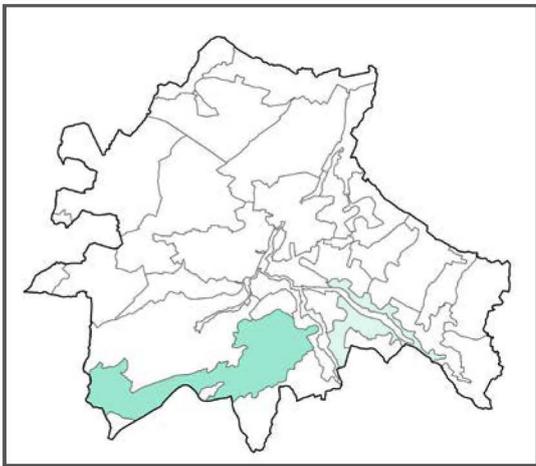


LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 8B: MORDEN TO DUXFORD LOWLAND CHALKLANDS



8B: MORDEN TO DUXFORD LOWLAND CHALKLANDS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands Landscape Character Area (LCA) is a large scale, open, arable landscape with historic villages at the edges of the River Valleys and distinctive linear features including roads, tracks and earthworks.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Low hedges and few trees create a large-scale, open and simple landscape
- Occasional copses of trees on high ground are a distinctive feature
- Sparse settlement pattern with small villages elevated from the River Valleys on lower ground, interspersed with isolated farms and cottages
- Long distance views across arable fields towards the rising chalk hills to the northeast and south
- Historic linear features include roads, ancient trackways and earthworks

Morden to Duxford LCA is a transitional, gently rolling landscape between the Lowland Farmlands and the smooth rolling Chalk Hills, that extends south into North Hertfordshire District. Within the Study Area, the landform is lowest in the northeast at c. 20m AOD and highest in the southwest at c. 80m AOD. Occasional small streams including Cheney Water and Hoffer Brook flow north towards the River Rhee valley.

This is a simple arable landscape of medium to large fields enclosed by a fragmented network of straight, low trimmed hedgerows, ditches and open boundaries. Fields are set in a generally ordered pattern of rectilinear fields and lanes with straight boundaries. Occasional linear tree belts along field boundaries and tree lines along roads or hedgerow trees combine to give a localised treed character, and provide localised visual enclosure within a large scale, open and spacious landscape. Certain high points have small beech copses, which form strong focal points, and there are occasional shelterbelts around settlements and a chalk pit in the southwest. This is not an ecologically rich LCA, however occasional pockets of deciduous woodland, orchards, floodplain grazing marsh, chalk grassland provide variety within the landscape. The golf course south of Fowlmere and solar farms north of Thriplow and north and east of Royston provide variation within the otherwise simple land use pattern. Views across arable fields are generally long, with smooth or treed distant horizons, and often feature the rolling Chalk Hills to the northeast and south.

Settlement comprises small villages, generally located on lower ground, elevated from the River Valleys, and separated by extensive tracts of countryside, with isolated farms and cottages are scattered in between. Villages include Foxton, Thriplow, Fowlmere, Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden. Generally, the villages have retained their small scale and historic, peaceful character, and can be glimpsed in the wider landscape. Soft edges comprising mature hedges and hedgerow trees, shelterbelts, small fields and paddocks provide a transition between villages and the wider chalk landscape. Church spires are often prominent landmarks. Occasional lines of poplars and telegraph poles are occasional features which interrupt the skyline.

Farm buildings tend to be large, but low and well-integrated into the landscape. The monumental aircraft hangars at Duxford Airfield, now part of the Imperial War Museum, are notable built features within the LCA, but not unsympathetic in the large scale open character of their setting. The strong rural character is locally disrupted by the A505 and M11 major roads which converge east of Duxford Airfield.

Historical and archaeological features including roads, ancient trackways and earthworks form distinctive linear features, including Ermine Street Roman Road, Bran or Heydon Ditch, and Ashwell Street track. The historic Icknield Way and the Harcamlow Way run through the LCA, providing a connection between historical and ecological features in neighbouring LCAs.

Evaluation

Specific Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the generic landscape sensitivities for this landscape character type, the following sensitivities are specific to this character area:

- Limited vegetation, open skylines and long distance views

Specific Landscape Guidelines

In addition to the generic landscape guidelines for this landscape character type, the following guidelines are specific to this character area:

- Conserve the open, expansive landscape and long distance views through careful consideration for location of new development and particularly tall/vertical structures

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE 9: RIVER VALLEYS

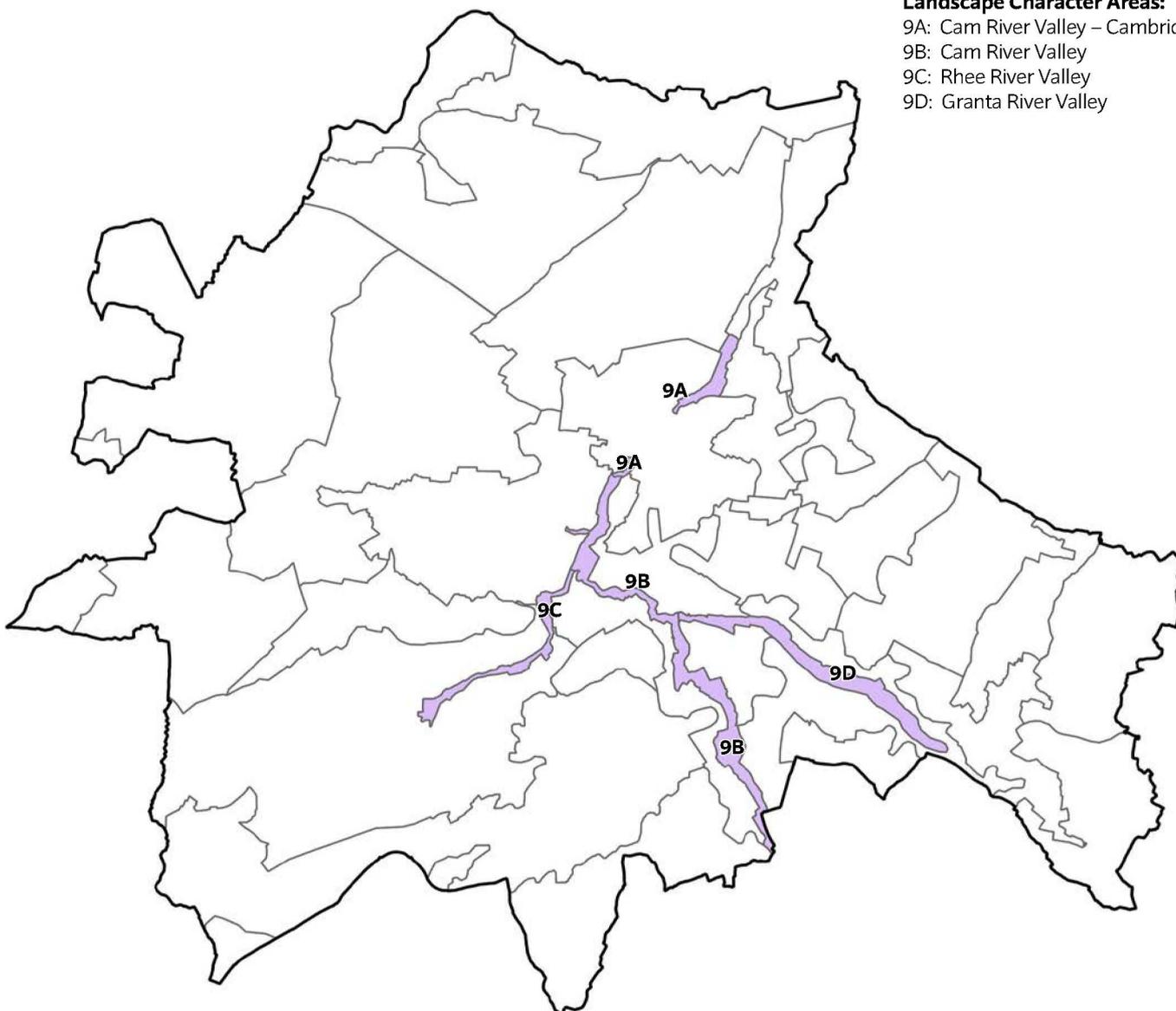
Landscape Character Areas:

9A: Cam River Valley – Cambridge

9B: Cam River Valley

9C: Rhee River Valley

9D: Granta River Valley



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE 9: RIVER VALLEYS

The River Valleys Landscape Character Type (LCT) is located along the floodplains of three rivers within the Study Area, namely River Cam, River Rhee and River Granta. Its character is intimate and small scale, derived from a pattern of flat grazing meadow and wet woodland.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Intimate, small-scale riverine landscape
- Flat, low-lying, broad valleys cut through the chalkland landscape
- Shallow river valleys have a rich mosaic of grazing meadow and wet woodlands with lines of willows along the rivers
- Clusters of deciduous woodland scattered through the valleys, including willow and poplar along the course of the rivers
- Generally unsettled landscape, with occasional mill buildings providing local features and historic village edges on the lower river terraces
- Remnants of historic parkland, former mills, manor houses and moated sites dispersed along the rivers
- Generally strong rural character that is occasionally disrupted by major roads that cut across the valleys in places

Physical Influences

The River Valleys landscape is defined by the flat, low-lying valley floors through which the rivers flow. The rivers cut broad, gently undulating valleys through the chalkland hills to the south of Cambridge.

The underlying geology of the River Valleys is largely formations of chalk. As the River Cam flows into, through and out of Cambridge it flows over a bedrock of Gault Clay. This is reflected in the topography and form of the river valley, which becomes lower and wider particularly to the northeast of Cambridge as it opens up and flows through The Fens.

The surface geology is largely alluvium with river terrace deposits of silt, sand and gravel within the river beds and also above them along much of the river course. The overlying soils are generally lime-rich, loamy and free draining with moderate to high fertility. This alters as the River Cam flows through the clay landscape, where the soils become more clayey with impeded drainage and lower fertility giving rise to meadows.

Biodiversity

The River Valleys LCT supports a variety of habitats including Priority Habitats such as floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland, semi-improved grassland, and pockets of lowland fens and lowland meadows.

The river channels of the River Rhee, River Cam and River Granta are all designated as County Wildlife Sites (CWS), including some of the tributary streams that feed into them. There are no statutorily protected sites within the River Valley landscape, although there are a small number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the adjoining landscape areas.

Deciduous woodland is dispersed through the River Valleys, along the river channels and often on the edge of settlements. There are higher levels of woodland along the upper reaches of the River Granta and River Cam or Granta within the chalk landscape in the south of the Study Area. There are lower levels of woodland within the clay landscape of the River Valleys.

Trees and scrub including willow and poplar are scattered through the LCT, particularly along the course of the rivers. Traditions associated with rowing and willow boughs have influenced the quantity of willow over time. There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), largely protecting tree and hedgerow field boundaries in proximity to the settlements within and adjoining the LCT.

Historic Landscape Character

The course of the rivers has clearly, historically influenced the location of settlements along their routes. There is a complex history of settlement within this and surrounding LCTs, evidenced by Roman Roads, Anglo-Saxon earthworks, large fields and modern roads that are all interlinked.

The river valleys themselves are historically a grazing landscape, which over time has been enclosed into a mosaic of riverine meadows.

There were a number of historic parklands within and adjoining this LCT, including Abington Hall, Babraham Hall, Hinxton Hall and Trumpington Hall along the River Granta and River Cam or Granta. Remnants of these are evident in the landscape, particularly woodland/parkland trees and enclosure. There are also a number of historic moated sites, manor houses/halls and mills along the length of the rivers within the LCT, particularly through the chalk landscape to the south.

Much of the River Cam valley to the northeast of Cambridge is designated as Conservation Areas that incorporate Stourbridge Common, the historic core of Fen Ditton and Baits Bite Lock at Milton. Other conservation areas within this LCT are associated with the historic core of the settlements that are located within the river valleys.

Settlement Form and Built Character

The River Valleys LCT is generally unsettled, with occasional mill buildings often providing local built features. The edges of village settlements on the rising landform in the adjoining LCTs, fall within the River Valley LCT in places. These are largely characterised by low density development and often historic properties including the mills and halls on the edge of the historic village cores. The exception to this is the southwest and northeast edge of Cambridge, which influences the character of the River Cam as it flows northeast through the Study Area.

The chalk valleys are generally more settled than the clay valley of the River Cam as it approaches the south of Cambridge. However, the historic core of Cambridge is centred on the clay river corridor of The Cam.

The settlements within the LCT have largely retained their small scale and historic character. They are generally linear settlements that are separated by the small-scale meadows along the river courses. The settlements have a mostly treed character, and the adjoining meadows and parkland are important features that contribute to the setting of the villages within the River Valleys.

Modern development on the west and north of Cambridge has created a more enclosed character to the River Cam as it flows into and out of the city, although the rural meadows character has been retained as part of a wider corridor.

Buildings within the LCT are traditionally two storey, simple and small in scale, with occasional larger 18th and 19th century houses. They are constructed from a variety of materials including plastered timber-frames, clunch, clay bat, knapped flint, plain gault brick, red and yellow gault brick. They are generally painted in light and warm colours, with the occasional pale pink, yellow or earthy red.

Access to the Landscape

There are a small number of minor roads that link through the River Valleys, generally providing a link between the villages on the edge of the LCT. Major roads cut across the valleys in a number of places, including the M1 in a north-south direction, the A11 in a northeast-southwest direction and A1301 linking south of Cambridge.

There are a limited number of Public Rights of Way (PROW) within the River Valleys. A small number of public footpaths link between local roads and settlements. The exception to this is the within the River Cam valley to the northeast of Cambridge, where the Fen Rivers Way long distance path, Harcamlow Way long distance path and Sustrans Route 11 all follow the river course northeast towards The Fens.

There are a small number of public attractions within this LCT, including small nature reserves, common land and historic buildings and sites.

Evaluation

Key Landscape Features

- Intimate, small-scale pastoral landscape
- Largely unsettled with distinctive former mill buildings, manor houses and moated sites
- Tranquil rural qualities created by the presence of water through the unsettled meadowlands
- Rich mosaic of grazing meadow and wet woodlands of high ecological value

Forces for Change

- Nutrient pollution from riverside arable land plus road and urban run-off affecting the water quality of the streams and rivers
- Intensification of farming leading to drainage and improvement of permanent pasture and meadows on the floodplain and loss of riparian vegetation and hedgerows
- Potential changes in farming practices including loss of livestock with remaining pastures and meadows no longer being grazed, with consequential scrub encroachment
- Presence of major transport corridors has brought pressures for development and associated amenity planting and signage
- Pressure for development, particularly for new housing including expansion of existing villages in adjoining LCTs that would intrude on the valley landscape and weaken the historic character of existing settlements
- Increasing road use which will diminish the rural tranquillity of the valleys
- Climate change could lead to increased risk of flooding along the river valley, and/or more frequent drought periods that would alter the river flows and related ecological networks, resulting in shift in species composition and requiring alterations in land management

Condition

The overall condition of the River Valleys LCT is **good** with the river corridors being generally rich in biodiversity, including habitats of grazing marsh, deciduous woodland, meadows, a largely intact hedgerow network that links with riparian trees along the river courses and generally unsettled landscape character. There are some elements of declining condition, where settlements have expanded along the upper slopes of the valleys in the adjoining LCTs and some fragmentation of hedgerow boundaries.

Strength of Character

The River Valleys LCT has an overall **strong** character, with notable watercourses winding through low-lying valley floors that support pastoral land use and have a strong sense of tranquillity with limited settlement across the meadows landscape. The visual and historic relationship between Cambridge and particularly the River Cam as it flows into and out of the city further enriches the LCT. Busy trunk roads and some suburban edges of large settlements occasionally, locally detract from the rural, peaceful, small-scale landscape.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

- Small scale, enclosed landscape
- Rich, floodplain landscape of small-scale, grazed pastures, riparian vegetation and valley woodlands
- Tranquil, rural landscape away from the main roadways that cross it
- Variety of historic/cultural features including remnants of historic parkland, former mills and moated sites, often related to nearby historic settlement cores

Landscape Guidelines

The overall management objective for the River Valleys LCT is to **conserve** the tranquil, intimate and rural character of the landscape. This will include management of key features including grazing meadows, wet woodland and riparian trees, historic features associated with the former mills, historic parklands and nearby historic village cores. There are opportunities to **enhance** the management and restoration of meadowland and grassland, and replanting and management of hedgerows and riparian woodland.

Guidance for Landscape Management

- Conserve and enhance the tranquillity and rural qualities of the river landscape
- Conserve and enhance existing hedgerows
- Consider opportunities for re-planting hedgerows and woodland where these have been lost/become fragmented
- Protect sites and features of historic and cultural value
- Identify, conserve and consider opportunities for restoring wetland habitats such as wet woodland, grazing marsh, grasslands and lowland meadows

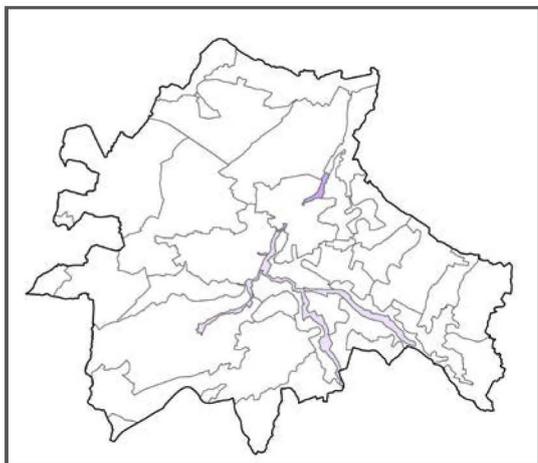
Guidance for Integrating Development into the Landscape

- Ensure built form and associated changes to roads are well integrated with the existing character and structure of settlements, and do not disrupt visual unity along the valleys
- Ensure any extensions to river valley villages are located along the line of the river, or at right angles to it, depending on the direction of the main transport route
- Maintain the linear, or rectilinear form of the settlements
- Ensure density and pattern of new developments reflect that of existing villages and hamlets
- Avoid backland and cul-de-sac developments where possible
- Ensure buildings are arranged in continuous frontages within village cores and are arranged in loose knit patterns facing the street on more peripheral sites
- Ensure new developments are integrated with sufficient space for garden and street tree planting where applicable
- Enhance village gateways and, where appropriate, consider provision of appropriate planting on village approaches
- Take opportunities to create new village greens and/or wildlife areas within new developments.
- Ensure new developments integrate/connect with existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) within development layout
- Ensure new developments reflect the form, scale and proportions of the existing vernacular buildings and pick up on traditional local building styles, height, materials, colours and textures
- Enclose boundaries facing the street in village cores by low, or high, flint walls with brick detailing, simple decorative railings, picket fencing or hedging
- Retain hedges along roads
- Enclose boundaries facing the street on village peripheries with hedge and tree planting
- Avoid the use of standardised and intrusive urban materials, street furniture, lighting and signage as part of traffic calming measures wherever appropriate
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, such as large storage sheds, are sited and designed to reduce their apparent mass, minimising their impact on the wider landscape by the appropriate use of texture, colour and planting

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- **9A: Cam River Valley – Cambridge**
- **9B: Cam River Valley**
- **9C: Rhee River Valley**
- **9D: Granta River Valley**

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9A: CAM RIVER VALLEY – CAMBRIDGE



9A: CAM RIVER VALLEY - CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Cam River Valley – Cambridge Landscape Character Area (LCA) is part of a distinctive green corridor along the River Cam as it enters and leaves Cambridge, contributing to the unique setting of the city and providing links with the wider rural area.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Distinctive green corridor within the Cambridge urban area
- Scattered mature trees, hedgerows and hedgerow trees provide a strong sense of enclosure
- Sparsely settled, with occasional vertical elements and views of built form on the urban edge visible in framed and filtered views between trees
- Historic association between the city and its river enriches the setting of Cambridge
- Well used landscape for recreation with strong historical and cultural associations

The Cam River Valley – Cambridge LCA occurs in two locations, southwest of Cambridge, where the Cam enters the urban area, and northeast of Cambridge, where the Cam leaves the urban area. This LCA is part of the distinctive green corridor penetrating the Cambridge Urban Area (see **Chapter 6** for details). The LCA follows the narrow, flat floodplain of the River Cam on a roughly southwest to northeast course, generally below 5m AOD. The River Cam in this location is a slow flowing, gently curving river in a wide valley.

This LCA has a rural and pastoral character, providing a unique landscape setting even close to the city centre. It largely comprises small, pastoral grazing meadows enclosed by mature hedgerows and wet woodlands. Lines of willows and poplars mark the course of the River Cam and combine with hedgerow trees and scattered individual trees to create a well treed, intimate appearance, contrasting with the wider townscape. Characteristic views within this small scale LCA include intimate views over the meadows towards the willow lined river, and longer framed views towards the landmark towers and spires of Cambridge.

Whilst the LCA itself is largely unsettled due to being floodplain, built form on the edges of the surrounding Cambridge Urban Area is a distinctive feature. This LCA enriches the setting of Cambridge through the relationship between built and green spaces and the historic association between the city and its river. The river, riverbanks and the towpath have strong historical and cultural associations with University life. The river landscape is aesthetically pleasing and is well used by people, both on and off the water. The stretch between Jesus Lock in Cambridge and Baits Bike Lock east of Milton is a popular location for rowing, and there are a number of residential boats in this area. Vertical elements occasionally interrupting the flat landscape include chimneys, pylons, poles, masts and church spires. On the whole, the LCA is well balanced and historic urban elements separated by green spaces within this LCA contribute towards a harmonious, intimate and tranquil landscape.

The river corridor forms a distinctive approach to Cambridge along green corridors into the city. The E2 European Long Distance Route passes through the southwestern section and in the northeast the Fen Rivers Way, Harcamlow Way and Sustrans Route 11 all follow the river course towards The Fens, providing links between Cambridge and the open countryside. Occasional footbridges have an industrial character in keeping with the railway bridge. Roads are limited, but the elevated Fen Causeway forms the northern boundary of the southern section, and the A14 and railway line both cross the northern part of the LCA on bridges, introducing localised noise and interrupting views.

Evaluation

Specific Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the generic landscape sensitivities for this landscape character type, the following sensitivities are specific to this character area:

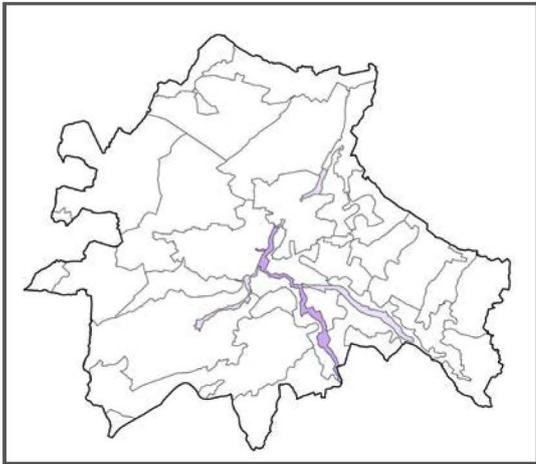
- Green corridor forming an approach to Cambridge from the southwest and northeast and contributing to the distinctive landscape setting of the city
- Pressure for recreation and housing

Specific Landscape Guidelines

In addition to the generic landscape guidelines for this landscape character type, the following guidelines are specific to this character area:

- Development should ensure that the essential character remains, protecting views, habitat and setting
- Ensure development enhances existing landscape features, creates links between settlements and recreational assets and is in keeping with the intimate, pastoral character

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9B: CAM RIVER VALLEY



9B: CAM RIVER VALLEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Cam River Valley Landscape Character Area (LCA) is the setting for the largest river in the River Valleys, characterised by historical and cultural contributions to the setting of Cambridge and a sense of separation between settlements in the Lowland Farmlands.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Sense of separation between historic villages in the Lowland Farmlands
- Occasional discordant features including the major road network and railway
- Historical and cultural links with poets who described the Cam Valley around Grantchester
- Distinctive views across Grantchester Meadows towards Cambridge

The Cam River Valley LCA is the narrow green corridor containing the flat floodplain of the meandering River Cam and its tributaries southwest of Cambridge. It extends beyond the Study Area, south into Uttlesford District where the source of the River Cam is located. Within the Study Area, it has a high point of c. 40m AOD in the south, and the valley falls to under 10m AOD in the north as it approaches Cambridge. The Cam is a relatively short, chalk river, but is the longest and widest river of all the River Valleys with the confluences of the River Granta, River Rhee and Bourn Brook within this LCA. The river corridor includes a number of pools along its length, most notably Byron's Pool south of Grantchester, which has links to the poet Byron.

The landcover is generally comprised of meadows and small pastoral fields, with occasional arable fields. Fields are irregular, with a mixture of straight edges and sinuous edges. The river can often be identified as a line of riparian trees in the wider landscape. Shelterbelts, scattered areas of woodland and occasional isolated trees combine to create well treed horizons which provide visual enclosure. Priority habitats include floodplain grazing marsh, good quality semi improved grassland and deciduous woodland. In general, this is a harmonious, small scale landscape. Views are short and intimate, framed by willows on the river or woodland and tree belts.

Settlement comprises occasional scattered mills, cottages and farms, and the eastern part of the villages of Duxford and Ickleton. The well treed LCA provides a sense of separation between villages located along historically important routes into Cambridge, on elevated ground on the edges of the Lowland Farmlands. These villages are occasionally visible, but generally they have well defined, treed edges. Occasional industrial developments in the south are discordant with the otherwise rural character. The M11, A505, A1301 and the railway, are all localised detractors, adding distant noise to the otherwise predominantly tranquil and still LCA. Bridges over the river are generally unremarkable.

This LCA is part of a longer green corridor following the route of the River Cam through Cambridge. The northern part of the LCA enriches the setting of Cambridge through the historic association between the city and its river, and through the works of Rupert Brook, Byron and other poets, and more recently, Pink Floyd who described the Cam Valley around Grantchester. The River Cam and Grantchester Meadows have long featured in University life as the setting for punting and walking and is equally significant for locals and visitors alike. The footpath to the west of the river between Grantchester and Newnham is extremely well used, offering views across the tranquil riverine landscape to the meadows and fields to the east of the Cam and north to the city and King's College. It also allows public access to the river. The river and water meadows are well used for picnicking, informal punting and bathing. Views across from the Grantchester area are special, and evocative of Cambridge, and are part of the defining character of this setting and views.

Evaluation

Specific Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the generic landscape sensitivities for this landscape character type, the following sensitivities are specific to this character area:

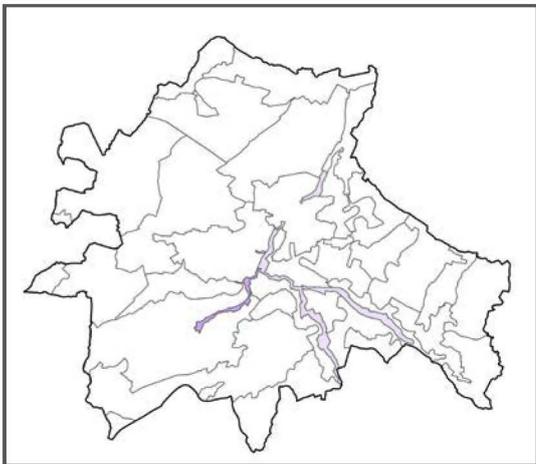
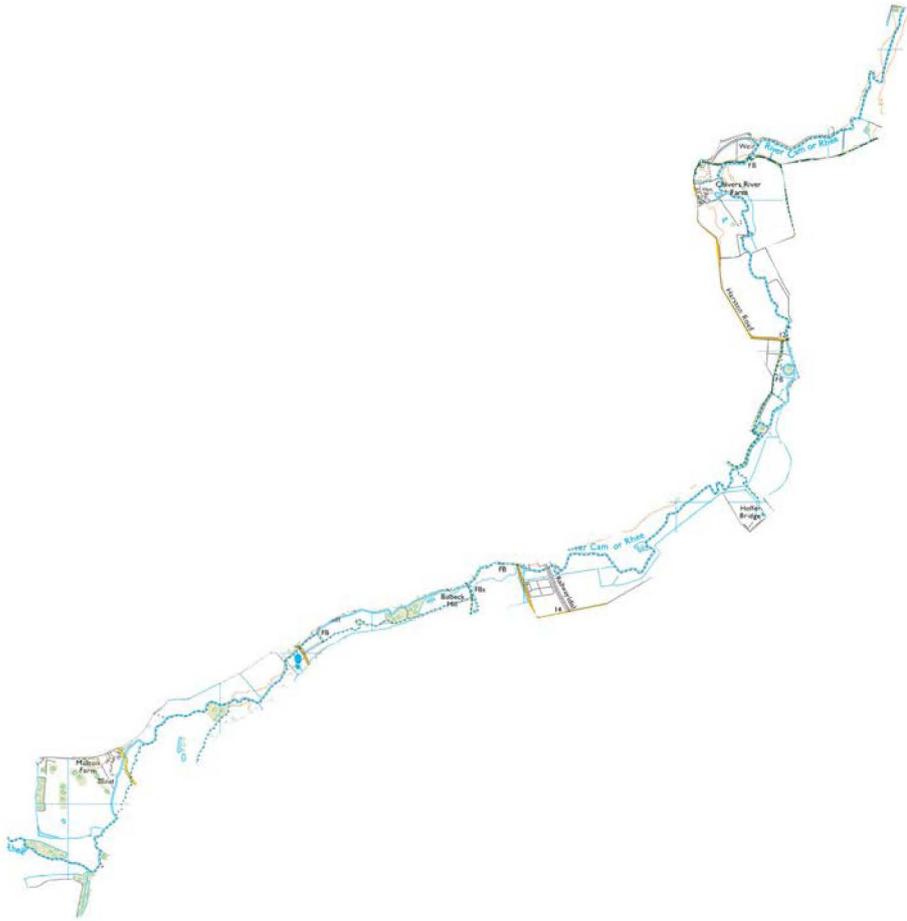
- Views across Grantchester Meadows which are culturally important and contribute to the setting of Cambridge
- Sense of separation between historic villages in the Lowland Farmlands
- Green corridor providing a connection to Cambridge and enhancing its setting

Specific Landscape Guidelines

In addition to the generic landscape guidelines for this landscape character type, the following guidelines are specific to this character area:

- Conserve the distinctive sense of rural isolation and separation between villages in the Lowland Farmlands
- Ensure development enhances existing landscape features and is in keeping with the intimate, pastoral character

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9C: RHEE RIVER VALLEY



9C: RHEE RIVER VALLEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Rhee River Valley Landscape Character Area (LCA) is the least settled and least wooded of the River Valley LCAs, providing a sense of separation between villages in the Lowland Farmlands.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Generally unsettled landscape, with a sense of separation between villages on higher ground on the edges of the Lowland Farmlands

The River Rhee Valley LCA is the narrow floodplain of the River Rhee. The short chalk stream is slow flowing, meandering and narrow. The sinuous watercourse is joined in this LCA by several tributaries including the Whaddon Brook, Guilden Brook and Hoffer Brook. The valley drops from a high point of c. 20m AOD in the southwest to less than 10m AOD in the northeast as it nears its confluence with the River Cam.

