

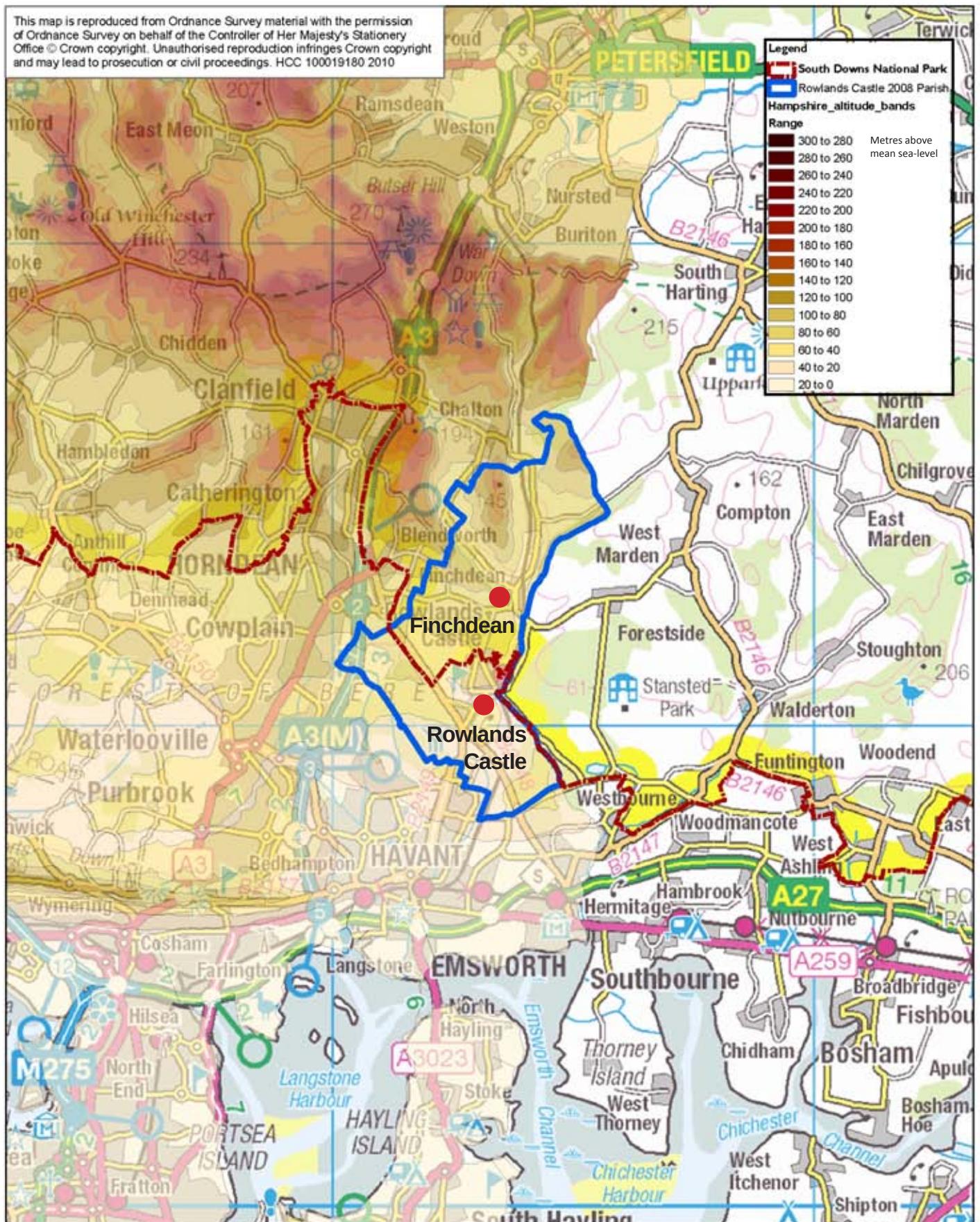
ROWLANDS CASTLE PARISH

Local Landscape Character Assessment

2012



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ROWLANDS CASTLE PARISH- Location Map and Topography



Hampshire
County Council

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Launch of Local Landscape Character Assessment in March 2012

Foreword & Objectives

The Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) aims to record and emphasise those aspects of the landscape of Rowlands Castle Parish that are distinctive and special. It may therefore help and enable residents and local decision-takers alike to protect and enhance the landscape's particular identity and diversity

The Rowlands Castle Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLCA) was prepared by a group of residents at the request of the Rowlands Castle Parish Council. Its compilation has followed the CPRE guideline publication 'Unlocking the Landscape' with collation of information from residents surveys, government sources, local landowners and other public bodies, carried out mainly during 2011 and the final draft published in mid 2012.

The LLCA builds on the 2006 East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment. It incorporates a short history of parish settlement and landscape evolution, a detailed classification of local parish landscape types and information obtained from residents, landowners and other public bodies relating to the parish landscape. From this information a landscape strategy and guidelines have been developed for each of the landscape character areas.

Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) are usually undertaken by local government authorities to help inform the development of planning policy, decisions on future development or, for example, by National Parks, to guide decisions on land management. However the work is mainly carried out by specialists with limited inclusion of the views and opinions of local residents.

'Community led planning' is a process that allows local residents to express what they would like to see happen regarding the social, economic and environmental aspects of where they live and work. Village Design Statements and Parish Plans are an important component of this process and have been produced in Rowlands Castle parish in 2000 and 2008 respectively. These plans are greatly strengthened by adding a clear understanding of how the community relates to the wider local environment in which it is situated; what they perceive as its special qualities, their objectives for maintaining and enhancing landscape quality and the issues that may affect the local landscape. The LLCA is therefore a community led process providing evidence-based information to inform and guide the local planning process.

For Rowlands Castle Parish the following broad objectives have been identified to guide the production of this LLCA,

1. Maintain and develop the essential nature of the parish as an attractive rural environment for residents and visitors.
2. Ensure that a holistic approach is adopted with regard to Neighbourhood Planning.
3. Guide the planning process in order that appropriate locations, guided by environmental considerations, are selected for any new initiatives.
4. Achieve, for the Parish as a whole, a common policy treatment which integrates also the approaches of other potential stakeholders (e.g. SDNP, EHDC, major landowners, WSCC and surrounding Parishes).
5. Identify areas needing investment in order to maintain and enhance the quality of the local environment.

Summary

Detailed discussions of the parish landscape character and proposals for its management are set out in *Rowlands Castle Landscape Character Areas* on page 13. This section briefly reviews the key themes that have emerged.

A. Conserving the vistas, diversity and tranquillity of the landscape. These are features especially prevalent in the north of the parish, providing a sense of freedom and amenity for residents. They owe much to farming practice and, as with woodlands, their maintenance and conservation is dependent on the continuing commitment of the landowners. Equally the parklands of New and Old Idsworth Estates are particularly distinctive with their mix of historic buildings and surviving native/ornamental trees.

Building closer links with farmers and landowners would be beneficial for conservation measures, while improving awareness of the location of historical evidence and buried archaeology, particularly on Idsworth and Charlton Downs and in the Lower Lavant Valley, could be a further benefit.

B. Woodlands preservation and management. The wooded landscape is a major component of the parish's special landscape quality giving rise to important vistas and many local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Woodlands are more prevalent in the south of the Parish and include remnants of the ancient Forest of Bere and adjacent common land.

Policies being developed by the SDNP should support woodlands preservation in the northern parish. Local initiatives could focus on developing woodland preservation and management policy as part of maintaining and enhancing the Strategic Gap, preventing coalescence and underpinning the parish identity.

C. Maintaining the Strategic Gap. Securing the parish identity by protecting it from coalescence with Havant Borough is a key goal, in which preserving the strategic gap has a pivotal role.

The wooded character of Staunton Park, Stansted Park and Oaklands provides physical separation and it is likely that the proposed reservoir would perform an equivalent function. However the allotments and open land lying between the B2148 and B2149 may be more vulnerable to coalescence and need increased attention. The pastureland in the Lower Lavant Valley (10aiv) has seen recent subdivision and enclosure that has detracted from the southern approaches to the parish.

