Defining the special qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District

Final Report
Prepared by LUC
August 2015
**Project Title:** Aylesbury Vale: Local Landscape Designations

**Client:** Aylesbury Vale District Council

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<th>Prepared by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Draft</td>
<td>Kate Anderson</td>
<td>Rebecca Knight</td>
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1 Introduction

1.1 LUC was commissioned by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) to provide evidence on the special qualities and values of locally designated landscapes within the district - the Areas of Attractive Landscape (AAL) and Local Landscape Areas (LLAs), to enhance the Council’s landscape evidence base and to inform the Local Plan. The work aims to identify the special character and qualities of these areas to augment information in the landscape character assessment.

1.2 The purpose of this study is to provide further information on the special qualities of the existing designated landscapes (AALs and LLAs); it does not review the existing AAL and LLA boundaries.

1.3 Local landscape designations can play an important role in protecting and enhancing landscapes which are of particular value in the context of the local authority area. Information on the local landscape designations may therefore be useful for a number of purposes:

- To provide a baseline against which to assess the impact of a proposed development on the landscape by comparing the characteristics of the proposal against the area’s special qualities;
- to inform sensitive siting and design of new development both in development control and for prospective developers;
- to communicate the distinctive characteristics of Aylesbury Vale as part of baseline data for future landscape studies;
- to inform policies for the future development and management of Aylesbury Vale.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Designations

1.4 Local landscape designations are a material consideration in development control. Many of the areas identified as local landscape designations also contain other statutory and non statutory designations which often contribute to the special landscape quality of the area: examples of these are listed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Natural/ Cultural Heritage Designations in Aylesbury Vale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hierarchy/ status</th>
<th>Natural Heritage</th>
<th>Cultural Heritage</th>
<th>Landscape</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</td>
<td>Scheduled Monument</td>
<td>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Area of Conservation</td>
<td>Listed Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ancient Woodland</td>
<td>Registered Park and Garden (RP&amp;G)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Biological Notification Site (BNS)</td>
<td>Conservation Area</td>
<td>Area of Attractive Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Geological Site</td>
<td></td>
<td>Local Landscape Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Wildlife Site (LWS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy context

1.6 The European Landscape Convention recognises that all landscapes are of value whether they are designated or not. It also states the importance of Landscape Protection, which it defines as:

"measures to preserve the present character and quality of a landscape which is greatly valued on account of its distinctive natural or cultural configuration. Such protection must be active and involve upkeep measures to preserve significant features of a landscape”.

1.7 The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by “protecting and enhancing valued landscapes” (paragraph 109). Paragraph 113 of the NPPF says that "local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged".

1.8 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan is currently being prepared. Until the new Local Plan is adopted, planning policies for local landscape designations (AALs and LLAs) consist of saved policies from the previous Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP). In 2007 the Council saved Policy RA8 of the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan Adopted 2004 (AVDLP). Policy RA8 aims to protect landscape features and qualities of the AALs and LLAs, which are also defined on the AVDLP proposals map. The background to the designation of these areas and extracts from the relevant policies are provided in Appendix 1.

Aylesbury Vale’s Valued Landscapes

1.9 The landscape character and value of all Aylesbury Vale’s landscapes is described in the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment1 (including the Areas of Sensitive Landscape (ASL)2 study). The Landscape Character Assessment divides Aylesbury Vale into a number of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and within these, more detailed descriptions of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). This approach recognises that all landscapes have character and are of value.

1.10 Aylesbury Vale is characterised by low lying vales and clay plateaus, interrupted by distinctive low hills and ridges. Around the edges of the district a number of small but locally prominent landscape features form a backdrop to views, including the marked chalk scarp of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its foothills along the southeast boundary; the greensand ridge at Great Brickhill which stretches east into Bedfordshire; and part of Whittlewood Forest in the northeast of the district that stretches north into South Northamptonshire.

The Chilterns AONB

1.11 The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was originally designated in 1965. AONBs are a national landscape designation and this area is therefore not within the scope of this study. The special qualities of the Chilterns have been identified as3: "the steep chalk escarpment with areas of flower rich downland woodlands, commons, tranquil valleys, the network of ancient routes, villages with their brick and flint houses, chalk streams and a rich historic environment of hillforts and chalk figures.” Whether the special characteristics or features of the AONB occur within the local landscape designations is likely to be an important part of their valued landscape, and therefore, where similarities occur, these are noted within the assessment.

Areas of Attractive Landscape & Local Landscape Areas

1.12 All of Aylesbury Vale’s landscapes are of value. Some landscapes are also recognised as being of particular importance and for this reason Buckinghamshire County Council identified some areas of the county (the county has since divided into districts of which one is Aylesbury Vale District) as Areas of Attractive Landscape (AALs) or Local Landscape Areas (LLAs). Part of the Chilterns

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1 Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment, Jacobs Babtie, 2008
2 Aylesbury Vale: Areas of Sensitive Landscape, Jacobs Babtie, 2008
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) also falls within Aylesbury Vale; this is not covered by this report.

1.13 General reasons for the designation of Aylesbury Vale’s AALs and LLAs are referred to in Aylesbury Vale’s Adopted Local Plan4 (AVDLP, 2004), although this does not include reasons for how the specific boundaries were drawn or a detailed methodology used to identify them.

**Areas of Attractive Landscape (AAL)** – these areas are identified in the County Structure Plan5 as having “county-wide landscape value”6. The Structure Plan identifies the general locations in policy LS3 which requires protection and enhancement of the “scenic beauty, nature conservation interest and amenity value” of the areas, but requires that the precise boundaries are identified by the Local Plan. The AVDLP identifies six AALs falling within the district, described in Appendix 5 of the Local Plan7 and states: “these important landscape areas demand a high level of protection, but not quite so rigorous as in the nationally important Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.”

1.14 There are six existing AALs within the district, illustrated on **Figure 1** and shown in the context of Aylesbury Vale’s Landscape Character Areas in **Figure 2**:

- Stowe
- Quainton-Wing Hills
- Brill-Winchendon Hills
- the Brickhills
- Ivinghoe/Edlesborough
- Halton/Wendover

**Local Landscape Areas (LLA)** – these areas are identified in the AVDLP as “areas of distinctive quality at the District rather than County level. They are areas that make a special contribution to the appearance and the character of the landscape within Aylesbury Vale.”

1.15 There are six LLAs within the district, illustrated on **Figure 1** and shown in the context of Aylesbury Vale’s Landscape Character Areas in **Figure 2**:

- Westend Hill/Southend Hill, Cheddington
- Great Ouse Valley (East)
- Great Ouse Valley (West)
- the Whaddon-Nash Valley
- Poundon Hill
- Halton

1.16 Appendix 5 of the Local Plan sets out briefly the background to the LLDs including their boundaries and a brief description8.

**Areas of Attractive Landscape, Buckinghamshire County Council, 1979**

1.17 A document entitled ‘Areas of Attractive Landscape’ was produced in 1979 by Buckinghamshire County Council9, where the AALs were mapped and described. They are described as follows:

“An Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL) is a locally defined area under the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act which, whilst not extensive enough or of such outstanding natural beauty as to merit national recognition under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the countryside Act, is of

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4 Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan, 2004
5 Adopted Buckingham County Structure Plan, 1991-2011
6 Refer to Appendix 1 for further details
7 Refer to Appendix 1 for further details
8 See Appendix 1 for an extract of Appendix 5 from the AVDLP, 2004
9 An extract of the 1979 document is included in Appendix 4 of the Jacobs Babtie report (Aylesbury Vale: Areas of Sensitive Landscape, Jacobs Babtie, 2008)
sufficient county-wide value as to justify the application of the same planning restrictions on
development as apply to the Chilterns AONB in the county structure plan.” (para. 11)

1.18 The broad method for the identification of the areas is included in the 1979 report. It states that the “starting point for selecting the areas shown on the maps is the character of the landscape today”. Following this, two broad criteria were used: “that the area has a special quality and that it is large enough to warrant identification at the county wide scale.” The areas accord generally with previously defined Areas of Great Landscape Value, first identified in the early 1950s.

1.19 Boundaries were generally defined by ground forms or visual boundaries (paragraph 15), "such as the bottom of hills or the limits to a view from a river valley... Wherever possible, permanent features such as roads, railways or streams are used. Where such features are not available, woodland, hedgerows or fences are used... In some cases the selection of a suitable boundary has resulted in the area defined being drawn more widely than is strictly justified on landscape grounds; but it is considered important that a clear and easily identified boundary should be established wherever possible and that the boundary should include the whole of the area to which the Structure Plan landscape policy should apply". The areas are not intended to include urban towns and villages. There is no further detail on the methodology used to define the areas.

1.20 The current AAL boundaries have changed slightly from the initial boundaries, as stated by Jacobs Babtie in the sensitivity report.10

Relationship to the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

1.21 The AALs and LLAs sit within the framework of the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment – illustrated on Figure 2. The AALs generally relate to areas of higher ground, and two of the areas adjoin the Chilterns AONB. The LLAs include areas of lower ground such as valley landforms.

1.22 Though evidence for why the boundaries were drawn as they are is not available, the areas nevertheless show continuity with the LCTs and LCAs in the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment which shows a reasoned justification for their boundaries. The Jacobs Babtie report describes the similarities in paragraphs 3.10- 3.22 of the areas of sensitive landscape report, set out in Table 1.2.