Riparian trees along the watercourse combine with extensive grazing meadow and infrequent blocks of scattered woodland to create a simple, small scale landscape which is largely visually enclosed. Ecologically rich floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland and a pocket of good quality semi improved grassland largely define the extent of the LCA. Views are generally short and contained by trees. Occasionally, open, arable fields contrast with the intimate landscape immediately adjacent to the river. In these locations there are longer views out of the LCA into arable fields in the neighbouring Lowland Farmlands.

This is a largely unsettled LCA, with occasional farms and mills along the riverbank. The overall character is tranquil and rural. There is a sense of separation between well treed villages on higher ground at the edge of LCA 3C (Rhee Valley Lowland Farmlands). These villages generally have well defined treed edges which combine with the riparian trees and blocks of woodland within the LCA so they are largely obscured.

Several minor roads cross the LCA on inconspicuous bridges, linking villages in 3C: Rhee Valley Lowland Farmlands, introducing intermittent localised noise and movement. Access to the river valley is limited to Public Rights of Way (PROW) between Haslingfield and Hauxton and Barrington and Harston which provide a limited amount of access.

Evaluation

Specific Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the generic landscape sensitivities for this landscape character type, the following sensitivities are specific to this character area:

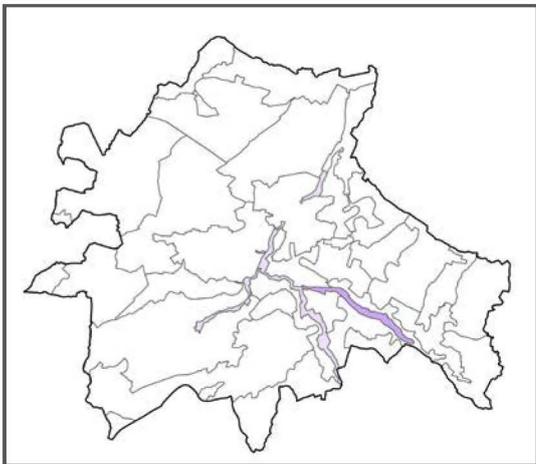
- Sense of separation between villages in the Lowland Farmlands

Specific Landscape Guidelines

In addition to the generic landscape guidelines for this landscape character type, the following guidelines are specific to this character area:

- Conserve the distinctive sense of rural isolation and separation between the Lowland Farmland villages

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9D: GRANTA RIVER VALLEY



9D: GRANTA RIVER VALLEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Granta River Valley Landscape Character Area (LCA) is characterised by a pattern of designed parkland and a sense of separation between historic villages on the raised edges of the floodplain in the Lowland Chalklands.

Description

Key Characteristics

- Designed parkland landscapes, including modern development at Granta Park
- Sense of separation between villages on elevated land in the neighbouring Lowland Farmlands
- Time depth associated with historic routes into Cambridge, the Icknield Way and designed parkland

The Granta River Valley LCA is the immediate floodplain of the River Granta. The shortest watercourse of all the River Valleys, the chalk stream is narrow and meandering as it flows towards its confluence with the River Cam in the north of the LCA. The valley falls from c. 45m AOD in the southeast to c. 15m AOD in the northwest.

Landcover comprises small pastoral fields, paddocks and meadows enclosed by woodland, shelterbelts of trees and robust hedgerows. They are organised in an irregular pattern, with a combination of straight and sinuous boundaries. Designed parkland landscapes at Hildersham Hall and Abington Hall contribute to the distinctive character of the landscape. Historic parkland is the setting for the Granta Park which offers a campus-like setting for a science and technology park featuring large modern buildings which provide a contrast to the rural character elsewhere. Floodplain grazing marsh and deciduous woodland are abundant priority habitats, alongside small pockets of lowland meadows and mosaic habitat. This is a small scale, enclosed, balanced rural landscape. Views are generally short, visually enclosed, and occasionally framed by individual trees. The LCA is generally defined by tracks, roads and woodland boundaries, but in some places, it is defined by rising landform. In these locations the edges of open, arable fields contrast with the otherwise simple, wooded and enclosed character.

The edges of the villages of Little Abington, Great Abington and Linton are within this LCA, as well as scattered linear settlement along roads, farms and cottages. Historically, settlement has grown along the important routes into Cambridge on the edges of this LCA where land is raised off the floodplain, and this LCA provides a sense of separation between villages in 3D: Cam & Granta Valley Lowland Farmlands and 8A: Pampisford Lowland Farmlands. There are also scattered mills and occasional industrial developments. Vertical structures including pylons and poles are occasional features which interrupt the flat skyline. A number of minor roads provide connectivity between the villages in the Lowland Chalklands, the relatively well treed A11 crosses the LCA, and the A1301 forms part of the southern boundary introducing localised road noise from A1307 in these areas. Road bridges over the narrow river are generally unremarkable on major roads, and villages including Great Abington, Hildersham and Linton have more decorative bridges which make a positive contribution to the character.

The historic Icknield Way Trail passes through Linton, providing a connection to historic and ecological features in neighbouring LCAs. The historic route combines with the area's past as a historic route into Cambridge scattered with historic villages and designed parkland to give a sense of time depth.

Evaluation

Specific Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the generic landscape sensitivities for this landscape character type, the following sensitivities are specific to this character area:

- Designed parkland landscapes, including modern development at Granta Park
- Sense of separation between villages on elevated land in the neighbouring Lowland Farmlands
- Time depth associated with historic routes into Cambridge and the Icknield Way

Specific Landscape Guidelines

In addition to the generic landscape guidelines for this landscape character type, the following guidelines are specific to this character area:

- Manage historic parkland to maintain and enhance its distinctive features and enhance the ecological value of the landscape
- Conserve the distinctive sense of rural isolation and separation between villages in the Lowland Farmlands and Lowland Chalklands

5.0 CHARACTER OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S RURAL VILLAGES

This chapter provides a high-level study of the existing character of the rural villages within South Cambridgeshire, and includes signposts to sources of more detailed character assessment information and guidance.

5.1 Introduction

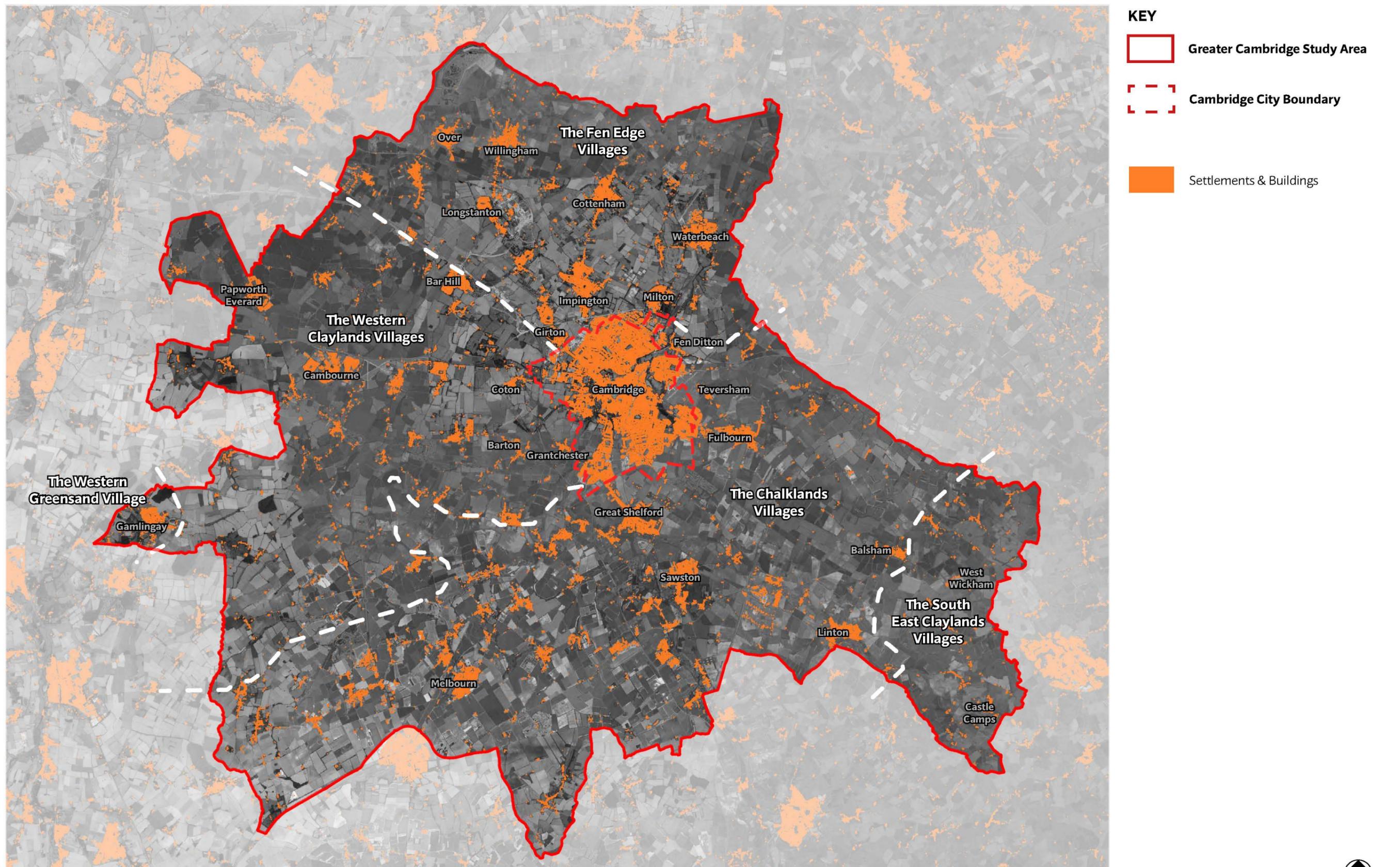
5.1.1 Adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in 2010 by South Cambridgeshire District Council, the South Cambridgeshire District Design Guide provides information on the characteristics and special qualities of the District's villages and sets out design principles for how this character should be protected and enhanced by new development. The Guide considers the character of the District's villages within the following five broad landscape zones as shown on **Figure 5.1**:

- The South East Claylands Villages
- The Chalklands Villages
- The Western Claylands Villages
- The Fen Edge Villages
- The Western Greensand Village

5.1.2 Further information and guidance about the townscape character of individual rural villages within South Cambridgeshire can be found in the South Cambridgeshire Village Design Guides, which provide information on the specific local characteristics (buildings, streets, spaces, landscaping and materials) that combine to create the distinctive identity and character of a particular village, supported by design guidelines for how this character should be protected and enhanced by new development. Village Design Guides have been adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council as Supplementary Planning Documents in 2020 for the following villages:

- Caldecote
- Fulbourn
- Gamlingay
- Histon & Impington
- Over
- Papworth Everard
- Sawston
- Swavesey

5.1.3 Further information and guidance about Conservation Areas within individual rural villages can be found in the South Cambridgeshire Conservation Area Appraisals & Management Plans, which describe the character and significance of Conservation Areas within villages and provide recommendations for their conservation and enhancement.



KEY

- Greater Cambridge Study Area
- Cambridge City Boundary
- Settlements & Buildings

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5.1.4 Conservation Areas Appraisals have been adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council as Supplementary Planning Documents for the following villages to date:

- Fen Ditton
- Foxton
- Fulbourn Village & Hospital
- Gamlingay
- Grantchester
- Great Shelford
- Horningsea
- Knapwell
- Longstanton
- Little Gransden
- Oakington
- Over
- Papworth Everard
- Rampton
- Sawston
- Swavesey
- Teversham
- Waterbeach
- Westwick
- Willingham

5.1.5 In addition, the 1998 South Cambridgeshire Villages Capacity Study provides detailed assessments of the landscape and environmental character of 31 of the District's larger villages and their landscape settings, and also overview appraisals of a further 68 smaller villages, within the context of the four broad landscape zones shown on **Figure 5.1**.

5.2 Character Overview

5.2.1 As illustrated on **Figure 5.1**, the dispersed pattern of 102 villages are a particularly distinctive feature of the rural landscape in the South Cambridgeshire part of the Greater Cambridge Study Area.

5.2.2 South Cambridgeshire's villages vary greatly in size, with each having a unique character. Small, medium and large villages occupy a variety of positions including hilltops, valley-sides and along spring lines. They often exhibit a complex mix of patterns, including linear, dispersed, nucleated, agglomerated and planned.

5.2.3 A number have been formed from amalgamation of initially separate and ancient hamlets. Villages that grow up along important communication links are often linear, with an area of green in front of buildings, as at Comberton, or at each end, as at Harston.

- 5.2.4 While there are no complete planned medieval villages, there are planned elements that survive in villages such as Swavesey. Development was also affected by phases in population growth or decline, visible at Bassingbourn where there are whole areas of house plots under grass.
- 5.2.5 Village pattern is often affected by the location and extent of open space, particularly greens and common land with settlements. Typically, the villages have developed from historic cores that exhibit a varied mix of vernacular building materials, including brick, rendered plaster, weatherboarding, plain tiles, pantiles, and thatch.
- 5.2.6 Some villages, particularly the necklace of villages closer to Cambridge, have experienced significant growth with modern housing estates developed around historic cores. Villages with attractive groupings of historic buildings, village greens, common land, mature trees and church towers make a positive contribution to local landscape character.
- 5.2.7 The typical characteristics of the villages located within each of the broad landscape zones shown on **Figure 5.1** are summarised below.

5.3 The South East Claylands Villages

The “South East Claylands villages” are associated with the parishes of Balsham (eastern sector), Carlton (western sector), Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton (north-east sector), Shudy Camps, West Wickham, West Wrating (eastern sector), and Weston Colville (eastern sector)

Typical characteristics:

- The villages and small hamlets (locally known as ‘Ends’) typically have strong linear forms, often with a wooded setting and mature hedgerows and trees that contribute to rural character.
- Small paddocks and long back gardens also help to soften village edges.
- Generally, they include a mix of more substantial farmhouses arranged in a loose knit pattern, interspersed with open frontages.
- The slightly larger village of West Wrating includes some continuous frontages that historically provided enclosure to the streets.
- Any areas of modern infill are generally limited.
- Small village greens of irregular shape, including narrow ‘strip’ greens, are a feature in a few villages such as West Wrating and West Wickham.
- The vernacular detailing of walls is mainly of plastered timber frame construction, often with distinctive decorative pargetting in a variety of patterns.
- A few flint and weatherboarded buildings occur.
- Gault brick occurs in some later buildings.
- Roofs are typically of longstraw thatch and plain clay tiles.
- Details of timber-framed buildings include steep roof pitches, four or five planked doors, casement and sash windows, and chimneys located laterally on the roof ridge, or at gable ends.

5.4 The Chalklands Villages

The “Chalklands villages” are associated with the parishes of Abington Piggotts, Balsham (western sector), Babraham, Barrington, Bartlow, Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth, Carlton (eastern sector), Duxford, Fen Ditton, Fowlmere, Foxton, Fulbourn, Great Abington, Great and Little Chishill, Great Shelford, Great Wilbraham, Guilden Morden, Harston, Hauxton, Heydon, Hildersham, Hinxton, Ickleton, Linton (west and south-east sectors), Litlington, Little Abington, Little Shelford, Little Wilbraham, Melbourn, Meldreth, Newton, Pampisford, Sawston, Shepreth, Stapleford, Steeple Morden, Stow cum Quy, Teversham, Thriplow, West Wratting (western sector), Weston Colville (western sector), Whaddon and Whittlesford

Typical characteristics:

- In the chalklands to the south and east of Cambridge, both small and large villages generally have a strong historic, linear form, though extensive modern estate developments have occurred in some villages close to Cambridge; others, such as Bassingbourn, are the result of amalgamation of older hamlets.
- These linear villages widen out in places to include village greens, such as the large, oval green at Barrington and the smaller, triangular one at Heydon.
- A few villages, such as Little Shelford, have a rectangular form of looser structure with a number of important open spaces included.
- The village edges are varied, typically abutted by a mix of open fields, woodland, or smaller fields.
- Long back gardens also help to form a transition to the surrounding countryside.
- A wide variety of materials are used in walls, including plastered timber-frame constructions (weatherboarded or rough-cast render on laths) clunch, clay bat, knapped flint, plain gault brick, red and yellow gault brick.
- Farm buildings are typically black-tarred weatherboarding.
- Colours of buildings are generally light and warm, often pale cream, but some are painted pale pink or yellow and, occasionally, earthy red.
- Roofs of vernacular buildings are typically of longstraw, thatch and plain clay tiles and pan-tiles, with some more recent use of Welsh slate and reed thatch.
- Plastered timber-framed building details include; high-pitched roofs, drip-boards set in the gable ends and over windows, four or six panelled or planked doors, and with chimneys set laterally on the ridge to roofs.
- Eighteenth and nineteenth century house details include; low-pitched roofs, vertical sliding sash windows set in deep reveals over shallow stone sills, with gauged or segmental brick arched lintels and chimneystacks incorporated within the building at the gables.

5.5 The Western Claylands Villages

The “Western Claylands villages” are associated with the parishes of Arrington, Bar Hill, Barton, Bourn, Boxworth, Caldecote, Caxton, Childerley, Comberton, Conington, Coton, Croxton, Croydon, Dry Drayton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Grantchester, Graveley, Great Eversden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield, Hatley, Kingston, Knapwell, Little Eversden, Little Gransden, Lolworth, Longstowe, Madingley, Orwell, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes, Shingay cum Wendy, Tadlow, Toft and Wimpole

Typical characteristics:

- In the claylands to the west of Cambridge the mostly small, scattered villages often have well defined edges provided by mature trees, wide hedgerows, copses or parkland.
- Small fields and paddocks also contribute to their landscape setting, providing a transition to the surrounding countryside.
- Many of the villages have a strong, linear form with rows of cottages and a few, larger farmsteads facing roads and paths.
- Highfields Caldecote (which has a planned rectilinear street pattern) and Bar Hill (which is a 20th century new settlement) are not typical of the area.
- Cambourne is a 21st century new settlement.
- Within the historic villages, a variety of wall materials are used, including plastered timber-frame construction (mostly cream in colour), warm red brickwork and occasional yellow brick.
- Farm buildings are typically of brick, weatherboarding and flint.
- Roof materials include plain clay tiles, pantiles longstraw thatch and Welsh slate.
- Details which characterise timber-frame buildings include high pitched roofs, casement windows or horizontal sliding sashes (Yorkshire sashes) set flush with the outside face of the wall, drip boards set in the gable ends and over windows, four or six panelled or planked doors and chimneys set laterally on the roof ridge.
- Eighteenth century houses, which occur in a few villages such as Grantchester, have details that include four and six panelled front doors, gauged brick arches over windows and distinctive cornices.
- Nineteenth century houses, which occur in a few villages such as Grantchester and Comberton, have details which may include sawtooth dentil courses under the eaves, four or twelve pane vertical sliding sash windows, four panelled doors, contrasting brick dressing or decorative polychromatic brick banding and chimneys sited at the gables flush with the gable walls.
- Many modern estates in the larger villages, such as Comberton, do not respond to the local vernacular.

5.6 The Western Greensand Village

The “Western Greensands village” of Gamlingay is associated with the parish of Gamlingay

Typical characteristics:

- Gamlingay comprises farmsteads, cottages and small, detached houses associated with smallholdings dispersed along lanes.
- The historic core of the village retains a strong linear form with mostly continuous frontages radiating out along roads.
- Narrow, gently curving streets, with houses generally sited on the back edge of the pavement.
- Open fields, hedgerowed paddocks, woodland and stream valleys contribute to the distinctive landscape setting, despite a harsh urban edge in parts.
- Buildings are generally one and a half or two storeys, with spans of between four and six metres.
- The range of building styles within the village includes small vernacular cottages, medieval farmhouses and buildings, eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth century villas together with many nineteenth century terraces.
- Walls are constructed of timber-frame with plastered finish (coloured cream, yellow and pale pink) carstone (sandstone) and red and yellow brick.
- Farm buildings are of weatherboarding and brick. Vernacular roofs are of plain clay tiles, pantiles, longstraw thatch and Welsh slate.
- Timber-framed building details include high pitched roofs, casement or sash windows set flush with the outside face of the walls, drip boards set in the gable ends and over windows and chimneys sited laterally on the roof ridges.

5.7 The Fen Edge Villages

The “Fen Edge villages” are associated with the parishes of Cottenham, Fen Drayton, Girton, Histon, Horningsea, Impington, Landbeach, Longstanton, Milton, Northstowe, Oakington, Over, Willingham, Rampton, Swavesey, Waterbeach and Westwick

Typical characteristics:

- To the north of Cambridge, towards the fens, villages are characterised by their strong linear form, often having developed outwards from crossroads along approach roads.
- The historic linear form is retained despite the modern estate developments that have occurred in many of the villages.
- Some village edges, such as at Cottenham, have a well wooded character, with hedgerows and mature trees concealing buildings, while others, such as Fen Drayton, have more open edges.
- Within the historic cores narrow lanes with continuous street frontages are typical, but on village edges buildings are more often setback with low walls and hedges fronting the streets.
- Long back gardens are also a common feature.
- Vernacular buildings are typically small scale, one and a half or two storeys in height.
- A few larger villas occur in some village core areas.
- Northstowe and Waterbeach New Towns are 21st century new settlements.
- Within the historic villages, wall materials vary with yellow Gault Clay brickwork predominating and plastered timber-frame, dark stained weatherboarding and red brick also present.
- Roofs are historically of thatch and plain clay tiles, with pantiles and Welsh slate being later introductions.
- Timber-frame building details include; steeply pitched roofs, side hung timber casements set flush to the outside face of the wall, drip boards set on gable ends and over the windows, with four or six panelled or planked doors.
- Eighteenth and nineteenth century house details include; vertically sliding sash windows set in reveals over shallow stone sills and with gauged or segmental arched brick lintels over, four or six panelled doors in simple classical door cases incorporating fan lights and chimneys incorporated within the buildings or at gable ends.
- Some brick buildings in the village cores have Dutch gables, reflecting the eighteenth and nineteenth century’s links with the Low Countries.

6.0 CHARACTER OF THE CAMBRIDGE ENVIRONS

This chapter provides a high-level study of the landscapes and open spaces that contribute to the setting of Cambridge, and includes signposts to sources of more detailed character assessment information and guidance.

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This chapter draws significantly on the following assessments, validated and updated as necessary by desk top studies, field surveys and analysis. Together, these studies provide a basis for understanding the character of the Cambridge Environs in the early part of the 21st Century.
- 6.1.2 The Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (City of Cambridge Council, 2003) identifies the key landscape features that define or support the distinctive character of Cambridge informed by an assessment of the City's landscape character in 2003.
- 6.1.3 Building on work undertaken as part of LDA's 2002 Cambridge Green Belt Study, the Cambridge Inner Green Belt Boundary Study (LDA, 2015) includes an updated townscape and landscape character assessment to inform the identification of qualities that contribute to the purpose of the Cambridge Green Belt. The study also considers: the historical development of Cambridge and the necklace of villages; the green corridors within Cambridge; how the City is perceived and experienced in views, approaches and gateways; the pattern, character and identity of the surrounding villages; and provides an evaluation of the role and function of the townscapes and landscapes in helping define or support the distinctive character of Cambridge.
- 6.1.4 More recently, an assessment of the historic setting of Cambridge has been undertaken as part of the Greater Cambridge Strategic Heritage Impact Assessment (CBA, 2021).

6.2 Townscape Character

- 6.2.1 An overview of the pre-19th Century historical development of the City in the context of the wider Greater Cambridge landscape was provided in **Section 3.2**.
- 6.2.2 As illustrated on **Figure 6.1**, from the 19th Century onwards Cambridge grew to the north, east and south but there was little expansion to the west. Notwithstanding the 19th and 20th Century expansion, Cambridge remains a relatively small-scale city focussed on its historic core.
- 6.2.3 The progressive historic development of the City in response to the river setting, the railway and the University has resulted in a distinct pattern of townscape character. These areas range from the historic core of the city, with its complex stratification of historic layers, to the peripheral areas of residential development whose coherence is principally derived from the unity of housing style and period of development.

6.2.4 The River Cam and the alignment of the principal approach roads into Cambridge, a number of which date back to the Roman and earlier periods, have also been influential in determining the distinctiveness of the City's townscape character.

6.2.5 A broad-scale townscape character assessment of the City and the necklace villages within the Cambridge Environs was undertaken as part of the Cambridge Inner Green Belt Boundary Study (LDA, 2015). This assessment mapped and described the following townscape types and townscape character areas (within the City only):

Townscape Types	Townscape Character Areas
10. Historic Cores	1A: Cambridge 1B: Chesterton Village
11. Bespoke Houses & Colleges	2: West Cambridge
12. Green Space & Green Corridors	3A: River Cam Corridor 3B: Coldham's Common
13. Victorian/Edwardian Terraced Housing	4A: New Chesterton 4B: Newtown, Mill Road, Barnwell & Romsey Town
14. Commercial/Industrial/Service Development	5A: Cambridge Science Park, St John's Innovation Park & Cambridge Regional College 5B: Railway Corridor 5C: Cambridge Airport
15. 1900-1945 Suburban Housing	6A: Trumpington Road and Hills Road 6B: South-eastern Suburban Estates 6C: Newmarket Road Suburban Estates
16. Post-War Suburban Housing	7A: Northern Suburban Estates 7B: Cherry Hinton
17. Early 21 st Century Mixed Use Development	8: North West Cambridge

6.2.6 The main findings of the 2015 assessment that remain relevant today are:

- Although considerable development has taken place in Cambridge in the 20th and 21st centuries, the city has retained its special character as a historic University city and its small scale
- Much of the historic core remains intact with colleges built between 1300 and 1600, medieval churches, narrow medieval streets and an important setting of open spaces giving the core of the city its distinctive character
- 20th century suburban housing development, primarily in the form of semi-detached brick-built houses with gardens mainly occurred to the north, east and south of the city centre
- The western side of Cambridge is less developed and is dominated by University buildings, colleges, large late 19th century houses and playing fields

- The River Cam and associated commons and water meadows, which contribute greatly to the character of Cambridge, provide a green corridor through the heart of the city and a green setting to the historic core. The relationship between the city and its setting is especially strong along the River Cam Corridor
- The distribution of the necklace villages reflects the historic development of the landscape. Some villages close to the city edge have a varying and distinctive character, particularly where they avoided significant 20th century development

6.3 Landscape Character

6.3.1 The City of Cambridge has its origins at the meeting point of three broad landscapes focused on the River Cam - the fens, the claylands and the chalklands - which, in terms of topography and landscape character, are still readily apparent in the landscape surrounding the City today (as reflected by the Landscape Character Types shown on **Figure 4.1**).

6.3.2 The following Landscape Character Types and Areas have been defined within the environs of the Cambridge Urban Area (see **Chapter 4** for details):

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
1.The Fens	1D: North Fen to Milton Fen 1E: Fulbourn Fen
2.Fen Edge Claylands	2B: Cottenham Fen Edge Claylands
3.Lowland Farmlands	3B: Bourn Tributaries Lowland Farmlands 3D: Cam & Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
4.Wooded Claylands	4B: Lolworth to Longstowe Wooded Claylands
6.Fen Edge Chalklands	6A: Fen Ditton Fen Edge Chalklands 6B: Wilbraham Fen Edge Chalklands 6C: Fulbourn Fen Edge Chalklands
7.Chalk Hills	7B: Gog Magog Chalk Hills
9.River Valleys	9A: Cam River Valley – Cambridge 9B: Cam River Valley

6.3.3 This assessment confirms the diversity of landscapes within the setting of Cambridge, which is one of the city’s defining characteristics. The variety of landscapes within the Cambridge Environs are reflected by:

- The diversity of landscape character areas within the three broad landscapes surrounding the City - the fens, the claylands and the chalklands
- The extensive river valley landscapes, particularly to the south and south-west of the city where watercourses have eroded the higher claylands and chalklands

- The extensive areas of “fen edge” landscape north and east of the city
- 6.3.4 The important role played by the landscape in contributing to the setting and character of Cambridge is considered further in the following sections.

6.4 Defining Character of Cambridge and its Environs

- 6.4.1 The features and areas that are considered to be essential to the distinctive character of the City are regarded as 'Defining Character'. The elements that make up the Defining Character of Cambridge are outlined below.

The Historic Core

- 6.4.2 Developed around the River Cam, the historic core (see **Figure 6.6**) is fundamental to the Defining Character of Cambridge. The character of the City's historic core is that of a market town with grand, historic, mostly collegiate and religious buildings, set side by side with vernacular buildings of much lesser scale within a tight pattern of narrow streets.
- 6.4.3 Many of the approximately 1600 Listed Buildings in Cambridge (see **Figure 6.3**) are intrinsically associated with the historic core and those areas most closely associated with Cambridge – such as the College Backs and King's Parade.
- 6.4.4 The Central (Historic Core) Conservation Area Appraisal provides detailed information about the character and appearance of the historic core.

Green Corridors into the City

- 6.4.5 Amongst the most fundamental features that contribute to the distinctive landscape setting and character of Cambridge are the network of green corridors, which provide a semi-rural landscape framework for the whole of the City. Cambridge owes much of its distinctive character to the way these green spaces penetrate the urban fabric of the City from the open countryside, and to their association with historic landmarks and places such as the College Backs.
- 6.4.6 The green corridors that are collectively identified as being a Defining Character of Cambridge are shown on **Figure 6.4** and described below:
- **Cam River Green Corridor (1)** – sweeps in along the River Cam's broad floodplain passing largely uninterrupted through the heart of the City, linking the farmlands in the south-west with the fens to the north-east. Within the urban area, the corridor consists of a string of major open spaces encircling the City centre, which relate to and provide a green setting to the historic core, with the Commons and the College Backs as particularly distinctive features. To the south of the City, the rural character of the river corridor with its water meadows and riparian woodland contribute greatly to the setting of a key approach to Cambridge from Trumpington Meadows Country Park and Grantchester for pedestrians, cyclists and punters.