D. Environmental management: The parish contains a rich and diverse environment with thirty-one SINCs, remnants of the ancient Forest of Bere and archaeological remains from all eras; conservation of these features is an important component of the landscape management with several identified projects proposed or in place.

There are several geo-environmental hazards related to the distinctive landscape, geology and hydrology of the parish: including surface water flooding, groundwater flooding, groundwater pollution and ground subsidence.

Seasonal flooding of the 'winterbourne' in the Upper and Lower Lavant Valley is also a periodic, and occasionally severe, local issue.

Assessment Methodology

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

The 2006 East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) classifies the landscape of Rowlands Castle Parish landscape into two broad types,

3a - Downland mosaic. The land in the northern part of the parish, all within the National Park and comprising chalk downland on the outcrop of the Upper Chalk formation, the chalk bedrock having a patchy cover of superficial deposits such as residual clay-with-flints and flint valley gravels.

10a – Wooded claylands. Contains all of the lower land south of the 3a downland mosaic. It generally lies upon clay-rich sedimentary rock formations of Tertiary age although it also includes an extensive area of ground overlying the chalk outcrop, some of which is termed ‘chalk/clay transition’ and lies partly within the South Downs National Park.

While suited for informing district level decisions, this classification was felt to be too broad to adequately classify the landscape at the parish level. A more detailed classification was developed taking into account local geological, hydrological, historical and visual considerations. Though maintaining the broad 3a/10a split for comparability purposes, this classification groups the parish landscape into eight character areas,

3ai west	Enclosed Chalk Downland - New Idsworth
3ai east	Enclosed Chalk Downland - Upper Lavant Valley
3aii	Open Chalk Downland - Idsworth and Chalton Downs
10ai	Chalk/Clay Transition - The Holt, Stein Wood & Golf Course
10aii	Sink Hole Belt - Manor Lodge Road & Blendworth Common
10aiii west	Wooded Claylands - Havant Thicket (and Gypsies Plain)
10aiii east	Wooded Claylands - Southleigh Forest
10aiv	Lavant Valley South

This classification forms the basis of the Rowlands Castle Landscape Character Areas described on page 12.

CONSULTATION

A series of consultation exercises were undertaken during 2011 and early 2012. Over 100 residents were consulted, the majority being from the walkers’ group events (59) and WI/Historical Society consultation (30). A full description of the community consultation events is given in the appendix.

In addition to consulting with residents, input was obtained from selected local landowners, SDNP and EHDC, Staunton Country Park, the Forestry Commission (The Holt, Stein Woods) and Portsmouth Water (which has conducted significant biodiversity surveys in the region of the proposed reservoir site). Relevant policy documents from EHDC, PUSH and the 2011 South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (ILCA) were also reviewed.

Parish Location & Evolution

LOCATION

Rowlands Castle parish is a rural area containing some 2,700 residents in 1300 homes that are mainly located within the village of Rowlands Castle. It lies on the undulating dip slope of the South Downs as it descends southwards to the coastal plain, enjoys much open space with natural woodland occupying some 40% of its area and is the most southerly parish in East Hampshire District. The attractive countryside has many popular footpaths and includes three long distance paths. Though there is evidence of settlement throughout historic eras, the arrival of the railway in 1860 provided the major impetus for development and growth of the modern village. There are many listed buildings in the parish - seven in Finchdean, eleven in Rowlands Castle itself, four around Old Idsworth - along with thirty-one SINCs and many archaeological remains from all eras.

The northern part of the parish mainly lies within the South Downs National Park and includes the hamlet of Finchdean along with the community at Idsworth Park. Inclusion in the SDNP provides additional measures for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage along with a duty 'to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities'. The SDNP Authority has identified seven 'Special Qualities' of the National Park and these are broadly similar to the attributes identified in this LLCA. It is expected that this will prove highly valuable in conserving the northern parish landscape.

The southern parish contains the main settlement of Rowlands Castle with a designated Conservation Area at its centre. This is bounded to the south by the Havant Gap which is highly valued for its amenity value, contains part of the Sir George Staunton Country Park and which is key to preventing the coalescence of the parish with the Borough of Havant. The sinkholes in the parish are of environmental importance in terms of both ground subsidence and potential pollution of the chalk aquifer, which supplies Havant and Bedhampton Springs, a major source of drinking water in the Portsmouth area. The ruin of a large motte and bailey castle, located in Deerleap at the centre of the Village, is said to be a former Norman hunting lodge for the ancient Forest of Bere.

Transport access is generally good. The parish lies close to the A3(M) and A27 highways but generally avoids major traffic congestion and has a railway station located on the Portsmouth – London main line. The historic cities of Chichester and Winchester are within easy reach, as is the large urban conurbation of Portsmouth.



View of Rowlands Castle village green, photograph by Pat Carter

HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT & LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION

Though only created in 1932 from the earlier Idsworth Parish, the history of the Parish is long and interesting. Neolithic field systems are prominent in the north, and Roman and later pottery in the south on the clays. The arrival of the railway in the 1860s reconfigured the road network and provided a stimulus for later growth.

Mesolithic **10,000-4,000 BC**

There is evidence of occupation since earliest times with Mesolithic activity in the south of the parish on low-lying land between the village and Mays Coppice. Evidence of hearths and shelters suggests a settled site at Wakefords Copse - one of two known sites in the County.

Neolithic **4,000-2,200 BC**

In the Neolithic period the chalk landscape north of Finchdean was exploited more. By the late Neolithic era higher chalk areas such as Compton Down and clay landscapes to the south had become productive agriculturally with crop marks providing earliest evidence of farming.



Bronze Age **2200 - 800 BC**

The high chalk landscape in the north of the parish continued to be more exploited and settled than the south, with prehistoric field systems shown as crop marks on the south and west facing slopes of Compton Down and across to Blendworth Down. This pattern extends westwards overlooking the more westerly Finchdean - Chalton Valley. There are the earliest monuments of nine bowl barrows as ritual burial sites on the crest of Chalton Down, of late Neolithic to late Bronze Age origin. The burial sites lie along the highest parts with far reaching views and some of the bowl barrows are registered as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The landscape south of Finchdean would have been more wooded and scrubby and utilised for timber, charcoal making and grazing.

Iron Age **800 BC – 43 BC**

Farming on the chalk landscape continued, while the landscape south of Finchdean probably remained mainly wooded and exploited for timber, charcoal and clay. The far north east of the Parish has evidence of an enclosed settlement close to Huckswood Lane and of small Celtic fields.

Roman Era

43 BC – 410 AD

The **Roman** period saw exploitation of the south of the Parish. Clay resources led the Romans to set up tile and pottery making – an industry of significant size and importance. The substantial geological outcrops of clays of the Reading and London Clay Formations are particularly close to the coastal plain and there is evidence of a Roman road connecting Havant with Rowlands Castle. The tile and pottery industry was focused in the vicinity of current housing in Glendale and in fields around Durrants and Wakefords Copse. Evidence of kilns, blackened earth, and associated clay waste has been discovered. The remains of several villas may suggest land ownership reaching into surrounding forest areas and evolving as hunting reserves. On the higher ground to the north there is evidence of a few Roman buildings and field systems including sites off Woodhouse Lane and the hanger above the Idsworth - Compton road, while at Huckswood Quarry there is a recorded Romano-British settlement. Overlooking fields of Celtic origin they are probably a continuation of farming into the Romano period. Wellsworth Lane may have connected the farming communities in the north of the Parish.

Saxon and early medieval

410 - 1540

Exploitation and expansion of the chalk landscape for farming continued with common open fields and some early enclosures. Small, nucleated settlements evolved with evidence of a settlement on the southern edge of Church Down or Idsworth Down, probably one of the first between the 5th and 8th centuries, in a characteristic location for Saxon settlement. (Old) Idsworth village is on the dry valley floor and has later origins attributed to the 12th century, when Blendworth and Chalton also originated. Their expansion may have resulted in abandonment of the earlier Church Down settlement. The impact of Forest Law meant access and management of woodland and scrub in the south were formalised as a Royal Hunting Forest, known as the Forest of Bere. However Havant Thicket and Gypsies Plain were outside the forest and formed part of the wastes of Havant, being common lands for grazing. Some field boundaries may date back to the medieval era.