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10 Aylesbury Vale: Areas of Sensitive Landscape, Jacobs Babtie, 2008 – paragraph 2.6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Attractive Landscape</th>
<th>Relationship to LCTs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Stowe</td>
<td>There is a general correlation with the LCT 01 Wooded Ridge and parts of LCT 02 Incised Valleys that cut deeply into it, however the western part of LCT 01 is not included. Twelve LCAs are included in whole (3No.) or in part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Brickhills</td>
<td>There is a strong relationship with LCT 06 Greensand Ridge (whole area) and the bulk of the Ouse Valley within LCT 05 Shallow Valleys. Small areas of LCT 04 Undulating Clay Plateau are included to the west of the Ouse valley. Six LCAs are included in whole (3No.) or in part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Quainton - Wing Hills</td>
<td>This large AAL includes parts of five LCTs. The AAL relates principally to higher ground running east-west to the north of Aylesbury and fully encompasses three areas of LCT 09 Low Hills and Ridges where the coincidence of boundaries is strong. Centrally the AAL also includes significant areas of intervening lower landscapes of LCT 08 Vale which is also included in the east and on the southern margins. Two small areas of LCT 05 Shallow Valleys occur, one being located between the two areas of LCT 09. Finally in the west a small area of LCT 07 Wooded Rolling Lowlands occurs between two areas of LCT 09. Sixteen LCAs are included in whole (2No.) or in part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Brill – Winchendon Hills</td>
<td>This is the largest AAL which centres on several areas of LCT 09 Low Hills and Ridges to the west of Aylesbury but also includes intervening areas of LCT 05 Shallow Valleys and in the west a part of LCT 07 Wooded Rolling Lowlands. Very small areas of LCT 08 Vale are included on the margins. Fifteen LCAs are included in whole (4No.) or in part.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Ivinghoe</td>
<td>The AAL comprises three discrete areas adjoining the Chiltern AONB. LCT 10 Chalk Foothills predominates with small areas of LCT 08 Vale occurring within two of the areas. Three LCAs are included in part. There is a strong relationship between these areas and a single LCA in that the AAL covers those parts of the LCA that are not included within the adjacent AONB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Halton/Wendover</td>
<td>The smallest of the AALs occurs in two discrete areas adjoining the AONB both within LCT 10 Chalk Foothills. The bulk of one of the areas is included within the urban area of Wendover as defined for the purposes of the LSCA. Two LCAs are included in part.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Local Landscape Areas

| 7 Great Ouse Valley West     | The LLA includes the Great Ouse west of Buckingham and is centred on LCT 02 Incised Valleys but includes to the north areas of LCT 01 Wooded Ridge and to the south areas of LCT 04 Undulating Plateau. Seven LCAs are included in part. |
| 8 Great Ouse Valley East     | The LLA includes the Great Ouse east of Buckingham and comprises all of LCT03 Valley Bottom and to the south a parallel part of LCT 04 Undulating Clay Plateau and smaller areas of LCT 05 Shallow Valleys. The northern boundary of the LLA follows the LCT boundary. Four LCAs are included in whole (1No.) or in part. |
| 9 Whaddon Nash Valley        | The LLA includes parts of four LCAs all within LCT 04 Undulating Clay Plateau, but the bulk lies within one LCA representing circa 60% of its area and with a good correlation to the boundaries of its western extent. |
| 10 Poundon Hill              | This LLA occurs wholly within a single LCA of LCT 07 Wooded Rolling Lowlands, but its boundaries do not correspond to that of the LCA (except on the District boundary.) |

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11 Aylesbury Vale: Areas of Sensitive Landscape, Jacobs Babtie, 2008
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11</th>
<th>Westend Hill – Southend Hill</th>
<th>The LLA comprises the bulk of a single LCA within LCT 10 Chalk Foothills which occurs as an outlier surrounded by LCT 08 Vale. There is therefore a strong correlation between the LLA and the boundaries of the LSCA.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Halton</td>
<td>The smallest of the LLAs adjoins the AONB and is wholly within one LCA within LCT 10 Chalk Foothills. It is contiguous with one of the areas of the Halton/Wendover AAL.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Methodology

2.1 This study to define the special qualities and values of Aylesbury Vale’s locally designated landscapes has been undertaken with reference to published guidance. This includes:


2.2 A set of criteria was developed to bring together key information for each of the local landscape designations, in order to set out what is important and why. The criteria are listed in Table 2.1. The evidence base for the information gathered is listed alongside the criteria, and includes the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), including judgements in relation to the Areas of Sensitive Landscape Study, the Aylesbury Vale Historic Landscape Character Assessment (HLCA) report and OS maps, supported by field survey.

Table 2.1: Criteria for defining the special qualities of the local landscape designations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria and rationale</th>
<th>Factors to consider</th>
<th>Evidence base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>i.e. the importance of the area’s landscape character in contributing to local distinctiveness/sense of place</td>
<td>Coherent landscape character conferring a recognisable sense of place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity/ uniqueness</td>
<td></td>
<td>Distinct landform or topography forming a discrete and recognisable area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typicality</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rare/ unique landscape type or landscape features/ elements in the local context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Typicality - characteristics or landscape elements are strongly representative or distinctive of Aylesbury Vale East’s landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strong character linked to particular natural/ cultural associations e.g. art/ literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual character</td>
<td>Special experiential qualities of the landscape</td>
<td>Tranquillity, relative remoteness and lack of intrusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strong sensory impacts including movement, colour and texture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Special perceptual qualities may be the result of e.g. the level of enclosure/scale, combinations of elements or contrasts of features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and scenic quality</td>
<td>i.e. particular scenic and aesthetic qualities</td>
<td>Strong visual character with memorable, important or distinctive views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of the area to important landscape and visual qualities associated</td>
<td>An intact landscape with characteristic elements in good condition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Absence of incongruous elements or incongruous features not visually intrusive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
with the local landscape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical state and condition of the landscape</th>
<th>• Dramatic features, visual contrasts or a special combination or pattern of landscape elements/ features that create high aesthetic quality or sense of place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Natural character**

| Special natural characteristics/ designations which add value to the landscape | • Strong character linked to natural factors
• Strong degree of naturalness contributing to landscape quality - habitats/land cover |
|---|---|
| | • Natural heritage/ wildlife designations (e.g. SSSI, RIGS, SBI)
• Field survey |

**Cultural character**

| Special cultural characteristics/ designations which add value to the landscape | • Strong character linked to cultural factors – which contribute to understanding of its historic character and wider cultural record e.g. archaeology, built heritage
• A landscape with particular associations for example with representation in art, music, literature, language or folklore |
|---|---|
| | • HLCA
• Cultural heritage designations (e.g. Conservation Area, listed buildings)
• Field survey
• Register of Parks and Gardens |

**Function**

| Particular or special role of the area in the local landscape context | • Special function as a setting to designated landscapes or cultural/ natural features
• Visual backdrop
• Open gap
• Aspects of the landscape which hold particularly special value for recreation and amenity |
|---|---|
| | • LCA
• Field survey
• OS maps
• HLCA |

2.3 The Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment sets out the character of the borough, which forms a context and background as to why some landscapes may have particular value attached to them and acts as the basis for assessing the rarity/ typicality of landscape areas. It is the framework within which the local landscape designations sit.

2.4 Special qualities of each of the local landscape designations were drawn out using the criteria in Table 2.1 and developed through visiting each area and undertaking a structured field survey. The Special Qualities for each area are set out in the following pages, with further information provided in a supporting table for each area. The local landscape designations are illustrated on Figure 1 and are overlaid on the landscape character information in Figure 2.
3 Local Landscape Designations: Descriptions

3.1 Descriptions of each of the local landscape designations are set out in the following pages. Each local landscape designation is accompanied by a map showing the boundary of the local landscape designation, illustrative photographs, a statement of significance and a table of supporting information relating to the criteria in Table 2.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Areas of Attractive Landscape (AALs)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brickhills</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quainton-Wing Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Brill-Winchendon Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ivinghoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Halton/Wendover</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Great Ouse Valley (West)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Great Ouse Valley (East)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Whaddon-Nash Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Poundon Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Westend Hill/Southend Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Halton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Stowe

The picturesque lake and vista to the Gothic Temple at Stowe Grade I Registered Park and Garden

The gently rolling countryside of the Dadford Valley from Dadford Road

The medieval Grade I listed Church of St Mary in Lillingstone Lovell
1. Stowe

Statement of Significance

The local landscape designation of Stowe contains the peaceful and picturesque, gently rolling agricultural landscape in and around the internationally important landscape park and gardens of Grade I Stowe Registered Park and Garden, an 18th century designed landscape and recognised as one of Britain’s finest Historic Parks and Gardens. Blocks of ancient woodland, the remnants of the medieval Whittlewood Forest, and other parklands in the area contain great cultural and natural value, as well as rich visual texture. A landscape of streams, parklands and small villages of local materials with focal points of medieval church towers, mature oak trees and with occasional long views from vantage points.

Special Qualities of Stowe

- Internationally important 18th century designed landscape of Stowe listed Grade I within the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens, and recognised as one of Britain’s finest Historic Parks and Gardens.

- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness created by the intactness of the rural landscape with a lack of intrusion from major roads and infrastructure, and the sense of timelessness as a result of intact historic field patterns and irregular woodland edges.

- High quality scenic landscape typical of Buckinghamshire, with recognisable views and vistas within and into Stowe from elevated vantage points. A colourful rhythm of rolling arable and pastoral fields interposed by trees and woodland – particularly within other parkland landscapes – e.g. Biddlesden.