- **Vicar's Brook-Hobson's Brook Green Corridor (2)** – extends from the countryside and woodlands around Fox Hill, Clarke's Hill and White Hill in the countryside to the south of the City, then north following the brooks through Empty Common, which provides the setting for the open southern approach to the City along the railway line, to join the River Cam corridor just south of the historic core.
- **Coldham's Brook-Cherry Hinton Brook Green Corridor (3)** – extends from the complex of sites of nature conservation importance around the Gog Magog Hills, Wandlebury Country Park and The Beechwoods/Limekiln nature reserves to the south of the City, then north along the brooks and riparian woodland via Cherry Hinton Hall and Coldham's Common, to join the River Cam corridor in the north-east of the City.
- **Western Cambridge Green Corridors (4)** – follows linear features such as the Bin Brook, field hedges and ditches, connecting the countryside on the west side of the City around Madingley Woods and Coton Country Reserve with the distinctive historic core of Cambridge.
- **Mere Way Green Corridor (5)** – follows a distinctive narrow “green lane” bounded by ancient hedgerows and linear woodland features along the Mere Way north of Cambridge, a public byway following the historic route of the Roman Road that once linked the City with the Isle of Ely via Landbeach.

6.4.7 Overall, the Cam River is considered to make the greatest contribution to the Defining Character of Cambridge.

6.4.8 In many cases, the green corridors provide the settings of key approaches to Cambridge for pedestrians and cyclists (see **Figure 6.9**), and also contribute to the landscape setting of some edges of the City. The distinction between the urban and rural edge of the green corridors becomes more blurred as they penetrate through the City. These green spaces also function as corridors for the dispersal of wildlife, providing connectivity between habitats of nature conservation value in and around the urban area (see **Figure 6.7**) – including woodland (see **Figure 6.8**) and grassland.

Open Green Spaces within the City

6.4.9 In addition to the spaces that follow the green corridors defined above, there are other open green spaces that are an intrinsic part of the historic core or that have cultural or significant historical connections such as:

- Parker's Piece
- Christ's Pieces and New Square
- Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- The ribbon of green land along Hobson's Conduit adjacent to Brookside
- Historic Parks and Gardens

6.4.10 These open green spaces are also considered to be a Defining Character of Cambridge.

Watercourses

- 6.4.11 With the proximity of the Fenlands to the northeast and the heavy slow draining claylands to the west, water is a major element associated with the Cambridgeshire countryside. The river courses and associated flood plains are important environmental features (see **Figure 6.5**). In addition to the Rivers Cam and Rhee, there are many ditches and streams, especially in the fenlands and claylands. Ponds are also characteristic of west Cambridge. Spring-fed streams are an important feature of the chalklands to the southeast.
- 6.4.12 Water bodies and their associated riverside trees, wetland habitat and floodplain are regarded as being Defining Character of Cambridge.

Approaches to the City

- 6.4.13 Arriving in Cambridge provides a strong sense of anticipation and association with the City, which can result in evocative memories for visitors. This sense of arrival is closely connected with the relatively small-scale of the City, which can allow long and glimpsed views from its edges and beyond.
- 6.4.14 Many approaches from the countryside through the suburbs into the city centre are green, treed and characteristic; from the west in particular, approaches to the distinctive historic core are short, creating positive perceptions of the city on arrival.
- 6.4.15 Examples of approaches that are part of the Defining Character of the City's setting include:
- From the west, approaches from the countryside to the distinctive areas of the city are short, creating positive perceptions of the city on arrival
 - From the chalk hills to the south-east where there are expansive views towards the City seen in the context of the Addenbrooke's Hospital complex
 - From the Grantchester area, views are particularly special and evocative of Cambridge due to their rural and idyllic nature
- 6.4.16 Between 2009 and 2012, Cambridge City Council undertook a programme of rapid assessments of the main road approaches into the city centre. Details of the historic significance, character and local distinctiveness of these approaches can be found in the following reports:
- [Barton Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)
 - [Hills Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)
 - [Huntingdon Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)
 - [Long Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)
 - [Madingley Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)
 - [Newmarket Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)
 - [Trumpington Road Suburbs & Approaches Character Assessment](#)

Views of the City Skyline

- 6.4.17 The topography of the area is a direct consequence of the geology, and one of the important characteristics of Cambridge is the relationship between the City and its rural setting. Cambridge is a contained city sitting in a bowl of generally low-lying landscape framed by higher ground to the southeast, south and west, with low lying fen-edge landscapes to the north and east (see **Figure 6.5**). Views from the high ground overlooking the Cambridge bowl is a key part of the Defining Character of the City's setting.
- 6.4.18 The Cambridge skyline has evolved and changed incrementally over time in response to increasing urban expansion and renewal. Within the historic core, there is a great variety of rooflines articulated by spires, cupolas, chimneys and towers. Trees also form an important element in the modern Cambridge skyline, within both the historic core and the suburbs. Many of the elevated views of the city from the rural hinterland and from Castle Mound show a city of trees with scattered spires and towers emerging above a tree canopy.
- 6.4.19 Strategic views of Cambridge from the surrounding landscape are shown on **Figure 6.6**. These include views across the city skyline and its distinctive landmarks, with the rural landscape forming both a foreground and a backdrop in many views.
- 6.4.20 Views from the south and west towards the City skyline (such as those experienced from viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7) are particularly evocative and unusual in a relatively flat landscape, and are identified as being of Defining Character to Cambridge.
- 6.4.21 The main distinctive landmark buildings on the City skyline that are visible in a variety of the strategic views, and identified as being of Defining Character to Cambridge, are:
- Schlumberger Building
 - The University Library
 - Kings' College Chapel
 - St John's Chapel
 - The Roman Catholic Church
 - All Saints on Jesus Lane
 - St Luke's
 - The Museum of Technology
 - Buildings at Cambridge station
 - Addenbrooke's Hospital
 - Cambridge Airport
 - The Fire Station
- 6.4.22 There are also views into Cambridge from some major transport routes nearby such as the M11 and A14.

Rural Setting and Separation

- 6.4.23 As illustrated by **Figure 6.2**, Cambridge is a small-scale city. While the rural hinterland is especially close to the west of the City centre, nowhere in Cambridge is very far from the countryside or the green corridors which link it to the City centre. This gives the perception of a City closely associated with a strongly rural setting, which is a Defining Character of Cambridge.
- 6.4.24 Especially where the separation between the City and the villages has been reduced, the remaining areas represent Defining Character of Cambridge. This includes open countryside gaps between the City and the following necklace villages:
- Girton
 - Impington
 - Milton
 - Fen Ditton
 - Teversham
 - Fulbourn
 - Great Shelford
 - Grantchester
 - Coton

6.5 Supporting Character of Cambridge and its Environs

- 6.5.1 Other features and areas that are considered to be very important, but not as essential, to the distinctive character of Cambridge are regarded as 'Supporting Character'. The elements that make up the Supporting Character of Cambridge are outlined below.

Supportive Landscapes

- 6.5.2 There are extensive areas of landscape surrounding the city to the west, south and east that are considered as being Supporting Character of Cambridge, reflecting the important role played by the landscape in the setting of the city.

Edges

- 6.5.3 In most areas there is a distinct separation between the City and its rural setting. The character and quality of the rural landscape and the urban interface is variable.
- 6.5.4 Areas where the built edge is framed within a treed or hedged landscape, or which afford distinctive views of the City skyline or to landmark buildings, are regarded as making a high quality, positive contribution to the Supporting Character of Cambridge. Examples of such edges are found in west Cambridge, parts of south-west Cambridge and south-east Cambridge.

Local Open Spaces

- 6.5.5 Other spaces that make a substantial contribution to the character of the locality and/or the setting of Cambridge include, for example, the Mill Road Cemetery and other cemeteries; allotments; and the college playing fields to the west of Cambridge. Local open spaces such as these are considered as being Supporting Character of Cambridge.

Local Views

- 6.5.6 In addition to the important strategic views from the rural hinterland to the City that are Defining Character, there are also important local views into and within the urban fabric, and out to the rural hinterland, that are significant as Supporting Character of Cambridge. These include views of important landmarks at a local scale such as panoramic views of church spires and towers, college and other buildings.

Habitats in the Landscape

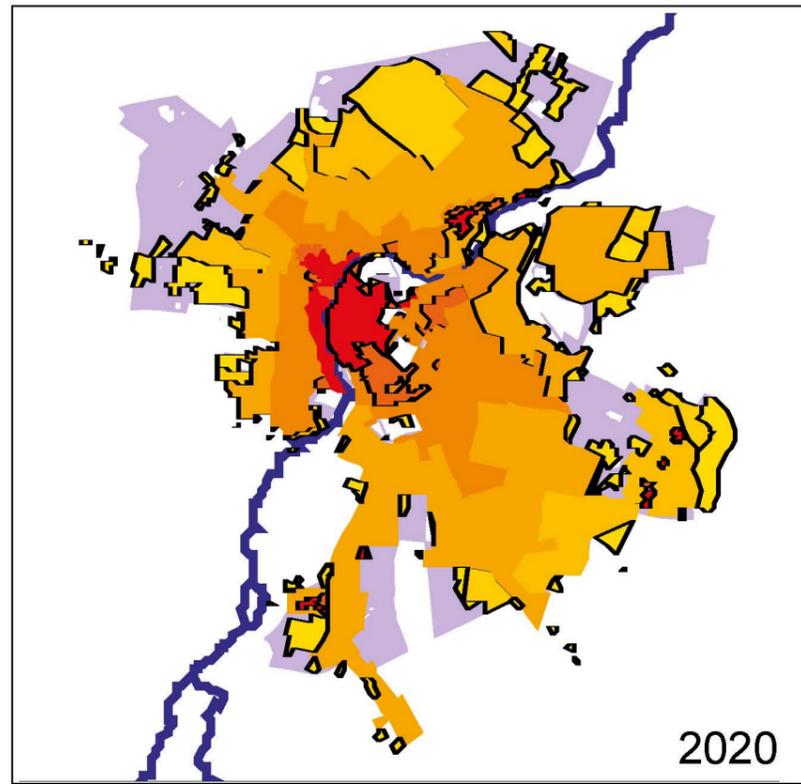
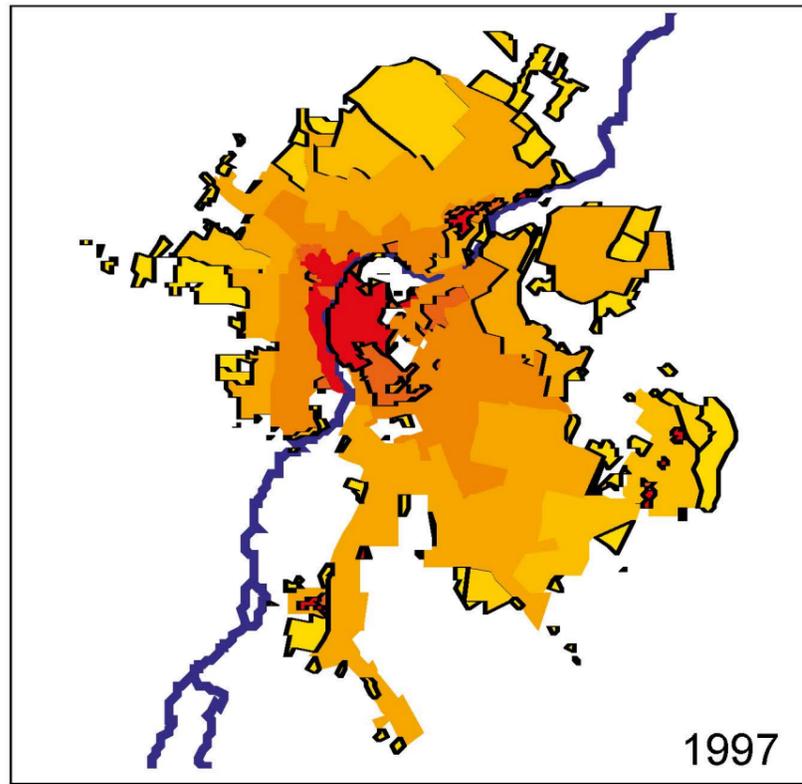
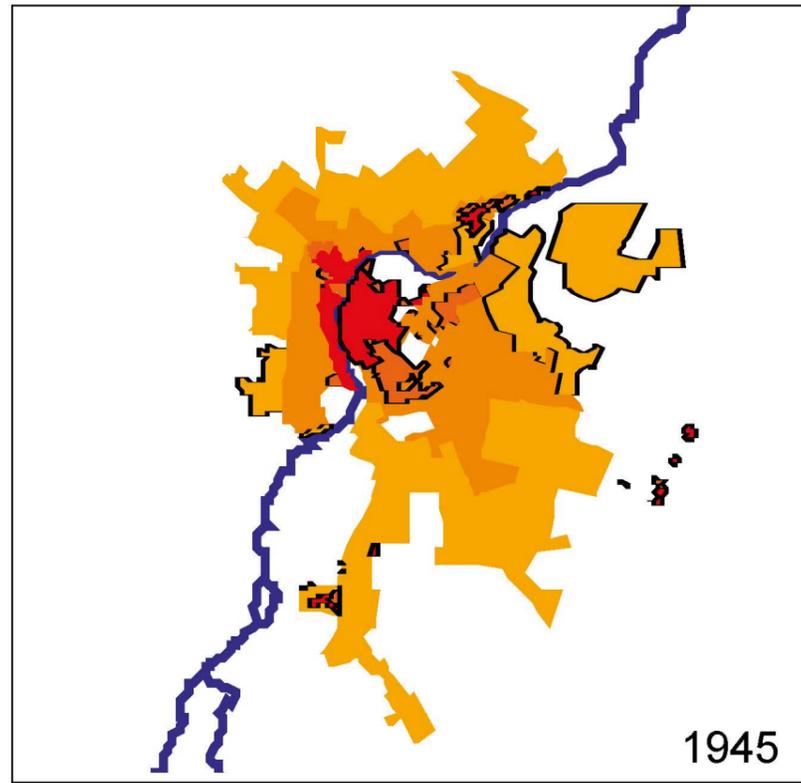
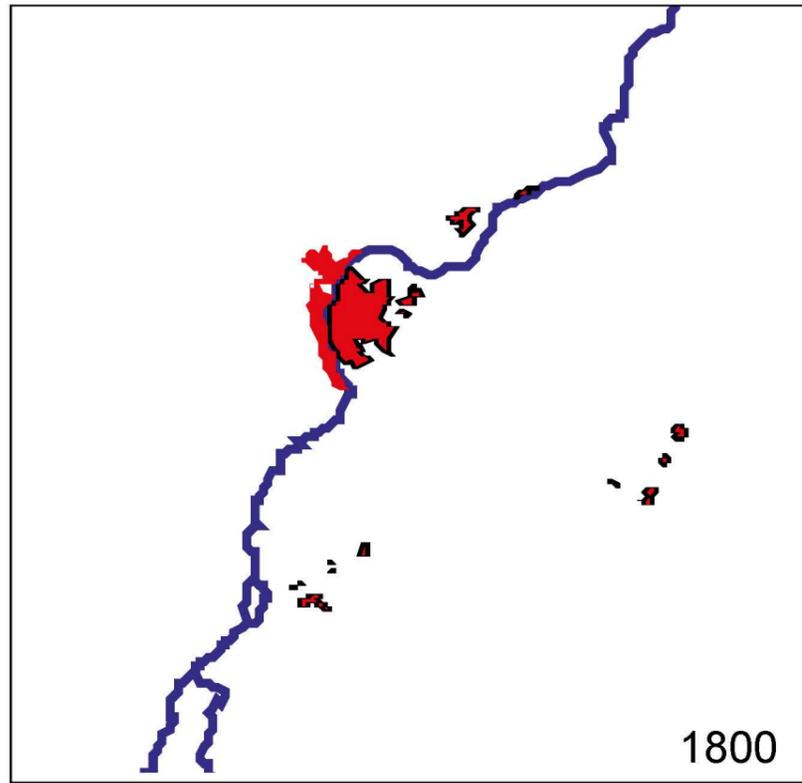
- 6.5.7 As illustrated on **Figure 6.7**, there are a number of designated sites of nature conservation value within the Cambridge environs, which make a positive contribution to the landscape and are considered to be Supporting Character of Cambridge.

Woodland and Trees

- 6.5.8 As illustrated on **Figure 6.8**, Cambridge is a well-treed City and the tree belts and avenues that are characteristic of many streets are an important part of the City's character. Many of these trees are protected under Tree Preservation Orders for their landscape and/or amenity value. Together with veteran trees and ancient hedgerows associated with early field patterns, and other trees and woodland that are of significance in the landscape, these are considered as being Supporting Character of Cambridge.

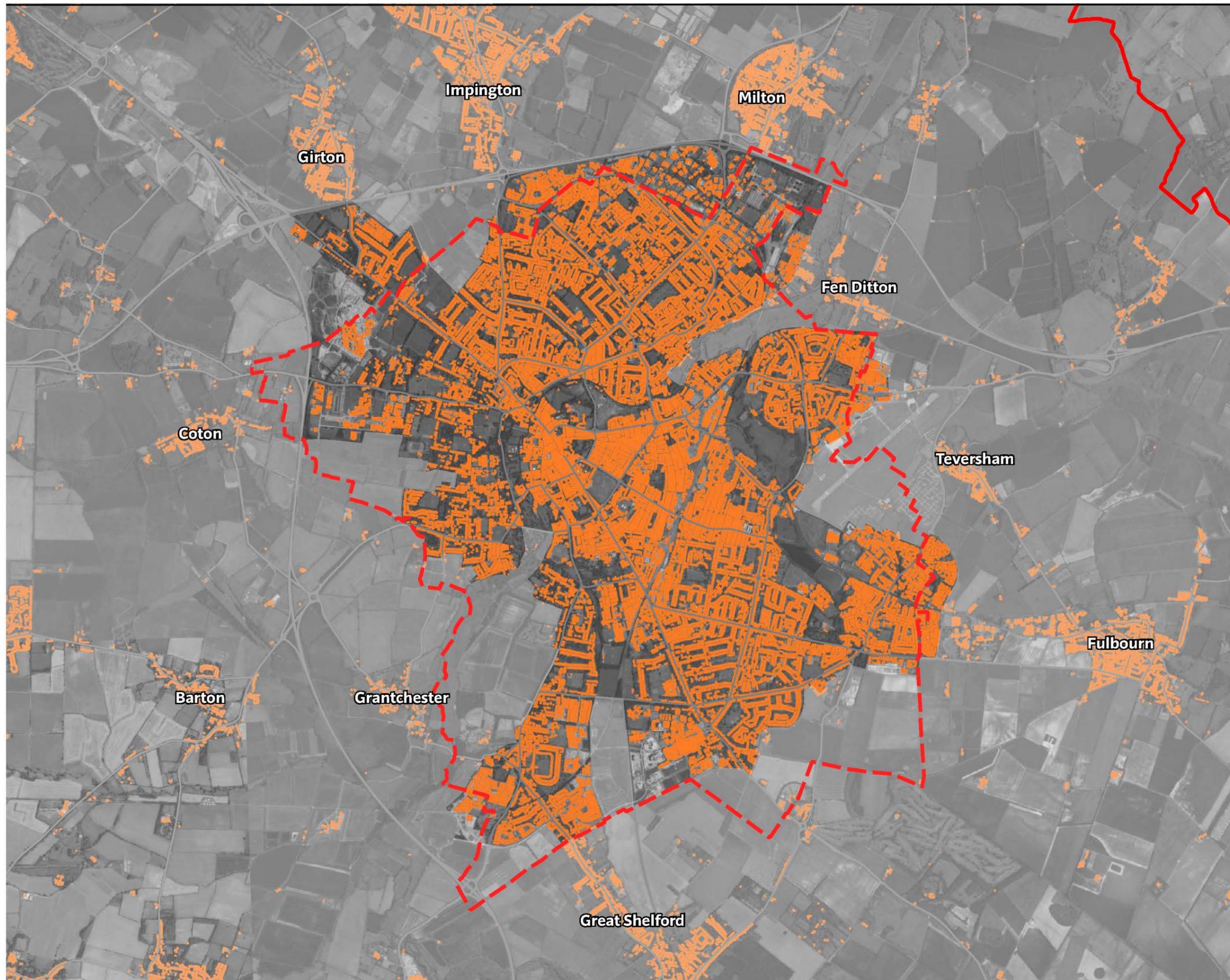
Countryside Access

- 6.5.9 As illustrated on **Figure 6.9**, a Public Rights of Way (PROW) network provides good links between the City and the surrounding countryside in many places, though links are poorer in others (see the Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Study for details). In addition, Sustrans National Cycle Network routes provide connectivity in a number of places. There are also a number of accessible green spaces within and surrounding the City provided by Country Parks and urban commons. These are important in providing opportunities for people to access and experience the City from both the surrounding countryside and from the green corridors that connect into the urban areas. These accessible green spaces are identified as Supporting Character to Cambridge.



Source:
Adapted from Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment 2003
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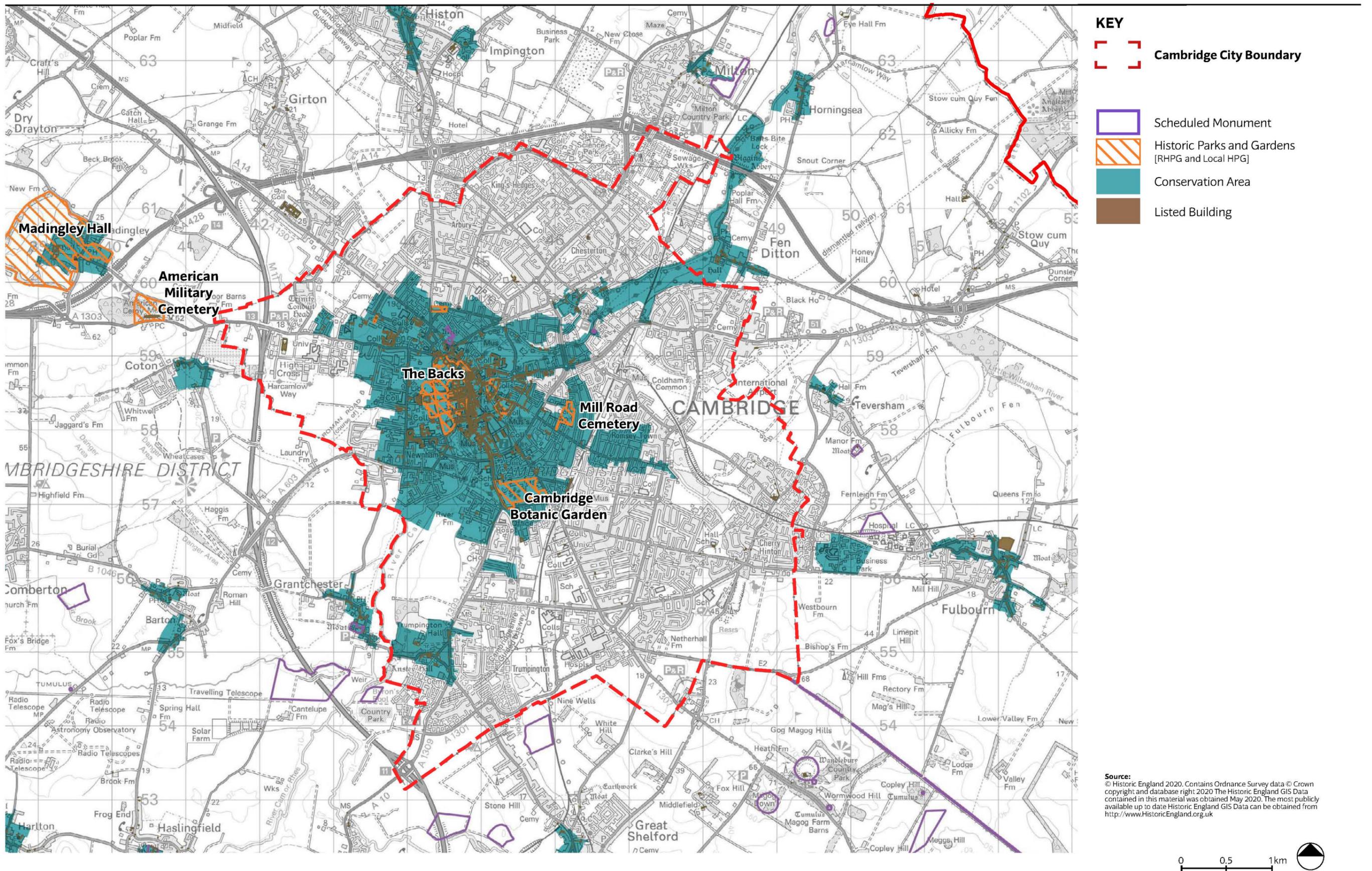


KEY

-  Cambridge City Boundary
-  Cambridge Urban Area (as defined on Figure 4.1)
-  Necklace Villages



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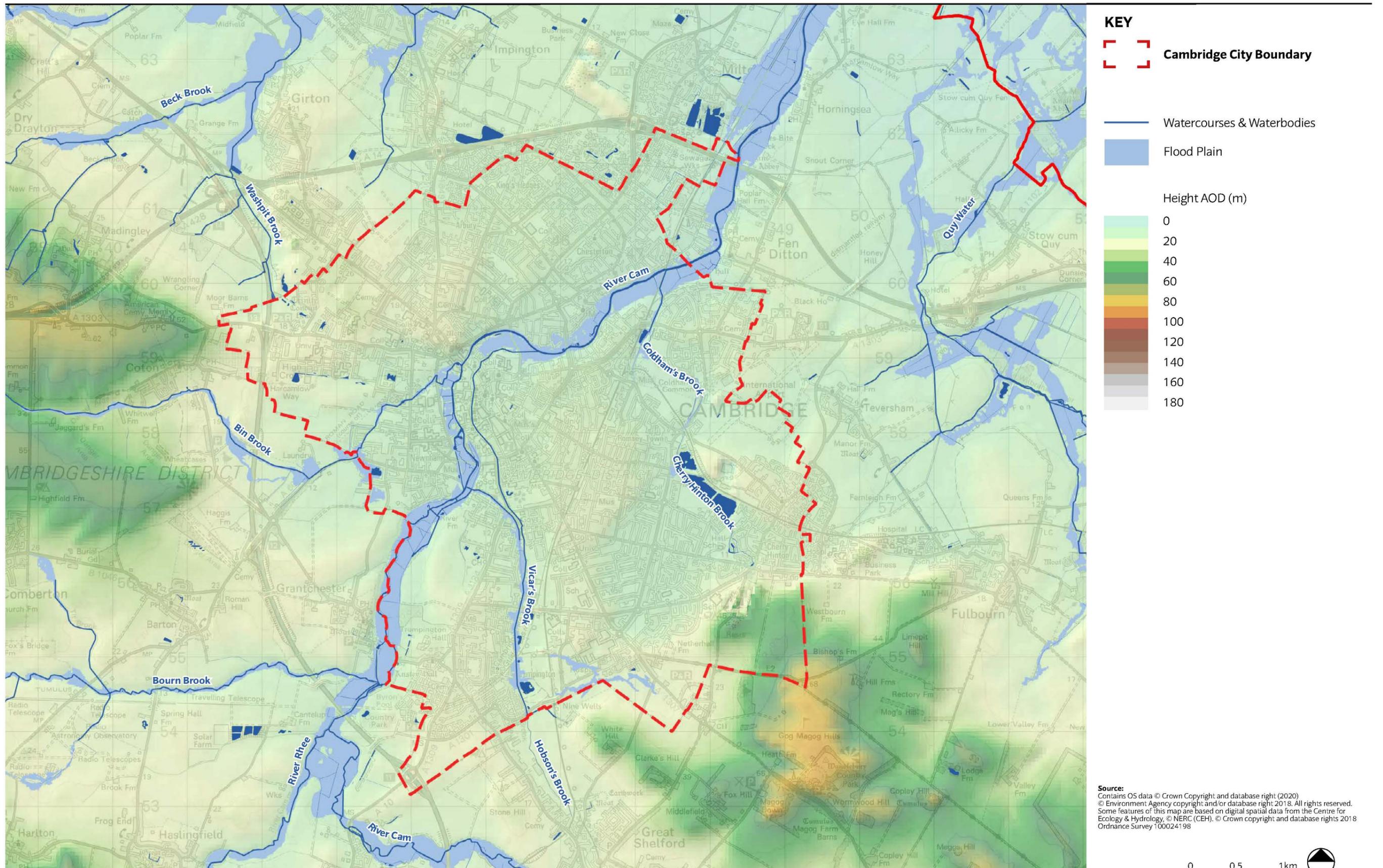


- KEY**
-  Cambridge City Boundary
 -  **Green Corridors (Indicative):**
 1. Cam River Green Corridor
 2. Vicar's Brook-Hobson's Brook Green Corridor
 3. Coldham's Brook-Cherry Hinton Brook Green Corridor
 4. Western Cambridge Green Corridors
 5. Mere Way Green Corridor

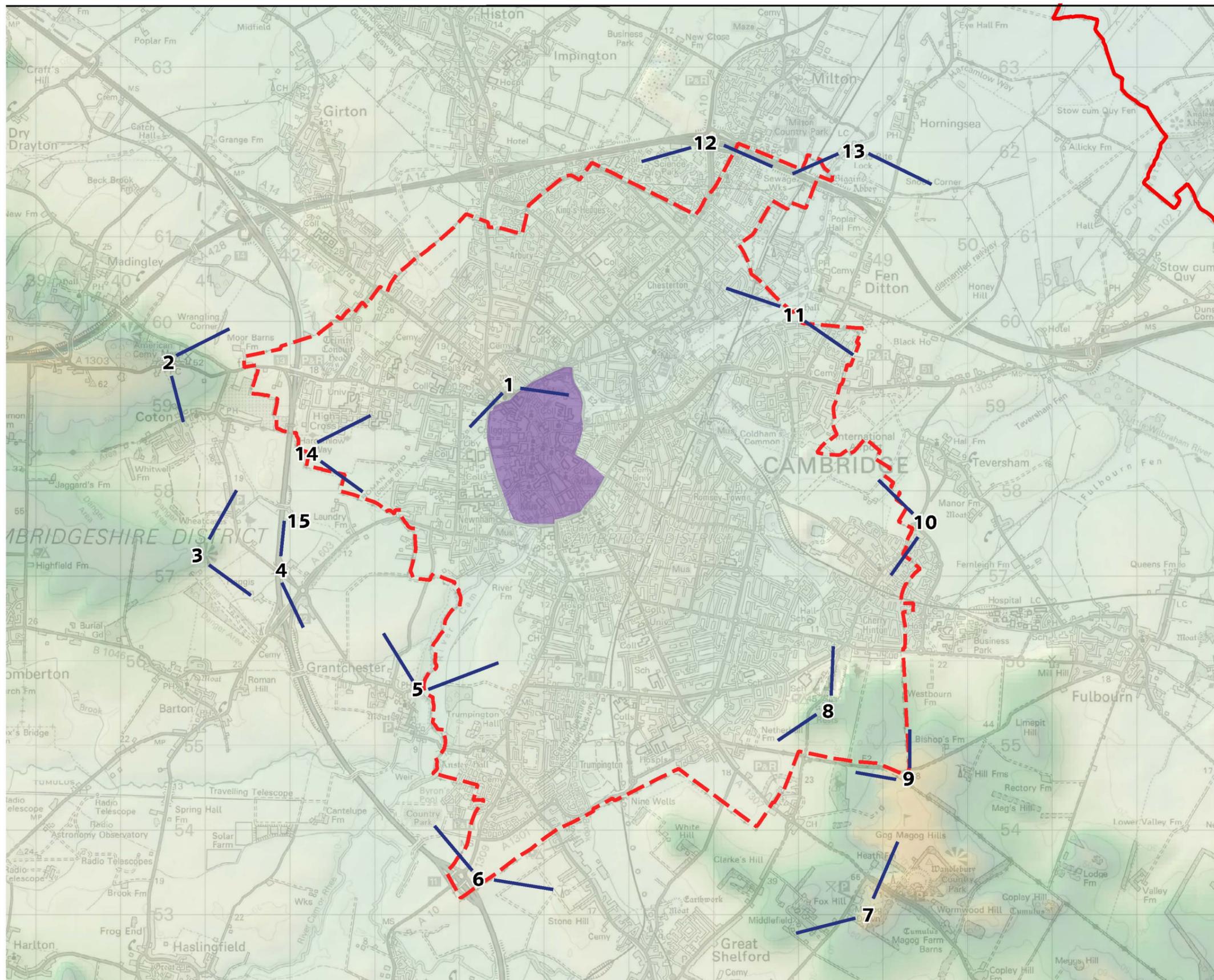
Source:
Adapted from Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment, 2003
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- KEY**
- Cambridge City Boundary
 - Cambridge Historic Core Area