After the Norman Conquest, Rowlands Castle became an increasingly important strategic location on the eastern edge of the Forest of Bere, close to the route connecting Havant and the intensively farmed landscape north of Finchdean and with both the castle near the village centre and the motte castle at Motleys Copse. The castles served royalty, in particular Henry II, rather than being defence sites and fell into disuse by the 15th Century. The place names of farmsteads allude to woodland clearance, Woodhouse Ashes Farm being indicative of this. Some of the earliest medieval enclosures and associated farmsteads (e.g. Wick and Murrants farms) were sited along the Finchdean to Netherley Down valley bottom, on the periphery of the common open fields and down associated with Chalton. Enclosed field systems here are comparatively well preserved in comparison to other medieval farm fields to the south, with the modern landscape retaining the wide and thick hedges, sometimes with banks and ditches.

By 1500 the old village of Idsworth was reduced to the manor house and the iconic church in the field, possibly due to a whim of the owners to remove peasants and develop a parkland estate. Finchdean was established later than surrounding settlements and may have benefitted from the contraction of Idsworth but was almost certainly considered of lesser importance than the other local settlements that had churches.

Post Medieval

1540 – 1839

The sheep-corn land husbandry continued through the post medieval period and extended down to the edge of the Forest of Bere. It is likely that there would have been some grazing rights afforded to locals within the Forest perambulation. Tracks such as Wellsworth Lane may well have provided an important drove route, as indeed, may have The Green. The Forest would also have been a source for timber extraction for fuel and construction. The edges would have been a mix of copses and cleared scrubby areas. Idsworth/Church Down and Chalton Down remained largely open and of similar size from the post medieval period until the enclosure Act of 1816.

Victorian & Modern Times

1839 - Present

Land enclosure led to larger fields laid out in a geometrical, rectilinear fashion with straight low hedges. In the south there were clay extraction workings up until the 20th century but by the 19th century works had concentrated at Redhill on a site now occupied by the Kings Meadow estate and south of College Close adjacent to the old Motte and Bailey site.

The Forest of Bere was disforested in 1810, one of the last to be abandoned in Hampshire, and there are some visual traits of the forest character remaining in the Holt and Havant thicket of ancient woodland trees and heath clearings.

Some of the medieval assart fields on the periphery of the forest were completely altered and reorganised into a more formal geometrical and rectilinear layout as at the 19th century farmsteads of Mays Coppice, Prospect, Rowlands Hill and Leigh Farm. The integrity of these small farms is now under threat by selling off land for ad hoc development, being close to suburban Havant and Leigh Park.

Old Idsworth, bought by the Clarke-Jervoise family in 1790, had its house dismantled in the 19th century, leaving only the coaching house and walled garden converted to a farm, and more recently to a domestic residence. The fields are permanent pasture with grazing and retain a parkland feel with specimen trees and some of the old lime avenue. The isolated 11th century St Hubert's chapel still stands in its open field setting. The New Idsworth House was built on higher ground one mile to the west of Old Idsworth, above Wick Hanger where much of the land had been farmed from medieval times. Treadwheel Farm was subsumed into the park, although now owned separately. Today, much of the parkland has been given over to arable – but parkland trees and wooded clumps remain within the 20th century fields.

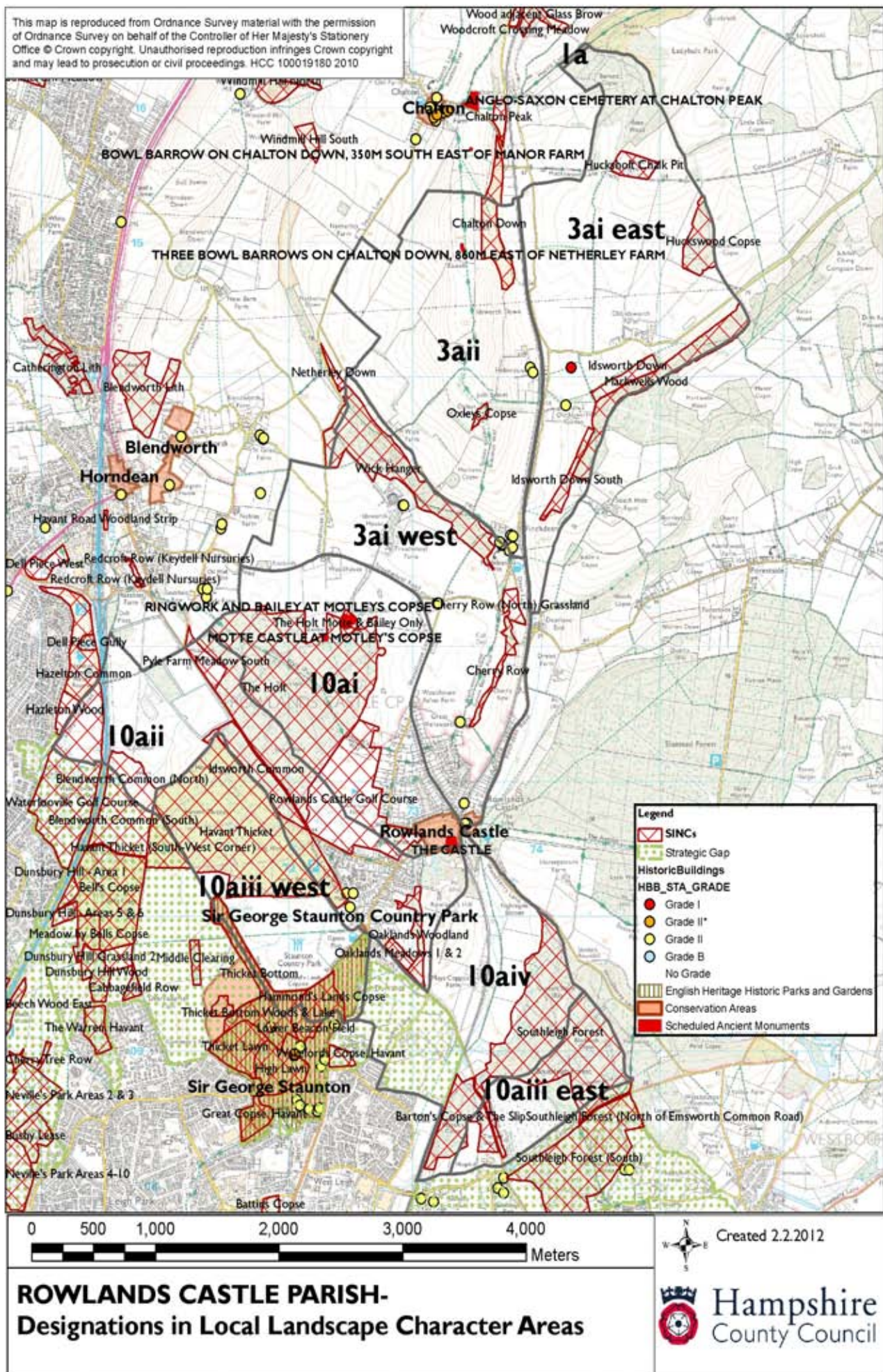
The major development of this era was, of course, the railway from London to Portsmouth with its fine Victorian Station as a stop for Stansted Estate. The brick works had its own sidings, opening up distant markets including London. The railway has also been an attraction for commuters in both directions, and is an important feature of village life. Its arrival caused some redirecting of local lanes and footpaths.

The Victorian Era also witnessed the development in Leigh Park of the '19th century pleasure grounds' of Sir George Staunton. Much of the building was done between 1837 and 1859. Now classified as a conservation area, the Sir George Staunton Country Park was established in 1987, under a joint management committee lead by the County Council.