- The influence of Stowe in the wider landscape including the long straight tree-lined avenues which extend into and are visible from beyond the boundaries of the Registered Park and Garden, and views of monuments – e.g. the Wolfe Obelisk, within the designed park.

- Small attractive villages scattered across the landscape in a dispersed settlement pattern, allowing the rural countryside to dominate. Medieval churches and buildings of local materials such as limestone provide local landmarks.

- Woodlands, many of which are ancient and which once formed part of the former royal hunting forest of Whittlewood Forest.

- A strong hedgerow network and parkland landscapes, some of which are designated, provide a rich ecological network.
## Summary information for Stowe

### Extent of area
The Grade I listed parkland of Stowe and rolling farmland to the east and west, extending to Biddlesden Park and Shalstone village in the west and following the district boundary to the north and east. To the south the area extends to the A422. Also includes the villages of Chackmore, Dadford, Lillingstone Lovell, Lillingstone Dayrell and part of Leckhampstead.

### Description
A rural and tranquil landscape in and around the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Stowe, ancient woodlands which once formed part of the former royal hunting forest of Whittlewood Forest, strong hedgerows with mature oak trees.

### Landscape character context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCT 1 Wooded Ridge</th>
<th>1.2 Forest High Ground; 1.3 Wood Green Wooded Farmland; 1.4 Stowe Registered Parkland; 1.5 Lillingstone Wet Farmland; half of 1.7 Maids Moreton Plateau; 1.1 Silverstone Race Track -small part; 1.6 Oatley's Plateau -small part).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LCT 02 Incised Valleys</td>
<td>2.3 Dadford Valley; 2.1; Westbury-Biddlesden Great Ouse Valley; 2.4 Stowe Park Approaches; 2.2 Shalstone Valley -half of; 2.6 Barrett’s End Open Farmland -small part; 2.7 Upper Great Ouse Valley -small part.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distinctiveness</strong></td>
<td>A large area with coherent character surrounding the important historic parkland of Stowe. The surrounding rolling agricultural fields and dispersed villages are typical of a rural Buckinghamshire landscape. Some distinctive views into and out of the Stowe parkland. The hedgerow pattern creates a sense of unity, in combination with a low level of settlement, a colourful rhythm of arable and pastoral fields, and mature oak trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual character</strong></td>
<td>Remote, tranquil and sense of timelessness as a result of a lack of settlement and lack of major roads. Sense of a landscape that hasn’t changed for centuries, including ancient field patterns, irregular woodland edges and meandering lanes with rough grass verges. The rolling fields provide a soft and comforting texture, a sense of enclosure within the incised valleys where views are contained by woodland, and openness from elevated vantage points, occasionally providing distant views across the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape and scenic quality</strong></td>
<td>Stowe Grade I Registered Park and Garden is a landscape of particularly high quality, with pleasure grounds, dramatic designed vistas, views out to the surrounding landscape, listed monuments and ornamental buildings with iconographic themes, large mature trees (cedar of Lebanon, Holm oak and limes), avenues, woodlands and lakes. Stowe Woods form the northern boundary and contain a network of historic rides. The influence of Stowe extends out to the surrounding landscape with more distant views of monuments (e.g. of the Wolfe Obelisk from Dadford Road). The scenic parkland character is reinforced by the presence of other parkland landscapes of Tilehouse, Lillingstone House, Biddlesden and Shalstone Manor. Strong rural scenic quality of gently rolling countryside interspersed with small villages with medieval churches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Natural character** | - A sense of wildlife, including the noise and movement of birds and insects.  
- Broadleaved and mixed ancient woodlands - remnants of Whittlewood Forest.  
- Biodiversity and ecological integrity related to the woodland blocks (some are Local Wildlife Sites), and a strong hedgerow and stream network.  
- Varied habitats of veteran trees, narrow lakes and parkland. |
associated with Stowe Park and other parklands of neutral grassland and woodland e.g. Biddlesden Park and Old Tilehouse Park.

| Cultural character | • Stowe Grade I Registered Park and Garden is an 18th century designed landscape managed by the National Trust and recognised as one of Britain’s finest Historic Parks and Gardens. Features include the parkland, designed vistas with listed monuments as focal points and iconographic cultural references. The park reflects the work of the foremost architects and garden designers of the time (e.g. Charles Bridgeman, Sir John Vanbrugh, James Gibbs, William Kent and Lancelot Brown). Stowe was supremely influential on the English landscape garden during the 18th century.12 • Once part of the medieval Whittlewood Royal Hunting Forest; a concentration of deserted shrunken medieval settlements and an extensive dispersed Roman settlement pattern in the eastern side of the LCT. Historic continuity across the area, with evidence of historic field patterns across most of it. • Stowe Conservation Area and a concentration of Grade I and II listed buildings. Shalstone, Chackmore and Lillingstone Lovell Conservation Areas • Historic settlement pattern. |
| Function | Public rights of way including the Sandstone Trail. A backdrop and setting for Stowe designed parkland. Public access to Stowe House and Gardens. |

Management Guidelines\(^{13}\)

- Protect the existing woodland and encourage further tree planting including native woodland planting, which should reflect historic field patterns.
- Encourage management of hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.
- Promote the establishment of new hedgerow trees to improve the age diversity – oaks are the most typical trees in this area.
- Encourage good management of the unimproved and semi-improved grassland.
- Support and promote the identity of the medieval hunting forest of Whittlewood with new planting, access and interpretation.
- Encourage the retention and strengthening of the existing hedgerow pattern
- Preserve the distinctive dispersed settlement pattern of the area and rich historic environment.

\(^{12}\) http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000198

\(^{13}\) Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008)
2. Brickhills

Grade II listed lock adjacent to the road bridge at Three Locks, on the Grand Union Canal

Panoramic view from Great Brickhills Conservation Area across the landscape of the Vale of Aylesbury to the distant hills

View from Bragenham Lane, looking south over the River Ouzel and Grand Union Canal, marked out by swathes of trees and vegetation, to the rising valley slopes of the Brickhills on the opposite side, and the Grade II listed Broad Oak Farmhouse behind the railway line
2. Brickhills

Statement of Significance

The Brickhills are the western extent of the greensand ridge which stretches into and across Bedfordshire; a distinct landform with wooded scarp slopes that fall down to the enclosed valley of the River Ouzel and Grand Union Canal. Open and panoramic views from the hilltops across the landscape of the Vale of Aylesbury to the Quainton Wing hills, contrast with the intimate environment and enclosed views within the valley floor. Strong natural value is indicated by numerous ecological designations including heathland. Areas of woodland provide strong ecological and visual appeal as well as opportunity for public recreation at Rushmere Country Park. Strong historic continuity provides a rich and varied environment.

Special Qualities of Brickhills

- The distinct landform of the greensand ridge that extends eastwards into Bedfordshire, including the prominent wooded scarp.

- Spectacular panoramic views from the high ground – e.g. from Great Brickhill village, over the surrounding countryside across the Ouzel valley, and the Vale of Aylesbury towards the Aylesbury hills.

- Recreational value of the canal and river corridor and Rushmere Country Park, providing a place to walk and enjoy the woodlands for communities in Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard.

- Strong natural and visual value of the areas of woodland and ancient woodland.

- Tranquil and picturesque rural landscape of resulting from a lack of intrusion from development or major roads.

- Coherent landscape, with a strong and unified landscape pattern - woodland cover on the scarp, rolling landform, and the valley of the River Ouzel and Grand Union Canal connected by a strong field pattern.

- Historic landscape character of the canal and river corridor including historic flood meadows, bridges and locks, and the sense of enclosure and intimacy created by lush vegetation.

- Rich natural value of a number of habitats including heathland, woodland, grassland and wetland.

- The Conservation Area of Great Brickhill, with characterful historic buildings including the church of St Mary and buildings of local sandstone.
### Summarized information for Brickhills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extent of area</th>
<th>The greensand ridge within Buckinghamshire, and its western slopes (the greensand ridge mostly occurs in Bedfordshire to the east), extending down to the River Ouzel and Grand Union Canal in the west.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The Brickhills are the western end of the greensand ridge located mostly in Bedfordshire, consisting of wooded slopes with interspersed agricultural areas and some heathland. It also includes the floor of the Ouzel Valley and Grand Union Canal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape character context</td>
<td><strong>LCT 06: Greensand Ridge</strong> (6.1 Brickhills Scarp; 6.2 Stockgrove Wooded Slopes). <strong>LCT 05: Shallow Valleys</strong> (5.2 Ouzel Valley; 5.3 Ouzel Valley Lower Slopes) <strong>LCT 04: Undulating Clay Plateau</strong> (4.11 Mursley-Soulbury Claylands – very small part)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Distinctiveness</strong></th>
<th>Prominent scarp rising from the valley of the river Ouzel; contrasts with the flatter clay landscape surrounding it. Coherent landscape, with a strong and unified landscape pattern of extensive woodland cover on the scarp and surrounding rolling landform, and the valley of the River Ouzel and Grand Union Canal connected by strong field pattern creates a strong sense of place.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual character</strong></td>
<td>Tranquil, rolling countryside of smooth arable and pastoral hills and contrasts with the enclosed wooded areas and steep winding lanes and the quiet and enclosed canal and river corridors. A lack of intrusion from development or major roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape and scenic quality</strong></td>
<td>Long distance spectacular views from open vantage points on the scarp (e.g. from Ivy Lane and Great Brickhill village). The wooded scarp slopes have strong visual character, particularly when viewed from the west. Small scale and picturesque setting for the recreation routes that pass through (cycle path and national trail). The hills provide a backdrop to villages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Natural character** | • Areas of semi-natural and coniferous woodland, including ancient woodland (e.g. Duncombe Wood, Oak Wood) and ancient coppice woodland in Rushmere Country Park.  
• Part of Kings and Bakers Wood & Heath SSSI (partly within Bedfordshire) – rich in floral and faunal diversity.  
• Large areas of neutral and acidic grassland.  
• Pockets of heathland – especially around Rammamere.  
• Large number of Local Wildlife Sites including woodlands, wetlands and grasslands.  
• Aquatic habitats and a small area of fen. |
| **Cultural character** | • Historic settlement with distinctive sandstone buildings.  
• Great Brickhill Conservation Area and listed buildings – associations of the village with the manufacture of pottery and tiles in the medieval period.  
• Small deserted medieval settlement at Bragenham Farm.  
• Historic flood meadows and sites of prehistoric and Roman occupation along the valley; listed bridge and locks on the Grand Union Canal.  
• Listed buildings associated with Stockgrove Park. |
| **Function** | Recreational value of the canal. Half of Rushmere Country park (the other part is within Bedfordshire) – a tranquil parkland and woodland with facilities, country walks and sense of isolation. A number of national trails – Milton Keynes Boundary Walk, Grand Union Canal Walk, Greensand Ridge Walk. Provides a high quality |
Management Guidelines