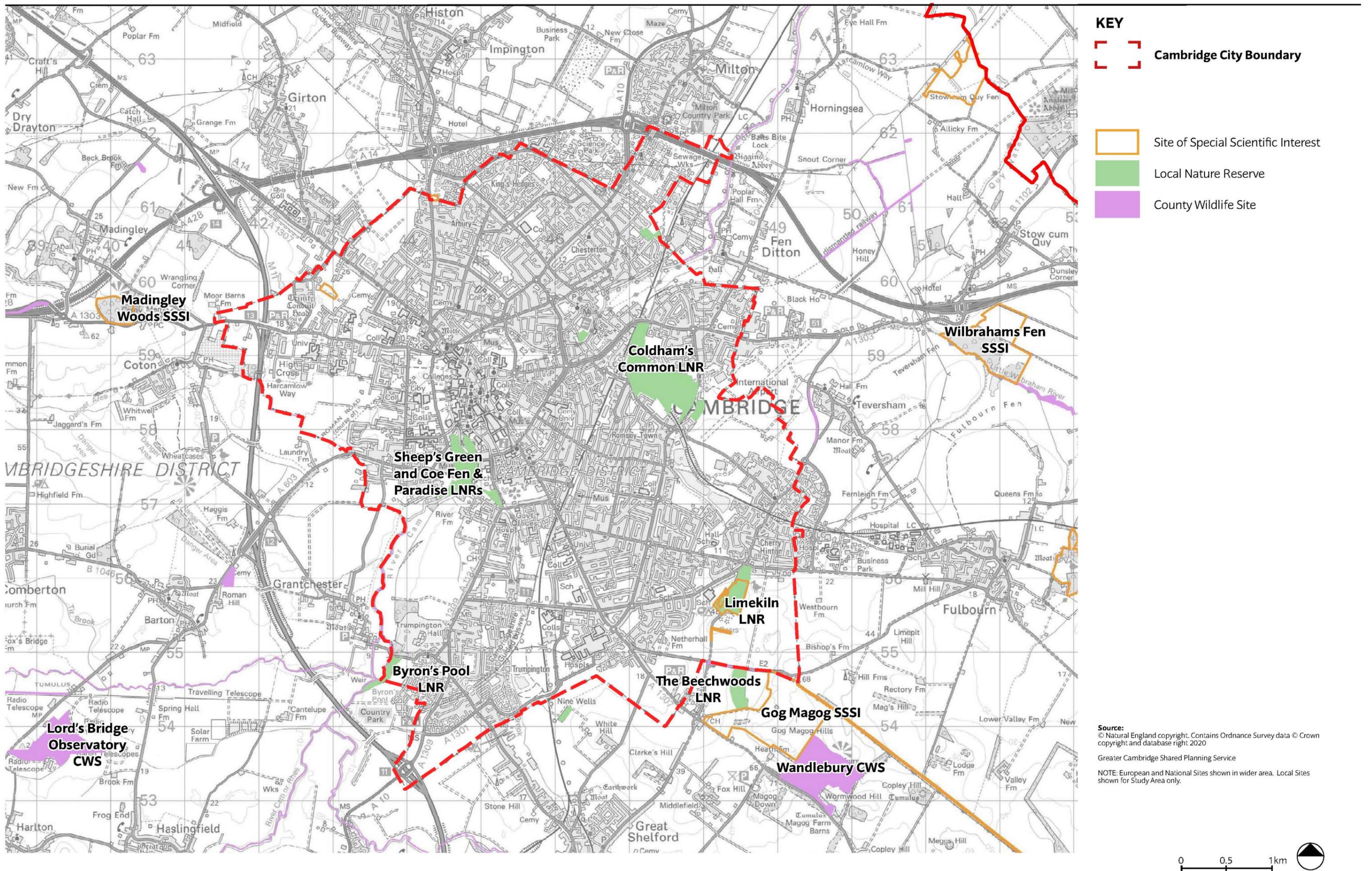
Strategic Viewpoints

- 1** Castle Hill Mound, Shire Hall
- 2** Madingley Rise, Madingley Road
- 3** Redmeadow Hill, Barton
- 4** Grantchester Road
- 5** Grantchester Meadow
- 6** M11/A1309 Elevated Roundabout
- 7** Little Trees Hill, Magog Downs
- 8** Limekiln Road
- 9** Worts' Causeway/Shelford Road
- 10** Cherry Hinton Road Roundabout
- 11** Ditton Meadows
- 12** A14 Junction 33
- 13** River Cam between A14 & Baits Bite Lock
- 14** Coton footpath over the M11
- 15** M11 between Junctions 12 and 13

0 0.5 1km

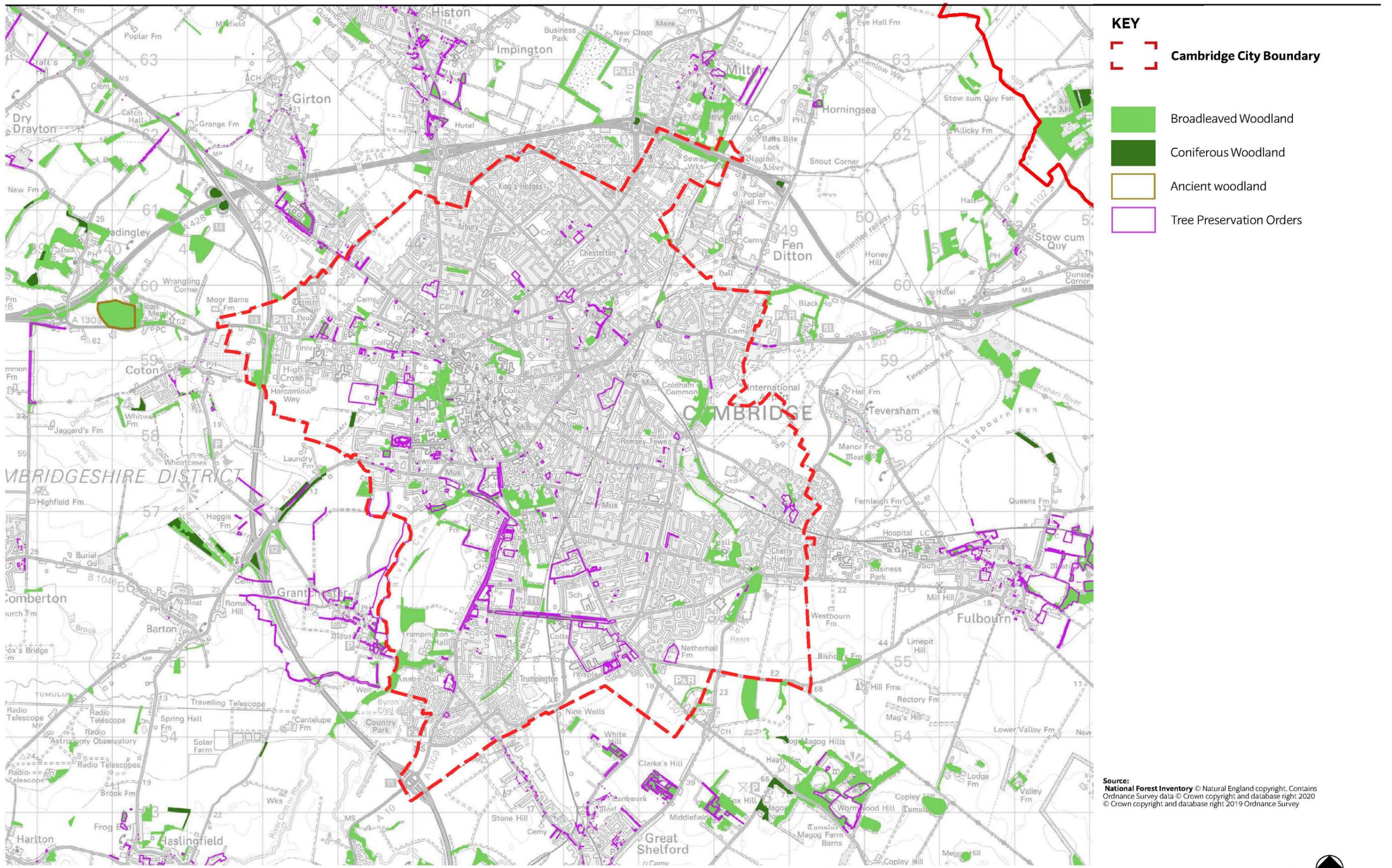


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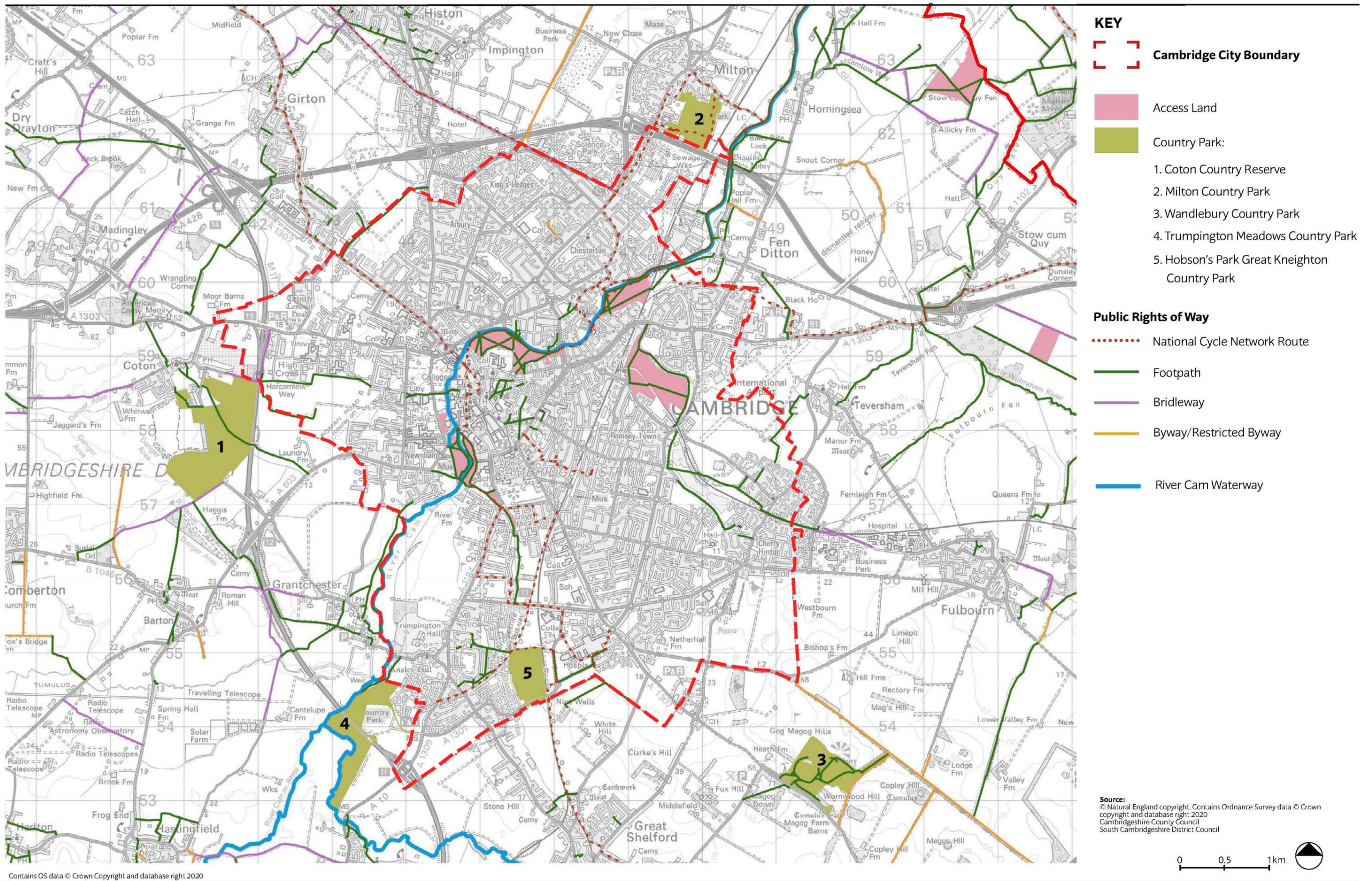


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 Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
 NOTE: European and National Sites shown in wider area. Local Sites shown for Study Area only.

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APPENDIX 1
ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Overview

Landscape Character Assessment is the process of identifying, classifying and describing variations in landscape character (also known as characterisation). It assesses the distinct, perceptible and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

The general approach to the Landscape Character Assessment reflects the principles of the European Landscape Convention, the Government's National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance (2019); current technical guidance provided by Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014); and landscape changes over the last 10-15 years or so informed by desk studies, field survey and stakeholder consultation.

A Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was used throughout the study as the tool for collating, manipulating and presenting data.

The key steps involved in the Landscape Character Assessment process are set out below.

Step 1 – Define the Purpose and Scope of the Assessment

The Landscape Character Assessment was prepared by CBA on behalf of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. Greater Cambridge comprises the local authority areas of South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City ('the Councils') located within Cambridgeshire in the East of England

The purpose of the study is to develop an up-to-date and consistent Landscape Character Assessment of the key landscape characteristics, sense of place, and unique and special qualities of the rural landscapes and villages, historic townscapes and open spaces in Greater Cambridge.

This evidence will be used by the Councils to:

- Develop an appropriate spatial strategy in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan
- Develop suitable Local Plan policies to protect and enhance the area's sensitive, valued and vulnerable landscapes
- Develop design, place-making, sustainable development and climate change policies in the Local Plan
- Inform decision-making on planning applications

The study will also provide a baseline assessment as a tool for monitoring landscape change to enable the practical effectiveness of existing policy, initiatives and management to be assessed, and to help modify policy and management approaches in the light of actual trends.

The Landscape Character Assessment has been undertaken at three scales:

- A detailed study of the landscapes within the “Greater Cambridge Study Area” defined on **Figure 1.1** (outside of the Cambridge Urban Area).
- A high-level study of the rural villages within the South Cambridgeshire District part of the Greater Cambridge Study Area.
- A high-level study of the landscapes and open spaces within the “Cambridge Environs Study Area” defined on **Figure 1.1** that contribute to the setting of Cambridge.

Step 2 – Desk Studies

References used to inform the desk study are included as hyperlinks within the text, or footnotes where hyperlinks are not available. GIS data sources are listed in **Appendix 3**.

The main physical influences and human/cultural influences that have shaped the evolution and character of the Greater Cambridge landscape as a whole were assessed to inform the characterisation process.

The nature, extents and patterns created by the interplay of the following key landscape attributes were then examined using available data:

- Bedrock and surface geology (**Figures 3.1 and 3.2**)
- Topography and hydrology (**Figure 3.3**)
- Woodland and trees (**Figure 3.4**)
- Priority Habitats (**Figure 3.5**)
- Natural Environment Designations (**Figure 3.6**)
- Historic Environment Designations (**Figure 3.7**)
- County Historic Environment Character Areas (**Figure 3.8**)
- Land Use and Field Pattern (**Figure 3.9**)
- Countryside Access (**Figure 3.10**)

These landscape attributes were identified through the review of relevant studies including relevant Landscape Character Assessment studies and spatial analysis using the latest available GIS datasets, aerial imagery and OS mapping. A high level comparison of available aerial imagery and mapping was undertaken to enable significant landscape changes in field shapes/sizes, land uses and land cover/vegetation over the last 10-15 years or so resulting from built development, agriculture, mineral extraction and climate change to be identified.

Natural England’s broadly defined National Character Areas (2014) that form part of the Character of England Map provide a national framework for classifying and describing the Study Area’s landscapes. The five National Character Areas that fall within the Study Area (**Figure 2.1**) were reviewed to inform the Landscape Character Assessment.

The East of England Landscape Character Typology (2011) provides a regional framework for understanding the landscape character variation across Greater Cambridge (**Figure 2.2**).

The study has been prepared within the framework of the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (1991), which identifies nine broad Landscape Character Areas within the County as a whole, defined by Cambridgeshire County Council (**Figure 2.3**).

While no detailed Landscape Character Assessment of South Cambridgeshire District has previously been undertaken, the South Cambridgeshire District Design Guide provides an overview of the variation in landscapes and settlement character across the District.

A Landscape Character Assessment of Cambridge was produced in 2003 by Cambridge City Council, which described and identified the qualities that contribute to the distinctive townscape character and landscape setting of the City.

Neighbouring Landscape Character Assessments were also considered. The relationship of the Greater Cambridge landscape classification to Landscape Character Assessments in neighbouring areas is set out in **Appendix 2**.

The key points arising from review of these Landscape Character Assessments at the national, regional and local scales were:

- The whole of the Greater Cambridge Study Area is covered by existing landscape character assessments at varying scales
- The East of England Landscape Typology covers the whole of the Greater Cambridge area and is focused on the character type level at 1:50,000 scale
- Naming varied in the studies, but most followed the division of generic types and location specific areas
- There are variations in the form of assessment descriptions and further work was needed to form a consistent level of information across the study area

This landscape classification for the Greater Cambridge Study Area was developed from “first principles” to test the classification emerging from the review of existing assessments.

The analysis of the existing landscape character assessments pointed to gaps in data on various aspects of the landscape due to the different purposes and emphasis of the various assessments. Further desk study was undertaken to bring the coverage to a consistent level.

Step 3 – Field Survey

The desk studies were supplemented by targeted rapid field surveys between October and November 2020 to:

- Verify the mapping of existing Landscape Character Type/Landscape Character Area boundaries where necessary
- Confirm the updated landscape classification
- Validate and update the existing Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area descriptions
- Evaluate current forces for change and landscape condition
- Gather up-to-date photographs to illustrate the descriptions

The field surveys helped ensure that the updated Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area boundaries were treated consistently throughout the study area. Field Survey Sheets were used to record observations in the field. The completed Field Survey Sheets for each of the Landscape Character Areas are included in **Appendix 4**. The following points of clarification and confirmation were also targeted during fieldwork, in particular:

- Different approaches to boundaries in existing assessments (e.g. The Fens)
- Fit of updated boundaries to areas already partly defined by existing assessments
- Fit of boundaries in existing assessments which were based on administrative boundaries
- Confirming that the overall pattern of Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas was appropriate in the context of the study's purpose and scale of assessment.
- Resolving specific queries (e.g. defining the Cambridge Urban Area to reflect recent landscape changes and refining the boundaries of Landscape Character Areas within the Fen Edge Claylands LCT)

A photographic record was also made to illustrate the descriptions.

Step 4 – Classification and Description

Informed by desk study, field survey work and stakeholder consultation, the landscape classification was developed from existing studies. The approach follows best practice as promoted by Natural England's guidance set out in 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014) in maintaining a distinction between Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas, and developing a hierarchical approach as follows:

Landscape Character Types have a distinct and homogeneous character that share broadly similar patterns of physical and cultural attributes in terms of geology, topography, drainage patterns, land cover, ecology and historic evolution. They may occur repeatedly in the study area, or in just one place. Where appropriate, distinct sub-types within an individual Landscape Character Type have been identified, mapped and described.

Landscape Character Areas are unique, individual geographical areas that share common characteristics with other areas of the same type. Each Landscape Character Area has a distinct and recognisable local identity and sense of place.

The Landscape Character Types have generic characteristics which apply to all the areas within them. Landscape Character Areas share these characteristics with other areas of the same Landscape Character Type but have a particular 'sense of place'. Therefore, Landscape Character Types defined and described in this Landscape Character Assessment share distinct patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern etc. which contribute to their particular character. However, it is important to be aware that Landscape Character Areas are not homogeneous and that there is variation within them; for example, an area of parkland within a Landscape Character Areas would have different characteristics to, say, an adjoining pastoral field but the overall character of the area may be unified by the presence of a number of parklands set within pastoral fields or a distinctive landform. The study identifies nine Landscape Character Types and 33 Landscape Character Areas (Figure 4.1).

The Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas have been prepared in a GIS with mapping undertaken at a scale of 1:25,000 and suitable for use at this scale. It should however be noted that there are subtle differences between and within the individual types and areas. The boundaries illustrated therefore usually indicate zones of transitions rather than marked changes on the ground. In practice, the boundaries have frequently been drawn to follow physical features such as roads/lanes, distinct changes in topography (such as break of slope) or field/woodland boundaries which provide 'best fit'.

Landscape Character Types were named to reflect the dominant influences on landscape character within the study area, which combine physiographic terms such as topographical, geological and hydrological features as appropriate – for example Chalk Hills.

Landscape Character Areas were given names which are geographically specific based on a local place name (e.g. a landscape feature such as a fen/river, a village or a parish), and also refer to the associated Landscape Character Type – for example Wimpole Chalk Hills.

Landscape Character Type Descriptions

The Landscape Character Type descriptions are based on the information available in existing studies, updated and amended as necessary to reflect landscape changes over the last 10-15 years or so informed by desk studies, field survey and stakeholder consultation.

The studies consulted include:

- Cambridge Inner Green Belt Study (2015)
- Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Character Areas (**Appendix 5**)
- National Character Area Profile 46 - The Fens (2015)
- National Character Area Profile 86 - South Suffolk & North Essex Clayland (2014)
- National Character Area Profile 87 - East Anglian Chalk (2015)
- National Character Area Profile 88 - Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Claylands (2014)
- National Character Area Profile 90 - Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge (2017)
- The South Cambridgeshire District Design Guide (2010)

For each Landscape Character Type, its Key Characteristics are identified and its Physical Influences, Biodiversity, Historic Landscape Character, Settlement Form & Built Character, and opportunities for Access to the Landscape, are described. Photographs or aerial maps illustrating the key characteristics are included alongside plans showing the location of each LCT within the Study Area.

Landscape Condition and Strength of Character

In addition to identifying its **Key Landscape Features**, the Landscape Character Type descriptions also include an evaluation of the **Key Forces for Change** that currently or may in the future influence landscape character, the current **Condition** of the landscape and its **Strength of Character**:

The condition of the Greater Cambridge landscape evaluated by Landscape Character Type is shown in **Table 4.2** and mapped on **Figure 4.2** based on judgements about how the condition and intactness of the different components create a perception of the overall condition of the landscape. Using professional judgement, landscape condition is defined on a three-point scale of poor, moderate or good, as evaluated within the character descriptions in **Section 4.7**.

The strength of character of the Greater Cambridge landscape evaluated by Landscape Character Type is shown in **Table 4.2** and mapped on **Figure 4.3** based on the combination of individual components and their contribution to landscape character. Strength of character is connected to distinctiveness and landscape integrity. It is based on judgements about how distinct and recognisable the pattern of physical and cultural attributes is that defines the character of the landscape, and the sense of place that they evoke. Using professional judgement, strength of character is defined on a three-point scale of weak, moderate or strong, as evaluated within the character descriptions in **Section 4.7**.

Key Landscape Sensitivities

The key landscape sensitivities of each Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area are evaluated within the character descriptions in **Section 4.7**. These provide a framework for informing landscape sensitivity assessments of potential changes from specific development types or land management practices.

Landscape Management Objectives

Taking into account the condition of the landscape and its strength of character, using professional judgement, recommended objectives for managing the Greater Cambridge landscape have been identified for each Landscape Character Type within the character descriptions in **Section 4.7**. In overview, the objectives for each Landscape Character Type are shown on **Figure 4.4** and summarised in **Table 4.3**.

The objectives represent different management strategies ranging from conservation of the current landscape in areas of strong character and good condition, to encouraging positive change in landscapes where the character is generally weaker and in poorer condition through enhancement, restoration or creation - as defined below:

- **Conserve:** Landscapes of strong character in good condition and therefore judged to be of high quality where emphasis should be on conservation of existing character and of particular features that contribute to this character. The aim should be to continue the current landscape management regimes and adopt best practice approaches. Great care will need to be taken in the introduction of new characteristics.
- **Enhance:** Landscapes of strong/moderate character in good/moderate condition where the emphasis should be on enhancing existing character. This may include improvements to current landscape management regimes and adopting best practice.
- **Restore:** Landscapes of moderate character in moderate condition where the emphasis should be on restoring elements of historic, ecological and amenity value that have been lost or declined. This may include re-introduction of landscape elements/features in line with best practice.

In some cases, landscape management objectives have been combined to reflect the individual context and requirements of a specific Landscape Character Type. The recommended management objectives are not intended to be prescriptive, and local circumstances should be taken into consideration in developing proposals for landscape change.

Whilst not applicable at a Landscape Character Type level, for specific places at a more detailed scale the appropriate landscape management objective may be 'create'. Where the strength of landscape character is weak and its condition is poor, and is not highly valued, the emphasis should be creating a new and different landscape, or accelerating change towards a new character, with positive benefits for people and the environment. This should be proactive rather than reactive, and it may be appropriate to develop plans or strategies in consultation with stakeholders to determine appropriate new character.

Recommended guidance on landscape management and integrating development into the landscape is provided within the Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area Descriptions in **Section 4.7** to help positively shape proposals and decisions in line with the overall landscape management strategy identified for each Landscape Character Type.

The aim of the guidelines is to ensure that those landscape features and characteristics identified as making a particular contribution to Greater Cambridge's local distinctiveness and sense of place are appropriately protected, managed and enhanced.

The landscape guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive, and local circumstances should be taken into consideration in proposals for landscape change.

Landscape Character Area Descriptions

The Landscape Character Area descriptions are based on the information available in existing studies, updated and amended as necessary to reflect landscape changes over the last 10-15 years or so informed by desk studies, field survey and stakeholder consultation.

The studies consulted include:

- Cambridge Green Belt Study (2015)
- Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2003)
- Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Character Areas (**Appendix 5**)
- Greensand Country Landscape Partnership Landscape Conservation Action Plan (2017)²¹
- Ouse Washes Landscape Character Assessment (2017)
- South Cambridgeshire Village Capacity Study (1998)
- The South Cambridgeshire District Design Guide (2010)

For each Landscape Character Area, its **Key Characteristics** are identified, and its **Character** is described. Photographs or aerial maps illustrating the key characteristics are included within the report, alongside plans showing the location of each LCA within the relevant LCT.

The Landscape Character Area descriptions also include an evaluation of **Specific Landscape Sensitivity** in addition to the generic landscape sensitivities of the Landscape Character Type.

The Landscape Character Area descriptions also include location **Specific Landscape Guidelines** to inform landscape management and spatial planning. These guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive, and local circumstances should be taken into account in consideration of proposals for landscape change.

²¹ Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP), Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, 2017

Stakeholder Consultation

Landscape and planning officers from both South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Council were involved in the commissioning and development of the Landscape Character Assessment, and were engaged in shaping the approach to the study and commenting on draft outputs in order to capture local knowledge and expertise.

