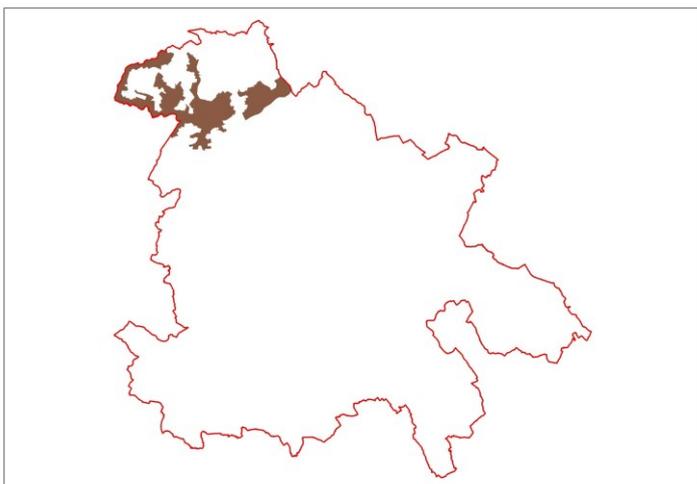


## LCT 2 Incised Valleys



### Constituent LCAs

- LCA 2.1 Westbury-Biddlesden Great Ouse Valley
- LCA 2.2 Shalstone Valley
- LCA 2.3 Dadford Valley
- LCA 2.4 Stowe Park Approaches
- LCA 2.5 Foxcote Valley
- LCA 2.6 Barrett's End Open Farmland
- LCA 2.7 Upper Great Ouse Valley



View from the valley bottom close to Radclive looking east towards Buckingham with the church spire clearly visible.

## LCT 2 Incised Valleys

### Key Characteristics

- Small river valleys
- Generally narrow valley floors
- Steep valley sides with incised streams
- Elevation 70M to 135M AOD
- Slopes range from 1:10 to almost flat
- Mixed land use of arable, pasture and woodland
- Field size ranges from very small to large
- Small woodland blocks
- Base-rich ferruginous fens
- Historic settlement close to river
- Sensitive historic landscape adjacent to river
- Hidden and tranquil character

### Distinctive Features

- Bank side vegetation
- Disused railway line
- Very small fields of pasture with good hedgerows
- Meadows
- Views to Buckingham church spire
- Main roads along valley sides
- Prairie fields west of Buckingham and on north side of the Ouse Valley
- Parkland
- Mill buildings adjacent to river
- Foxcote Reservoir
- Narrow bridges across river and stream

### General Description

Accords generally with CA 91 Yardley – Whittlewood Ridge in the north and CA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands identified by the Character of England Map, and with LCT RCN identified by the National Landscape Typology.

The incised valleys of the Great Ouse and its tributaries are located to the east and west of Buckingham, and extend eastwards and westwards across the district (and county boundary) into Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes. The main valley is small with generally steep undulating sides incised by numerous small streams and comprises in geological terms Cornbrash overlain by Boulder Clays. To the north at the top of the valley sides is LCT 1 Wooded Ridge and to the south LCT 4 Undulating Clay Plateau and to the east LCT 3 Valley Bottom.

The steeper valleys with their associated watercourses support small areas of biodiversity interest, amongst which are fen sites such as Radclive Fen and Chackmore Fen located to the east of Buckingham and Turweston and Turweston Manor Fen sites to the west in the Westbury - Biddlesden part of the Great Ouse Valley. Additional interest relates to the scattered woodland areas including Chackmore Farm Spinney, a County Wildlife Site with many different woody species and a diverse ground flora. Another County Wildlife Site, Longs Wood and meadow lies between Maids Moreton and Akeley. The wood comprises many oak trees, some ash and a ground flora indicative of ancient woodland.

Historic landscape interest is primarily focused on the river with large sections being identified as meadow of pre eighteenth century origin. Two of the incised tributary valleys have areas of Assart at the transition with LCT 1 Wooded Ridge associated with the change in slope. These areas also show strong historic associations with ancient woodland and meadow and areas of pre eighteenth century enclosure. Other historic landscape features include several areas of parkland the largest being at Biddlesden and several historic settlements.

The highest landscape quality within this type is generally close to the river and streamlines where there is good bankside vegetation and strong hedgerows containing small fields of early origin. There is also a concentration of historic features and settlement close to the river. These features combine to create a rich intimate landscape with a remote tranquil character. Higher on the valley sides there is more arable farming and some loss of field pattern which combine with larger roads to reduce the landscape quality. Views are generally short distance being contained by landform but to the west of Buckingham there are important views to the town church spire. The main visual detractors are areas of prairie farming and traffic on the main roads.

The landscape has distinctive features that combine to create a good quality landscape with particular diversity and richness close to the river and streams.