- Retain and strengthen natural habitats, particularly the pockets of heathland and woodland.
- Retain the strong landscape pattern e.g. through maintenance of hedgerows delineating the historic field pattern, particularly in the areas of the greatest arable intensification on the mid-slopes.
- Promote information and understanding about the historic importance and appropriate management of historic woodland features such as irregular edges, assarts, banks and ditches.
- Promote the retention of the character of minor roads by the management of hedgerows and verges and limiting urbanising elements such as signage and kerbing.
- Encourage the protection and management of views from publicly accessible land.
- Prevent the expansion of Milton Keynes into the designated area.
- Enhance the environment along the route of the old Roman Road (Watling Street) e.g. for recreation.
- Ensure development is sensitively designed and does not intrude on key views within the landscape (e.g. from Rushmere Country Park).
- Consider encouraging the establishment of small areas of woodland and trees to reduce the impact of intrusive elements particularly to enhance views from recreational routes along canal and river.
- Encourage the establishment of buffer zones of semi-natural vegetation along watercourses in arable areas

Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended/enhanced where appropriate.
3. Quainton-Wing Hills

Looking south across the hills from a high vantage point on the plateau in the east of the area on Lines Road, west of Aston Abbotts, with the woodland of Fox Covert on the left.

17th – early 18th century timber framed Grade II listed building with thatched roof in Aston Abbotts.
3. Quainton - Wing Hills

Statement of Significance

Undulating hills and ridges with distant panoramic views across the strongly rural and picturesque landscape, including to the Vale of Aylesbury to the south. The prominent hills form a backdrop to many views in the district. Nucleated villages create texture, a sense of history, variety and rhythm. The strong sense of history is present in the many Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and landscape features such as ridge and furrow and irregular enclosed fields.

Special Qualities of Quainton - Wing Hills

• Distinctive landform of undulating hills and ridges, enhanced by field boundaries which accentuate the shape of the undulating landform.

• Nucleated historic villages arranged consistently throughout the landscape and connected by a strong network of rural roads and footpaths. Landmark church towers provide focal points amongst the rhythm of hills and undulations.

• The windmill at Quainton provides a recognisable landmark from Quainton Hill, and an interesting element in the foreground of views across the Vale of Aylesbury.

• Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape – e.g. the plateau landscape in the east of the area, and from many of the villages.

• Coherent landscape character – lack of intrusion from developments that are out of character, sense of unity of agricultural land use and visual character of villages.

• Cultural features providing sense of history - many Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and landscape features such as ridge and furrow and irregular enclosed fields.

• Public rights of way and road network enable appreciation of the landscape.

• Important in views from other areas of the district, providing a backdrop and sense of enclosure to Aylesbury Vale.

• Strong sense of history – remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields. Earthworks of well preserved ridge and furrow e.g. North Marston, and at Quainton Hill are amongst the finest surviving examples to be found in England.
Summary information for Quainton - Wing Hills

**Extent of area**
The series of hills and ridges, from Finemere/ Balmore Woods in the west to Mentmore Park in the east and including the villages of Pitchcott, Oving, Whitchurch, Creslow, Dunton, Weedon, Cublington, Aston Abbotts, Wingrave, Crafton, Mentmore, and Ascott. It is defined by the foot of the slopes to the south and the more pronounced hills to the north and the higher quality landscape south of the former Wing aerodrome.

**Description**
A large area of undulating hills and ridges spanning east – west and populated with a series of small villages.

**Landscape character context**
(Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)

LCT 09: Low Hills and Ridges (9.1 Finemere Hill; 9.2 Quainton Hill; 9.3 Pitchcott Whitchurch ridge)
LCT 08: Vale (8.2 Kingsbridge valley; 8.5 Northern Vale - small parts; 8.3 Ouzel Valley Catchment – small part; 8.6 Hulcott Vale – small part).
LCT 05: Shallow Valleys (5.8 North Marston undulating claylands – small part); 5.9 Westcott Claylands – small part).
LCT 07: Wooded Rolling Lowlands (7.4 Kingswood Wooded Farmland – small part)

**Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distinctiveness</strong></td>
<td>Distinctive band of undulating hills, ridges and plateau to the north of Aylesbury Vale. Strong character and sense of place as a result of the coherent character of the landform, consistent land use of agricultural fields (pastoral and arable) and the scattering of attractive villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual character</strong></td>
<td>Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and sense of the dominance of landscape. The dominance of landscape and sense of openness – particularly on the plateau in the east of the area, provides opportunities to appreciate the landscape from roads and public rights of way. Frequent attractive views of the undulating hills from the many vantage points. Views to the Vale of Aylesbury to the south from vantage points and many of the villages perched on the ridge – e.g. Quainton Hill, Wingrave, Aston Abbotts – with the landscape providing an attractive setting to villages. Wheat fields provide attractive tones of yellowy-orangey colour in summer that glints in the sunshine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape and scenic quality</strong></td>
<td>High scenic quality of the undulating hills and ridges. Spectacular and panoramic views – e.g. to the south east towards the Chilterns and the Brill-Winchendon Hills. Some very old and characterful historic buildings – e.g. in Aston Abbotts, Whitchurch and Oving. Picturesque villages present a smaller scale, and the landscape is usually visible from vantage points within them (e.g. from Wingrave). Church towers are local landmarks. Mature trees and hedgerows nestle buildings and structures into the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural character</strong></td>
<td>Ancient woodlands, with a particular concentration in the west of the area – many of which are also SSSI/ LWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grassland LWS e.g. Cublington Motte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wetland LWS e.g. Monument Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural character</strong></td>
<td>Strong sense of history – remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ascott House and Mentmore Towers Registered Park and Garden (II*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                           | Large number of Scheduled Monuments, concentrated within the
Quainton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape

medieval villages – e.g. Crafton, Cublington, Ascott, Bolbec Castle at Whitchurch, sites of Medieval villages of Burston and Denham Lodge.
- Large number of Conservation Areas – Crafton, Aston Abbotts, Cublington, Weedon, Whitchurch, Oving, containing characterful listed buildings, many of them timber framed
- Earthworks of well preserved ridge and furrow e.g. North Marston, and at Quainton Hill are amongst the finest surviving examples to be found in England.

Function

Good network of public rights of way including long distance trails – e.g. the Bernwood Jubilee Way, North Buckinghamshire Way, Outer Aylesbury Ring, Matthew’s Way

Management Guidelines\(^\text{15}\)

- Maintain and improve condition of existing hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.
- Maintain the condition and extent of woodland using traditional techniques to create and manage a wide diversity of habitats.
- Promote connectivity of habitats, particularly the calcareous grassland and woodland.
- Maintain the distinctive pattern of historic routeways.
- Support and promote recreational access by footpaths and bridleways – e.g. to Finemere Hill.
- Promote information and understanding about the historic importance and appropriate management of historic woodland features such as irregular edges, assarts, banks and ditches.
- Maintain the sparsely settled remote character of the landscape.
- Retain and enhance views from publicly accessible land.
- Ensure the preservation of archaeological earthworks and ridge and furrow by maintaining grassland.

\(^{15}\) Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008)
4. Brill-Winchendon Hills

Chearsley village green

Brill windmill is a local landmark. From here there are spectacular panoramic views across the rural landscape.

Golden wheat fields and rising valley slopes north of the Conservation Area of Cuddington.
4. Brill – Winchendon Hills

Statement of Significance

The Brill-Winchendon Hills comprises the area of undulating hills and ridges west of Aylesbury, with magnificent panoramic views across the strongly scenic and rural landscape. There is a strong sense of history, with a concentration of Registered Parks and Gardens associated with the Rothschild family in the north east of the area around Waddesdon, and a large number of Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments. Small historic villages are dispersed across the landscape, often elevated, with views to the surrounding landscape.

Special Qualities of Brill – Winchendon Hills

- A distinctive, coherent and intact landscape of high scenic quality provided by open rural hills and undulations and a strong settlement pattern of small nucleated villages on hilltops and dispersed isolated farms.