A stakeholder workshop was held in September 2020 to discuss the draft classification of Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas, and capture local knowledge, expertise and information to help feed into the study. The workshop was attended by:

- Historic England – Heritage at Risk Landscape Architect
- Huntingdonshire District Council – Planning Policy Team Leader
- Historic England – Planning Adviser
- Cambridgeshire Past, Present and Future – Chief Executive
- Natural England – Sustainable Land Use Adviser
- Forestry Commission – Field Manager
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – Principal Planning Policy Officer
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – Principal Landscape Architect
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – Planning Policy Manager
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – Principal Planning Policy Officer
- LUC – Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Study Consultants

APPENDIX 2
Relationship to Neighbouring Landscape Character Assessments

RELATIONSHIP TO NEIGHBOURING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Types	Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Areas	Neighbouring Authority Landscape Character Assessments
1. Fen	1A Ouse Floodplain Fens 1B Cow Fen 1C Bare Fen to Fidwell Fen 1D North Fen to Milton Fen 1E Fulbourn Fen	East Cambridgeshire District No Landscape Character Assessment <u><i>Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007</i></u> 4. Ouse Valley LCA
2. Fen Edge Claylands	2A Longstanton Fen Edge Claylands 2B Cottenham Fen Edge Claylands	East Cambridgeshire District No Landscape Character Assessment <u><i>Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007</i></u> 4. Ouse Valley LCA
3. Lowland Farmlands	3A Croxton Lowland Farmlands 3B Bourn Tributaries Lowland Farmlands 3C Rhee Tributaries Lowland Farmlands 3D Cam and Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmlands	<u><i>Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007</i></u> 5. Southeast Claylands LCA <u><i>Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment 2015</i></u> 5. Clay Vales LCT 5G. Dunton Clay Vale LCA <u><i>North Herts Landscape Study (Character, Sensitivity and Capacity)</i></u> Area 225. Hinxworth Lowlands LCA

Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Types	Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Areas	Neighbouring Authority Landscape Character Assessments
<p>4. Wooded Claylands02/02/2021</p>	<p>4A Croxton to Conington Wooded Claylands 4B Lolworth to Longstowe Wooded Claylands 4C Hatley Wooded Claylands 4D West Wrattling Wooded Claylands 4E West Wickham Wooded Claylands 4F The Camps Wooded Claylands</p>	<p><u>Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007</u> 5. Southeast Claylands LCA</p> <p><u>Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment 2015</u> 1. Clay Farmland LCT 1C. Cockayne Hatley Clay Farmland LCA 5. Clay Vales LCT 5G. Dunton Clay Vale LCA</p> <p>East Cambridgeshire District No Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>West Suffolk District No local Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p><u>Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment 2011</u> Undulating Estate Farmlands LCT</p> <p><u>Braintree Landscape Character Assessment 2006</u> B - Farmland Plateau Landscapes LCT B3 Bumpstead Farmland Plateau LCA</p>

Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Types	Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Areas	Neighbouring Authority Landscape Character Assessments
		<p><u>Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment 2006</u> B - Farmland Plateau LCT B1 Ashdon Farmland Plateau LCA B2 Hempstead Farmland Plateau LCA</p>
<p>5. Wooded Greensand Ridge</p>	<p>5A Gamlingay Wooded Greensand Ridge</p>	<p><u>Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007</u> 5. Southeast Claylands LCA</p> <p><u>Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment 2015</u> 6. Wooded Greensand Ridge LCT 6C Everton Heath Greensand Ridge LCA</p>
<p>6. Fen Edge Chalklands</p>	<p>6A Fen Ditton Fen Edge Chalklands 6B Wilbraham Fen Edge Chalklands 6C Fulbourn Fen Edge Chalklands</p>	<p>East Cambridgeshire District No Landscape Character Assessment</p>
<p>7. Chalk Hills</p>	<p>7A Eastern Chalk Hills 7B Gog Magog Chalk Hills 7C Linton Chalk Hills 7D Newton Chalk Hills 7E Wimpole Chalk Hills 7F Southern Chalk Hills</p>	<p><u>North Herts Landscape Study (Character, Sensitivity and Capacity)</u> Area 227 Odsey-Royston LCA Area 228 Scarp Slopes South of Royston LCA</p> <p><u>Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment 2006</u> A - River Valley Landscapes LCT A1 Cam River Valley LCA B - Farmland Plateau Landscapes LCT B1 Ashdon Farmland Plateau LCA H - Chalk Upland Landscapes LCT H1 Elmdon Chalk Upland LCA</p>

Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Types	Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Areas	Neighbouring Authority Landscape Character Assessments
8. Lowland Chalklands	8A Pampisford Lowland Chalklands 8B Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands	<p><u>North Herts Landscape Study (Character, Sensitivity and Capacity)</u> Area 227 Odsey-Royston LCA</p> <p><u>Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment 2006</u> A - River Valley LCT A1 Cam River Valley LCA B - Farmland Plateau LCT B1 Ashdon Farmland Plateau LCA B2 Hempstead Farmland Plateau LCA</p>
9. River Valleys	9A Cam River Valley – Cambridge 9B Cam River Valley 9C Rhee River Valley 9D Granta River Valley	<p><u>Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment 2006</u> A - River Valley Landscapes LCT A1 Cam River Valley LCA</p>

APPENDIX 3 GIS Data Sources

GIS DATA SOURCES

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
Basemapping (Figs 6.3, 6.3, 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9)	n/a	Ordnance Survey 1:50,000	Ordnance Survey	Ordnance Survey/Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
Basemapping (Figs 1.1, 2.1-2.3, 3.1-3.6, 3.7a-3.10, 4.1-4.4)	Basemapping – Vector: Roads, Rail and Buildings	Ordnance Survey Vector Map District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020	Ordnance Survey
	Hillshade	OS Terrain 50	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020	Ordnance Survey
1.1 Location and Context	Greater Cambridge Study Area/Cambridge City Boundary/Local Authority Boundary	Ordnance Survey Local Authority Boundaries	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
	Cambridge Green Belt			Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2.1 National Character Areas	National Character Areas	National Character Areas	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
2.2 Regional Landscape Character Typology	Regional Landscape Character Types	Regional Landscape Character Types	Source: © Natural England 2020, reproduced with the permission of Natural England, http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/copyright/ Contains, or is derived from, information supplied by Soils data © Cranfield University and for the Controller of HMSO 2011. Contains or is derived from 1:250000 scale BGS Digital Data under Licence 2006/072 British Geological Survey. © NERC. © Defra. Contains, or is derived from, information supplied by Forestry Commission. © Forestry Commission. Crown copyright reserved. Includes Land Cover Map 2000 data, copyright Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, 2011. © Crown copyright and database right 2020. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100022021.	
2.3 County Landscape Character Areas	County Landscape Character Areas	County Landscape Character Areas		Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines, 1991

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
3.1 Bedrock Geology	Bedrock Geology	Bedrock Geology	British Geological Survey - Reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©UKRI. All rights Reserved	British Geological Survey
3.2 Surface Geology	Surface Geology	Surface Geology	British Geological Survey - Reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©UKRI. All rights Reserved	British Geological Survey
3.3 Topography & Hydrology	Watercourses & Waterbodies	OS Vectormap District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020	Ordnance Survey
	Flood Plain	Flood Zone 3	© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2018. All rights reserved. Some features of this map are based on digital spatial data from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, © NERC (CEH). © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100024198	Environment Agency
	Height AOD (m)	OS Terrain 50	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020	Ordnance Survey

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
3.4 Woodland & Trees	Broadleaved Woodland/ Coniferous Woodland	National Forest Inventory: Broadleaved (categories deciduous and mixed deciduous); Coniferous (categories coniferous and mixed coniferous)	© Crown copyright and database right 2019 Ordnance Survey 100021242	Forestry Commission
	Protected Woodland & Trees	Ancient Woodland	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
		Tree Preservation Orders		Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
3.5 Priority Habitats	Priority Habitats	Priority Habitats Inventory	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
3.6 Natural Environment Designations	European Sites [SAC/SPA]	Special Area of Conservation	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
		Special Protection Area	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
	National Sites [SSSI/NNR]	Site of Special Scientific Interest	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
		National Nature Reserve	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
	Local Sites [LNR/CWS]	Local Nature Reserve	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020	Natural England
		County Wildlife Sites		Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
3.7 Historic Environment Designations	Scheduled Monument	Scheduled Monuments	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk .	Historic England

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
	Historic Parks and Gardens [RHPG and Local HPG]	Registered Historic Parks & Gardens	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk .	Historic England
		Local Parks and Gardens		Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
	Conservation Area			Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
	Listed Building	Listed Buildings	© Historic England 2020. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 31/01/2020. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk .	Historic England

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
3.8 County Historic Environment Character Areas	Historic Environment Character Areas	Historic Environment Character Areas	© Cambridgeshire County Council 2013	Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
3.9 Land Use & Field Pattern			© Google 2020	Google
3.10 Countryside Access	Open Access Land	Access Land	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England
	Country Park	Country Parks	© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.	Natural England
		Country Parks – local data		Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
	Public Rights of Way			Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service
	Main Roads	OS Vector Map District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
4.1 Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Types & Areas	Landscape Character Types & Areas			Digitised by CBA

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
4.2 Condition of the Greater Cambridge Landscape	Landscape Character Types & Areas: Landscape Condition			Digitised by CBA
4.3 Strength of Character of the Greater Cambridge Landscape	Landscape Character Types & Areas: Strength of Character			Digitised by CBA
4.4 Strategy for the Greater Cambridge Landscape	Landscape Character Types & Areas: Landscape Management Strategy			Digitised by CBA
5.1 Greater Cambridge Settlement Pattern	Settlement	OS Vector Map District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
		Aerial base	© Google 2020	Google
6.1 Historic Growth of Cambridge			Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment 2003 © crown copyright LA077372	Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment 2003
6.2 The Cambridge Environs – Cambridge Urban Area & Necklace Villages	Settlement	OS Vector Map District	Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2020)	Ordnance Survey
		Aerial base	© Google 2020	Google

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
6.3 The Cambridge Environs – Historic Environment Designations	As per 3.7 Historic Environment Designations			
6.4 The Cambridge Environs – Green Corridors	Green Corridors			Digitised by CBA (based on Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment 2003)
	Aerial Base		© Bing 2020	Bing
6.5 The Cambridge Environs – Topography & Hydrology	As per 3.3 Topography & Hydrology			
6.6 The Cambridge Environs – Strategic Views	Strategic Views			From Greater Cambridge Heritage Impact Assessment - Strategic Baseline Report (2020, CBA)
6.7 The Cambridge Environs – Natural Environment Designations	As per 3.6 Natural Environment Designations			
6.8 The Cambridge Environs – Woodland & Trees	As per 3.4 Woodland & Trees			

Figure	Dataset (as key)	Data	Copyright	Source
6.9 The Cambridge Environs – Countryside Access	As per 3.10 Countryside Access			

APPENDIX 4
Field Survey Sheets

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	1A: Ouse Floodplain Fens
Location (Grid Reference)	533915, 269077; 537006, 271323
Date/Time	08.10.2020/09:00
Weather Conditions	Cloudy and windy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous

Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal
Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Wooded skyline north of River Great Ouse
- Church spires and poplars on skyline to south indicating villages on higher ground

Key Characteristics

 (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Broad, flat, floodplain landscape to the south of the River Great Ouse
- Extensive gravel pit lakes and wetlands have transformed much of this landscape
- Belts of trees, hedgerow trees and areas of woodland around waterbodies combine to create localised visual enclosure.
- Highly accessible landscape with a network of Public Rights of Way and cycle routes through and around the lakes
- Archaeologically rich landscape with a strong sense of place associated with the historic droveways and drains/lodes connecting to the Fen Edge villages

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming
- New woodland associated with historic and ongoing mineral extraction
- Demand for recreational access to the landscape

Landscape Condition

 (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

Dark soils in arable fields.

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	1B: Cow Fen
Location (Grid Reference)	583014, 267414
Date/Time	08.10.2020/09:50
Weather Conditions	Cloudy and windy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Open views with large, changing skies
- Glimpses of well screened built form at the edge of villages in the Fen Edge Chalklands

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Regimented pattern of arable fields defined by drains and low, mature hedgerow boundaries
- Large-scale landscape with mature hedgerow boundaries, occasional tree belts and hedgerow trees
- Generally unsettled landscape comprising isolated, small farms
- Sense of isolation and separation of the rural landscape between the Fen Edge villages

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming
- Development of Northstowe
- Masts within views

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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<p>Notes:</p>

<p>Church spires and telecoms mast stand out on the flat horizon Dark soils in arable fields.</p>

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	1C: Bare Fen to Fidwell Fen
Location (Grid Reference)	542680, 270794; 539563, 272124
Date/Time	08.10.2020/10:55
Weather Conditions	Cloudy and windy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Long views to treed horizons

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Open, low-lying, horizontal floodplain landscape with expansive, panoramic views to distant horizons
- Regular, rectilinear enclosure pattern defined by drains, dykes and lodes that are evidence of historic occupation of The Fens
- A landscape with sparse woodland cover, in which fragmented hedgerows, isolated trees and shelterbelts are visually prominent
- Settlement is limited to isolated farms, with occasional small, linear settlements along the roads

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Masts and poles on the horizon
- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

Small scale fields with dark soils enclosed by a regimented grid of ditches
Dark soils in arable fields.

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	1D: North Fen to Milton Fen
Location (Grid Reference)	551670, 268414; 5488878, 262214
Date/Time	08.10.2020/12:48
Weather Conditions	Cloudy and windy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long views, not particularly distinctive, including towards the A14 • Pylons on horizon • Some intrusive urban edges

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad, flat, floodplain landscape with wide views often punctuated by tree groups and framed by shelterbelts • Distinctive regular, rectilinear field pattern defined by a combination of ditches, drains and hedgerow boundaries with frequent tree shelterbelts • Smaller fields along the route of the River Cam • Pockets of ecologically rich landscape including grazing marsh along the course of the River Cam • Limited settlement comprising small, scattered farms strung out on the high land alongside roads

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of agriculture

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

Dark soils in arable fields.

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	1E: Fulbourn Fen
Location (Grid Reference)	553115, 258639; 550843, 257813
Date/Time	28.10.2020/10:52
Weather Conditions	Sunny and cold
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short views to wooded horizons • Poplars, poles and windmill on skyline

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quy Water/Little Wilbraham River cuts a distinctive sinuous, tree-lined route through the landscape • Willow trees along watercourses are prominent skyline features • Local sense of enclosure provided by tree and scrub vegetation and sloping landform of the surrounding Fen Edge Chalklands LCA • Ecological diversity from a combination of floodplain grazing marsh, lowland fen, deciduous woodland and semi improved grassland

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	2A: Longstanton Fen Edge Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	538823, 265346; 540270, 268665
Date/Time	08.10.2020/09:50
Weather Conditions	Windy and cloudy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Open views, big dramatic skies
- Occasional vertical features stand out on the skyline, including masts and poles related to the communications network, church spires and lines of poplar trees.
- The edge of Northstowe is visible in views – but relatively well screened

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Settled rural landscape including villages with historic linear cores on elevated fen 'islands' buildings as well as small, isolated farms
- Fragmented pockets of ecological value include grazing marsh at Swavesey and Oakington, dispersed pockets of deciduous woodland and traditional orchards

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming
- Ongoing development of Northstowe
- Pressure for housing development

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	2A Longstanton Fen Edge Claylands
Boundary changes?	

Notes:
Localised detracting from rural qualities near A14

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	2B: Cottenham Fen Edge Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	546223, 263362; 542232, 265400
Date/Time	08.10.2020/12:00
Weather Conditions	Rainy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glimpses of built form between villages • Rows of poplar trees, occasional lines of telegraph poles and pylons are vertical features which interrupt the skyline. • Views of rising landform to the south

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well settled rural landscape comprising a number of large villages with historic linear cores located on elevated 'islands' • Pockets of remnant parkland alongside orchards, hedgerows and shelterbelts create a distinctive, localised vegetation pattern in proximity to the villages • Urban influences associated with the urban edge of Cambridge and major road network in the south which are discordant with the otherwise rural character

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of farming • Pressure for recreational land use • Pressure for housing development • Ongoing development on northern edge of Cambridge

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	2B: Cottenham Fen Edge Claylands
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	3A: Croxton Lowland Farmlands
Location (Grid Reference)	524676, 258721
Date/Time	15.10.2020/11:55
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Generally, open, expansive views over gently sloping arable fields towards distant largely flat and unbroken wooded horizons, framed by the small woodlands and riparian trees.

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Network of small streams including the Abbotsley Brook and its tributaries
- Large, irregular fields bound by streams, open ditches or closely trimmed hedgerows
- Occasional scattered small woodlands
- Open and expansive views into neighbouring LCAs and into Huntingdonshire
- Unsettled with a tranquil, rural character

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of agriculture including large barns

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	3A: Croxton Lowland Farmlands
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	3B: Bourn Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
Location (Grid Reference)	537004, 255950; 537621, 255540; 539565, 254199
Date/Time	15.10.2020/14:30
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views tend to be open and expansive across arable fields towards distant wooded horizons
- In the south, the landform of the rising chalk escarpment provides localised visual enclosure
- In the east there are short views towards the skyline of Cambridge above the tree canopy, providing a visual connection between the landmarks of the city and the rural surroundings
- The Radio Telescopes at the Radio Astronomy Observatory form a highly distinctive feature on the skyline

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Wide valley of the River Bourn and its tributaries as it nears its confluence with the River Cam
- Generally strong, regular rectilinear field pattern with smaller scale pastoral fields near villages
- Ecological richness associated with the river including lowland meadows, good quality semi improved grassland and floodplain grazing marsh
- Radio telescopes are a unique and distinctive feature on the skyline
- Well defined settlement edges defined by mature trees, copses and thick hedgerows enclosing small scale fields and paddocks
- Network of major roads locally detracts from the otherwise tranquil, rural character
- Recreational land use includes golf clubs, University sports fields, a polo club and Coton Countryside Reserve

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Development of land for housing
- Intensification of farming
- Pressure for recreation

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	3B: Bourn Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
Boundary changes?	

Notes:
M11 and A603 are local disruptors to tranquillity and views

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	3C: Rhee Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
Location (Grid Reference)	528505, 245241; 534356, 244997; 534602, 246919;
Date/Time	15.10.2020/16:15
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views are generally long, open and expansive, with wooded horizons, framed by the wooded ridges of the Wooded Claylands
- In the north, the landform of the rising chalk escarpment provides localised visual enclosure.

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Wide valley of the River Rhee and its tributaries
- Predominantly medium to large rectilinear fields organised in a haphazard pattern with pockets of regularity
- Small woodland blocks combine with shelterbelts and clumps of trees to create well treed horizons
- Small scale fields often found at the edge of villages
- Ecological richness including lowland meadows, lowland fen and floodplain grazing marsh
- Dense settlement pattern comprising large, nucleated villages in the south of the LCA
- Distinctive linear features including Ermine Street Roman road, Wimpole Hall Avenue and the railway

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of agriculture
- Change of land use for military land
- Pressure for development of land for housing
- Pressure for recreation

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	3C: Rhee Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
Boundary changes?	

Notes: Busy A10 and A1198 roads are detracting features from tranquillity
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	3D: Cam & Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
Location (Grid Reference)	548654, 244332; 546535, 248608; 549771, 250082
Date/Time	15.10.2020/17:06
Weather Conditions	Sunny with clouds
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views across arable fields are short, towards treed horizons
- Woodland restricts views towards built form, and towards Cambridge

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Wider floodplain of the River Cam or Rhee and River Cam or Granta
- Shelterbelts and scattered blocks of deciduous woodland including historic parkland at Sawston Hall provide visual enclosure
- Dense pattern of large commuter villages with a suburban character and industrial influences, eroding rural character
- Transport networks including railway and major road networks fragment the area

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Pressure for development of land for housing
- Urban creep
- Infrastructure including roads, railways etc
- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	3D: Cam & Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
Boundary changes?	

Notes:

A10, A1201 and M11 are local detractors from tranquillity

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	4A: Croxton to Conington Wooded Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	529881, 259936; 533276, 261208
Date/Time	15.10.2020/11:36
Weather Conditions	Cloudy and sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views over undulating arable fields between settlements are long, framed by trees and look towards treed or wooded horizons

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scattered small blocks of woodland, including some ancient woodland, with expanses of large arable fields in between Irregular, rectilinear field pattern Clumps of trees and hedgerow trees provide an overall well treed, enclosed character Parkland features at Conington Hall and Croxton Park including woodland blocks, shelterbelts, clumps of trees and a pond Settlements of a range of sizes including a new town at Cambourne and large village of Papworth Everard, several small villages, linear settlements along roads and isolated farms Village edges generally well defined by small fields, orchards, mature trees, thick hedgerows, shelterbelts and woodland Ermine Street Roman Road is a distinctive linear feature

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensification of farming Pressure for recreation

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	4A Croxton to Conington Wooded Claylands
Boundary changes?	Boundary amended between 4A and 4B to reflect the more wooded, parkland character in 4B

Notes:

The busy A1307, A14, A428 and A1198 roads are localised detractors from the rural tranquillity

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	4B: Lolworth to Longstowe Wooded Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	538990, 261480; 540284, 259909
Date/Time	15.10.2020/10:36
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views from villages are generally long and framed by woodland or clumps of trees, across open fields towards wooded horizons.
- In the south, the landform of the rising chalk escarpment provides localised visual enclosure.
- Distinctive wide, open views towards Cambridge from Coton Countryside Reserve and towards Ely from the American Cemetery

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Scattered, small blocks of woodland, including some ancient woodland, linked by mature, fragmented hedgerow network
- Irregular, generally rectilinear field pattern
- Distinctive repetition of designed parkland features including historic parkland and the American Cemetery
- Landscape divided by straight linear features including roads, tracks and a dismantled railway
- Dense settlement pattern of small and medium sized villages concentrated close to main roads
- Villages generally have well defined edges defined by mature hedgerows, woodlands and clumps of trees
- Distinctive wide, open views towards Cambridge from Coton Countryside Reserve and towards Ely from the American Cemetery

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	4B: Lolworth to Longstowe Wooded Claylands
Boundary changes?	Boundary amended between 4A and 4B to reflect the more wooded, parkland character in 4B Boundary amended between 4B and 4C to reflect more wooded character in 4B

Notes:

Tranquillity within the LCA is locally eroded close to the A14, A428 and A1198.

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	4C: Hatley Wooded Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	529482, 250584; 528514, 250767
Date/Time	15.10.2020/12:35
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Open views across undulating fields, towards distant horizons, framed by clumps of trees

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Rectilinear arable fields in an irregular pattern
- Well treed landscape with hedgerows, avenues of trees, shelterbelts, tree clumps and blocks of woodland, including ancient woodland, combining to create long open views to distant horizons
- Parkland character composed of woodland, shelterbelts and clumps of trees near Hatley Park
- Sparse settlement comprising Little Gransden, linear settlements along roads and isolated farms

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	Boundary amended between 4B and 4C to reflect more wooded character in 4B
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Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	4D: West Wrattling Wooded Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	559528, 253090; 559825, 252037
Date/Time	28.10.2020/11:31
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landform and woodland cover combine to create long expansive views which extend to distant wooded skyline

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large fields organised in a regular pattern in the north which becomes more haphazard in the south, indicative of medieval field patterns Scattered woodland comprising several small, scattered blocks and two larger areas including ancient woodland at Balsham Wood and Borley Wood Settled rural landscape comprising two small, linear villages and isolated farms Village edges are generally surrounded by pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and shelterbelts creating a more intimate character The Roman Road is a distinctive linear feature

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensification of farming Land use for energy generation

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	4E: West Wickham Wooded Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	560459, 248460; 564577, 252414
Date/Time	28.10.2020/11:40
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive, open views extend across undulating arable fields towards wooded skylines, often framed by woodland or lines of trees • Occasionally views are enclosed by rising landform, or include glimpses of built form, church towers, vertical telegraph poles, masts or the wind turbines at Wadlow Wind Farm in 7A

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly irregular field pattern indicative of medieval field layout • Significant woodland cover generally comprising medium size blocks including ancient woodland • Settlement includes small, linear villages and isolated farms, generally enclosed by strong woodland groups and mature hedgerows. • Distinctive open, panoramic views towards wooded horizons

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of farming including large barns within the landscape

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	
Boundary changes?	

Notes:

Occasional very large barns break the skyline and are discordant with the otherwise remote, rural landscape

The A1307 southern boundary is a localised detractor

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	4F: The Camps Wooded Claylands
Location (Grid Reference)	561974, 246796; 562209, 244019; 561582, 242773
Date/Time	28.10.2020/12:25
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views tend to be open and expansive views towards distant horizons, often framed by clumps of trees

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Irregular medieval field pattern
- Raised banks, open ditches and fragmented hedgerow network provide enclosure
- Scattered small woodlands and shelterbelts, often at settlement edges
- Settlement comprises two small villages, linear road side settlements and isolated farms

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

<p>The A1307 is a localised detractor from rural tranquillity experienced elsewhere in the LCA.</p>

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	5A: Gamlingay Wooded Greensand Ridge
Location (Grid Reference)	522269, 251649
Date/Time	15.10.2020/12:45
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks	Post and wire fences	Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Greater sense of enclosure and intimacy south of Gamlingay, with a number of small pasture fields with low hedgerows and trees
- In the north, especially the northeast, the landscape is more open and larger scale with large fields and limited hedgerows

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Diverse landcover comprising distinctive woodland cover interspersed by a matrix of heathland, arable and pastoral farmland
- Woodland, remnant parkland, hedgerows and shelterbelts combine to create an intimate landscape with a strong sense of enclosure
- Remnant parkland features including a network of ponds and woodland west of Gamlingay
- Distinctive network of small pastoral fields enclosed by mature hedgerows, trees and shelterbelts around Gamlingay

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	
Boundary changes?	

Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	6A: Fen Ditton Fen Edge Chalklands
Location (Grid Reference)	550199, 261590; 550825, 257820
Date/Time	08.10.2020/14:40
Weather Conditions	Cloudy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open views across arable fields • Villages set in groups of mature trees • Large area of greenspace separating Cambridge and the countryside at the airport • Views towards Cambridge in west

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular pattern of large, rectilinear fields contrasts with small scale, more regular field patterns around settlement edges • Well-trimmed hedges, boundary trees and shelterbelts provide a distinctive localised vegetation pattern near villages • Settled rural landscape comprising small villages with historic linear cores and isolated farms • Urban influences due to proximity to the urban edge of Cambridge including large scale transport infrastructure and hospitals

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing development north of A1303 • Intensification of farming • Pressure for housing

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

A14 and A1303 are localised detractors from tranquillity
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	6B: Wilbraham Fen Edge Chalklands
Location (Grid Reference)	555100, 256958; 553658, 255728
Date/Time	08.10.2020/15:30
Weather Conditions	Cloudy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panoramic views encompass the rising Chalk Hills to the south which adds diversity to the otherwise simple landscape • Views are generally long and open, and often include the surrounding LCAs • Wind turbines on hills to south are often visible on the skyline

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive, regular field pattern • Strong linear features including the minor road network and Fleam Dyke • Sparse woodland cover limited to scattered shelterbelts and particularly distinctive small blocks of woodland associated with high points • Limited settlement comprising scattered isolated farms and cottages • Open views encompass the rising Chalk Hills to the south which adds diversity to the otherwise simple landscape

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of farming • Solar energy generation to south

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

A11 is a local detractor from tranquillity
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	6C: Fulbourn Fen Edge Chalklands
Location (Grid Reference)	553158, 258633; 556228, 257992
Date/Time	28.10.2020/10:31
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gently rolling landform and intermittent hedges combine to offer long, framed views from settlement across arable fields to distant woodland • From higher land there are distant views to Cambridge across the open landscape • Views south to wind turbines on hillside

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered woodland cover includes remnant historic parkland in proximity to historic villages • Small scale field patterns around settlement edges • Settled rural landscape with historic linear settlements and isolated farms • Pockets of ecological value including floodplain grazing marsh and lowland meadow

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of farming • Pressure for housing development

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

A11 and A1303 are local detractors from tranquillity
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	7A: Eastern Chalk Hills
Location (Grid Reference)	558518, 254790; 559531, 253111
Date/Time	28.10.2020/11:09
Weather Conditions	Cloudy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- A combination of shelterbelts and rolling landform generally contain views visually, making this a smaller scale landscape than elsewhere in the Chalk Hills

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Simple landscape of large predominantly regular fields enclosed by low, gappy hedges
- Pocket of 'studscape' in the north including small rectangular paddocks divided by post and rail fencing and shelterbelts
- Distinctive pattern of broadleaf, coniferous and mixed shelterbelts and ornamental roadside trees
- Small scale landscape, visually contained by landform, trees and shelterbelts, with wind turbines prominent on the horizon of many views

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Land use for energy and solar power
- Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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<p>Notes:</p>

<p>Wind turbines prominent on the horizon</p>

<p>The A11 forms much of the northern boundary, locally detracting from tranquillity</p>
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	7B: Gog Magog Chalk Hills
Location (Grid Reference)	548859, 253014; 549776, 253624
Date/Time	28.10.2020/09:20
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panoramic views towards Cambridge, in which the southern edge of Cambridge is strongly apparent • Long distance views towards Ely from Wandlebury Country Park • On lower ground views towards wooded horizons are visually enclosed or framed by rolling landform and deciduous woodland.

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally prominent chalk hills with distinctive panoramic views over Cambridge • Ecologically diverse landscape with deciduous woodland, lowland calcareous grassland, good quality semi improved grassland, orchard and mosaic habitats • Accessible landscape with a network of Public Rights of Way and recreational land uses including Wandlebury Country Park, local nature reserves and a golf course • Strong sense of time depth due to Wandlebury Hill Fort, circular earthworks and a straight Roman road

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure for recreation • Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	
Boundary changes?	

Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	7C: Linton Chalk Hills
Location (Grid Reference)	560459, 248460; 555751, 245986; 551402, 247452
Date/Time	28.10.2020/12:15
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elevated landscape offers long views across the Granta River Valley to distant horizons which are punctuated by scattered woodland • Villages on lower ground within the 8A are occasionally visible within views, generally they are well integrated into the landscape and built form appears in a wooded context

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple rural landscape with large, rectilinear arable fields organised in an irregular pattern • Sparsely scattered small woodland blocks, including ancient woodland • Small pockets of lowland calcareous grassland and mosaic habitat • Open character with long views across the Granta River Valley • Distinctive linear features including earthworks, a Roman road, historic tracks, minor roads and dismantled railways

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

The busy A11 and A1307 locally detract from the tranquil character

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	7D: Newton Chalk Hills
Location (Grid Reference)	543622, 249389; 545951, 250526
Date/Time	15.10.2020/16:40
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views from elevated locations are long and framed, but are enclosed by rising landform in the north Expansive, open views across the wooded 9A: Granta River Valley and well treed 8A: Pampisford Lowland Chalklands from the obelisk on St Margaret's Mount

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally rectilinear fields in an irregular pattern with pockets of regularity, enclosed by low, gappy hedgerows Settlement comprises the small village of Newton which has a parkland setting, and isolated farms and cottages Views across the Granta River Valley from an obelisk on St Margaret's Mount, but otherwise public access is limited

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensification of farming

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

The M11 and railway locally disrupt tranquillity
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	7E: Wimpole Chalk Hills
Location (Grid Reference)	530680, 249070; 533849, 252423
Date/Time	15.10.2020/13:20
Weather Conditions	Overcast
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are distant views of Cambridge from the ridge, with the most famous from Chapel Hill on the eastern boundary • Variety of open and framed views across the parkland landscape

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive designed parkland landscape associated with Wimpole Hall • Scattered areas of priority habitat including deciduous woodland and pockets of lowland calcareous grassland, orchards and mosaic habitats • Designed views provide a variety of scales across the landscape from large to more intimate • Earthworks and the Wimpole Hall estate provide a strong sense of time depth • Highly accessible landscape which contains the Wimpole Way, Clopton Way, Harcamlow Way and Mare Way, as well as footpaths within the National Trust operated Wimpole Estate which is open to the public

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure for recreation • Intensification of agriculture

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

A1198 and A606 are local detractors from tranquillity

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	7F: Southern Chalk Hills
Location (Grid Reference)	547419, 242393; 541340, 238858; 541724, 240292
Date/Time	28.10.2020/16:35
Weather Conditions	Sunny and cloudy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views north towards Cambridge from the escarpment are expansive and long distance with distant wooded horizons punctuated by occasional isolated trees and woodland

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Distinctive north facing chalk escarpment incised by dry valleys
- Vast, open character with long distance panoramic views to the north
- Scattered areas of priority habitat including deciduous woodland, orchards and mosaic habitats
- Settlement comprises three historic linear villages with intimate well treed character, and scattered isolated farms and cottages

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Development pressure for housing
- Intensification of agriculture

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
Boundary changes?	