Steam train on hill above Dean Lane End, photograph by John Spilman

HISTORIC AND NATURE CONSERVATION SITES IN ROWLANDS CASTLE



Biodiversity: Sites & Species

Both northern and southern areas of Rowlands Castle Parish support a diverse fauna and flora having thirty-one SINC's and one 'Road Verge of Ecological Importance' (RVEI).

The distribution of SINC's within the Parish varies between north and south being relatively fewer and smaller on the higher downland compared to the larger and predominantly wooded sites in the south. Downland SINC's include Netherly Down, Wick Hanger, Cherry Row, Idsworth Down, Markwells Wood, Oxleys Copse (on Chalton Down) and Huckswood Copse. The EHDC Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat designations variously include broadleaved woodland, improved grassland and calcareous grassland. They provide corridors for the movement of species. The southern Wooded Claylands contain several surviving remnants of the Forest of Bere, the two largest being The Holt and Havant Thicket. There are SINC's in Southleigh Forest, Bartons Copse, The Slip and, within Staunton Country Park, Thicket Bottom Woods and Lake and Hammonds Lands Copse. BAP habitat designations include broadleaved woodland, coniferous woodland, improved grassland, neutral grassland and a small area of acid grassland.

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre maintains a record of species, grouped by parish. Bats and the Great Crested Newt, for example, are notable species. There has also been an extensive biodiversity assessment undertaken in Staunton Country Park (sub-areas 10ai,ii) in preparation for the proposed reservoir. Species observed included Dormice in the woodlands, eleven species of bat, Nightjars within the clearings at Havant Thicket and all four common reptiles (grass snake, adder, common lizard, and slow worm). A further study also recorded the unusual Beckstein bat, a rarely seen UK mammal.

The 2009 Biodiversity Action Plan for East Hampshire identifies the re-creation of the woodland/heathland/grassland traditional mosaic of the Forest of Bere within areas 10aii + 10aliii (west) as an opportunity while the 2011 Green Infrastructure Study for East Hampshire identifies nine potential projects for Rowlands Castle including additional play areas, habitat restoration, reforestation, creation of a local nature reserve adjacent to Staunton Park and restoration of tree corridors between The Holt, Havant Thicket, Southleigh Forest and Stanstead Forest. There is a clear opportunity to manage the 'strategic gap' to help achieve this goal by providing a tree corridor linking Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest.

The 2010 PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies the Havant Thicket reservoir as a potential 'green' project. It does not add to or amend existing plans though it identifies the reservoir as an important recreational facility for Waterlooville and Havant, relieving pressure on other recreational sites. The traffic implications of this are not mentioned.



Red Toadstool, photograph by Frances Fawcett



Green Woodpecker, photograph by Vera Whitlock

Rowlands Castle Parish

Landscape Character Areas

INTRODUCTION

As described earlier, this LLCA builds on the district LCA, retaining the two main landscape types identified there. However based on landscape features of local significance eight local character areas are identified, three within the Downland mosaic (3a) and five within the wooded claylands (10a).

The key features of each of these areas are described in the following sections together with an evaluation describing the major landscape and visual sensitivities and strategy guidelines for their management and development.

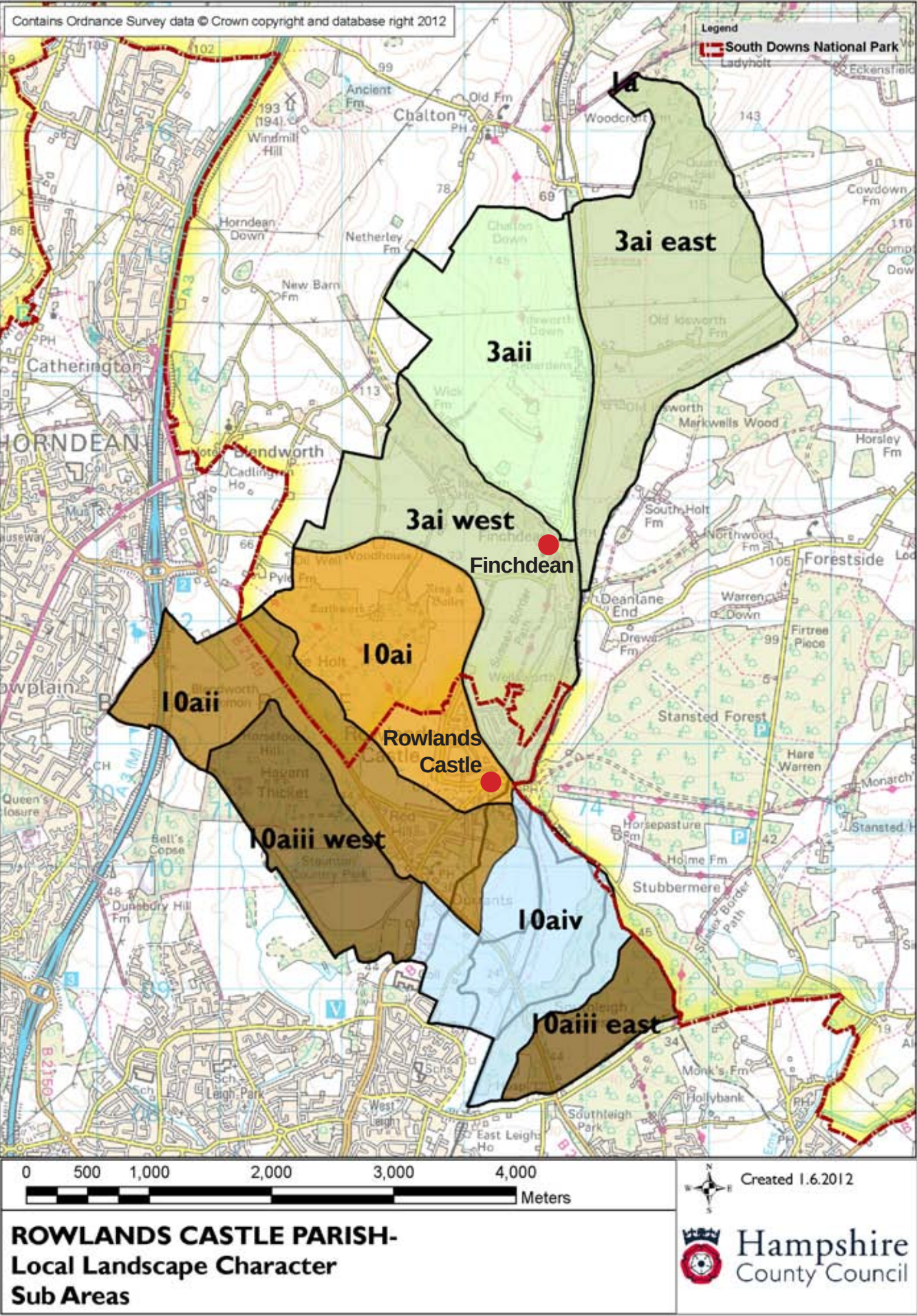
Landscape Type:	Character Area:
3a Downland mosaic	3ai west: Enclosed Chalk Downland - New Idsworth 3ai east: Enclosed Chalk Downland - Upper Lavant Valley 3aii: Open Chalk Downland - Idsworth and Chalton Downs
10a Wooded Claylands	10ai: Chalk/Clay Transition - The Holt, Stein Wood & Golf Course 10aii: Sink Hole Belt - Manor Lodge Road & Blendworth Common 10aiii west: Wooded Claylands - Havant Thicket (and Gypsies Plain) 10aiii east: Wooded Claylands - Southleigh Forest 10aiv: Lavant Valley South

Type 3a - Downland mosaic. The Rowlands Castle Parish classification retains the two main 3a boundary divisions of the district LCA but they are named more succinctly as ‘Chalk Downlands’. Their characteristics have been re-interpreted from a more local point of view and area 3ai divided into east and west sections. All are within the South Downs National Park.