- Strong wooded parkland character in the north of the area as a result of a number of Registered Parks and Gardens of Waddesdon (Grade I), Wotton House (II*), Eythrope (II) and Hartwell House (II*). The estates in the north east have cultural associations with the Rothschild family.

- Landmark features, many of which are listed, relate to the landscape including church towers and the Brill windmill.

- Fine and exhilarating long distance and panoramic views across rural countryside from many vantage points at crests of inclines.

- Quiet and tranquil with a lack of intrusion from large development or major roads, and some remote areas. Sense of dominance of the landscape and seasonal colours of agricultural fields. Picturesque river valley landscape of the Thame.

- Number of Conservation Areas reflecting the historic value of a number of the attractive villages and listed historic buildings of natural materials which add great texture, richness, variety and interest to the landscape.

- Strong ecological integrity across the landscape, with designated sites linked through areas of woodland and hedgerows.

- Concentration of features of cultural historical value which provides a strong sense of history and sense of place, including a number of Scheduled Monuments. Notable preserved examples of earlier enclosed fields around Brill.

- Provides a backdrop and sense of enclosure to the Vale of Aylesbury to the north and the small valley of the Thame in the south of the area.
### Extent of area
The elevated landscape and slopes of the limestone hills stretching from the village of Boarstall in the west to Hartwell House in the east, including the villages of Boarstall, Brill, Dorton, Wotton Underwood, Chilton, Long Crendon, Chearsley, Cuddington, Nether Winchendon, Ashendon and Upper Winchendon; and the Registered Parks and Gardens of Wotton House, Waddesdon Manor, Eythrope and Hartwell House.

### Description
A series of hills and ridges interspersed with valleys including the River Thame including a number of Registered Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas.

### Landscape character context (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)
- LCT 09: Low Hills and Ridges (9.5 Brill and Muswell Hill; 9.6 Ashendon Ridge; 9.8 Chilton Ridge; 9.7 Chearsley Ridge; 9.4 Waddesdon – Eythrope Ridge; 9.10 Hartwell House and Golf Course; 9.9 A418 Ridge - northern part).
- LCT 05: Shallow Valleys (5.10 Crawley Narrow Valley; 5.11 (Thame Valley; 5.9 Westcott Claylands).
- LCT 07: Wooded Rolling Lowlands (7.5 Bernwood Forest – part of).

### Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>A distinctive and coherent, intact landscape of rural hills and undulations with distinctive individual hills including Waddesdon Hill, settlements along the tops of ridges and dispersed isolated farmsteads. Areas of parkland with mature trees and woods, enclosed valleys with church towers as prominent features. Strong sense of place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual character</td>
<td>Fine and exhilarating long distance and panoramic views across rural countryside from many vantage points at crests of inclines – notable viewpoint at Brill windmill. Sense of dominance of the landscape and being enveloped by the smooth hills and wispy straw coloured grass. The dominance of landscape and sense of openness – provides an enhanced sense of the weather moving across the landscape. Quiet and tranquil, remote character in places such as the tops of hills or within woodland, and beautiful seasonal colours and strong influence of passing clouds and changing weather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and scenic quality</td>
<td>High scenic quality with spectacular views in all directions across fields of pasture with hedgerows and mature trees and woodland in the background and of distinctive hills – e.g. Brill and Muswell Hills and Chilton Ridge, from the lower slopes. Picturesque villages (e.g. Brill, Long Crendon and Chilton) from which there are glimpses of the landscape beyond. Strong landscape pattern of pre 18th century enclosure fields and hedgerows. Dispersed farms – historic settlement pattern and nucleated villages. Smaller pastoral fields and mature pollarded willows within the Thame Valley provide scenic beauty alongside the meandering river; churches provide focal points and historic mills and bridges and a range of habitats create a rich and lively landscape with an enclosed character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Natural character                | - Strong ecological integrity – designated sites linked through areas of woodland and hedgerows, and the River Thame in the south.  
- Some areas of ancient woodland – concentrated in the west of the area within the area that was once the core of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood. Some are also designated local wildlife sites.  
- Brill Common Local Wildlife Site; ridge and furrow grazing pasture Local Wildlife Site near Cuddington. |
| Cultural character               | - Historically part of Bernwood Forest from the 10th century – many of the villages have long histories – e.g. Brill – may have
grown on the site of a prehistoric hillfort; Boarstall contains a rare surviving medieval tower and earthworks and was an important medieval pottery production centre

- Concentration of features of cultural historical value which provides a strong sense of history and sense of place. Cultural associations in the north east of the area with the Rothschild family estates.
- Registered Parks and Gardens of Waddesdon (Grade I), Wotton House (II*), Eythrope (II) and Hartwell House (II*). Designed parkland at Boarstall and Dornton Park; Chilton Park Farm is the location of a 16th century deer park.
- Conservation Areas: Brill, Wotton Underwood, Ashendon, Chilton, Long Crendon. Localised character of fine brick houses in Brill reflect the village’s association with brick pits; limestone characteristic of other historic buildings e.g. Ashendon church.
- Number of Scheduled Monuments including medieval villages (e.g. within the grounds of Wotton Park; Boarstall and at Eythrope), Notley Abbey – the remnant of the former medieval Augustinian priory, earthworks – e.g. at Brill.
- Strong irregular field pattern – e.g. around Long Crendon
- Brill windmill is a key visual landmark.
- Notable preserved examples of earlier enclosed fields around Brill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public access and interpretation at Brill windmill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public access to Waddesdon Manor – owned and managed by the National Trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of rights of way – Bernwood Jubilee Way, Outer Aylesbury Ring, Midshires Way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides enclosure and a backdrop to the Vale of Aylesbury to the north and to the smaller Thame valley in the south of the area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Management Guidelines**

- Encourage the management and strengthening of hedgerows particularly in areas where intensive farming has resulted in the amalgamation of fields – e.g. in the Chearsley Ridge area.
- Promote good woodland management aiming to create and maintain a wide diversity of habitats.
- Encourage public access to woodland with education and new access agreements.
- Promote information and understanding about the historic importance of woodland and associated features such as banks and ditches.
- Identify key viewpoints from publicly accessible locations and promote the retention and enhancement of these views.
- Maintain and improve connectivity of habitats, particularly the condition of existing hedgerows around Brill Common and Chinkwell Wood.
- Follow existing patterns of woodland for any new woodland planting – e.g. around Waddesdon- Eythrope concentrate on the upper slopes (refer to the LCA).
- Promote the management and conservation of vegetation adjacent to the meandering watercourses including the pollarding of willows.
- Close to watercourses promote the use of permanent pasture, with low stocking density and flooding regimes to promote biodiversity and landscape enhancement.
- New housing and alterations to existing housing should be designed to reflect the traditional character of the area.
- South of Long Crendon investigate opportunities to promote new woodland planting on valley sides to enhance valley character and reduce visual impact of main roads and industrial estate.

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16 Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended/enhanced where appropriate.
5. Ivinghoe

Grade II* listed Pitstone windmill (in the western part of the area)

View across the Ivinghoe Foothills landscape towards the Church of St Mary in Edlesborough, from Gallows Hill, within the Chilterns AONB (in the eastern part of the area)

The golf course at Ivinghoe (in the central part of the area)
5. Ivinghoe

Statement of Significance

Ivinghoe comprises three small areas of landscape at the lower escarpment of the Chilterns AONB foothills, with open and undulating landform and rural scenic qualities. The areas provide an attractive foreground to the distinctive steep scarp of the nationally designated Chilterns landscape, particularly within views from popular viewpoints at Pitstone Hill and Ivinghoe Beacon.

Special Qualities of Ivinghoe

- Picturesque landscape, most cohesive in the eastern section of the area, of rural gently rounded chalk hills that strong links with the adjacent Chilterns AONB.

- Landscape setting to the Chilterns scarp, particularly the area south of Edlesborough in views from Gallows Hill (and to the Pitstone area from Ivinghoe Beacon). The landscape forms a strong setting for the spectacular views of the AONB slopes.

- Lack of development and intrusion – the landform is dominant, with church towers creating landmarks.

- Pitstone windmill (Grade II* listed) – one of the oldest windmills in Britain, said to date from the 17th century.

- Churches of St Mary in Pitstone and Edlesborough - both Grade I listed medieval churches.
Summary information for Ivinghoe

### Extent of area
Ivinghoe comprises three areas, separated by intervening parts of the Chilterns AONB. The western area extends from St Mary’s Church at Church End (south of the village of Ivinghoe); the central area includes the golf course at Ivinghoe; and the eastern area includes the landscape and church to the south of Edlesborough.

### Description
The undulating landscape adjoining the slopes of the Chilterns AONB comprising agricultural fields and two churches which are within the villages of Pitstone and Edlesborough.

### Landscape character context
(Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)
LCT 10: Chalk Foothills (10.2 Ivinghoe Foothills; 10.3 Marsworth and Pitstone Chalk Quarries)
LCT 08: Vale (8.4 Pitstone-Edlesborough Slopes – very small part)

### Criteria
#### Summary description

**Distinctiveness**
Particularly the area within the Ivinghoe Foothills (the eastern section) has a sense of cohesion and unity with the adjacent Chilterns AONB – the rounded chalk hills provide continuation and are visually connected to the Chilterns although divided by a road. Provide a foreground to the Chilterns slopes within the AONB.

**Perceptual character**
Some sense of quietness and a sense of texture from the open wheat fields and occasional woodland.