<p>Notes:</p>

<p>The rural character is locally eroded in the west by the railway line and A505, and in the east by the M11.</p>
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**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	8A: Pampisford Lowland Chalklands
Location (Grid Reference)	551411, 247450; 549662, 245633; 550712, 249287
Date/Time	28.10.2020/13:40 and 4.11.2020/9:15
Weather Conditions	Rainy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views are generally short and enclosed by landform, woodland and shelterbelts
- Occasionally there are framed long views towards wooded horizons from high ground.
- Sometimes large farm buildings, telegraph poles or pylons interrupt the skyline

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Mature hedgerows, small blocks of woodland and shelterbelts combine with occasional lines roadside trees to create a visually enclosed, intimate character
- Scattered designed historic parkland features, including some modern developments of large science and technology research parks, in proximity to the River Cam and River Granta
- Settlement pattern of scattered small villages on elevated ground at the edges of the River Valleys

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming
- Sustainable energy generation

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
Name changes?	
Boundary changes?	

Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	8B: Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands
Location (Grid Reference)	539319, 243294; 543018, 24743; 545141, 245564
Date/Time	15.10.2020/16:30 and 4.11.2020/9:35
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views across arable fields are generally long, with smooth or treed distant horizons, and often feature the rolling Chalk Hills to the northeast and south.

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Low hedges and few trees create a large-scale, open and simple landscape
- Occasional copses of trees on high ground are a distinctive feature
- Sparse settlement pattern with small villages elevated from the River Valleys on lower ground, interspersed with isolated farms and cottages
- Long distance views across arable fields towards the rising chalk hills to the northeast and south
- Historic linear features include roads, ancient trackways and earthworks

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming
- Sustainable energy generation

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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<p>Notes:</p>

<p>The strong rural character is locally disrupted by the A505 and M11 major roads which converge east of Duxford Airfield.</p>

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	9A: Cam River Valley – Cambridge
Location (Grid Reference)	548151, 260516
Date/Time	08.10.2020/14:07
Weather Conditions	Cloudy
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate views over the meadows towards the willow lined river • Longer framed views towards the landmark towers and spires of Cambridge.

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive green corridor within the Cambridge urban area • Scattered mature trees, hedgerows and hedgerow trees provide a strong sense of enclosure • Sparsely settled, with occasional vertical elements and views of built form on the urban edge visible in framed and filtered views between trees • Historic association between the city and its river enriches the setting of Cambridge • Well used landscape for recreation with strong historical and cultural associations

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing pressure for development on the urban edge of Cambridge • Modern built form • Ongoing construction works on the urban edge • Boundary treatments not in keeping with the pastoral character • Small industrial units on the urban edge

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	9B: Cam River Valley
Location (Grid Reference)	543451, 25524; 546535, 248608
Date/Time	15.10.2020/15:41
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views are short and intimate, framed by willows on the river or woodland and tree belts.

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of separation between historic villages in the Lowland Farmlands Occasional discordant features including the major road network and railway Historical and cultural links with poets who described the Cam Valley around Grantchester Distinctive views across Grantchester Meadows towards Cambridge

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure for recreation Pressure for development to the south of Cambridge Intensification of agriculture

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

The M11, A505, A1301 and the railway, are all localised detractors,

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	9C: Rhee River Valley
Location (Grid Reference)	538432, 248837
Date/Time	15.10.2020/16:15
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Jenny Gay/Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views

- Views are generally short and contained by trees.
- Sometimes where there are arable fields there are longer views into the neighbouring LCAs

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)

- Generally unsettled landscape, with a sense of separation between villages on higher ground in the Lowland Farmlands

Evidence of Landscape Changes

- Intensification of farming
- River channel profiling

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)

Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

Notes:

Landscape Character Area Refinements

Name changes?	
Boundary changes?	

Notes:

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
FIELD SURVEY SHEET**

Landscape Character Area (Ref/Name)	9D: Granta River Valley
Location (Grid Reference)	552063, 249515; 555283, 247533
Date/Time	28.10.2020/14:30
Weather Conditions	Sunny
Photo Number/Direction	See photos accompanying LCA description in Chapter 4
Name of Surveyor	Lizzie Bushby

Distinctive Landform Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Flat	Narrow valley	Steep	Hills	Coast
Undulating	Broad valley	Plain	Slopes	Estuary
Rolling	Upland	Plateau	Ridge	Ghyll
Steep	Lowland	Levels	Cliff	Dry valley

Distinctive Landscape Features (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Buildings	Infrastructure	Boundaries	Landcover	Trees	Water
Farms	Masts/poles	Stone walls	Arable fields	Plantations	Reservoirs
Cottages	Pylons	Brick walls	Pasture fields	Isolated trees	Ponds
Hamlets	B roads	Metal fences	Meadows	Shelterbelts	Canals
Villages	A roads	Wood fences	Marshes	Woodlands	Waterfalls
Urban edges	Motorways	Hedges	Parklands	Tree clumps	Ditches
Churches	Railways	Banks	Industry	Hedgerow trees	Rivers
Historic ruins	Tracks		Minerals sites	Orchards	Streams
Historic sites	Footpaths			Scrub	Lakes

Aesthetic Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Balance	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
Scale	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
Enclosure	Confined	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
Texture	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
Colour	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
Diversity	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
Unity	Unified	Interrupted	Fragmented	Chaotic
Form	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
Line	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuuous
Pattern	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Perceptual/Experiential Factors (highlight appropriate descriptors)				
Security	Safe	Unsettling	Disturbing	Threatening
Stimuli	Monotonous	Interesting	Challenging	Inspiring
Tranquillity	Very tranquil	Tranquil	Busy	Very busy
Movement	Dead	Still	Calm	Vibrant
Naturalness	Natural	Tamed	Managed	Artificial
Noise	Quiet	Distant	Intermittent	Loud
Scent	Fragrant	Clean	Earthy	Pungent

Distinctive Views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views are generally short, visually enclosed, and occasionally framed by individual trees • Sometimes where there are arable fields there are longer views into the neighbouring LCAs

Key Characteristics (describe interplay of the above features, factors and views)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed parkland landscapes, including modern development at Granta Park • Sense of separation between villages on elevated land in the neighbouring Lowland Farmlands • Time depth associated with historic routes into Cambridge, the Icknield Way and designed parkland

Evidence of Landscape Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing land use from parkland to industrial parks • Pressure for recreation • Development to the south of Cambridge

Landscape Condition (highlight appropriate descriptors)					
Townscapes	Fieldsapes	Woodland	Trees	Watercourses	Views
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Notes:					

Landscape Character Area Refinements	
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Name changes?	
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Boundary changes?	
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Notes:

APPENDIX 5
County Historic Environment Character Area Profiles

COUNTY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHARACTER AREA PROFILES

Cambridgeshire County Council has developed unpublished information on Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs) within Cambridgeshire.

The HECAs are intended to provide a high level framework for understanding the “time depth” in the present landscape shaped by changing land uses, activities and attitudes in different eras in response to the physical environment, natural resources and prevailing climate.

For the purposes of the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment, the Cambridge County Council Archaeology Team provided descriptions of the HECAs shown on **Figure 3.8** defined within the Greater Cambridge Study Area. This information has been used to inform the Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area descriptions in this study.

For more information about the HECAs contact arch.her@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

HECA NO. 4: THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE PEAT FEN

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area No. 4 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>March</i>	<i>Wimblington</i>	<i>Manea</i>	<i>Littleport</i>	<i>Little Downham</i>
<i>Coveney</i>	<i>Witchford</i>	<i>Mepal</i>	<i>Chatteris</i>	<i>Witcham</i>
<i>Doddington</i>	<i>Warboys</i>	<i>Bury</i>	<i>Wentworth</i>	<i>Pidley-cum-</i>
<i>Fenton</i>				
<i>Somersham</i>	<i>Sutton</i>	<i>Haddenham</i>	<i>Holywell-cum-Needingworth</i>	
<i>Over</i>	<i>Willingham</i>	<i>Cottenham</i>	<i>Wilburton</i>	<i>Waterbeach</i>
<i>Ely</i>	<i>Stretham</i>	<i>Theftord</i>	<i>Soham</i>	<i>Isleham</i>
<i>Fordham</i>	<i>Wicken</i>	<i>Burwell</i>	<i>Reach</i>	<i>Swaffham Prior</i>
<i>Lode</i>	<i>Horningsea</i>	<i>Swaffham Bulbeck</i>		

Of these, parts of Chatteris and March fall within Fenland District Council Conservation Areas and parts of Horningsea fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas. Parts of Warboys, Holywell-cum-Needingworth and Somersham fall within Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Areas and parts of Ely, Littleport, Little Downham, Witcham, Wilburton, Stretham, Soham, Wicken, Isleham, Fordham, Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Lode all fall within East Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the eastern side of Cambridgeshire, on the southern edge of the Fenland District. The easternmost parishes within this area border Norfolk and Suffolk. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other data including terrain, underlying soils and geology. The Fenland itself comprises the low-lying ground in East Anglia and extends over an area of several hundred square miles stretching from Lincoln in the north to Cambridge in the south, and from Peterborough and Huntingdon in the west to Boston and Kings Lynn close to the coast of the Wash (Godwin 1978). This character area is separated from the northern part of the Fens mostly owing to the nature of the soils which in this part are peat rather than silt (HECA 1). Like many areas, the underlying soils impact on the use and appearance of the landscape.

The topography of the area is large scale, flat and open, there are areas of elevated ground often referred to as “islands” which lend themselves to a separate HECA (Number 3) identity of their own. The land in this area rarely rises to more than 5mOD.

The Fenland landscape was modified during the Quaternary period (last two million years). For most of the last 10,000 years (Flandrian period) Fenland deposits have created the “peat fen” and “silt fen” much of which survives in water-logged conditions, promoting excellent preservation. The underlying geology of the area is mostly Kimmeridge Clay overlain by Nordelph Peat (BGS sheet 188, 172 and 173).

The overlying soils are very much like those in the “silt fen” which comprise mostly loamy, sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and peaty surface with areas of loamy clayey floodplain soils. The mixed lime-rich fen peat is moderately to highly fertile making it ideal for growing root crops such as vegetables and bulbs, and sugar-beet which is produced in the area in significant quantities. There are some areas which have a higher fertility than the surrounding soils around the parishes of Wicken and Soham of peaty fen. A strip of this peaty soil can also be found within the nature reserve between the Old and the New Bedford Rivers.

Historic Landscape

In the early Middle Ages, areas of the fenland began to be drained. This produced extensive areas of pasture and the products associated with this which formed the basis of a wealthy fenland economy: meat, butter, wool, livestock and traditional products of reed, sedge and peat.

The Lodes system of the south-eastern Fen-edge is an example of medieval management of the Fenland. The Lodes Reach, Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Burwell are all artificial navigable water courses which run from the Fen-edge to The Cam and are recognised historic monuments in the area. The lodes cut straight across the natural drainage of about 11000 acres of peat. All are embanked on both sides and are at least medieval in date. They are fed by catchwater drains or managed streams running along the settlements Fen-edge. There are a number of suggestions for their existence including drainage, however, it is most likely they were for water-borne trade and communication. This is supported by the association with wharves, hythes and public or private basin (Kirby and Oosthuizen 2000).

The late 16th and 17th century saw the introduction of new drainage systems in the Fenland (Darby, 1983). Dutch engineers drastically altered the landscape, introducing long ditches and canalised river systems which survive in the landscape to the present day.

Drainage and enclosure from the 17th century onwards has resulted in the land becoming almost exclusively arable. This has formed a pattern of regular, rectangular fields still predominant in the present landscape. Drains, banks and wind pumps (from 1820s replaced by steam pumps) were introduced throughout the Fens at this time.

By the early 18th century, lowering land levels had required the Middle Level rivers to be embanked and attempts were again made to drain the Fens. The mid-19th century saw the introduction of steam pumps and pumping stations with large brick chimneys, some of which still survive today.

The work of the Fenland Survey has demonstrated that ongoing shrinkage of the peat from farming and drainage continues to expose sites of archaeological significance. (Hall & Coles 1994)

Drainage has been an ongoing battle in the history of this part of the Fenland and has certainly shaped and influenced the character and layout of the landscape visible today. Example of early drainage attempts can be seen via cropmarks, earthwork survey and fieldwork interventions.

The regimental patterns formed by long, straight drains and roads created, on the whole, in more recent times have obliterated traces of the historic landscape from the current view. The need to drain and intensively exploit the rich peaty soils have resulted in the obvious patterns of recent and recently-modified enclosures. Although dominated by modified enclosures, traces of modified early enclosures are apparent in the HLC study area in parts of the parishes of Wilburton, Haddenham and Sutton and Iselam, Soham and Ely. The divide between these landscape character areas is particularly visible around the route of the most significant drain in the area, the Old Bedford River/Hundred Foot Drain to the west of which are the obvious patterns of modified/recent fen enclosures whilst to the east, traces of early fen enclosures are still present. The entire area is characterised by raised flood banks, elevated river and water courses and a dense drainage pattern throughout the landscape.

The Modern Landscape

Land boundaries typically follow catchwater drains, dykes, canalised rivers and lodes creating a landscape of regular, rectilinear enclosures.

Commons and heathland are infrequent in Cambridgeshire, however three are present in Soham and a small area of common land remains at Little Downham. The commons are derived from strip farming methods and land rights that date back to the medieval period. A small area of common land also remains at Little Downham.

There are no surviving registered parks or gardens, enclosures from historic parkland or ancient woodland in this character area.

Larger settlement comprises small towns, many of which have suffered since the decline of local production as industry and distribution has changed to large scale operations outside of settlement areas. Many, however, have increased in population as a result of their proximity to Cambridge and their appeal to commuters.

Arable agriculture continues to dominate the landscape and economy of the area and within the expanse of open landscape, isolated farmsteads and agricultural storage buildings, used to house large machinery, are to be found.

HECA NO. 11: THE GREAT OUSE VALLEY

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

This area lies within the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire claylands within a natural depression formed by the course (valley) of the River Great Ouse. This area follows the route of the river heading north from St Neots on the western side of the county, then as it turns north-east between Huntingdon and Godmanchester and eastwards into the Fens across to the small settlement of Holywell-cum-Needingworth.

The area comprises the parishes and parts of:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <i>St Neots</i> | <i>Little Paxton</i> | <i>Brampton</i> | |
| <i>Godmanchester</i> | | | |
| <i>Houghton and Wyton</i> | <i>Hemingford Abbots</i> | <i>Hemingford Grey</i> | <i>St Ives</i> |
| <i>Fenstanton</i> | <i>Fen Drayton</i> | <i>Swavesey</i> | |
| <i>Holywell-cum-Needingworth</i> | | | |

Of these, parts of St Neots, Godmanchester, Brampton, The Hemmingfords, Fenstanton, Houghton and Wyton, St Ives and Holywell-cum-Needingworth fall within Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Areas. Parts of Fen Drayton and Swavesey fall within South Cambridgeshire Conservation Areas.

This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied along with other data including the terrain, underlying soils and geology.

The topography of the Great Ouse Valley varies very little. Terrain models of the area show it reaches little more than 5mOD along the course of the Great Ouse and rises in the southern end of the area, around St Neots, c. 15mOD.

The underlying geology of the area is predominantly alluvium in and immediately around the river course. First, Second and Third Terrace Gravels are present on either side as the ground level rises and are sealed beneath the modern alluvium. Extensive prehistoric archaeology is present within the gravel terraces and is sealed beneath this alluvium. The alluvium pre-dates the Roman and medieval occupation of the Great Ouse Valley and has been recorded at depths of up to 6m, with 2-3m being most common.

The soils in this area vary little. Following the course of the river, are loamy, floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater. These soils are naturally wet with a high water table resulting in a moderate level of fertility. Moving away from the Ouse, the soil becomes more naturally free draining, slightly acidic and loamy. These soils have low fertility and lend themselves to arable and grassland. Where the river appears to meander around the parish of Hemingford Grey, there is a pocket of slightly acidic, but base-rich, fertile soil which is also highly suitable for grassland and arable.

Historic Landscape

The majority of the area was enclosed into fields by the 19th century most of these were irregularly-shaped. Farming was more prevalent around the area of Fenstanton in the 19th century, perhaps due to the fertile nature of the underlying rich soils. Common land identified within the area comprise Islands Common in St Neots and Godmanchester Common (west of Hemingford Abbots).

The alluvial soils and gravel terraces of the Ouse valley have attracted human habitation since Prehistoric times. Settlements varied in size, but on the whole were based on the importance of the River Great Ouse as a trade/communication route. Subsequent markets at St Ives, St Neots, Godmanchester and Huntingdon allowed the towns to thrive in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The smaller settlements nucleated about their respective parish churches and surrounding common fields.

Communication routes including the River Great Ouse and the Roman Road of Ermine Street (modern A1) have influenced the growth of the towns in this area and a number of archaeological investigations have taken place in the Roman town of Godmanchester to along its route. The River Great Ouse was the key waterway of the Fens and the most important form of transportation, when every major city and town was strategically placed by the rivers. The towns along the route of the Great Ouse are placed where the river is shallow enough to afford crossing points for the major highways. Towards the eastern side of the area, the landscape starts to change beyond St Ives as the Great Ouse heads out into the Fens.

The introduction of the railway in the late 19th century saw the decline of long distance road and river traffic but opened up the possibility of new markets and commercial opportunities in St Neots. The corn exchange, livestock market, brewing, corn milling, engineering, gas works, paper mill and brick and tile manufacture all flourished as a result.

The Modern Landscape

Drainage/water feature strongly in this area. The river has allowed for the growth of a number of marinas such as those at Buckden, Huntingdon, Needingworth and St Ives and quarries have been flooded which has added to the number of leisure areas. As with many waterways, commercial boat trade suffered from railway competition, but the essential drainage function of the courses ensured their survival. Although drainage of the rich agricultural land around the river has always been the priority there are agencies that ensure navigational rights are upheld and facilities made available.

Neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands are a common feature and shrubs such as bracken and gorse thrive in the uplands.

Communication links still have an impact on the modern landscape. The rail link which runs from London to Peterborough is a popular commuter service and the ability to reach London within an hour from Huntingdon and St Neots has impacted on the growth of residential development in and around these towns.

Despite the decline of industry and trade in some of the towns, the service, tourism and leisure industry dominate this area. Campsites, marinas, parks and flooded quarries, all make the most of areas which are historically unsuitable for development given their locations around riverine meadow and floodplains. Horticulture and tree plantation also exploit the natural water levels in the area.

The towns along the route of the Great Ouse contain a notable range of buildings. The High Street at Godmanchester has many fine Georgian town houses and a great number of listed buildings. Along the river, causeways and medieval bridges, including the rare bridge chapel at St Ives and the bridge between Godmanchester and Huntingdon are distinctive features (Natural England Character Area 88).

HECA NO. 12: SOUTHERN FEN-EDGE SETTLEMENTS

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 12 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Swavesey</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Willingham</i>	<i>Longstanton</i>
<i>Rampton</i>	<i>Oakington</i>	<i>Cottenham</i>	<i>Histon</i>
<i>Landbeach</i>	<i>Impington</i>	<i>Waterbeach</i>	<i>Milton</i>

Parts of all of these parishes fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies north of the city of Cambridge and is located between the southern Fenland and north and east of the Cambridgeshire claylands. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other data including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. Much of the modern landscape is dominated by agriculture and regular 19th century enclosure, with some modified recent fen enclosures. This area is also characterised by a number of small to moderate sized settlements located in this area on the Fen-edge. Historically, the area housed two major World War II airfields at Oakington and Waterbeach.

The topography of the area is low lying at around 5-10mOD, rising to a maximum height of 15-20mOD in the southern corner and also two areas upon which the settlements of Over and Cottenham have developed. The area's northern limit/boundary with the Fens follows the present route of River Great Ouse (previously the Old West River) as it runs west to east where the River Cam joins it to the east at Stretham Mere.

The underlying geology of the area changes from east to west, however this is not reflected within the terrain. The west of the area's geology, within the parishes of Swavesey, Over, Willingham, Rampton and Longstanton, comprises mostly Ampthill Clay with small pockets of Second and Third Terrace River Gravels. Moving east, there is a band of Kimmeridge Clay, again with pockets of river gravels overlying. South-eastwards a thin band of Lower Greensand is encountered around the settlements of Cottenham and Oakington, beyond which is a large area of primarily Gault with third terrace river gravels surrounding settlements of Impington and Histon. A band of Second Terrace gravels stretches from north to south on the eastern side of the area (BGS Sheet 188).

The changes in the overlying soils correspond with the variations in the geology below. The soils in this area are mostly loamy and clayey with impeded drainage, yet are moderately to highly fertile with good grassland and arable cover. These soils suit wet pasture, woodland and rich vegetation.

Historic Landscape

The location of the main settlements on the edge of the Fenland has characterised and influenced their development. The lower parts of many of these settlements were once covered with rich fen soil which has now almost completely disappeared (Taylor, 1998, vol 2). Many of the villages have their origins in the 11th and 12th centuries, exploiting the higher ground and expanding with successful schemes of fen drainage.

The diversity and resources around the Fen-edge, and no limitation on immigration, resulted in rapid population growth in the area in the 16th and 17th centuries (Historic Britain from the Air, R. E Glasscock, 1992).

Akeman Street draws a line through the eastern side of this area, creating/influencing the eastern boundary of Milton parish. There are a large number of Iron Age and Roman archaeological sites within the area and along, and close to, the route of the Roman Road. This part of Akeman Street (Margary's Roman Road Route 23a) runs from Cambridge via Ely and Littleport to Southery, probably connecting with the Fen Causeway (route 23b) at Denver (Oosthuizen 2000). This is still partially visible in the modern landscape as cropmarks and in parts the route of the A10 follows it.

There was historic parkland at Impington Hall. There is no record of ancient woodland, but the park of Impington Hall south of the village has given the centre of the parish a well-wooded aspect since the 18th century. The park, now farmland, exhibits no ancient features.

Other historic parkland is known to have existed at Rampton, although it has proved impossible to assign a date for this series of enclosures known as 'The Parks'. Earthworks within the area relate to homesteads and tofts and it is most probable that these pre-date the park, however they have not as yet been dated. It is possible that the park was associated with the period during which the 'Giant's Hill' site was converted to a moated manorial dwelling for the Lyells in the 15th century. The area enclosed is relatively small (45 acres) and is not currently marked by boundary banks. (www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

The Modern Landscape

The modern landscape of this area is still very much dominated by arable agriculture, interspersed with commuter settlements and former RAF bases. Modified, regular fields from the 19th and 20th century are primarily used for arable crops, interspersed with occasional fields used for horticulture.

Between the settlements of Longstanton and Oakington, RAF Oakington occupied approximately 105 hectares. The base contracted after World War II and much evidence of this is visible in farmland surrounding the current perimeter, which subsequently became a British Army barracks. On the eastern edge of the area, RAF Waterbeach covers an area over 130 hectares, situated just north of Waterbeach village and adjacent to the A10. Although the airfield at Waterbeach is now disused, it is still a clear feature in the modern landscape. The barracks, airfield and surrounding quarters are now used by the British Army, the airfield is now used as a training area for troops.

Some large areas of quarrying are to be found between Cottenham and Waterbeach and south of Milton. Formerly farmland, both arable and pasture, Milton Country Park owes much of its present appearance to the extraction of sand and gravel for the building of roads and houses from 1930 to 1960. However, the first material taken from the site was clay, in much smaller quantities, by Romano British potters about 1800 years previously (www.scambs.gov.uk/leisureandculture/miltoncountrypark).

The largest of the settlements in this area are Swavesey, Over, Willingham, Longstanton, Cottenham, Histon, Impington and Milton. All of these villages are dispersed/spread-out settlements, most of which originally developed along their High Street. Their close proximity to Cambridge has made them popular destinations for commuters with easy access into the city. Villages including Cottenham, Impington and Histon were selected in the 1960s as suitable for growth given its facilities and convenient distance from Cambridge. As a result large areas were allocated for development.

The Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping project undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council has mapped the characteristics and development of the fields present in the modern landscape. These consist of modified 19th century enclosures, an exception being within the parish of Cottenham which has almost entirely fields modified from a mix of earlier landscape types.

HECA NO. 13: CAMBRIDGESHIRE CLAYLANDS

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 13 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Offord D'arcy</i>	<i>Offord Cluny</i>	<i>Godmanchester</i>
<i>Graveley</i>	<i>Hilton</i>	<i>Papworth St Agnes</i>
<i>Hemingford Abbots</i>	<i>Hemingford Grey</i>	<i>Fenstanton</i>
<i>Fen Drayton</i>	<i>Swavesey</i>	<i>Longstanton</i>
<i>Oakington</i>	<i>Westwick</i>	<i>Girton</i>
<i>Madingley</i>	<i>Coton</i>	<i>Granchester</i>
<i>Barton</i>	<i>Comberton</i>	<i>Haslingfield</i>
<i>Little Eversden</i>	<i>Great Eversden</i>	<i>Harlton</i>
<i>Toft</i>	<i>Hardwick</i>	<i>Caldecote</i>
<i>Bourn</i>	<i>Longstowe</i>	<i>Great Gransden</i>
<i>Little Gransden</i>	<i>Waresley</i>	<i>Abbotsley</i>
<i>Eynesbury</i>	<i>Hardwick</i>	<i>Croxton</i>
<i>St Neots Rural</i>	<i>Great Paxton</i>	<i>Toseland</i>
<i>Yelling</i>		

Of these, parts of Offord Cluny, Godmanchester, Hilton, Hemingford Abbot, Hemingford Grey, Fenstanton, Hilton, Great Gransden, Waresley, Abbotsley, St Neots and Yelling fall within Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Areas. Parts of Fen Drayton, Swavesey, Oakington, Coton, Comberton, Hardwick, Granchester, Haslingfield, Harlton, Caldecote, Hardwick, Madingley, Barton, Toft, Bourn, Croxton, Westwick, Longstanton and Little Gransden fall within South Cambridgeshire Conservation Areas.

This character area is one of the largest in the study area and lies on the south-eastern side of Cambridgeshire. Located within it is HECA Number 14: Central Claylands which is a sub-area and differs very little from it other than its surviving earlier enclosures. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been shaped by various factors including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. The area is characterised by small settlements and parishes dominated by 19th century enclosures.

The topography of the area is quite varied. The southern part of the area in the parishes of Little and Great Gransden, Longstowe and Gamlingay is the highest and lies at around 75mOD. The land falls away to the east from the central claylands (HECA number 12) to around 20mOD and the lowest point in the area is towards the northern side where the area meets the Ouse valley (HECA number 11) at approximately 5-10mOD.

The underlying geology of the area is principally boulder clay on the higher terrain with overlying mudstone and Ampthill Clay around the northern part of the area changing to grey and grey-blue clay towards the east.

The overlying soil in this area is the same throughout; a lime-rich loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage which is very fertile. This soil supports habitats of rich pastures and classic ancient woodlands and lime-rich flush vegetation. Land cover is predominantly arable with some grassland (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

Historic Landscape

Two main Roman roads cross the area, the Sandy to Godmanchester Road and Ermine Street. The line of the Sandy to Godmanchester road is marked by parish boundaries and trackways as far as the moated site at Eynesbury Hardwicke, beyond which the road continues as far as Godmanchester. A section cut across the road at Sandy in 1954 revealed it to have been 17ft wide with a distinct camber and surfaced with rammed gravel. Pottery finds from beneath the road suggested a 1st-century construction date (www.heritagegateway.org.uk). Ermine Street is evident running through this area by cropmarks, parish boundaries and archaeological investigations in various locations along its route. Ermine Street was a major Roman road that ran from London (Londinium) to Lincoln (Lindum Colonia) and York (Eboracum). It is also known as the Old North Road from London to where it joins the A1 Great North Road north-west of Godmanchester.

Rivers in this area are small and mostly navigable for only small craft as roads and tracks were the most important transport and communication systems (Taylor 1997, vol.1). Prehistoric track-ways have often, in many cases, influenced the creation of medieval settlements which have developed into present towns and villages.

There are a number of medieval moated sites, in particular in the south-western side of the area to the east of St Neots. Evidence of medieval agricultural field systems is also visible in the landscape through the survival of ridge and furrow.

There is very little ancient woodland in this area and all are located in the south and east, at Madingley Wood, Hardwick Wood, and at Longstowe (within Longstowe Hall).

This area has two registered parks and gardens located at Croxton Hall and Longstowe Hall. Croxton has a mid-18th century house and walled garden, set in an early 16th century deer park, which incorporates earthwork remains of 16th century garden features.

The Modern Landscape

World War II military activity has impacted on the landscape of this area with a number of airfields occupying large areas.

Bourn Airfield was constructed in 1940 as a satellite airfield for nearby Oakington. The last sections were sold off for agricultural use in 1961. RAF Lords Bridge near Harlton served as a World War II airfield, landing ground/bomb store and Observatory. RAF Graveley was constructed 1941-42 to the west of Graveley village. Graveley was closed at the end of 1968, the eastern end of the main runway still survived in the late 1990's and a reduced perimeter track is used as a farm road. (www.raf.mod.uk)

The American Military Cemetery at Madingley is the only permanent American World War II cemetery in Britain (www.heritagegateway.org.uk). The site lies on a slope with the west and south sides framed by woodland. The cemetery contains the remains of US servicemen, most of whom died in the Battle of the Atlantic or in the strategic air bombardment of north-west Europe.

Settlement in this area is relatively sparse. On the western side the majority of the arable claylands are populated with small, isolated villages and hamlets, many situated at river crossings or road junctions (Taylor 1997, vol1). Further east, towards Cambridge and along the route of the major road through the area, the A14, villages are more closely located and have naturally grown to meet the demand for housing for commuters.

The characteristic straight boundaries and medium scale fields brought about by general enclosure in the 19th century and the patterns created are still evidently in use today.

The woodland cover is sparse, yet includes some important pockets of ancient woodland. Tree cover in gardens and village edge field corners is also greater than in the more open farmed landscape. Pasture is common in the flood plain meadows along the river valleys (Natural England Character Area 88).

Traditional building materials in the villages comprise a mix of brick, thatch, render and stone but there is no over-riding cohesion to the area; representing rather more localised pockets of style or material use (Natural England Character Area 88).

Leisure areas are an important feature in the southern part of the area with golf courses near Abbotsley and at Toft, landing for private light aircraft near Great Gransden and Wood Green animal shelter south of Godmanchester.

This area consists mainly of small hedged fields which have been created by 19th century enclosure. Mid 19th century enclosure clearly altered the landscape, although field boundaries and enclosures are not regular suggesting it was a piecemeal and gradual process.