Type 10a – Wooded claylands. The landscape in the southern part of the parish contains a diverse range of geological, historical and hydrological features and the single 10a landscape type has been expanded to include five local character areas.

- Area 10ai contains soils not dissimilar to those in the 3a landscape to the north and so is regarded as transitional.
- Area 10aii (Sink Hole Belt) is, as the name implies, differentiated by an abundance of natural surface depressions formed by ground subsidence related to dissolution of the underlying chalk. Some of these are Swallow Holes that can allow rapid percolation of surface water into the chalk aquifer below, presenting a potential pollution risk. Left undisturbed the Sink Holes and Swallow Holes may benefit wildlife.
- Areas 10aiii (west and east) are broadly similar and may have sandy or gravelly soils in parts overlying the clays. They are separated by the lower Lavant Valley and the southern plains, an important feature being the surviving, predominantly oak woodland, remnants of the Forest of Bere.
- Area 10aiv comprises pastureland subject to seasonal flooding. It is important as a wash land or flood plain, delaying flood flows from affecting Havant to the south.

MAP OF ROWLANDS CASTLE LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



LANDSCAPE TYPE 3a – CHALK DOWNLANDS

This landscape lies within the South Downs national park and contains three character areas.

3ai West Enclosed Chalk Downland – New Idsworth

Key Characteristics:

1. Relatively flat area with thick layer of clays and also flint over chalk that slopes away sharply at the north and east margins at Wick Hanger and Cherry Row respectively, both are draped in ancient hanger woodland.
2. Landscape visually enclosed by surrounding woodland – dropping from 80m to 50m above mean sea level.
3. Predominantly arable and horse paddock mix on slopes above Finchdean Road and Dean Lane with mostly low hedgerows, and arable fields with thicker taller hedges and mature trees. Some parkland field trees remain around New Idsworth Park.
4. Hanger woodland of Wick and Cherry Row and some unimproved chalk grassland are designated as SINC. As well as being of ecological importance, they have significant visual amenity value.
5. The farmed landscape emerged in the mid-medieval period, probably from manorial waste – as evidenced by some of the farmstead names. The landscape was dramatically altered by the designed parkland landscape of New Idsworth in the latter part of the 19th century and included realignment of the local lane network.
6. Woodhouse Lane winds through the area connecting Rowlands Castle with Blendworth. Some of the verges are recognised as being important for chalk flora.
7. The delightful setting of (new) Idsworth Park. Formerly the Idsworth Estate, it now falls into three parts: Idsworth House (remains a single entity though outbuildings have been redeveloped for residential use), Treadwheel Farm and Wick Hanger. It forms a distinct but small community of historic interest and is described in the Rowlands Castle Village Design Statement 2000.

3ai East Enclosed Chalk Downland - Upper Lavant Valley

Key characteristics:

1. An area to the north of Finchdean and to the east of Idsworth Down which is dominated by a north-south trending valley between Chalton and Finchdean with a tributary valley between Idsworth Farm and the Sussex border.
2. The valleys are usually dry with residual flint and gravel deposits on the valley bottoms. In between there is higher land that was enclosed in the 18th century. Woodland to the north has been gradually encroached on at Hucks Wood, or has grown up since the 18th century, perhaps associated with the Ditcham and Ladyholt estates.
3. Ancient hanger woodland to the east of the main valley and south of the tributary valley is designated as a SINC and adds to the scenic quality of the area.
4. Quiet, lightly trafficked valley bottom lanes with likely origins as droving routes to the downs from the deserted medieval village of Idsworth and later Idsworth Farm (both no longer exist – although the chapel and dense rights of way remain). The lanes are used and appreciated by both cyclists and horse riders.
5. From the footpaths along the hangers there are dramatic views both across and along the valleys, especially when they encompass the ancient Saxon chapel of St Hubert at Old Idsworth.
6. Very little development with only two farms and associated farm worker's cottages, and Chapel and Old Coach House located close to the valley bottoms.
7. The remnant parkland of Old Idsworth Manor includes specimen limes often thick with mistletoe. Visual features include part of the old lime tree avenue and a specimen cedar of Lebanon.

3aii Open Chalk Downland – Idsworth and Chalton Downs

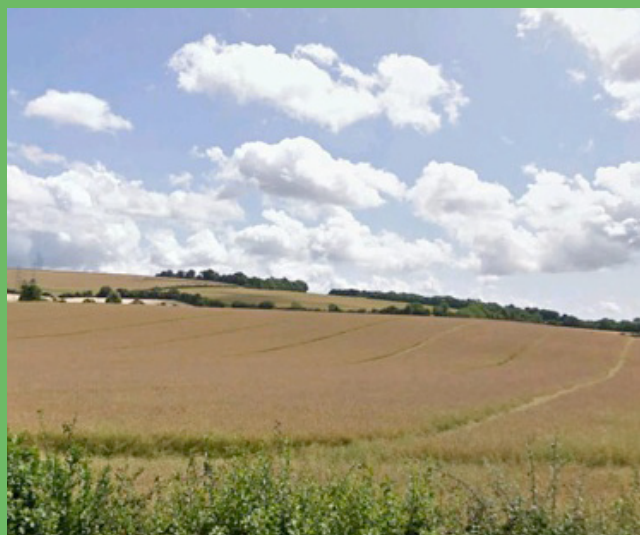
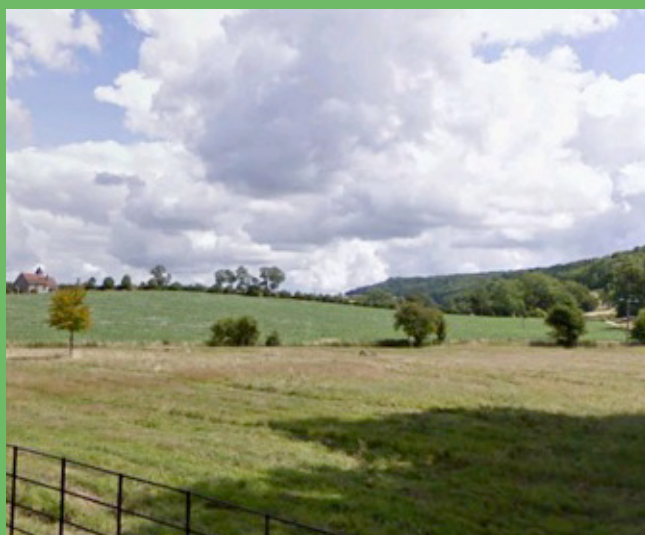
Key characteristics:

1. Large scale rolling landform comprising a prominent chalk ridge reaching 144m AOD of former downland – the majority of which was enclosed in the 19th century and given over to arable farming.
2. There is a small a patch of remnant chalk downland designated as a SINC. It has open access land on its northeast slopes.
3. There are isolated patches of woodland such as Oxley Copse and The Folley. This is a very open panoramic landscape which commands views up and down the Lavant Valley in the east, the wooded slopes of Butser Hill, Ditcham Park and Uppark House to the north, and the open ridge of Blendworth Down and Windmill Hill to the west. There are also fine views south to The Solent and Isle of Wight.
4. There are ritual burial sites on the hilltop crest, some of which are scheduled as nationally important monuments. On the middle and upper slopes there is crop mark evidence to suggest the area was farmed since the Bronze Age. Later medieval enclosure fields on the south side, thick wooded hedges and hedge banks (lynchets) with farmsteads originating from this period occur along Dean Lane. In all a landscape with substantial time depth and archaeological interest.
5. Popular for walking, a footpath with easy access from Chalton and Finchdean runs northwards along the crest of the ridge. It is part of the Staunton Way and Sussex Border Path from which there are panoramic views both east and west.

Right: New Idsworth Park, enclosed chalk downland (Type 3ai West)

Below Left: Upper Lavant Valley, enclosed chalk downland (Type 3ai East)

Below Right: Idsworth and Chalton Downs, open chalk downland (Type 3aii)



COMMUNITY COMMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Community attitudes towards the parish landscape were explored in a series of events involving over 100 residents. The comments were grouped into 'likes' and 'concerns' and the main themes emerging are described below. Details of the comments are given in the Appendix.