**Landscape and scenic quality**
Some strong built landscape features including St Mary’s Church – forms an important landmark in more distant views; and the windmill at Pitstone. The eastern section provides an important role in the middle ground of views from Gallows Hill-attractive landscape, church and tree/ hedgerow boundaries which provide the transition to the flatter landscape beyond.

**Natural character**
- A small area of ancient woodland (Pitstone section) and small fragment of calcareous grassland (Pitstone section).

**Cultural character**
- Medieval moated site south east of Pitstone, a Scheduled Monument thought to mark the site of Pitstone Manor, believed to be in occupation in 1086. Buried archaeological features.
- Roman and Saxon settlement indicated by finds at Church End.
- Churches of St Mary in Pitstone and Edlesborough - both Grade I listed medieval churches.
- Pitstone windmill (Grade II* listed) – one of the oldest windmills in Britain\(^{17}\), said to date from the 17th century.

**Function**
Public access to Pitstone Windmill, owned and managed by the National Trust. The area south of Edlesborough partly provides a gap between settlement of Edlesborough and edge of the Chilterns. Setting to the Chilterns AONB including proximity to Ivinghoe Beacon and Gallows Hill.

### Management Guidelines\(^{18}\)
- Encourage the planting of new woodland to screen the edges of new development at the former cement works site to the west of the western part of the area.
- Preserve the character of narrow winding lanes.
- Consider the establishment of new woodlands especially where they will provide mitigation for visually intrusive elements.
- Encourage arable reversion or minimum cultivation to protect buried archaeological remains.

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\(^{17}\) [https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/pitstone-windmill/](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/pitstone-windmill/)

\(^{18}\) Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended/enhanced as appropriate.
6. Halton/ Wendover

Mansion Hill Lodge, a late 19th century half timbered two storey lodge, looking across the road to the main entrance to Halton House (within the boundary of the Chilterns AONB)

Grade II* listed Parish Church of St Mary
6. Halton/Wendover

Statement of Significance

Halton/ Wendover comprises the lower slopes of the escarpment of the Chilterns AONB containing part of Halton House Registered Park and Garden that lies outside of the AONB and the southern part of Wendover village, as the landscape flattens out to become Aylesbury Vale. Large blocks of woodland around Halton result in the merging of the landscapes of the vale and the wooded scarp of the Chilterns.

Special Qualities of Halton/Wendover

- House and Gardens at Halton House Grade II Registered Park and Garden, as described in the English Heritage listing.

- Natural value of the areas of woodland, providing habitats for numerous species.

- Visual continuity between the areas of woodland and the wooded slopes of the Chilterns AONB escarpment, providing a gentle interface between the Chilterns landscape and the flatter landscape of Aylesbury Vale.

- Recreational value of the Ridgeway National Trail, including picturesque landscape elements along the Ridgeway walk through the southern part of Wendover, and the Grand Union Canal Walk.

- Historic buildings including the Grade Grade II* listed Parish Church of St Mary and Grade II Wendover House School.
Summary information for Halton/Wendover

| Extent of area | Two areas: the first is part of the Halton House Grade II Registered Park and Garden the northern boundary is at the Grand Union Canal and the eastern and southern boundaries are the boundary of the Chilterns AONB/ and the B4009, and the western boundary is broadly the same as the Registered Park and Garden; the second area is the southern most part of the village of Wendover. |
| Description | Part of Halton House Grade II Registered Park and Garden (now used as an RAF officers’ mess; and the lower slopes of the Chilterns escarpment. |
| Landscape character context (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment) | LCT 10: Chalk Foothills (10.4A Wendover Foothills East) The area to the south of Wendover is included within the urban area of Wendover. |

| Criteria | Summary description |
| Distinctiveness | The lower slopes of the escarpment of the Chilterns AONB as the landscape flattens out to become Aylesbury Vale. Large blocks of woodland around Halton result in the merging of the landscapes of the vale and the wooded scarp of the Chilterns. |
| Perceptual character | |
| Landscape and scenic quality | Views of Halton house and grounds which form part of the spectacular views from the Chiltern scarp within the AONB (the eastern part of the Registered Park and Garden)\(^\text{19}\). Picturesque landscape elements along the Ridgeway walk through the southern part of Wendover. |
| Natural character | • Significant blocks of woodland merging with the wooded escarpment of the Chilterns AONB to the east. |
| Cultural character | • House and Gardens at Halton House Grade II Registered Park and Garden, built by the Rothschild family. Halton House is a Grade II* listed building with surviving 19th century park and formal gardens designed for Alfred de Rothschild, now an RAF officers’ mess. • Grade II* listed Parish Church of St Mary • Grade II Wendover House School |
| Function | Grand Union Canal Walk long distance trail along the northern boundary of Halton House area. Ridgeway Chiltern Link long distance trail. |

Management Guidelines\(^\text{20}\)

- Encourage planting of new woodlands on the lower slopes.
- Reinforce the hedgerow network by planting new hedgerow trees.
- Maintain the condition and extent of calcareous, improved and semi-improved grassland - encourage traditional management by grazing.

\(^{19}\) http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000601
\(^{20}\) Management guidelines are amended from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008)
7. Great Ouse Valley West

View of Buckingham church spire from Radcliffe

Attractive small villages such as this one in Water Stratford

The meandering river and pastoral farmland near Water Stratford
7. Great Ouse Valley West

Statement of Significance

The Great Ouse Valley West is a coherent river valley landscape, with the river course meandering through a vegetated landscape and joining the three attractive historic villages of Westbury, Water Stratford and Radcliffe. Historic buildings and bridges adjacent to the river and historic field patterns provide a sense of history within this generally quiet and intimate landscape. The proximity of Stowe to the north adds interest, with striking views along the avenue.

Special Qualities of Great Ouse Valley West

- A coherent river valley pastoral landscape with lush vegetation and a relatively strong tree and hedgerow network.
- Views along the valley towards Buckingham in which the church tower is a focus.
- Attractive historic villages by the river – Westbury, Water Stratford and Radcliffe, with historic vernacular buildings of local stone.
- Cultural and historical interest of the largely intact pre 18th century enclosure and meadow field patterns close to the river mainly around Radcliffe and Water Stratford, historic narrow bridges and waterside buildings.
- Intimate and enclosed character - in some areas away from the roads and golf course, the character is remote and hidden.
- The avenue extending from Stowe Park and striking views along it.
- Natural value of the river and woodland habitats associated with the line of the disused railway in the east of the area – a relatively strong connectivity between habitats as a result of the hedgerow network and riverside vegetation.
Summary information for Great Ouse Valley West

**Extent of area**
Great Ouse Valley West comprises the valley of the River Great Ouse west of Buckingham up to the district border with Cherwell and South Northamptonshire. The northern boundary is defined by the A422 and the southern boundary by the district boundary and field boundaries to the north of Tingewick. The villages of Radcliffe, Water Stratford and Westbury lie within the designation. Part of the northern boundary lies adjacent to the Stowe local landscape designation.

**Description**
The upper section of the meandering River Great Ouse and the surrounding floodplain and vegetated corridors.

**Landscape character context**

|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

**Criteria**

| **Summary description** | **Distinctiveness** | A small well defined river valley with steep valley sides and narrow flood plain characterised by the meandering Great Ouse and its tributaries marked by vegetation, and by well defined settlements and pastoral land use. Pattern of elements is unified |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|........................................................................................................|
| **Perceptual character** | Intimate character. Most views are enclosed by vegetation or landform. In some areas away from the roads and golf course, the character is remote and hidden. The upper valley sides afford long distance views mainly to the south and west. |
| **Landscape and scenic quality** | There are some good views down the valley towards Buckingham in which the church tower is a focus. Small villages in valley floor with some stone houses. Views along Stowe avenue which extends into the area. |
| **Natural character** | • Natural value of the Great Ouse and its tributary streams • Woodland habitats associated with the line of the disused railway in the east of the area. • Relatively strong connectivity between habitats as a result of the hedgerow network and riverside vegetation. • Meadow Local Wildlife Site (grassland) near Water Stratford. |
| **Cultural character** | • Some pre 18th century enclosure and meadow field patterns close to the river mainly around Radcliffe and Water Stratford. • Conservation Areas and listed buildings in the villages of Westbury, Radcliffe and Water Stratford; • The dismantled Banbury Verney Junction railway runs along the valley. • The road to Water Stratford follows the course of a Roman Road and is a continuation of the avenue to Stowe |
| **Function** | Part of the Bernwood Jubilee Way long distance trail. |

**Management Guidelines**

- Conserve the historic field pattern and encourage hedgerow management to enable new hedgerow trees to establish.
- Encourage less intensive agricultural and golf course management adjacent to watercourses.
- Reinforce the existing field pattern where arable intensification has eroded hedgerows.

---

Management guidelines are amended from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008)
- Encourage local woodland management schemes of wet woodland close to valley bottom.
- Consider the use of tree planting to reinforce the visual screen on the urban edge.
- Maintain and enhance views to features of Stowe’s designed parkland.
8. Great Ouse Valley East

View from the northern valley side at the top of the road between the A422 and Thornborough, across the pastoral fields to the vegetated river corridor

Thornborough Bridge (Scheduled Monument), a stone bridge of medieval origins, probably in the location of a much earlier crossing

Thornborough Roman Barrows - two burial mounds nationally designated as Scheduled Monuments
8. Great Ouse Valley East

Statement of Significance

The Great Ouse Valley East is a small, shallow enclosed river valley with gently rolling sides. The river is marked out by lush bank side vegetation. An intimate, often enclosed, landscape adjacent to the river with some scenic views provides the setting for a number of intact historic features including the Thornborough Bridge and nearby Roman barrows, an intact medieval landscape pattern, weirs and historic riverside buildings.

