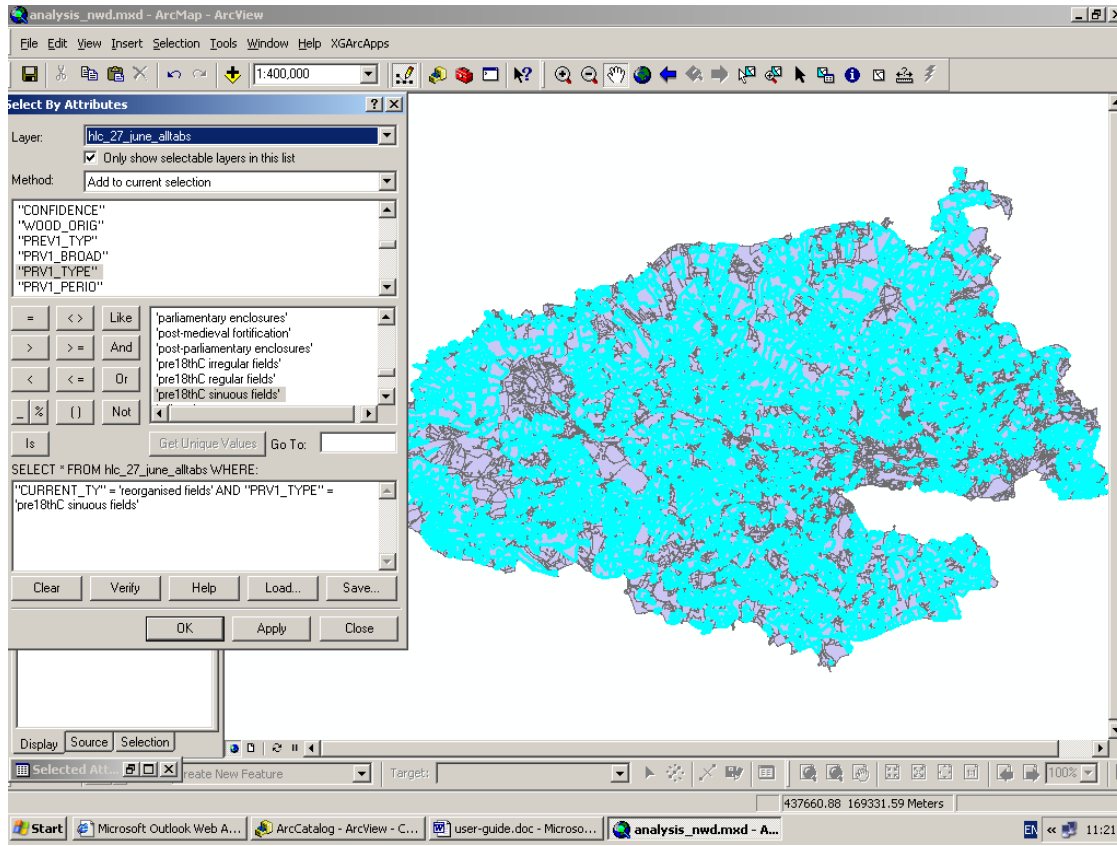


Figure 3.2.4: distribution of recently altered fields that retain features of earlier field systems

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Abbreviations used in the text

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BRO	Berkshire Record Office
EH	English Heritage
GIS	Geographical Information System
HCC	Hampshire County Council
HCC AHBR	Hampshire County Council Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HRO	Hampshire Record Office
NE	Natural England, formerly English Nature
NWD	North Wessex Downs
OA	Oxford Archaeology
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
OS	Ordnance Survey
SBC	Swindon Borough Council
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SQL	Structured Query Language
WBC	West Berkshire Council
WBHS	West Berkshire Heritage Service
WCC	Wiltshire County Council
WSRO	Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office

## Appendix 2: Sources used by the North Wessex Downs & West Berkshire HLC Project

Source	Format	Coverage & Description	Source
OS 1:25,000 Explorer maps	Paper	all of project area	Ordnance Survey
OS 1:50,000	Digital	all of project area	Ordnance Survey
OS 1:10,000	Digital	all of project area	Ordnance Survey
OS 1:1250 Landline	Digital	West Berkshire and Oxfordshire	Ordnance Survey
OS MasterMap	Digital	all of project area	Ordnance Survey
Historic Ordnance Survey mapping 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> epochs	Digital	all of project area. Mapping dates; Epoch 1 – 1877-1883 Epoch 2 – 1897-1900 Epoch 3 – 1912-1914 Epoch 4 – 1925-1938	WBC, HCC, EH
Historic Ordnance Survey mapping 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> epoch	Digital	West Berkshire only. Mapping dates; Epoch 5 – 1960-1961 Epoch 6 – 1970-1976 Epoch 7 – 1971-1993	WBC
Aerial Photographs	Digital	all of project area: varying dates and sources	WBC, HCC, WCC, OCC
Hampshire HLC data	Digital	All Hampshire, 1999	HCC & OA
SMR	Digital	all of project area, not supplied for Oxfordshire	WBC, HCC, WCC, OCC
Registered Parks and Gardens	Digital	all of project area	English Heritage
Ancient Woodlands Inventory	Digital	all of project area	Natural England
Common Land Register	Digital	all of project area	Natural England
NMP transcriptions	Digital	Lambourn Downs, West Berkshire	English Heritage
SMR AP transcriptions	Paper and Digital	partial coverage of W. Berkshire, Hampshire	WBC SMR, HCC AHBR
Rocque's Map of Berkshire 1761	Paper	W. Berkshire and Oxfordshire within the NWD AONB	WBHS
Andrews & Dury's Map of Wiltshire 1773	Paper	All Wiltshire	WSRO
Taylor's Map of Hampshire 1759	Paper	All Hampshire	HRO
Milne's Map of Hampshire 1791	Paper	All Hampshire	HRO
Enclosure awards	Digital and Paper	Historic paper maps, partial coverage, available from record office. Scans of Berkshire and Oxfordshire awards online at <a href="http://www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk/default.asp">http://www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk/default.asp</a>	BRO, WSRO, HRO