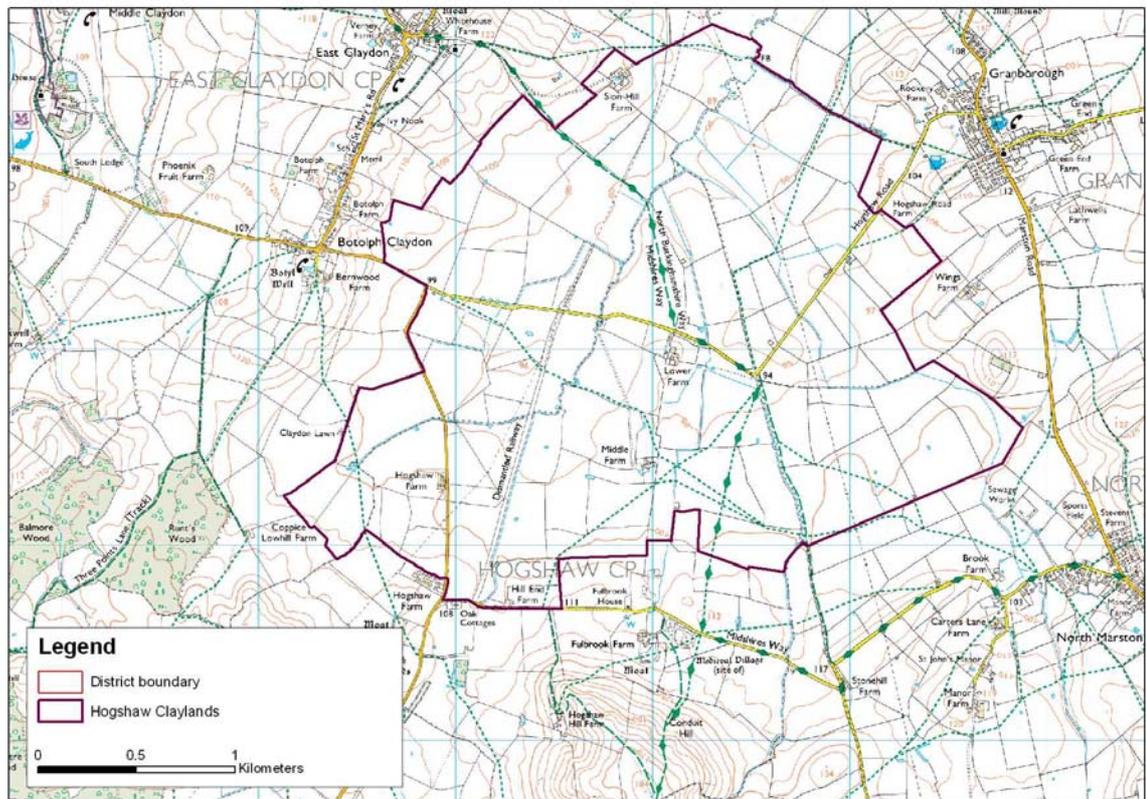
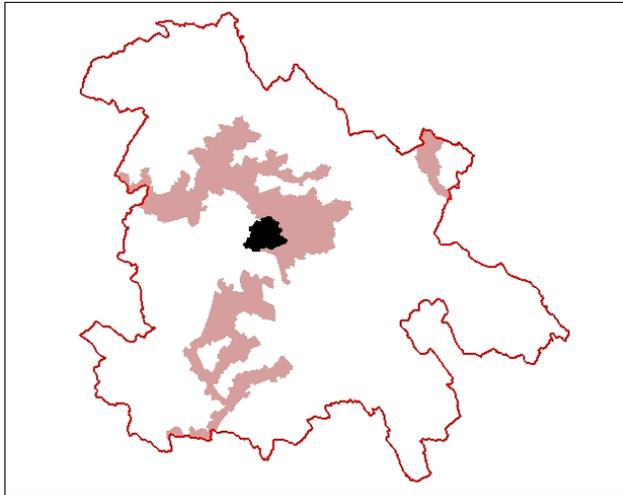


LCA 5.7 Hogshaw Claylands

Landscape Character Type: LCT 5 Shallow Valleys



LCA 5.7 Hogshaw Claylands (LCT 5)

Key Characteristics

- Gently sloping bowl of low ground
- Mixed agriculture with more pasture
- Good hedgerow pattern
- Meandering streams

Distinctive Features

- Mature oaks in hedgerows
- Small plantations of poplar planted in a grid
- Disused railway line
- Views up to surrounding high ground
- Ponds in fields
- Good bridleway and footpath network
- Ridge and Furrow
- Roman road

Intrusive Elements

- Pylon lines particularly in the north of the area

Location The Hogshaw area is close to the centre of the district to the southwest of Winslow.

Landscape character A gently sloping bowl of low ground in mixed agricultural use. There is very little settlement and access is via narrow lanes and a good network of Public Rights of Way. Hedgerows are good and often have mature oak trees. The main meandering watercourses tend to have trees and shrubs along their banks. Small plantations of mature poplars in a grid are a feature of the area. Views tend to focus on the surrounding higher ground. The two pylon lines through the area are visually intrusive. There is an electricity grid sub-station just to the north of the area, within Claydon Valley LCA 5.6, which these lines join. The sub-station and other pylon lines are visually intrusive in the very north of the area. The area is quiet but not wild or remote.