Likes - Tracts of secluded countryside with wildflower meadows and distinctive hangers providing open vistas and a sense of remoteness and tranquillity. The views into the traditional clustered valley hamlet of Finchdean are much liked. The remote church at old Idsworth is a noted feature. One resident described the area as,

"Typical rural England"

Concerns - Few were mentioned excepting a possible change to the status of Wellsworth Lane and related Bridleway 13 due to uncertainty about its future designation. It seems that concerns are directed more to conservation of the landscape for future generations.

EVALUATION

Landscape & visual sensitivities

Conserving the open vistas and tranquillity of the landscape should be a major objective of local planning. The landscape character owes much to farming practice and maintaining the landscape is dependent on the continuing commitment of the landowners. Key sensitivities include changes in farming practice, a loss of woodland cover, small-scale incremental development and visually prominent development such as masts or pylons. The visual unity of the historic parkland in New and Old Idsworth Estates may be sensitive to development or fragmentation.

Management of this area also needs to consider impacts on hydrology and water quality from upper lavant flows.

Landscape strategy & guidelines

Landscape Management Considerations:

- i. The ancient hanger woodland and chalk grassland in the downland landscape is highly valued as it enhances its rural nature. The balance between woodlands and agricultural uses should be maintained.

Since 1880 the downland area of Idsworth and Chalton Down (3aⁱⁱⁱ) has fallen from about 90ha to 9ha and has been enclosed. In the other downland landscapes many of the fields on the lower slopes have been reorganised and generally enlarged, and hedgerows have been removed. It will be helpful to seek opportunities to work with landowners, managers and the National Park to enhance biodiversity whilst maintaining viability of farming.

- ii. There is a perception that the National Park designation will bring more and a greater range of recreational users of the Rights of Way network and may compromise tranquillity.

The condition of the rights of way surfaces can be monitored – especially close to the Village – and concerns communicated to the local Park Countryside Access Manager. Where there are proposals to upgrade an existing footpath to permit a greater range of users – as off Wellsworth Lane – the balance between increase in disturbance and erosion and the benefit of providing greater access opportunity will need to be considered.

Awareness should be increased of ancient route ways such as the Sussex Border Path connecting the Parish with higher downland to the north, and the adjoining archaeology such as bowl barrows on Chalton Down.

Landscape Development Considerations:

- i. Community engagement during the LLCA project revealed concern that the rolling rural downland and setting of historic features such as St Hubert's Chapel and hanger woodland could be adversely affected by unsympathetic changes.

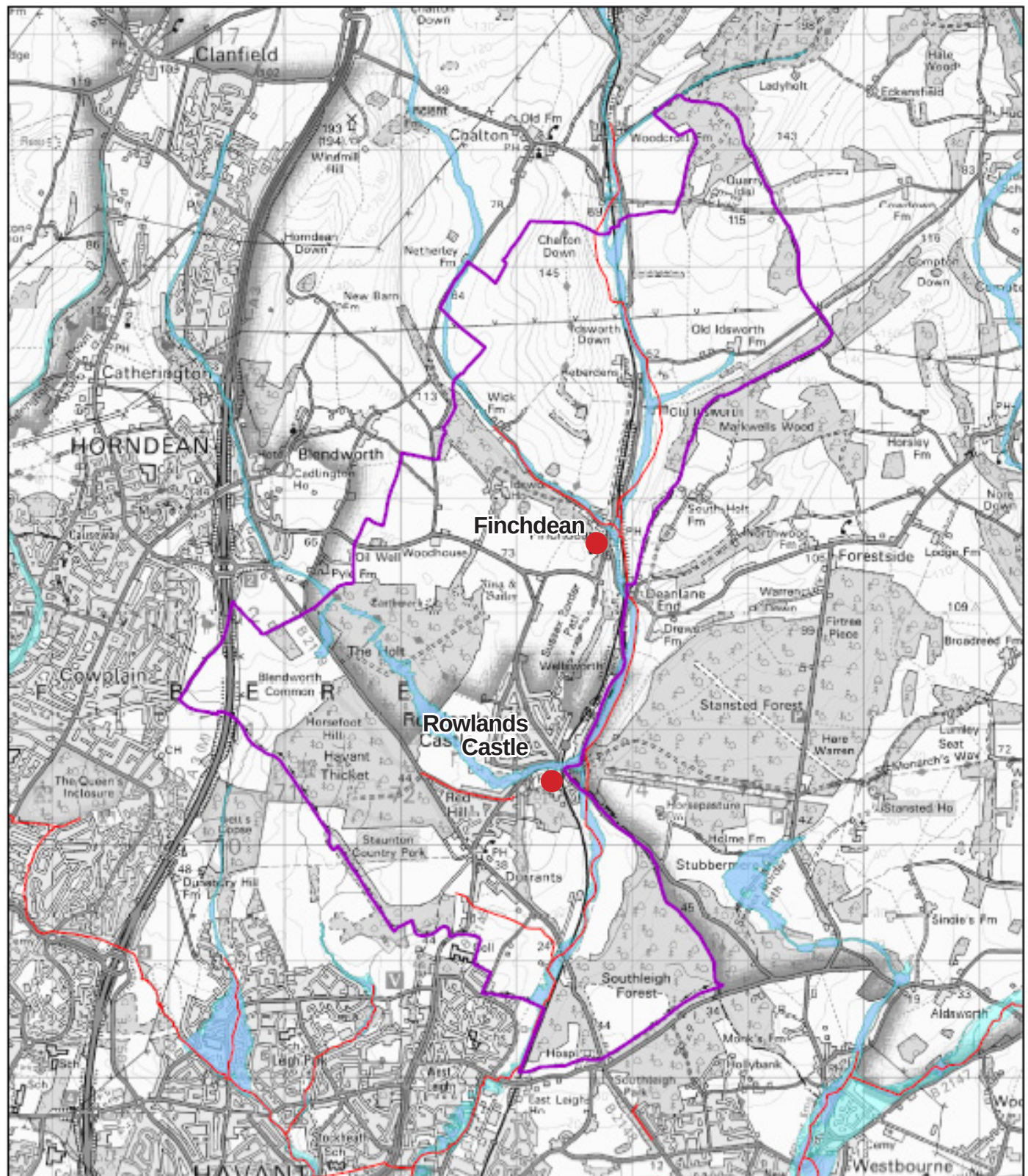
One proposal is that a photographic survey of the key views or vistas be undertaken. These images could be catalogued and held on file providing a baseline for future consideration. This would be especially valuable when considering the cumulative effects of small-scale incremental developments.

- ii. Seasonal flooding in the Finchdean area is an occasionally severe problem. Landscape changes that could worsen the lavant flows should be avoided.
- iii. Farmers discussed frustration with members of the public straying from footpaths and concern about littering, fly tipping and vandalism. Poaching and rural theft are significant and growing problems. Improving awareness of farming related issues amongst the local community and supporting beneficial initiatives such as 'Farm Watch' could build goodwill and strengthen the link between farmers and the local community.
- iv. The farming community play a key role in the development of the landscape. Building closer contacts with farmers and, where appropriate, supporting initiatives which help deliver sustainable and viable agriculture will help in maintaining this role.



Wellsworth Lane footpath, photograph by Catherine Billam

Rowlands Castle - Flood Risk Map



-  Rowlands Castle Parish Boundary
-  Main River
-  Flood Zone 3
-  Flood Zone 2

Flood Map Areas (assuming no defences)
Flood Zone 3 shows the area that could be affected by flooding:

- from the sea with a 1 in 200 or greater chance of happening each year
- or from a river with a 1 in 100 or greater chance of happening each year.

Flood Zone 2 shows the extent of an extreme flood from rivers or the sea with up to a 1 in 1000 chance of occurring each year.



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LANDSCAPE TYPE 10A - WOODED CLAYLANDS

Covering the south of the parish, these have been divided into five character areas. It contains a surprisingly wide range of landscape and includes the key Havant Strategic Gap.