HECA NO. 14: CENTRAL CLAYLANDS

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 14 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Yelling</i>	<i>Eltisley</i>	<i>Caxton</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Knapwell</i>
<i>Cambourne</i>	<i>Conington (S)</i>		<i>Boxworth</i>	<i>Lolworth</i>
<i>Childerley</i>	<i>Bar Hill</i>		<i>Dry Drayton</i>	<i>Madingley</i>
<i>Papworth Everard</i>				

Of these, parts of Yelling fall within Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Areas. Parts of Eltisley, Elsworth, Madingley, Caxton and Knapwell fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the central eastern side of the study area, to the immediate west of Cambridge and is located within HECA Number 13. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other data including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. Although it differs very little from HECA 13, it has been allocated an area of its own by the HLC data which shows a greater survival of earlier enclosures, unlike the surrounding clayland, as well as a scattering of surviving ancient woodland.

The topography of the area is higher than most of the surrounding clayland, lying at approximately 60mOD at its highest point in the southern part of the area. The land falls away towards the north where it drops to as low as 20mOD.

The underlying geology of the area is principally boulder clay with Ampthill Clay in the northern part of the area in the parishes of Conington, Elsworth and Boxworth Lower Greensands present on the eastern edge, in the parishes of Dry Drayton and Madingley.

The overlying soil in this area is the same throughout; a lime-rich loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage and is very fertile. The texture is clayey and it supports habitats of rich pastures and classic ancient woodlands and lime-rich flush vegetation. Land cover is predominantly arable with some grassland.

Historic Landscape

With the improved ploughs of the Middle Ages, the population pressure grew on the higher heavier claylands and the pattern of agricultural landscapes developed. Many settlements from this time have subsequently either shrunk or been deserted, which has led to a richness of archaeology within a generally more sparsely populated landscape. Remains include moated sites, deserted villages and ruined or isolated churches (Natural England Character Area 88).

There are historic parks and gardens in this area at Childerley and Madingley Hall. Childerley Hall has Grade II registered moated gardens of 16th century origin, restored and replanted since 1957, beside a 16th century hall and deer park.*

There was a medieval moated site at Childerley and three moated sites are also located around Eltisley with another south of Papworth Everard. Moated sites are also found at Caxton and Bourn. A further medieval manorial site is evidenced through earthworks at Boxworth and Knapwell (Overhall Grove).

There are two of Deserted Medieval Villages along the modern A428 (St Neots - Cambridge road) at Croxton and Weald.

Ancient woodland in the area survives in the parishes of Eltisley, Papworth Everard, Knapwell and Boxworth. The woodland at Eltisley may date as far back as the 12th century and by the early 19th century Eltisley wood (30 hectares) had emerged in its modern form ([/www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)). Overhall Grove, south of Boxwoth is the largest elm woodland in Cambridgeshire and is managed by the Woodland Trust. The remains of a medieval manor surrounded by a moat can still be seen in the northern end of the wood. (www.wildlifebcnp.org).

Within the settlements, enclosure had more of an impact. In both Boxworth and Elsworth, enclosure put an end to grazing rights on common land. This impacted on the lives of villagers in Elsworth who until 1800 were able to graze their sheep which was an important source of income for most. In Boxworth, all 129 acres of common land was divided up between one prominent local family and the rector (Taylor, 1997; vol 1). Enclosure changed much of the layout of the village of Boxworth and remnants of the historic landscape are still visible as ridge and furrow, old roads (hollow ways) and even house platforms.

The northern limit of the area is formed by a straight line, the route of the modern A14 road which follows the line of the Roman road from Cambridge to Godmanchester which was also a turnpike between 1745 and 1874 ([/www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)).

The Modern Landscape

The Cambridgeshire claylands are predominantly an open and intensively arable landscape. Fields are bounded by either open ditches or sparse, closely-trimmed hedges, both containing a variable number and quality of hedgerow trees (Natural England Character Area 88).

Enclosure in the 19th century has impacted on the landscape layout of the Cambridgeshire claylands, however, this centrally located “pocket” seems to have preserved many of its earlier field systems and modified earlier enclosures which are visible on the HLC map and led to the creation of this character area.

Of the many settlements in the area, the largest are Cambourne and Bar Hill, two relatively new planned settlements built to address the demand for housing in south Cambridgeshire. Bar Hill is a purpose-built village with a population of 4,000, located 7 km north-west of Cambridge on the A14. Planning for the village began in the late 1950s to alleviate the housing shortage in South Cambridgeshire, and the first residents arrived in 1967.

HECA NO. 15 : BEDFORDSHIRE GREENSAND RIDGE

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

This area is located on the western edge of Cambridgeshire and incorporates parts of the parishes of

Tetworth Waresley Gamlingay

Of these, parts of Waresley fall within Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Areas and parts of Gamlingay fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This small area is defined by the north-east tip of the Bedfordshire Greensands Ridge which just enters the western side of Cambridgeshire in the parishes mentioned above, however is justifiably worthy of a character area of its own. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other sources including the terrain, underlying soils and geology.

The topographical landscape of this area rises in the middle, forming a ridge, falling away slightly on either side. The land around the parish of Gamlingay, for example, rises and falls between 25m and 75m above sea level.

The solid geology is predominantly Cretaceous Lower Greensands (green and brown sands and sandstones) with small outcrops of Ampthill Clay. The greensands are in places overlain by thin bands of alluvium.

The soils of the area vary from the south-west to the north-east in three parts. The south-west corner, continuing outside the subject area, the soil is a free draining, slightly acidic sand which is not very fertile. This soil is suitable for dry pastures, acid deciduous and coniferous woodland, with potential for lowland heath. Moving north-east and surrounding the settlements of Gamlingay and Waresley, the soil is more loamy, free-draining and slightly acidic. The low levels of fertility in the soil makes it suitable for both arable and grassland. There are deciduous woodlands with shrub such as bracken and gorse in the uplands. The lower lying parts of the area, where the greensands meet the surrounding claylands, the soil becomes more lime-rich, loamy and clayey. This, together with impeded drainage results in a fertile soil ideal for woodlands and lime-rich vegetation. The free draining soils results in little need for man-made drainage, although a few drains are present in the north-western part of the area. Millbridge Brook and a number of springs are to be found in the south-western corner.

Historic Landscape

In comparison with the adjacent claylands, the poor fertility and lightness of the soils led to the attraction of the area for the creation of parkland estates, where hunting formed an important activity (Natural England Character Area 90).

By the 12th century, heathland had developed on the Lower Greensands and the poor drainage of the soil there meant there were two quaking bogs on Gamlingay Heath (drained in 1855) and Cinqes Common. The area has a number of ancient woodlands, notably Gamlingay Woods, Sand Wood and Weaveley Wood. Gamlingay Wood has been woodland for at least a thousand years providing a source for building materials and firewood to the local communities in the past.

There was a Deer Park in Waresley Wood to the west of the village of Waresley.

A large park survives west of Gamlingay. Gamlingay Park comprises extensive earthwork remains of an early formal garden which was laid out when a house was built in 1712, but abandoned in 1776 (www.parksandgardens.ac.uk).

Tree-planting in areas such as Waresley Park and Gamlingay Great Heath and pig rearing after enclosure in the mid-19th century altered the landscape (Taylor 1997). The fields are more regular in the northern half of the area compared with the southern half, suggesting enclosure in this lower part may have been more piecemeal and gradual.

The Modern Landscape

Tree plantations and ancient woodlands continue to have an important influence on the modern landscape, providing leisure parkland. Waresley Woods, Gamlingay Wood and Gamlingay Cinqes and Meadow provide protected areas for plants and wildlife. Traditional coppicing still occurs supplying thatching materials, stakes for hedge laying and even beanpoles.

The lighter soils have typically created a marked pattern of land use with a relatively high proportion of woodland and parkland landscapes, mixed with smaller areas of pasture and heath (Natural England Character Area 90).

The landscape is relatively unspoilt in this area with industrial activity confined to water treatment works and at least three quarried areas in the southern part of the area left to flood and become more havens for nature.

Settlement in this area comprises Gamlingay and the smaller villages of Waresley and Tetworth. Gamlingay began as a group of hamlets, now amalgamated which were located around the place on the heathland where a series of routeways met. This was the largest village in the area and once held a market which was destroyed by widespread fire in late 17th century (Taylor, 1997).

HECA NO. 18: CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHALK FEN EDGE

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 18 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Milton</i>	<i>Waterbeach</i>	<i>Horningsea</i>
<i>Fen Ditton</i>	<i>Teversham</i>	<i>Fulbourn</i>
<i>Great Wilbraham</i>	<i>Little Wilbraham</i>	<i>Stow-cum-Quy</i>
<i>Bottisham</i>	<i>Lode</i>	<i>Swaffham Bulbeck</i>
<i>Swaffham Prior</i>	<i>Burwell</i>	

Of these, parts of Burwell, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode and Bottisham fall within East Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas. Parts of Milton, Great Wilbraham, Waterbeach, Little Wilbraham, Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Horningsea and Teversham fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies to the immediate east (and north-east) of Cambridge. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been shaped by various factors including the terrain, underlying soils and geology.

The topography of the area shows that is falling away from the higher south-east towards the north-west where it meets the low-lying fenland. At its highest points on the south-east sides of the parishes of The Wilbrahams, The Swaffhams and Fulbourn the level reaches around 50mOD. At the lowest points in the north-western parts of the area in the parishes of Fen Ditton, Stow-cum-Quy and Lode, the land dips to little more than 5mOD.

The underlying geology of the area corresponds with the changes in topography.

The overlying soils are free draining, lime-rich and loamy and are moderately fertile and become more fertile where there is more acidity within areas of the parishes the Wilbrahams and The Swaffhams. The soils suit rich woodland and typical land cover is arable with grasslands, becoming more common at higher altitude.

Historic Landscape

There are several medieval moated sites located within this area, at Teversham, Fulbourn, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham. There are also substantial surviving earthworks of a 12th century Anarchy castle at Burwell. The moat at Hall Orchard is one of at least three medieval moated sites in Fulbourn, and is perhaps the one about which least is known.

Two significant Saxon monuments run through this area and are major landscape features in their own right. Devils Dyke (CHER 07801) consists of a massive bank and ditch running 12km south-east from Reach to Woodditton. At its peak, the bank is 11 metres in height and is the largest Anglo-Saxon defensive dyke in Britain. Fleam Dyke (CHER 07889), another large Anglo-Saxon bank and ditch, runs from Balsham through the wettest parts of Fulbourn Fen within this area, where it terminates as an upstanding monument (Taylor 1998, vol. 2). Investigations were undertaken when part of the ditch was removed in order to widen the A11. Excavations though both monuments in the 1990s have revealed a complex series of ditch cuttings with associated layers of dumped chalk and soil (Malim in Oosthuizen 2000).

Historic parks and gardens are present in this area at Anglesey Abbey, Swaffham Prior House and Wilbraham Temple, all of which have their origins in the late 19th/early 20th century and characteristically have been developed from grounds of a much earlier house. The formal and landscaped gardens of 47 hectares at Anglesey Abbey date from 1926 onwards and surround the former 13th-century Augustinian priory. Gardens and parkland at Swaffham Prior House comprise of 56 hectares (138 acres) laid out between 1814 and 1834, and substantially enlarged during the 1880s. Wilbraham Temple has an early 19th-century park and gardens, with late 20th-century additions, surrounding a house of 17th-century origin. The site has pleasure grounds covering 22 hectares, within the larger estate (www.parksandgardens.ac.uk).

There is no surviving evidence of ancient woodlands, commons or heaths in this area.

Landscaped parkland can be found at Bottisham Park within the grounds of the late 18th century Bottisham Hall. The RCHM dates the original park to the late 18th century, but a map of 1759 clearly shows the parkland area already in existence with road re-routing having taken place.

Enclosure from historic parkland accounts for two large areas; one at Quy Hall, Stow-cum-Quy, which also held an 18th century deer park and one at Allington Hill near Six Mile Bottom. A deer park was also located at Quy Hall.

The parish of Horningsea, within this area has physical and documented evidence of coprolite works and digging in the 19th century. The fossil bed from which this material was extracted extended across the east and south of the county; it was up to 10km wide in some parts and was extracted from pits up to 5m deep (O'Connor in Oosthuizen, 2000).

Regular fields created from 19th century enclosure dominate the layout of the landscape still, most of which are regular and follow parish boundaries and roads. Within the middle of the area, in a depression within the topographical layout are a cluster of fields of recently created or recently modified fen enclosures.

The Modern Landscape

The smooth rolling chalkland hills, now covered by cereals more frequently than by grass, offer a broad-scale landscape of large, very late enclosure fields with low thorn hedges and few trees. Roads are often lined with shelter belts of beech, particularly to the eastern end and these, together with hill-top clumps and copses, offer a little diversity and occasional reference points. This is a visually continuous landscape, historically very open, uninterrupted and flowing, with occasional long views over the lower land (Natural England Character Area 87).

Airfields present in the modern landscape account for two large sites in this area. A large area on the far western side of the area on the outskirts of Cambridge is occupied for transport and communications and is the home of Marshall's Cambridge which comprises an airport, engineering works and vehicle sales.

Bottisham airfield was constructed in 1940. Today, few traces of the airfield remain as the land has all been reclaimed for farming, however a few buildings survive which are in agricultural use.

The close proximity to Newmarket accounts for large areas being used for horse breeding and training. To the immediate south of Bottisham Park, regular fields and exercise tracks are present.

Settlements within the western side of the area are within easy reach of Cambridge, as well as the major roads such as the A14 and A11, and this has impacted on population, residential growth and development. Fulbourn, for example, had doubled its size from the 1950s to the 1970s and has continued to expand ever since (Taylor 1998, vol. II). Most of the settlements within the area are located on the northern side, along the route of the B1102 including Stow-cum-Quy, Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Burwell. The location of settlements may also have been affected by drainage and water supply as further south in the area there is a general absence of these services.

Villages in this area have a traditional appearance, with houses constructed of brick or 'clunch' (building chalk) under thatched roofs. Many of them have absorbed significant 20th-century development, as more villages have become dormitories for Cambridge (Natural England Character Area 87).

HECA NO. 19: MIDDLE TO LOWER CAM VALLEY²²

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 19 comprises the parishes and parts of:

Milton Landbeach Horningsea Waterbeach

Parts of all of these parishes fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This small character area lies on the south-western side of Cambridgeshire and is between HECA Numbers 1, 5 and 10; the southern edge of the area borders Cambridge. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been shaped by various factors including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. Much of the historic and modern landscape are characterised and influenced by the course of the River Cam, which flows through the area

The terrain of the area respects the low lying level of the River Cam where the lowest point within the river bed is little over 2-3mOD. On either side the ground rises slightly to a maximum of around 15mOD.

The underlying geology of the area varies. The course of the River Cam is alluvium with Second Terrace river gravels on the western side. Further north, where the land rises, just to the south of Waterbeach, the geology changes to Gault clay (BGS Sheet 188).

The overlying soils are primarily loamy and clayey floodplain deposits with naturally high groundwater which follow the route of the river. This area is moderately wet with moderate fertility levels, best suited to habitats of wet flood meadows with wet carr woodlands in old river meanders and a land cover of mostly arable with some grassland. Either side of the Cam, the soils are free-draining, lime-rich loamy soils which are moderately fertile, suited to herb-rich chalk and limestone pastures and lime-rich deciduous woodlands. Land cover is predominantly arable with grass at higher altitude.

Historic Landscape

Little evidence of the historic landscape, other than 19th century enclosure, is still evident today; there are no registered parks or gardens, commons or heaths, landscaped parklands or ancient woodlands. Two historical monuments are present within the parish of Waterbeach: the Car Dyke Roman canal and Waterbeach Abbey.

Car Dyke (or The Old Tillage) is a Scheduled Monument (SM) and runs in a southerly direction from Cambridge Road, Waterbeach to the railway line. The ditch and banks which survive today are the remains of a Roman canal, which linked the River Cam at Waterbeach with a tributary of the Great Ouse, The Old West, at Cottenham.

²² Referred to as Upper Cam Valley in the spatial dataset

During the Roman period, major pottery production centres were established at Horningsea and Water Newton, and natural rivers and artificial canals were used to transport goods around. Extensive amounts of Horningsea pottery as found alongside Car Dyke linked to the nearby pottery industry at Horningsea and along the banks of The River Cam from Milton. It is also highly likely that agricultural produce from adjacent farms would also have been transported along the canal²³.

Waterbeach Abbey is a Scheduled Monument (SM) and is currently on the English Heritage At Risk Register 2009 (due to its vulnerability to flood damage). The site lies within the triangle formed by the junction of the River Cam and the Car Dyke. A moat protects the eastern half of the site and a second ditch runs across the middle through a shallow circular depression into the moat; to the west is a cart track. Excavations in 1963 revealed some footings but no definite plan. Medieval pottery including imported French, St Neots and Stamford wares were recovered. Other finds include bronze implements and a stone mortar (/www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

The area is also home to the Roman Horningsea pottery kiln sites which lie within or close to, Eye Hall Farm Horningsea, at Clayhithe. Kilns have also be found on the western bank of the River Cam at Waterbeach and close to Milton. Evidence of Roman occupation has been recorded over most of the land from Cambridge to Waterbeach and on either side of the River Cam.

Horningsea parish has documented evidence of coprolite works and diggers in the 19th century. The fossil bed from which it was extracted extended across the east and south of the county, up to 10km wide in some parts and extracted from pits up to 5m deep (O'Connor in Oosthuizen 2000).

The Modern Landscape

Fields on the western side of the River Cam are modified or recent fen enclosures which correspond with the underlying loamy floodplain soils. These fields are regular in shape, mostly rectangular and respect the straight line of the railway line and drainage ditches either side, suggesting the fields were created/laid out after the construction of the railway in this area. To the east and west, where soils become more freely draining, the need for man-made drainage is evidently reduced and fields are bigger and less regular. These were mostly created in the 19th century as a result of enclosure.

On the immediate west side of the Cam are long stretches of riverine meadow running through the parish of Milton. The route of the Cam also influenced / defines the parish boundaries, dividing Horningsea from Milton and Waterbeach. This riverine landscape has a flat well defined alluvial floodplain, perhaps explaining why this area has remained undeveloped.

²³ www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archaeology/outreach/sites

The River Cam in this part of the county is liable to flooding and a number of locks along its route attempt to counteract the problem. The stretch between Jesus Lock in Cambridge and Baits Bite Lock east of Milton is a popular location for rowing. There are also many residential boats on this stretch, their occupants forming a community who call themselves the Camboaters.

HECA NO. 20: GRANTA VALLEY

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the central, southern part of Cambridgeshire, and the lower boundary bordering with the county of Essex, this area comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Grantchester</i>	<i>Haslingfield</i>	<i>Harston</i>	<i>Great Shelford</i>
<i>Little Shelford</i>	<i>Stapleford</i>	<i>Sawston</i>	<i>Whittlesford</i>
<i>Newton</i>	<i>Babraham</i>	<i>Pampisford</i>	<i>Hinxton</i>
<i>Little Abington</i>	<i>Great Abington</i>	<i>Duxford</i>	<i>Ickleton</i>
<i>Hildersham</i>	<i>Linton</i>		

Of these, parts of Granchester, Little Shelford, Hildersham, Haslingfield, Stapleford, Babraham, Great Abington, Linton, Pampisford, Whittlesford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Duxford, Great Shelford and Sawston fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This area lies to the south of the county and has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other information including the underlying terrain, soils and geology.

The topography of the area is relatively flat, lying at around 15mOD. It rises significantly towards the southern part of the area in the southern part of the parishes of Linton and The Abingtons where it meets north-east Essex towards Saffron Walden and where the geology begins to change to the north Essex claylands. In these parishes the land rises up to around 80mOD. There is also a rise in ground level within Stapleford parish at the Gog-Magog Hills where the highest point is 70mOD and just to the south-east at Babraham where Meggs Hill reaches 60mOD. Rivey Hill just north of Linton is 112m OD at its highest point. This area is clearly influenced by the route of the River Cam/Granta which runs through it and the topography in the northern part of the area is also related. Where The Cam deviates through Grantchester and Haslingfield, the river valley falls to around 7-10mOD.

The underlying geology of the area varies mostly between different formations of chalk, changing from the north-west of the area towards the south-east, which respects the changing topography of the landscape. River terrace deposits of silt, sand and gravel lie within the bed of the Cam, with alluvium silt, clay sand and gravel are found above it at the very base of the river.

The overlying soils of this area are mainly lime-rich, loamy and free draining with moderate to high levels of fertility. The soils suit lime-rich vegetation and rich, deciduous woodland. The land cover is mainly arable and grassland, often in areas of higher altitude. The immediate area, along the course of the river and its tributaries, is a loamy floodplain with naturally high levels of groundwater and a high water table. In these areas, wet carr woodlands, which are formed when a fen is left unmanaged small shrubs and trees may start to grow, thrive in former river meanders.

Historic Landscape

This area has three Roman Roads running through it. Worstead Street (Margary's Roman Road 21b, current A11) is thought to be part of the Via Devana, which linked the Roman towns at Godmanchester and Cambridge with Colchester. It also defines the parish boundaries in this area between Babraham, Pampisford and Hinxton (on the west) and Little Abington and Great Abington (on the east). The Ickniel Way (Route 333) and Ashwell Street (230) are Roman Roads with prehistoric origins (Malim in Oosthuizen 2000) that run almost parallel through this area.

Truncating the Worstead Street Roman Road, south of Great Abington, is the Brent Ditch. This is a bank and ditch linear earthwork running south-east to north-west and is linked to the Fleam Dyke and Devils Ditch to the north. The remains of this territorial and defensive boundary, which dates from the Saxon period, respect the route of Worstead Street where it terminates on one side (Malim in Oosthuizen 2000).

Wandlebury Camp occupies the crest of the Gog-Magog hills in the parish of Stapleford. Excavations in 1955-6 have shown that the Iron Age hillfort at Wandlebury was constructed in the 4th century BC, after which time it fell out of use, before being refortified with a triple bank and ditch in the early 1st century AD. Earlier Bronze Age origins for this monument are also theorised. During the 19th century a country house was built at Wandlebury, and the interior defences of the hillfort were levelled to make way for gardens. Gogmagog House was demolished in the 1950s and the site was acquired by the Cambridgeshire Preservation Society in 1954.

There were many ancient woodlands in the area, among those surviving is Borley Wood, in Linton parish, which stands on the high ground north-east of the village. In 1279 Barham manor had 130 acres of woodland, later divided into Borley Wood to the west, covering c. 38 hectares, in 1786, and Shortwood to the south-east, then containing 15 hectares. Large areas of ancient woodland were clearly reclaimed for agricultural use in the past, this is most evidence at Borley Wood where a large regular-shaped portion of the area was enclosed in the 19th century.

There were a number of historic parklands in this area, including Abington Hall, Babraham Hall, Hinxton Hall, Trumpington and Wandlebury.

Enclosure in the mid to late 19th and early 20th century radically altered the landscape creating an irregular arrangement of generally rectangular fields.

Parishes within the north-western part of this area have documented evidence of coprolite works and diggers in the 19th century. The fossil bed from which it was extracted extended across the east and south of the county, up to 10km wide in some parts of the county and extracted from pits up to 5m deep (O'Connor in Oosthuizen, 2000).

The northern boundary of this area is defined by the change in the shapes and layout of the parishes. The northern limits of the parishes of Great Shelford, Babraham, Little Abington, Hildersham and Linton border just two other parishes: Fulbourn and Balsham. The parishes in this character area are much smaller, irregular shaped with staggered, sinuous boundaries. Those on the other side to the north, however, (in HECA numbers 18 and 25) are long, regular parishes which are aligned north-west to south-east.

The Modern Landscape

The area is dominated by large settlements including the south-western tip of Cambridge which has encompassed much of Trumpington and Grantchester. The villages comprise Great Shelford, Sawston, Great Chesterford and Linton, all of which are located on the Cam and are well situated for commuting to Cambridge and to London via the nearby M11 and by the train line on the western side of the area. Communication routes influence the growth and character of this area. The M11 runs through this area and provides easy access for commuters to London and Cambridge, which has no doubt influenced the expansion of settlements such as Shelford, Whittlesford and Sawston. The A11 provides a link from the M11 across to Newmarket and the high speed rail link on the western side of the area has stations at Whittlesford, Great Chesterford and Shelford.

The proximity to road and rail networks may account for the number of industrial areas around Sawston and Shelford as well as large quarries around Duxford and Harston.

The only identified dedicated leisure area in this area is Wandlebury Country Park which has 110 acres of woodland, parkland and chalk meadows with public access for recreation.

Following the route of the Cam and the Granta, tree plantations and riverine meadow exploit the natural wet, loamy and clayey soils; areas that are unsuitable for housing development.

HECA No. 21: Gamlingay Heath ²⁴

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 14 comprises the parishes and parts of:

Gamlingay	Hatley	Tadlow	Longstowe	Arrington
Croydon	Kingston	Wimpole	Little Gransden	

Of these, parts of Gamlingay, Little Gransden and Kingston fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the south-western side of Cambridgeshire and is located between HECA numbers 11, 15 and 21. Some of the western-most parishes within this area border Bedfordshire. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other factors including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. Much of the modern landscape retains evidence of its historical character of ancient woodlands in addition to a number of historic parks and gardens.

The topography of the area is relatively level across the central and northern parts at approximately 100mOD. However, the land falls away quite dramatically on the east and west sides to around 50mOD and even more notably close to the southern border of the area where it falls to around 20mOD.

The underlying geology of the area is mostly boulder clay. Where the land falls away, corresponding with the topography, the bedrock beneath becomes Middle and Lower Chalk and further south the geology changes to East Anglian Chalk (BGS sheet 204).

The overlying soils are highly fertile, lime-rich, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage which support habitats of rich pastures and ancient woodlands and have a land cover of arable with some grassland.

Historic Landscape

The major Roman Road of Ermine Street runs through the area and has clearly influenced the landscape in the past. There was an extensive Roman settlement on Ermine Street at Arrington Bridge, the southern tip of the parish at the ford crossing of the River Rhee. This point was also the junction between Ermine Street and Akeman Street, the Roman road to the settlement at Cambridge [Duroliponte]. The straight route of Ermine Street stands out in this area as it creates the boundary between the parishes of Arrington and Wimpole. All the other parish boundaries are irregular and sinuous, suggesting that Ermine Street divided an earlier, larger territory in two.

²⁴ Referred to as Croydon Clays in the spatial dataset

This area had a number of ancient woodlands. Hayley Wood lies on a flat hill top, covered with thick boulder clay. It dates back to at least the 13th century and was once part of lands owned by the Bishop of Ely. The woods were once coppiced, which allowed wood to be a renewable, reliable source of energy (charcoal), or building materials. Once transport of coal via railways became cheap in the 19th century, the intensive coppice management ceased. The Cambridge to Bedford railway line constructed in 1863 and abandoned in 1969, aided this decline. The site is now owned and managed by The Wildlife Trust. Other ancient woodlands in the area include Eversden Wood, Kingston Wood, Buff Wood and Gilrags Wood.

The deserted medieval village of Clopton is situated to the west of Croydon village. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, it is known from documentary sources to have had a market in the 13th century. The village seems to have gone into decline during the later middle ages, and was finally deserted during the early 16th century. All that remains today are the earthwork traces of the village layout, however the site remains one of the best preserved Deserted Medieval Village in Britain and is a Scheduled Monument.

There are a significant number of medieval moated manor sites in this area including those at Hatley, Croydon, Tadlow and three moats within the parish of Kingston alone (James in Ooustuizen 2000).

Historic parks and gardens are also a feature of this area, the main one being the National Trust property of Wimpole Hall, the grounds of which total more than 200 hectares. The impressive southern approach is over 3 miles long, stretching into other parishes to the south. The Park at Wimpole Hall was created in 1302. The estate and parkland that surrounds Wimpole Hall is an example of the work of some of the most prominent 18th and 19th century landscape designers and gardeners. The Hall was built in 1640 and replaced an earlier moated manor house, but the gardens were developed by Charles Bridgeman, Robert Greening, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and Humphrey Repton. The gardens feature a wide variety of separate areas reflecting the work of the many designers involved with the creation of the landscape. The site includes a lake, folly, walled garden and Chinese bridge in over 200 hectares of designed landscape. (www.parksandgardens.ac.uk).

Hatley Park on the western side of the area today covers more than 120 hectares. Originally a medieval deer park, Hatley Park had many phases of development in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Although the largest programme of development took place in the 19th century when the whole area was transformed into a landscaped park, the house that the gardens surround was constructed in the 17th century. (www.parksandgardens.ac.uk).

With the improved ploughs of the Middle Ages, the population pressure grew on the higher heavier claylands and the pattern of agricultural landscapes developed. Many settlements from this time have subsequently either shrunk or been deserted which has led to a richness of archaeology in a more sparsely populated landscape (Natural England Character Area 88).

Fields of early enclosure survive in this area with 19th and 20th century enclosures making a small impact. The later enclosures are not regular and suggest gradual rather than rapid enclosure.

The Modern Landscape

The landscape of the area is typically an empty, gently undulating lowland landscape with expansive views of large scale arable farmland, contained either by sparse trimmed hedgerows, open ditches or stream-side vegetation (Natural England Character Area 88).

Small villages and hamlets are scattered throughout the area, usually in sheltered places with existing trees and small grass paddocks typically occurring on the edges of the villages.

Wimpole Hall and park attracts many visitors to the historic house, gardens as well as to the working farm.

Very little modern activity has impacted on the character of this area.

HECA NO. 22: THE CAM OR RHEE VALLEY

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the south western part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 22 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Guilden Morden</i>	<i>Steeple Morden</i>	<i>Abington Pigotts</i>
<i>Litlington</i>	<i>Croydon</i>	<i>Shingay-Cum-Wendy</i>
<i>Arrington</i>	<i>Wimpole</i>	<i>Whaddon</i>
<i>Orwell</i>	<i>Meldreth</i>	<i>Bassingbourn-Cum-Kneesworth</i>
<i>Melbourn</i>	<i>Harston</i>	<i>Barrington</i>
<i>Shepreth</i>	<i>Fowlmere</i>	<i>Foxton</i>
<i>Thriplow</i>	<i>Newton</i>	<i>Harston</i>
<i>Hasslingfield</i>		

Of these, parts of Guilden Morden, Litlington, Orwell, Melbourn, Shepreth, Thriplow, Hasslingfield, Steeple Morden, Meldreth, Harlton, Fowlmere, Abington Pigotts, Bassingbourn, Barrington, Foxton and Harlton fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the south western side of Cambridgeshire, bordering parts of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire on its western side. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been shaped by various factors including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. The course of the River Cam (or Rhee) runs through this area and has no doubt influenced settlement and land use.

The topography of the area respects and follows the course of The Cam, flowing from east to west through it, and the change in the terrain is gradual. The areas on either side are much higher, although not significant in absolute heights. The area lies at approximately 15mOD with clear higher points in the north-east and south-west where the valley rises up to around 60mOD. Where The Cam enters the area on the eastern side, its course is at around 5mOD.