Geology Predominantly an area of calcareous mudstone (Weymouth Member with a transition to West Walton formation in the south). Alluvium deposits in the valley bottom.

Topography This is a small shallow valley area surrounded on the east, south and west by distinctly higher ground. The ground falls gently away from the higher ground to the lowest area in the north. Elevation from 105m to 90m AOD.

Hydrology There are no major watercourses and a series of minor streams and ditches drain the area. The main tributaries have a meandering course but many of the smaller tributaries are straight and follow field boundaries. There is a scattering of ponds throughout.

Land use and settlement This is a mixed agricultural landscape with a slight tendency towards grassland. There are also small areas of woodland and scrub.

There is very little settlement within the area just a scattering of farms some with large barns. A disused railway line passes north-south through the area.

Tree cover The woodlands are small with a notable plantation of mature poplars in a grid next to a lane. The tree cover within hedgerows is generally better adjacent to roads where there are frequent mature oak trees. Elsewhere the tree cover is good adjacent to streamlines and there is scrub along the disused railway track. There are dead elms in some hedgerows.

Biodiversity The principle habitats of the Hogshaw Claylands are a mix of arable and grassland habitat. The grassland is mostly improved however, some unimproved is present throughout.

The agricultural habitats are relieved by a few fragments of woodland habitat - both broadleaved and coniferous are present the most significant area being associated with the line of the disused railway where scrub also occurs. The broad habitat types of rivers and streams and standing open water are well represented by the streams and the ponds across the area.

Historic environment The historic landscape of Hogshaw is composed of a mixture of fields types; the greatest extent is made up of pre 18th century regular enclosures and is likely a product of the improvements

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made by such families as the Verneys at Middle Claydon. The eastern side of the area landscape is made up of parliamentary enclosure fields of Granborough enclosed in 1796. The other types are the changes to field boundaries in the 19th century and presence of 20th century enclosures for pony paddocks. The landscape has no historic settlements of note, only isolated historic farmsteads of Lower & Middle Farm.

The most notable archaeological features are ridge and furrow earthworks and the Roman road linking Fleet Marston to Thornborough, which for part of its route follows Carter's Lane. A Roman settlement is recorded on this road. The route was later used by the medieval highway from Aylesbury to Buckingham. The landscape is also bisected by the disused Aylesbury to Buckingham railway.

The landscape is traversed by promoted footpaths from the Bernwood Jubilee Way.

Designations

Archaeological Notification Areas – 11 No.
BNS – 2 No.

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Views in the area tend to look across the flat landscape and focus up to the surrounding higher ground.



The hedges are generally strong and clipped; pylon lines have a negative visual impact in many views.

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Summary of Condition/Sensitivity Analysis

Condition	Moderate
Pattern of elements:	Unified
Visual detractors:	Few
Visual unity:	Strongly unified
Cultural integrity:	Variable
Ecological integrity:	Weak
Functional integrity:	Weak
Sensitivity	Moderate
Distinctiveness:	Distinct
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Tree cover:	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate
Guidelines	Conserve and Enhance

Condition

The condition of the landscape is moderate. It has a unified pattern of elements with a strong hedgerow pattern and little settlement and only minor roads. There are considered to be few visual detractors across the area as a whole but the impact of the pylon lines running through the area is significant although the rural integrity of the landscape is maintained. The cultural integrity is variable, there is some good surviving examples of ridge and furrow in the landscape and the hedgerow pattern, is in good condition but the condition of the hedgerow trees is generally mature or over mature. Ecological integrity is weak due to suboptimal connectivity and the low area of designated sites and habitats of District significance present compared to other parts of the District. Overall the functional integrity is considered to be weak.

Sensitivity

The area has a distinct landscape character with a good sense of historic continuity. This gives the area a moderate sense of place. The landform is apparent and the tree cover intermittent with very little in the way of woodland. This produces an area with a moderate level of visibility. Overall the combination of a moderate sense of place and a moderate visibility combine to create a landscape which is considered to be of moderate sensitivity.



The landform is generally flat or very gently sloping. The hedgerow pattern is strong but tree cover in hedgerows is very variable.

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Landscape Guidelines Conserve and Enhance

The landscape guidelines for the Hogshaw Claylands are as follows:

- Encourage the retention and strengthening of the historic hedgerow pattern by infilling gaps and establishing new hedgerow trees. Oaks are a feature of hedgerows in this area.
- Encourage the management of hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.
- Promote the management and conservation of vegetation adjacent to the meandering watercourses including the pollarding of willow.
- Encourage the management of existing woodland and promote the establishment of new woodland particularly where it will reduce the visual impact of pylon lines.
- Maintain the condition and extent of unimproved and semi-improved grassland wherever possible. Encourage good management practices.
- Improve the management of historic meadows and pastures.
- Close to watercourses promote the use of permanent pasture, with low stocking density and flooding regimes to promote biodiversity and landscape enhancement.
- Encourage the restoration and management of ponds and the area around them to provide a succession of habitats from open water through to mature trees.
- Where possible link ponds to adjacent hedgerows with grassland.
- Enhance connectivity of habitats.
- Identify key views to surrounding higher from publicly accessible land and promote the preservation and enhancement of these views.
- Encourage the preservation of Ridge and Furrow by maintaining grassland.



Mature roadside poplar plantation is a local feature. Note locally discontinuous clipped hedgerow.