10ai Chalk/Clay Transition – The Holt, Stein Wood & Golf Course

Key characteristics:

1. The northern part of this sub-area, including The Holt and Stein Wood, is within the South Downs National Park whose boundary now extends to meet the northern development boundary of Rowlands Castle Village. The sub-area then extends further southwards outside of the National Park including the golf course and most of Rowlands Castle village itself.
2. Clay-with-flints and gravels over chalk. Circular, natural depressions resulting from weathering of the chalk are more common here than on the chalk downland.
3. Predominantly flat, the land falls gradually from 70m above mean sea level at Motley's Copse in the east to 40m above mean sea level at Manor Lodge Road in the west.
4. Monarch's Way, an ancient footpath between Rowlands Castle and Horndean, passes through The Holt. Two footpaths across the golf course provide access to woodland.
5. Several sites of historic interest are to be found within this sub-area, including earthworks and a ring and bailey at Motley's Copse and remains of the motte at Deerleap to the south of The Green. These structures probably marked the edge to the Saxon, and perhaps earlier, hunting areas and possibly the edge of the Forest of Bere stretching almost as far west as Southampton and Winchester.
6. The Village Green is a remnant part of common land that stretched westward from the Village. It is believed to be the largest village green in Hampshire. It is a strong focus for Village activities and amenity, and is a designated Conservation Area. The high flint-laced wall of Deerleap is a major feature.
7. Most of this area is comprised of arable fields bounded by medium to low hedges. The Holt is an area of ancient woodland that has largely been replanted and designated as a SINC, as is Rowlands Castle Golf Course, but parts like Motley's Copse remain as ancient woodland. Away from conifer dominated areas the semi-natural ancient woodland is a mixture of woodland stand types including birch, acid beech and oak dominated often with planted and coppiced chestnut.

10aai Sink Hole Belt – Manor Lodge Road and Blendworth Common

Key characteristics:

1. A NW to SE trending band of land, between 0.4 and 1.2km wide, characterised by an unusually high density of circular surface depressions (20-50 per sq. km) of up to 30m in diameter and 10m in depth, formed by erosion and dissolution of the underlying chalk, and sinking of the overlying clays and sands. The belt extends well to the west and south of Manor Lodge Road.
2. The extent of 10aai almost coincides with the outcrop and sub crop of the Reading Formation (mostly floodplain deposits), in this area consisting of clays and silty clays with lenticular shaped bodies of fine to medium sand at various levels and a basal bed up to 5m thick of fine to medium sand above the chalk.
3. Many of the depressions act as swallow holes and provide direct access of surface water to a major groundwater aquifer providing drinking water via the Havant and Bedhampton Springs. Most of this belt is considered a high groundwater pollution risk zone and is classified by the Environment Agency as Source Protection Zone 1 – the highest level of risk (see note below).
4. Most of this area is permanent pasture fields and woodland of ancient origin with areas replanted with 20th century conifers. A large area is designated as SINC, as is Rowlands Castle Golf Course with notable species of Green Winged Orchid, Chamomile and Greater Lettuce. The sinkholes also provide habitat interest. Away from the conifer-dominated areas, the semi natural ancient woodland is comprised of a mixture of woodland stand types including birch dominated, acid beech and oak dominated, often with

planted and coppiced chestnut.

5. The area was enclosed from wooded common (not registered) in the late 19th century. Most of the land is Forestry Commission owned. In the north it is turned over to fields, now part of Hazleton Farm.
6. Piecemeal early 20thC development spread along Castle, Redhill and Manor Lodge Road. Redhill brickworks were on this triangle of land, which is now occupied by the Kings Meadow estate. It includes Rowlands Copse, owned by the Parish Council.
7. Manor Lodge Road is typical of a route through former common land and is predominantly hedge-less. It is fairly straight and has few side roads.

Note: The 10aⁱⁱ area is characterised by a high density of shallow circular depressions variously called dolines, sink holes or swallow holes. By way of clarification, 'dolines' are natural cone or bowl shaped closed hollows of small dimensions occurring in chalk areas. When located on a soil outcrop above the chalk, away from the edge of the chalk itself, they are called 'sink holes'. A 'swallow hole' is a potentially more active feature in chalk areas as there can be direct flow of surface water into the chalk. A detailed discussion of the nature, location and environmental significance of these features is provided in the paper by McDowell et al (2008).

10aⁱⁱⁱ West Wooded Claylands – Havant Thicket (and Gypsies Plain)

Key characteristics:

1. Slightly elevated from the adjoining landscapes and associated with Head Gravel overlaying clays and sands of the Reading Formation.
2. Dominated by woodland incorporating most of Havant Thicket and smaller copses such as Hammonds Land Coppice and Bartons Copse. The sub-area also includes some permanent pasture farmland such as Gypsies Plain and a wooded avenue associated with Staunton Park. These woodlands form a strong visual separation between Rowlands Castle and land to the south and west.
3. The woodlands are replanted ancient woodlands and this is recognised by SINC designations forming a large proportion of the sub unit. Away from the conifer-dominated areas, the semi-natural ancient woodland is comprised of a mixture of woodland stand types including birch dominated, acid beech and oak dominated often with planted and coppiced chestnut.
4. Historically the area has been extensively managed and remains predominantly wooded and not farmed. This landscape has been lightly wooded until enclosure and development of Durrants in the latter half of the 19th century.
5. The area west of the Lavant Valley was medieval hunting forest (perhaps part of the Forest of Bere). Local people had grazing and timber harvesting rights, and developed communing rights – such as Blendworth Common and Gypsies Plain. A remnant piece of common remains at Whichers Gate as a small green.
6. The woodlands' close proximity to centres of population beyond the parish boundary makes them an important doorstep to accessible natural green space. Havant Thicket, also being owned by the Forestry Commission, offers public access with numerous well-made tracks. The Staunton Way passes through the southern half of this area, to Staunton Park in the south.
7. There is little development within this area but the 19th century common edge hamlet of Durrants has an eclectic mix of architectural styles – the older properties being built of Rowlands Castle brick.
8. Across the southern boundary lies the Sir George Staunton Country Park where the former house was built with bricks from brickworks on the estate. The estate is listed as grade II*, and a conservation area.
9. A substantial part of this sub-area is reserved in local plans for a winter storage reservoir, re-directing winter flows from the Bedhampton Springs for use during dry summers. Implementation of this development is likely to be several years away. Usage of the area for both conservation and recreation has not been decided and there are local concerns about possible noise, traffic and parking unless a 'quiet recreation' solution can be agreed.
10. It has been a matter of discussion whether Gypsies Plain should form a further local sub-area, with affinities to land further south, particularly as recent plant studies suggest that it has not been wooded since Norman times. For simplicity, as it is a relatively small area without houses and will be partially submerged under the proposed reservoir, its distinctiveness has been noted, but it has been left in 10aⁱⁱⁱ, Wooded Claylands.

10aiii East Wooded Claylands – Southleigh Forest

Key characteristics:

1. Gravels underlain by clays and sands of the London Clay formation support woodland including Mays Coppice, Blackbush Hanger and coppices, collectively known as Southleigh Forest, a former wooded common.
2. Recently a major landfill site where an extensive area of gravel extraction had been followed by clay extraction for lining the landfill bunds. It is now only partially restored. It can be seen through a narrow tree screen along the Horndean and Emsworth Common roads.
3. Dominated by woodland, with some ancient woodland designated as a SINC: predominantly ash and pedunculate oak. Historically coppiced sweet chestnut is also common. More recently, 20th century conifer stands have been introduced – particularly in the north. There are banks and ditches probably of ancient origin.
4. The woodlands are replanted ancient woodlands and this is recognised by SINC designations forming a large proportion of the sub area.
5. Historically the area was wooded common, with two straight roads running through the woodland. The area is criss-crossed with access tracks – some of which provide recreational off road links between communities to the south and the South Downs National Park to the north.
6. The woods' close proximity to centres of population beyond the Parish boundary makes them an important pathway to access natural green space. Some activities such as motorcycle scrambling and regular fly tipping detract from its tranquillity and value for nature conservation.
7. These woodlands form a strong visual separation between the Lavant Valley near Rowlands Castle and Emsworth to the south and west. There is very little development within this area but the landfill site at Southleigh Woods remains to be fully restored, detracting from this semi natural landscape.