The underlying geology of the area varies in three bands from north to south. In the northern part of the area the geology is comprised of Gault Clay with occasional “islands” of chalk, the middle band is of lower chalk and the lower band is middle chalk.

The overlying soils, like the geology, differ either side of the River Cam. On the north side of the river (above the clay) and the continued depression of its course towards the west, the soils are lime-rich, loamy and clayey with impeded drainage. These soils are very fertile and support habitats of rich pastures and classic ancient woodlands, some wetter areas and lime-rich flush vegetation. The land cover is predominantly arable with some grassland. The middle of the “valley” has restored soils, mostly from quarry and opencast spoil. Fertility of the soil is low to moderate and supports variable habitats; it covered mostly with grassland, arable and trees. South of the valley bed (above the chalk), the soils are free draining, lime-rich and loamy, moderately fertile with arable and some grassland at higher altitudes, supporting habitats of rich and deciduous woodland.

Historic Landscape

The course of the Cam (also known as the Rhee) crosses the area and has clearly influenced the location of numerous settlements along its route and those of its tributaries. Settlements in the clay landscapes of Cambridgeshire are often sparsely populated with small villages nestling in gentle valleys (Natural England Area 88) and this description applies to the northern part of the area which lies upon the Gault Clay. In the southern part of the area, south of the River Cam, settlement size is much bigger with larger, nucleated villages and towns. Much of this settlement expansion, however, occurred in the late 20th century, as road and rail links to London made this area ideal for commuters.

Ermine Street (Margary's route 2b), the Roman Road which linked Royston and Godmanchester, runs through the area on a north-west to south-east alignment. The straight line of the road stands out simply by the borders it creates between parishes. The road appears to separate or have determined the divisions of between Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth and Shingay-cum-Wendy from Melbourn and Whaddon and Arrington from Wimpole. This pattern of divided parishes continues in HECA number 8 to the immediate north. Akeman Strees (Margary's route 23a) also runs through this area from Ermine Street at Wimpole Lodge to Cambridge. Another probable route (Margary's route 17b) also runs westward from this point (Malim in Oousthuizen 2000).

There are a number of medieval moated sites within this area, particularly on the south-western side of the Cam valley, where a cluster can be found within the parishes of Steeple Morden, Abington Pigotts and Whaddon.

Ancient woodland is present at Cobbs Wood, Wimpole and is currently part of the estate, although little information could be found about its origins or current use.

The only surviving historic enclosed parkland is at Barrington Hall which dates from the 17th century. Today the garden still contains the moat in addition to lawns and trees (www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

Nineteenth century enclosure has clearly impacted on the landscape of the area and the irregular layout of the fields created at this time would suggest it was a gradual rather than a rapid process. Interspersed between these fields created and modified during the 19th century are a number of fields which have been modified from much earlier enclosures. These are often irregular and their boundaries stop at roads, which may have divided them, and on occasions they extend beyond parish boundaries.

The Modern Landscape

A significant feature on the landscape of the area is the military facility north of Bassingbourn. RAF Bassingbourn was constructed 1937-39 in the parishes of Shingay-cum-Wendy and Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, immediately to the west of the A1198 road. The site selected for this was low lying ground located between several watercourse tributaries of the River Cam.

Leisure Areas include a golf course near Meldreth, a large nature reserve and visitor centre at Fowlmere, and an 86-acre nature reserve designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest owned and managed by the RSPB. The name Fowlmere comes from the nature of the site before 1800 when it was an area of open water which was a habitat for large numbers of wildfowl.

A large quarry north of Barrington, is used to extract clay for use in the manufacture of cement. Large-scale extraction has allowed for archaeological intervention over the past ten years which has identified activity ranging from Late Iron Age enclosures through to medieval field systems as well as a large Neolithic to Late Bronze Age pit or shaft revealed during further evaluation in 2006.

A number of fields west of Meldreth are designated for horticulture, making the most of the fertile soils in this part of the area.

Settlements in this area are mostly small, other than Melbourn for which, whilst supporting a wide range of modern housing, the old charm of the village remains and many thatched cottages have survived. It was said that in 1947 'there were more thatched cottages in Melbourn than in any village', although sadly, many have disappeared since then. However, the remaining ones do provide an insight into how the village appeared at the turn of the century before a great fire swept through the centre of the village, razing many residences to the ground. Being in such a prime position, with easy access to train stations in neighbouring Meldreth and Royston and bus routes, it is a popular location for commuters to Cambridge and London. Community development such as the ongoing construction of the new church hall and planning application of a possible Parish office, library and community hall, various clubs, organisations and educational programmes prevent it from becoming just a 'commuter' village (melbourncambridge.co.uk).

HECA NO. 23: THE ICKNIELD WAY PATH

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the southern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 23 is located on the southern edge of Cambridgeshire, on the border with Hertfordshire and comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Guilden Morden</i>	<i>Steeple Morden</i>	<i>Littlington</i>
<i>Melbourn</i>	<i>Fowlmere</i>	<i>Thriplow</i>
<i>Whittlesford</i>	<i>Bassingbourn-Cum-Kneesworth</i>	

Parts of all of these parishes fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the south side of Cambridgeshire and is between HECA numbers 20, 22 and 24. The four westernmost parishes within this area border Hertfordshire. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other sources including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. Much of the modern landscape retains evidence of its historical character of enclosure and has been very little affected by modern development or extensive urban settlement. Lying close to the Hertfordshire border and to Royston, this area has surviving remnants of the Roman roads of Ermine Street and The Icknield Way,

The topography varies across the area from north to south. In the south-western part of the area, close with the Hertfordshire border, and at the foot of the an area of land which rises up into Therfield and Royston, the altitude reaches around 55-60mOD. Towards the east, the land continues to fall away from the south to a plateau, in this part lying at around 25mOD.

The underlying geology of the area is predominantly on Middle Chalk (BGS sheet 204 Biggleswade), part of the East Anglian Chalk group (LDU).

The changes in the overlying soils correspond with the topography of the area. Over the higher ground to the west are shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone. This soil is freely draining and loamy and the lime-rich quality makes it fertile for arable and grassland. Towards the east, on the lower ground levels, the quality of the soil is very similar; a free draining lime-rich loamy soil, moderately fertile and best suited to arable with some grassland on the higher land.

Historic Landscape

This area has almost no watercourses running through it other than drains, ponds and springs on the eastern side at Fowlmere and Thriplow villages, which may well have influenced the location of these settlements. East Anglian Chalk was historically sparsely populated due to a shortage of wood and water and that villages as did develop clung to the valley sides where conditions were less harsh.

This area has a number of historic route ways which have influenced its development and have potential for further historic sites of interest. It is bounded on the northern side by the route of the Icknield Way Path, Ermine Street runs through it (from Royston heading northwards toward Godmanchester) and the southern boundary of the parish of Melbourn is marked by the route of the Icknield Way. Just south of the area, Royston itself grew up at the intersection of two ancient thoroughfares of Ermine Street and Icknield Way. Ermine Street was constructed by the Romans but the prehistoric Icknield Way said to be 'the oldest road in Britain', was ancient even before the Romans invaded Britain. Extending from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Knettishall Heath in Norfolk, in many places the track consists or consisted of several routes, particularly as it passes along the line of the escarpment of the Chilterns, probably because of the seasonal usage, and possibly the amount of traffic especially of herds or flocks of livestock. Dotted with archaeological remains, it survives as tracks and green lanes along the chalk downlands.

Trackways and linear features on a north-south orientation have been identified running parallel within Bassingbourn parish. The Mile Ditches appear as three roughly parallel ditches which extend from Therfield Heath to the Bassingbourn spring-head (4.8km to the north). There were banks but these were levelled in World War II. Excavation, undertaken in 1978, although not producing datable artefacts, did find a cow skull which was radiocarbon dated to 130 BC (Iron Age). The relationship of the Mile Ditches and Icknield Way is unclear but they run perpendicular to the routeway. Beldam goes further to suggest that the ditches terminated each side of the road (19th Century). Similar ditches of Iron Age date run from the Chilterns and are interpreted as territorial boundaries.

Bran or Heydon Ditch runs through this area creating the boundary between the parishes of Melbourn and Fowlmere. This is a bank and ditch linear dyke dating from the Saxon period which acted as a territorial and defensive boundary

There is no evidence of common land, ancient woodland or parkland in this area. Its historic landscape seems to have largely been shaped and influenced by arable and agricultural practices.

There are very few moats in this area other than a small cluster within the parish of Melbourn.

Nineteenth century enclosure was a gradual process across the parishes within the area, slowly working its way through Enclosure Awards between 1806 at Bassingbourn through to 1850 in Fowlmere. Within each parish it created regular, square or (mostly) rectangular fields which are almost all aligned with roads and parish boundaries.

The Modern Landscape

Little impact from modern activities is evident in this area.

Despite the size of some of the parishes, all of the settlements within this area comprising Fowlmere, Thriplow and Duxford are quite small. All located in the eastern part of the area and all were influenced in terms of their location and development by the Icknield Way (Taylor 1997). These villages have a traditional appearance, with houses constructed of brick or 'clunch' (building chalk) under thatched roofs. Many of them have absorbed significant 20th-century development, as more villages have become dormitories for Cambridge, Baldock and Royston and improved transport systems have made commuting to London possible (Natural England Character Area 87).

A private landing strip for small aircraft west of Fowlmere is all that remains of former RAF Fowlmere. Flying at Fowlmere originated in 1918 when the airfield was used by the Royal Air Force and United States Army. Ongoing quarrying for chalk extraction is slowly impacting on fields in the part of the area, south of Steeple Morden. Prior to extraction, these fields have been subject to archaeological investigation. The Hitchin to Cambridge Railway runs through the area, however there are no stations located on this part of its route.

HECA NO. 24: THE CHISHILL RIDGE²⁵

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

This character area is located in the very southern tip of Cambridgeshire on the border with Essex. This area comprises the parishes and parts of:

Great and Little Chishill Heydon Fowlmere Duxford Ickleton

Parts of all of these parishes fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other sources including the terrain, underlying soils and geology.

The topography of the area slope down from the south where it joins the Essex Hills in Great and Little Chishill, which reach up to c.147m above sea level. Towards the north of the area, the hills dip to a plateau at approximately 30mOD.

The solid geology within this area is predominantly chalk, changing in type from north to south, following the topographical change of the landscape in this location. The higher ground comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk with deposits of alluvial silt, sand gravel and peat around the parishes of Duxford and Fowlmere. As the land slopes down, new pit chalk is encountered followed by Holywell Nodular chalk at the lowest point, which continues into Essex to the south.

The overlying soils also vary, in respect of underlying geology and terrain. The soils are all free draining and lime rich, which results in very fertile land suitable for arable and grassland. The south-eastern edge of the area, around the settlements of Great Chishill and Chrishall is particularly suited to woodland due to its slightly impeded drainage and wetter areas.

Historic Landscape

Running through this area on a north-west to south-east orientation is the route of the Icknield Way, which dates from Neolithic times. Extending from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Knettishall Heath in Norfolk, in many places the track consists or consisted of several routes, particularly where it passes along the line of the escarpment of the Chilterns. This was probably the result of the seasonal usage of the route, and possibly the amount of traffic especially of herds or flocks of livestock. Dotted with archaeological remains, it survives as tracks and green lanes along the chalk downlands. A possible Roman gallows site with eight burials was identified alongside the route of the Icknield Way by a dowser in the mid 1980s, within The Chishills parish (www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

²⁵ Referred to as Lower Chalk Valley in the spatial dataset

Ancient woodlands were present in the southern part of the area, close to the Essex border and ancient field systems are evident from strip lynchets to the north-west of Great Chishill, which indicate previous common land.

Bran or Heydon Ditch runs through this area, creating the boundary between the parishes of Melbourn and Fowlmere. This is a bank and ditch linear dyke dating from the Saxon period which acted as a territorial and defensive boundary.

Mid 19th century enclosure clearly altered the landscape, although field boundaries and enclosures were not regular suggesting it was a piecemeal and gradual process. Most of the field boundaries respect and follow the lines of the parish boundaries.

The Modern Landscape

The landscape is predominantly arable, interspersed with small villages, copses and country lanes. Many villages contain examples of traditional rural architecture and until recently many of the area's inhabitants worked within the agricultural industry. Like many of the villages in South Cambridgeshire within such close proximity to the M11 and train line into London (from Royston), this area is largely inhabited by commuters.

Tree plantation and orchard features can be seen to exist around the settlement of Great Chishill.

The Imperial War Museum to the west of the village of Duxford was used as a military airfield during both World Wars. It has maintained and still uses its wartime buildings, such as the control tower, operations room and hangers which were used in the 1940s. Built during World War I, it was one of the earliest bases established.

HECA NO. 25: RADFIELD HUNDRED

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the south eastern part of Cambridgeshire this area comprises the parishes and parts of

<i>Balsham</i>	<i>West Wratting</i>	<i>Western Colvile</i>
<i>Carlton Brinkley</i>	<i>Westerley Waterless</i>	<i>Burrough Green</i>

Of these, parts of Balsham and West Wratting fall within Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas and parts of Brinkley and Burrough Green fall within East Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the eastern side of Cambridgeshire. It has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied in conjunction with other information including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. One particular character of the area is the alignment and regular boundaries of the parishes within it. The boundaries all run parallel from north-west to south-east and make up part of the “Radfield Hundred” (Victoria County History) which has been used for the areas character name.

The topography of the area alters from the north-west where the land lies at around 40mOD, towards the south east where it peaks at approximately 120mOD.

The underlying geology of the area is primarily East Anglian Chalk, however the eastern limit borders the change into the South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands. The geology of the western side of the area is new pit Chalk Formation, rising up towards the Lewes nodular and Sea ford Chalk, finally becoming the Lowestoft formation chalky, sandy stoney clay on the eastern side of the area.

The changes in the overlying soils mostly correspond with the changes in topography and geology. The soils on the western side and middle of the area are mostly freely-draining lime-rich, moderately fertile soils with a loamy texture and suit land cover of arable and grassland. Eastwards and on higher ground, the soil becomes more clayey with impeded drainage and is more fertile for lime-rich flush vegetation and ancient woodland. The land cover of this area is mainly arable with some grassland.

There are few rivers and streams in the area. The soils are free-draining, as is the underlying chalk. There is an increase in the number of man-made drains and ponds on the eastern side of the area, especially around Westley Waterless and the eastern end of Brinkley parish, where the soils become more clayey.

Historic Landscape

This area, along with the parishes of Dullingham and Stetchworth to the north (within HECA Number 26), are part of the Radfield Hundred which comprises the parishes bordered to the west by the prehistoric Ickniel Way, to the north by the Anglo-Saxon Devils Dyke and to the south by the Roman Road, Worstead Street. All the parishes within the hundred are long and narrow, running south-eastwards from the Ickniel Way. With the exception of Westley Waterless, they all stretch the full width of the hundred. Balsham is the least elongated, but is still more than twice as long as it is wide. As a result each parish falls into similar sections. Following the line of the Ickniel Way and passing through the north-western edge of each is the main London-Newmarket road (now the A11) which was turnpiked in 1724.

Before enclosure sheep were kept on the heath and open fields. Barley was the chief grain crop. Since enclosure the area has been devoted to mixed farming. It is entirely agricultural; in the north-east of the hundred some farms are given over to breeding and training race-horses. In all the parishes population increased in the early 19th century, but fell after 1851 and in most places was little higher in 1971 than 150 years before. Exceptions were Balsham, which provided accommodation for Cambridge workers, and the villages near Newmarket (A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 6).

The eastern side of the area borders HECA numbers 26 and 28 which contain a number of ancient woodland. This area too, on the eastern side has ancient woodland, a characteristic of the county as it nears the Suffolk border. Balsham Wood is an ancient and semi-natural woodland (and an identified SSSI by Natural England). Located at the south-east end of the parish, it now covers an area of c. 34.6 hectares and represents the remains of a once extensive woodland. In the northern part of the area, Brinkley Wood and Hay Wood/Ladies Grove are examples of more surviving ancient woodland.

There are few settlements in this area, the main ones being Balsham, West Wrattling (part of) and Westley Waterless, all of which are located on the eastern side of the area on the higher ground. Balsham on the chalk heathland at the north-western end of the parish once provided grazing for many sheep. Most land in the parish remained unenclosed until 1806.

The Modern Landscape

The fields in the modern landscape still reflect 19th century enclosure; they are mostly regular, rectangular in plan and generally aligned with the parish boundaries and roads. Less regular remnants of earlier enclosures are still visible around Balsham and the north-west corner of the parish of Brinkley.

Also aligned with and at right angles to, the parish boundaries there are a number of tree plantations in the area.

The smooth rolling chalkland hills, often covered by cereals more frequently than by grass, offer a broad-scale landscape of large, very late enclosure fields with low thorn hedges and few trees. Roads are often lined with shelter belts of beech, particularly close to the eastern end and these, together with hill-top clumps and copses, offer a little diversity and occasional reference points. This is a visually continuous landscape, historically very open, uninterrupted and flowing, with occasional long views over the lower land (Natural England Character Area 87).

HECA NO. 26: NEWMARKET HORSES AND COURSES

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the eastern part of the study area, Historic Environment Character Area 26 comprises the parishes and parts of:

<i>Western Coalville</i>	<i>Carlton</i>	<i>Brinkley</i>	<i>Burrough Green</i>
<i>Dullingham</i>	<i>Stetchworth</i>	<i>Woodditton</i>	<i>Cheverley</i>
<i>Ashley</i>	<i>Swaffham Prior</i>	<i>Swaffham Bulbeck</i>	

Of these, parts of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cheveley, Dullingham, Brinkley and Burrough Green fall within East Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This character area lies on the eastern side of Cambridgeshire and is between HECAs 18, 25, 27 and 28. The eastern-most parishes within this area border Suffolk. This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been shaped by various factors including the terrain, underlying soils and geology. Much of the modern landscape has been influenced by the Newmarket horse racing industry.

The topography of the area changes from the north-west towards the south-east. The north-western part of the area, within the parishes of Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bullbeck, is relatively flat at around 50mOD, it then rises as towards and into Dullingham and Stetchworth, Woodditton and Cheveley. The ground level continues to rise to over 120mOD in much of the rest of the area, falling away again in the eastern part of Carlton. This rise in terrain corresponds with the underlying geology as it occurs where the East Anglian Chalk meets the South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands.

The underlying geology of the area is basically divided into two distinct areas. The north-western half of the area down to the villages of Cheveley, Woodditton, Stetchworth and Dullingham is all on Middle Chalk with Third and Second Terrace River Gravels in river beds. The higher south-eastern half of the area lies on Boulder Clay.

The changes in the overlying soils mostly correspond with the changes in the underlying geological formation. The north-western part of the area over the chalk comprises draining slightly acid but base-rich soils which are high in fertility and suit habitats of base-rich pastures and deciduous woodlands. Land cover here is mostly arable and grassland. Most of the rest of the area are lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage that are highly fertile, a habitat most suited to pastures and classic 'chalky boulder clay' ancient woodlands, some wetter areas and lime-rich flush vegetation.

Historic Landscape

Ancient woodlands and early enclosures are characteristic of the eastern side of the area, close to the Suffolk border. Amongst the woodlands still present are Ditton Park Wood, which in the late 13th century was coppiced and partly the outlying wood-pasture park of Ditton Camoys manor. Other ancient woodlands in the area include Ten Wood, Little and Great Widgham Woods, Carlton Wood, Lophams Wood, Lower Wood, Park Wood, Basefield Wood as well as many more that are heavily depopulated but now protected and preserved woodlands.

The course of the Devils Dyke (or Devils Ditch) survives in this area running from the National Stud, just south of Newmarket through Stetchworth Park (north of Stetchworth and up to Woodditton). Devils Ditch is the largest and most easterly of the Cambridgeshire dykes. It is believed to have been constructed in the Early Saxon period (AD 410 - 600), a time when conflict was rife between adjacent Romano-British populations and incoming Angles and Saxons. The massive earthwork, up to 10m high and 35m wide, may have demarcated the territory of a local warlord, providing control of the movement of people and goods across this strategic corridor. Limited excavations have taken place along the course of the dyke and it has been suggested from the small quantity of silt in the ditch fills that the dyke went out of use shortly after it was constructed.

A number of medieval moated sites survive within this area, which appear to be located on the ridge of higher ground.

Within this area, particularly the area in which the ancient woodlands have survived, there are areas of other early enclosures. This area is notable for the lack of influence from 19th and 20th century enclosure on the landscape.

Large areas of landscaped parkland are noticeable around the area of Dullingham which have also escaped enclosure and despite new purpose today (mostly agriculture) are a remnant of the historic landscape.

The southern tip of the area has undergone extensive quarrying in the past, although no remnant of this is visible in the modern landscape.

The area became a focus of horse breeding from the early 17th century. By the early 18th century people crowded to the racecourses on top of the rolling downland, where the Devils Dyke has changed in function over time and now provides a viewing platform over the racecourse.

The Modern Landscape

Land use is dominated by thoroughbred horse breeding with studs occupying large areas in every direction. Located in the flat land in the area and amongst the many stud farms in this area, is the National Stud which comprises over 500 acres of prime pasture land and is also headquarters of racing in the UK. The leisure industry thrives in this area, on the success of the local stud farms, especially around Newmarket, with large golf courses, an open training ground at Warren Hill and public access for tours and visits of the National Stud.

The rectilinear landscape is subdivided to give a more closely geometric arrangement, as the fences and shelter belts of the stud farms provide a more enclosed pattern, both to shelter their valuable stock and to protect them from external movement that might startle them. Roads in this area are therefore frequently tree-lined to the point, sometimes, of oppression although this disappears as a Breckland character begins to emerge, with a more open landscape, with pine trees and beech and the use of flint with red brick as a building material (from Natural England Character Area 87).

This area has long been sheep-grazing chalk downland but, since the 19th century, it has increasingly been given over to large-scale cereal production despite the poor, thin soils, as a result of modern farming techniques. It is an open, generally tree-less landscape, within which beech shelter belts and copses are a prominent feature (from Natural England Character Area 87).

This area is not vastly populated, with few small, nucleated villages, the largest of which are Cheveley, Stetchworth and Dullingham. Settlements located within the area today mainly grew up around agriculture. Census data for Woodditton and Stetchworth, for example, shows that the majority of the male population of these parishes worked on the land, mostly as agricultural labourers or in associated trades (www.woodditton.org.uk/history). Today, many people living in the area are able to work in Cambridge or Newmarket and road networks in the area provide an easy commute for many. The local stud farms and paddocks also provides employment in the area, for example, Cheveley's non-residential land-use consists almost entirely of paddock land used by studs.

HECA NO. 28: THE CAMPS²⁶

Location, Topography, Geology and Soils

Located in the south eastern tip of Cambridgeshire, bordering Suffolk to the east and Essex to the south, this area comprises the parishes and parts of:

*West Wrattling
Bartlow*

*West Wickham
Shudy Camps*

*Horseheath
Castle Camps*

Linton

Of these, parts of West Wrattling, Bartlow, West Wickham, Castle Camps and Linton fall within South Cambridgeshire District Council Conservation Areas.

This area has been created and defined by the character of the existing landscape (mapped by the HLC project) which has been studied alongside other information including the terrain, underlying soils and geology.

The topography of the area changes from the west towards the east. The western part of the area lies at around 85mOD rising dramatically up to approximately 120m. It is on this higher ground where most of the settlements are located.

The underlying geology of the area is principally South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland. The western boundary of this area is located where the clayland meets the edge of the East Anglian Chalk whilst the western corner of the area, primarily in the parishes of Bartlow and Linton at the lower height OD, lies on chalk.

The changes in the overlying soils mostly correspond with the changes in the underlying geological formation. Most of the area is covered with lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. The soil here is very fertile and suits pasture, ancient woodland and lime-rich vegetation; much of the land cover is arable with some grassland. The western corner within the parishes of Bartlow and Linton is covered with more free- draining lime-rich loamy soils which are moderately fertile and support herb-rich pastures and deciduous woodland; much of the land cover is also arable with grassland at higher altitude.

²⁶ Referred to as The Chishill Ridge in the spatial dataset

Historic Landscape

Ancient woodlands and early enclosures are characteristic of the eastern side of the character area, close to the Suffolk border. The ancient woodland still present are mostly in the north of the area and the largest of which are Rands Wood, Leys Wood, Hare Wood and Langley Wood located on the southern border.

The area has a number of sites of significant historic importance. The Bartlow Hills, a Romano-British barrow cemetery was constructed in the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD, and would have belonged to the wealthiest families in society. Artefacts and provisions would be placed in the barrow alongside the burial, to ensure the occupant's transfer into the afterlife. The cemetery comprises two parallel rows of burial mounds running approximately north-south. Four barrows in the eastern row survive as large conical mounds up to 12m high and 46m in diameter, whilst in the western row another two have been substantially reduced by past agricultural and industrial activity (during the construction of the nearby railway line and cutting).

The Roman road of Worstead Street runs from Worts Causeway, past Worstead Lodge Farm to Horseheath. The route of the road through this area appears to have influenced the layout of parishes on either side. This road is thought to be part of the Via Devana, which linked the Roman towns at Godmanchester and Cambridge with Colchester. There is little evidence for the date of the Roman road, and it is possible that it followed the route of a prehistoric trackway (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archaeology).

Camps Castle is situated in the grounds of Castle Farm and is a rare example of a Norman motte and bailey style castle with a double bailey. The castle, which is the largest in Cambridgeshire, was built by Aubrey de Vere, and became the administrative centre of his vast estate in south-east Cambridgeshire and north-west Essex. The motte (castle mound) is large, and was the site of a tower until the 18th century. The small horseshoe-shaped bailey on the north-west side of the castle was enlarged during the 13th or 14th centuries to include All Saints Church within its confines. The earthworks to the north-east of the castle are the remains of a Deserted Medieval Village, which was abandoned when the settlement shifted to Camps Green during the later Middle Ages. (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archaeology/outreach/sites/site_southcamps.htm).

There are also several medieval moated sites located within this area.

There were deer parks at Horseheath and landscaped parklands at Castle Camps, West Wrattling and at Shudy Camps. Horseheath Hall was once a Saxon estate and later held by one family from the 14th to 18th centuries. In the 15th century a park was created around the hall with a licence to hunt and 100 years later a deer park was added. By 1800 the parkland covered over 300 acres. Castle Camps also had a Deer Park at Camps Castle around which the village grew. The estate was sold in the 15th century after which the land was used for pasture.

The land at West Wrattling Park dates back to the 16th century and is surrounded by landscaped parkland which has absorbed much of a village green and houses which previously stood on it. When the house was sold in 1780 it boasted more than 84 acres (Taylor, 1998, vol 2).

Shudy Camps Park was established in the 18th century when much woodland was cleared to make way for it. The site was acquired by Marmaduke Dayrell who built a mansion on the site of a former manor and surrounded it with a 60 hectare park (Taylor 1998).

The Modern Landscape

Much of the modern landscape is made up of piecemeal enclosure and has surviving evidence of a number of historic parklands and estates.

Modified other early enclosures influence the layout of fields in this area today. There is evidence of 19th and early 20th century enclosure, however, the irregularity and alignment of the fields would indicate that this was a gradual process rather than wholesale, large scale enclosure.

Settlements in the area are Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, Bartlow, Horseheath and West Wickham, all of which have relatively low populations. The population in the area declined from a peak in the mid 19th century. In the west part of the area, nearer to Cambridge, it recovered after the 1940s, while in the east the shrunken settlements were barely more populous in 1970 than in 1800 (www.british-history.ac.uk).

APPENDIX 6
Glossary of Terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS²⁷

Ancient woodland: Woods that are believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.

Biodiversity: The variation among living organisms in all environments, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. It includes diversity within and between species, and between ecosystems.

Climate change: The large-scale, long-term shift in weather patterns and average temperatures across the world. Humans have contributed to the release of greenhouse gases (most notably carbon dioxide) into the air since the mid-1800s – causing temperatures to rise and resulting in permanent changes to the climate, affecting people and ecosystems, through, for example, the flooding of coastal regions and damage to marine ecosystems.

Characterisation* The process of identifying areas of similar character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character.

Characteristics* Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a particular contribution to distinctive character.

Classification* Is concerned with dividing the landscape into areas of distinct, recognisable and consistent common character and grouping areas of similar character together.

County Wildlife Sites: are non-statutory areas of local importance for nature conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites.

Drovweways: an historic route for driving livestock.

Ecosystem Services – These are services provided by the natural environment, that benefit people. Some of these ecosystem services are well known including food, fibre and fuel provision and the cultural services that provide benefits to people through recreation and cultural appreciation of nature. Other services provided by ecosystems are not so well known. These include the regulation of the climate, purification of the air and water, flood protection, soil formation and nutrient recycling. (Defra (2007) An introductory guide to valuing Ecosystem services.)

Elements* Individual components which make up the landscape, such as trees and hedges.

Features* Particularly prominent or eye catching elements, like tree clumps, church towers, or wooded skylines.

²⁷ Adapted from Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014)

Geodiversity: Geological diversity of the varied range of rocks, minerals and topographic characteristics/ landform, together with the processes instrumental in forming these features over geological time. The various components of our geological heritage can give insights into past climates, earlier environments and the development of life on earth.

Green corridor: A strip of green land that connects green areas or hubs and allows the movement and dispersal of wildlife, usually through urban landscapes. Green corridors can also be used to link housing areas to, for example, cycle networks, places of employment, town centres and community facilities, thus promoting walking and cycling.

Key Characteristics^{***} Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.

Land use: The social and economic purpose for which land is managed (housing, agriculture or transport, for example).

Landscape Capacity^{**} The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of the change being proposed.

Landscape Character^{*} A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)^{*} These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each will have its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same type.

Landscape Character Assessment – This is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive. This process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs)^{*} These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern.

Landscape Condition^{**} is based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape, and about its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.

Local Nature Reserves: are accessible sites with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally, which offer people opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

Lodes: navigable channels used to transport goods across the fen.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens: are sites placed on the national 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest' compiled and maintained by Historic England. The Register was established to identify and increase awareness of the existence of such sites and to help ensure that the features and qualities that make these parks and landscapes of national importance are protected and conserved. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to create local registers.

Scheduled Monuments: are monuments places on the schedule compiled and maintained by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest: are sites designated under the Wildlife and Conservation Act 1981 (as amended) for their outstanding interest in respect of flora, fauna, geology and or limnology (inland aquatic ecosystems).

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): are sites designated under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna in respect of flora, fauna and habitats which are considered worthy of conservation at a European level.

Sources:

* The Countryside Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (CAX 84), the Countryside Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage, April 2002.

** The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2002), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Second Edition, London: Spon Press.

*** Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, London: Routledge.



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