Special Qualities of Great Ouse Valley East

- Sense of tranquillity within an intimate and enclosed landscape, owing to a lack of development and intrusions.

- Strong landscape pattern, with a historic continuity including intact historic water meadows and strong historic field pattern adjacent to the river.

- Weirs and historic buildings (limestone/thatch) add visual interest adjacent to the river. The reservoir and remnants of the Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal are attractive features close to the river.

- Strong historic value of Thornborough Bridge (Scheduled Monument), a significant local feature - stone bridge of 14th century origins.

- Important historic value of the Thornborough Roman Barrows - two burial mounds (Scheduled Monuments).

- Natural value of the River Great Ouse and riverside vegetation, including the Buckingham Canal Nature Reserve.

- Some scenic views with the riverside and wetland trees, shrubs, grasses and reeds.

- Ouse Valley Way allows public enjoyment of the landscape.
### Summary information for Great Ouse Valley East

#### Extent of area
Great Ouse Valley East comprises the River Great Ouse east of Buckingham. The A422 and the district boundary form the northern boundary and the southern boundary is defined by the A421 to Thornborough and then the minor road that runs via Thornton and Beachampton to the district boundary.

#### Description
The shallow valley of the Great Ouse, its associated floodplains and historic landscape.

#### Landscape character context (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)
- LCT03: Valley Bottom (3.1 Lower Great Ouse Valley)
- LCT 04: Undulating Clay Plateau (4.4 Thornborough-Beachampton Great Ouse Tributaries – part of)
- LCT 05 Shallow Valleys (5.1 Padbury Valley – small part).

#### Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distinctiveness</strong></td>
<td>Coherent small, shallow river valley with gently sloping sides and floodplain. River is marked out by lush bank side vegetation, predominantly of willows lining the water course. Strong landscape pattern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual character</strong></td>
<td>Intimate, often enclosed, landscape adjacent to the river. Very few roads within the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape and scenic quality</strong></td>
<td>Some scenic views with the riverside and wetland trees and grasses. Weirs and historic buildings (limestone/ thatch) add visual interest adjacent to the river. Some good views across the valley from the higher valley sides.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Natural character**     | - Hyde Lane Reservoir and woodland Local Wildlife Site provides habitat for birds and plants.  
                             - River Great Ouse - supports bird species e.g. kingfisher, and otter. |
| **Cultural character**    | - Relatively intact pre- 18th century landscape meadows adjacent to the river; medieval settlement pattern of nucleated villages – including part of the Thornborough Conservation Area and open fields.  
                             - Roman settlements also lie along the valley and more sites are likely to remain undiscovered beneath alluvium and meadow grassland.  
                             - Listed buildings including the Victorian Thornton College built around a medieval hall and the 14th century and Grade I listed St Michael’s church.  
                             - Thornborough Bridge (Scheduled Monument) is a significant local feature - stone bridge of medieval origins, probably in the location of a much earlier crossing.  
                             - Two Roman barrows off the A421, listed Scheduled Monuments. The field containing the two barrows retains a clear pattern of cultivation earthworks (ridge and furrow ploughing), probably associated with the medieval village further to the north east22.  
                             - Iron Age hillfort south east of Home Farm (Scheduled Monument).  
                             - Remnants of the Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal provides an interesting feature, with the adjacent national trail along the historic towpath. |
| **Function**              | The valley has a good network of footpaths including the Ouse Valley Way national trail. |

Management Guidelines

- Encourage less intensive agricultural management adjacent to watercourses.
- Preserve the historic meadows and archaeological remains beneath them.
- Encourage recreational access along the valley and the interpretation of historic features.
- Maintain and enhance habitat value and connectivity including grasslands.
- Improve the visitor facilities and historic interpretation at Thornborough Bridge.
- Conserve and enhance historic elements along the river and disused arm of the canal.

Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended or enhanced where appropriate.
9. Whaddon Nash Valley

A public footpath through College Wood, an extensive area of ancient woodland

View looking west into the landscape designation, from St Mary’s Church, Whaddon

View from the east side of Whaddon Conservation Area, looking east into the remnants of Whaddon Park
9. Whaddon Nash Valley

Statement of Significance

The Whaddon - Nash Valley is an undulating landscape with valleys carved into it by tributaries of the River Great Ouse. A rural and ancient landscape containing remnants of the medieval forest of Whaddon Chase, its agricultural land use provides a historic tie to the farming history of the area. The landscape of fields and woodland provides an attractive setting for the villages and Conservation Areas of Whaddon and Nash and is prominent when viewed from the north.

Special Qualities of Whaddon Nash Valley

- Historic, natural and rich visual value of the areas of ancient woodland which are remnants of the medieval hunting forest of Whaddon Chase.

- Predominantly rural and agricultural landscape, reflecting the farming history of the area and ties to the villages of Whaddon and Nash.

- A coherent character and pattern of elements, with visual unity held together by the inter-relationship of steeper winding valleys, streams, woodland cover and historic field parcels.

- Rich natural value of the extensive area of rare species rich valley fen habitat, designated a Local Wildlife Site.

- Provides an open landscape setting to the Conservation Areas of Nash and Whaddon, and is the focus of extensive and long reaching views across the countryside, from vantage points within the Conservation Areas.

- Rich layers of history present within the landscape including the Grade II listed Whaddon Hall and relicts of Whaddon Park, historic settlement pattern of isolated farms, historic field boundaries which preserve the lines of former woodlands and evidence of Roman occupation.
## Summary information for Whaddon Nash Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extent of area</th>
<th>The area of undulating and incised landscape between (but excluding) the villages of Nash, to the west and Whaddon to the east.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Undulating and incised landscape of ridges and valleys, with blocks of woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape character context (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)</td>
<td>LCT 04: Undulating Clay Plateau (4.7 Whaddon Chase; 4.5 (Grove Farm Shallow Valley – small part; 4.8 Horwood Claylands – very small part).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Criteria

#### Distinctiveness

- Visual unity held together by the inter-relationship of winding valleys, woodland cover and small irregular shaped field parcels. A distinct clay plateau landform of undulating land with incised valleys.

#### Perceptual character

- Lack of modern intrusion – secluded in areas.

#### Landscape and scenic quality

- Coherent pattern of elements – e.g. the relationship of steeper valleys, streams, trees and woodland cover. Vantage points from the villages of Whaddon and Nash (both Conservation Areas) allow extensive views into the countryside, creating a feeling of openness\(^{24}\); the landscape plays an important role in the setting of the Conservation Area\(^{25}\) of Whaddon, particularly views to and from Whaddon Hall.

#### Natural character

- Rare species rich valley fen habitat north of College Wood, designated a Local Wildlife Site, supporting a wide variety of insects.
- Heavily wooded. College Wood is an extensive area of ancient woodland, and Local Wildlife Site; smaller blocks of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland.
- Neutral grassland including Barnhill Farm Fields Local Wildlife Site.

#### Cultural character

- Important historic associations with the ‘Whaddon Chase’, a medieval forest with extensive areas of open commons and woodland; relict features remain including College Wood ancient woodland.
- The A421 follows the line of a minor Roman road and there is evidence for Roman occupation in the area e.g. possible windmill mound south of Whaddon.
- Grade II listed Whaddon Hall, an early 19\(^{th}\) century house built on the site of a former manor, overlooks relics of Whaddon Park, now in agricultural use.
- Part of Whaddon Conservation Area.
- Irregular historic field pattern. Field boundaries preserve the lines of former woodlands and the Queen’s Park – an oval shape to the south west of Whaddon.
- Historic settlement pattern of isolated farms.

#### Function

- North Buckinghamshire Way/ Midshires Way national trail; and recreational value of College Wood open access land. Setting to the Conservation Areas of Nash and Whaddon.

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Management Guidelines

- Maintain the existing extent and condition of neutral grassland, fen.
- Encourage landowners to improve ecological diversity through varied land maintenance regimes to benefit landscape and habitats.
- Encourage the conservation and interpretation of the areas rich historic environment.
- Ensure the preservation of archaeological earthworks by maintaining grassland.
- Encourage restoration and interpretation of the historic chase landscape and Whaddon Park.
- Protect key views of and from Whaddon.

Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended or enhanced where appropriate.
10. Poundon Hill

View of Poundon Hill from the south at Bicester Road

View from the top of Poundon Hill looking east towards the Quainton-Wing Hills
10. Poundon Hill

Statement of Significance

Poundon Hill is the highest and largest of the series of low hills that extend from the Oxfordshire boundary towards Edgcott. Although the site of a wireless station with its associated aerials and buildings, it remains a relatively prominent and distinctive landscape feature.

Special Qualities of Poundon Hill

- The relatively distinctive landform - the most elevated part of a low ridge across the surrounding lower farmland, making the hill a local feature.

- The mast on top of the hill is a local landmark.

- Long views out from the top of the hill.

- Early 20th century mansion and designed landscape of Poundon house used by the Special Operations Executive during the Second World War for the development and cracking of codes and ciphers.

- Medieval landscape - The area was once part of Bernwood Forest in the early 13th century and there are surviving irregular pre-18th century fields and evidence of ridge and furrow.
## Summary information for Poundon Hill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Extent of area</strong></th>
<th>The landform of Poundon Hill (excluding the village of Poundon).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>A low hill south of the village of Poundon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape character context</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)</td>
<td>LCT 07: Wooded Rolling Lowlands (7.1 Poundon – Charndon Settled Hills).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Criteria | Summary description
--- | ---
**Distinctiveness** | A relatively prominent low hill – a local feature, the most elevated part of a low ridge across the surrounding lower farmland. The mast on top of the hill is a local landmark.
**Perceptual character** | Long views out from the top of the hill.
**Landscape and scenic quality** | The hill is a relatively distinctive feature and backdrop to views.
**Natural character** | Grassland habitat
**Cultural character** | - The area was once part of Bernwood Forest in the early 13th century
- Ridge and furrow
- Irregular pre-18th century fields
- Early 20th century mansion and designed landscape of Poundon house used by the Special Operations Executive during the Second World War for the development and cracking of codes and ciphers.
**Function** | The hill is a relatively distinctive feature and backdrop to views.

### Management Guidelines

- Where the historic field pattern has been lost encourage replanting to restore landscape character, cultural integrity and biodiversity.
- Retain and enhance views from publicly accessible land.
- Encourage the preservation of historic earthworks and ridge and furrow by maintaining a continuous grass sward and do not allow bare patches of soil to develop.

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27 Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended/enhanced where appropriate.
11. Westend Hill – Southend Hill

View of Southend Hill from the Grand Union Canal public car park to the east

View of the hills from the Lower Icknield Way, to the south

View of the hills from the Long Marston Road – looking north
11. Westend Hill – Southend Hill

Statement of Significance

Westend and Southend Hills rise prominently out of the surrounding flat landscape, forming an interesting and distinctive feature. Prominent in many views from all directions, including the higher ground of the Chilterns and Quainton-Wing Hills and the railway line to the east, they constitute a locally recognisable feature which is also the setting for a hillfort Scheduled Monument on Southend Hill.

Special Qualities of Westend Hill – Southend Hill

- Pronounced chalk hills which form locally distinctive and prominent features within the surrounding flat landscape, and lend a sense of place to Cheddington.

- Buried remains of a hillfort (designated Scheduled Monument) on Southend Hill; in the wider context this can be seen as part of a series of hillforts established along the Chiltern escarpment in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age.

- The open and undeveloped character, providing a landscape setting to the Scheduled Monument and forming a strong edge to the village of Cheddington.

- Provides a visual backdrop to the popular recreational route along the Grand Union Canal – e.g. at Great Seabrook, and in views along the Grand Union Canal Walk national trail.

- Long distance views from the public footpath along the tops of the hills over the surrounding flat vale landscape and the Chilterns.
Summary information for Westend Hill – Southend Hill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extent of area</th>
<th>The area includes the landforms of the two hills, Westend Hill and Southend Hill south of the village of Cheddington and extending to the stream at the foot of the hills.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Locally prominent hills south of Cheddington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape character context (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)</td>
<td>LCT 10: Chalk Foothills (10.1 Cheddington Hills).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Summary description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>Distinct landform of chalk hills, locally distinctive features relative to the surrounding flat landscape which lend a sense of place to Cheddington. Visible from many directions including from the train line and higher ground of the Chilterns and Quainton-Wing Hills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual character</td>
<td>Seasonally colourful, with wheat fields glowing yellow in summer and contrasting sinuous blocks of woodland and individual trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and scenic quality</td>
<td>Attractive and distinctive landscape feature which provides a setting to the Grand Union Canal – e.g. at Great Seabrook. Adds visual interest, with glimpsed views of the hills from many directions. Long distance views from the tops of the hills over the surrounding flat vale landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural character</td>
<td>Natural value of woodland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Cultural character | • Buried remains of a Bronze Age/Iron Age hillfort (a Scheduled Monument). The hillfort is intervisible with the hillfort at Ivinghoe Beacon, which has been identified as having been occupied from the 6th century BC.  
  • In a wider context, the Southend Hill hillfort can be seen as part of a series of hillforts, of various forms, which were established along the Chiltern escarpment in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, comparison between which will provide valuable insights into the development of prehistoric society across the region.  
  • Medieval cultivation terraces, a cropmark site and Roman finds. |
| Function       | The open, undeveloped landscape forms a setting to the Scheduled Monument. The hills form a backdrop to views including from the Grand Union Canal, and define a strong edge to the western edge of Cheddington village. |

Management Guidelines

- Screen the suburban edge of Cheddington and the development to the south.
- Ensure the edge of Cheddington does not encroach into the defined designation.
- Conserve the open character of the hills - protect the hills and hillslopes from development.
- Consider whether new development may result in adverse changes to views of the hills.
- Conserve the historic value of the cultivation terraces.
- Identify key viewpoints from publicly accessible locations and promote the management and enhancement of these viewpoints.
- Encourage arable reversion or minimum cultivation to protect buried archaeological remains.
- Improve the ecological value of the landscape e.g. through changing agricultural practices, and maintaining/improving the condition of calcareous, improved and semi-improved grassland wherever possible.

29 Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended/enhanced where appropriate.
12. Halton

Statement of Significance

Halton is an RAF site located on the lower slopes of the Chilterns escarpment (AONB) and shares many of the special qualities of the Chilterns landscape including a chalk geology with an undulating topography and areas of woodland. There are substantial areas of woodland on the western boundary.

Special Qualities of Halton

- Significant blocks of woodland merging with the wooded escarpment of the Chilterns AONB to the east.

- Buildings and structures reflect periods of military history, including the Cold War, 1920s and 1930s including the Groves and Anderson Barracks some of which are Grade II listed.
**Summary information for Halton**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extent of area</th>
<th>The RAF Halton complex east of the B4009.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Airfield and training camp set within undulating chalk foothills and woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape character context</strong> (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment)</td>
<td>LCT 10: Chalk Foothills (10.4A Wendover Foothills East)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinctiveness</td>
<td>The area shares some of the special qualities and key characteristics with the adjacent Chilterns AONB landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual character</td>
<td>Site not publicly accessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and scenic quality</td>
<td>The landscape features in many views from within the Chilterns AONB including Haddington Hill and Wendover Woods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural character</td>
<td>• Significant blocks of woodland merging with the wooded escarpment of the Chilterns AONB to the east.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Cultural character                      | • Use of the site was offered to the army for military training on the outbreak of WWI, by the owner of the Halton Estate, Alfred de Rothschild - by 1916, Halton was accommodating up to 20,000 infantry troops.³⁰  
  • Buildings and structures reflect periods of military history, including the Cold War, 1920s and 1930s including the Groves and Anderson Barracks some of which are Grade II listed. |
| Function                                | n/a                                                                                                                                                    |

**Management Guidelines³¹**

- Screen the edges of existing and new development by planting new hedges and reinforcing existing belts of vegetation.

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³⁰ [http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafhalton/aboutus/rafhaltonheritage.cfm](http://www.raf.mod.uk/rafhalton/aboutus/rafhaltonheritage.cfm)

³¹ Management guidelines are taken from the relevant Landscape Character Assessment areas (Jacobs Babtie, 2008) and amended
4 Recommendations

4.1 The brief required LUC to consider if the areas are worthy of local landscape designation and policy protection as valued local landscapes in the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan.

Areas worthy of designation

4.2 There is evidence and a degree of justification for the designation of all of the areas previously identified as AALs and LLAs. The boundaries of the areas are clear on the ground, in relation to distinctive landforms and/or the location of an area adjacent to the Chilterns AONB. Most of the areas are discrete and distinct landscapes, although the areas adjacent to the AONB are more fragmented.

4.3 Most of the Areas of Attractive Landscape (AALs) have stronger special qualities in comparison to the Local Landscape Areas (AALs), which are generally, smaller scale locally valued features. The AALs generally do not contain so many nationally significant natural or cultural designations, and they are typically less memorable or distinctive than the AALs. Our detailed analysis is set out in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 Conclusion and overall judgement on whether the area is worthy of local landscape designation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Attractive Landscape (AALs)</th>
<th>Is the area worthy of local landscape designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Stowe</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Brickhills</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Quainton-Wing Hills</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Brill-Winchendon Hills</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Ivinghoe</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The three separate areas are fragmented although given a sense of unity by their topographical association with the landform of the Chilterns. The area south of Pitstone and the Ivinghoe golf course area are more fragmented, and although they contain some notable natural and cultural features the scenic and perceptual qualities are weaker and less intact than other local landscape designations in the district. If these areas do not remain as local landscape designations the location of these areas adjacent to the Chilterns AONB should require that they be given special consideration in relation to any proposed developments which may harm the character of the landscape – particularly in relation to the landscape’s special qualities, and where it is representative of the special qualities of the Chilterns AONB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Halton/Wendover</td>
<td>The scenic landscape qualities are not as strong as in some areas of the district and much of the landscape is not</td>
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</table>
publicly accessible. Halton House and Gardens is already protected by the Registered Park and Garden designation.

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<th>Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)</th>
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4.4 It is important to note that the participation of stakeholders (and ideally the local community) is helpful in identifying and confirming support for areas of local landscape designation. A stakeholder workshop is to be held to meet this requirement.

**Protection of special qualities**

4.5 It is recommended that a Policy/ Policies should be taken forward in the new Aylesbury Vale Local Plan to protect the character and value of all landscape across the District, as well as specific special qualities and values relating to these particular Local Landscape Designations.