10aiv Lavant Valley South

Key characteristics:

1. This wide shallow valley lies on the outcrop of the Reading and London Clay Formations. The valley floor generally has gravelly soils over clays supporting permanent pasture and grazing. The southeastern valley side is mainly clay and sand of the London Clay Formation that supports woodland of ancient origin at Mays Coppice/Southleigh Forest. The northwestern flank of the valley is underlain by clay and sand that support a mix of farmland and woodland.
2. There is a relatively high risk of ground subsidence at sites within this landscape where there are shrinkable clays or on-going sink hole formation. A large swallow hole between Woodberry Lane and the railway has a high risk for potential pollution of the chalk aquifer and falls within the Environment Agency Groundwater Protection Zone 1 (highest risk).
3. The sense of a valley is felt particularly from parts of Prospect and Woodberry Lanes. Its wooded sides and pasture valley floor give it a rural character.
4. The valley doglegs to the west beyond the B2148 – where the land is designated as a Strategic Gap. Bartons Green Park beyond the Parish boundary ensures the valley floor views continue as green space.
5. There is evidence of Mesolithic settlement hearths at high points on the southern valley sides near Prospect Lane at Wakeford Copse, which is considered to be very unusual in the Hampshire context.
6. Clay deposits on the valley flanks have been exploited since earliest Roman times and probably from the Iron Age for making pottery, later tiles and bricks.
7. The current field pattern is derived from 19th century enclosure from wooded common with equivalent age farmsteads.
8. The valley floor can be flooded seasonally, exacerbated by recent ditch canalisation and work up-stream at the ford in Woodberry Lane.
9. Late 19th and early 20th century development has been piecemeal and linear along Whichers Gate Road and Woodberry Lane, with no recent building. The southern older red brick and tile-hung houses set

closer to the road are associated historically with farmland in Hampshire. South of Glendale, houses were also for former farm and estate workers. The northernmost cottages are set well back in their plots and within West Sussex.

10. The pastures along the footpath on the valley floor, from the Village to the railway bridge on Whichers Gate Road, have recently been sold in small lots. They are being redeveloped piecemeal with a mixture of wooden service buildings. Boundary plantings of cypresses and laurel are at odds with the landscape.
11. This landscape area extends to include the area of generally flat land between the lavant valley and Durrants Road. Although too small to constitute a separate landscape unit, it has high amenity value.



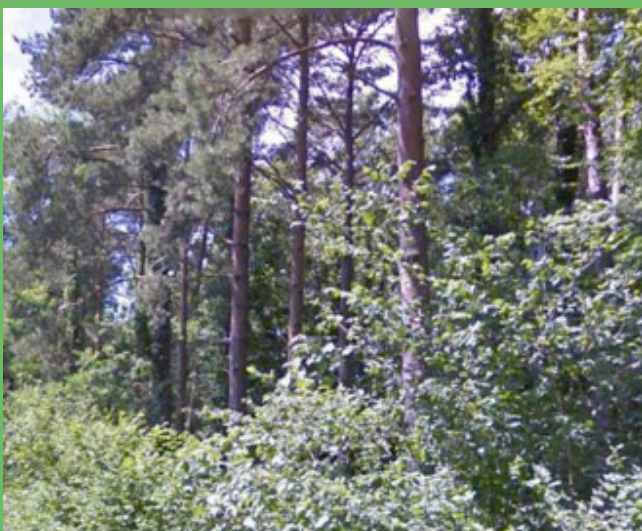
Above Left: The Holt, Stein Wood & Golf Course, chalk/clay transition (Type 10ai)

Above Right: Manor Lodge Road and Blendworth Common, sink hole belt (Type 10aii)

Right: Havant Thicket (and Gypsies Plain), wooded claylands (Type 10aiii West)

Below Left: Southleigh Forest, wooded claylands (Type 10aiii East)

Below Right: Lavant Valley South (Type 10aiv)



COMMUNITY COMMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Community attitudes towards the parish landscape were explored in a series of events involving over 100 residents. The comments were grouped into 'likes' and 'concerns' and the main themes emerging are described below. Details of the comments are given in the Appendix.

Likes - The features most liked in this area are the landscape variety, its access and amenity value, and its biodiversity. Important features include The Holt, Stansted Park (largely in West Sussex but adjacent to village centre), Havant Thicket and The Allotments

Concerns – These are primarily development related. This area of the parish is seen as very much under threat and loss of the Strategic Gap together with woodlands adjacent to the proposed Oaklands and Keyline developments are important concerns. The mainly equestrian development that has occurred by sub-dividing the pastures between Nightingdale Bottom and Comley Bottom was commented on as being haphazard, unsightly and intrusive. The southern part of the parish, especially within 10aiv, contains a great many sink holes and is also an important flood plain – there was a feeling that insufficient attention is given to securing these areas from inappropriate development.

EVALUATION

Landscape & visual sensitivities

Conserving the landscape's diversity and integrity is the major objective. This area has high amenity value, both to the parish and to neighbouring authorities and it includes such important features as the Staunton Country Park and historic remnants of The Forest of Bere. The continuous strip of undeveloped open landscape forming a crescent from Havant Thicket via Staunton Country Park to Southleigh Forest, by preventing coalescence, is central to preserving the character of the parish.

Landscape strategy & guidelines

When considering woodlands, it should be borne in mind that local government boundaries have changed over the centuries. This means that areas such as Havant Thicket are no longer part of Havant, and Blendworth Common is no longer part of Blendworth/Horndean – local government units that share their name. They may once have been more extensive than shown by their location on modern maps.

Landscape Management Considerations:

- i. Residents are concerned for the future of woodlands generally and the need to retain them for access and amenity, wildlife and historic interest. Small woodlands within and near the Village could be acquired through trusts that would then be encouraged to use them for these purposes.
- ii. It is recommended that the ownership of woodlands should be monitored, including the Forestry Commission woodlands of Havant Thicket (freehold) and The Holt (leased). Both these two woodlands form part of the historic Forest of Bere. The Holt also contains visible ruins of two small castles, one being a Motte and Bailey castle.
- iii. Ownership and management arrangements for the Staunton Country Park should also be monitored, as it will have a closer association with the Queen Elizabeth Country Park also run by the County Council. A Councillor from each of the Parish, District and County Councils participate on the Management Committee of the Staunton Country Park. This participation should be maintained as an opportunity to keep abreast of developments, including for the reservoir site.
- iv. The East Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan proposal to restore the ancient woodland species and associated heath land and grassland typical of the traditional Forest of Bere landscape should be supported.

- v. The crescent of landscape linking Havant Thicket via Staunton Country Park and eastward to Southleigh Forest (and thence to Stansted Forest) could be managed to provide both a 'green corridor' linking Havant Thicket to Southleigh Forest and a local Nature Reserve as identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan and Green Infrastructure studies. Correctly implemented this could deliver environmental and leisure benefits whilst preserving the key parish character benefits of the strategic gap.
- vi. Many tracts of woodland have been assessed for ecological value as 'ancient woodland', with some subsequently designated as SINCs. Re-surveying some of these woodlands to establish whether their current management is increasing biodiversity would be helpful. Where woodlands are under-managed there may be justification, as proposed in the EHDC Green Infrastructure Study (2011), for seeking 'Local Nature Reserve' status for the most historic.
- vii. Southleigh Forest (10aiii east) along the southern boundary of the parish is ancient semi-natural woodland replanted with conifer. The major landfill site within this sub-area has now ceased operations and is in the process of restoration. The Southleigh landfill site should continue to be fully restored as planned, and its consequent recreational opportunities clarified.
- viii. The local water supply is sensitive to possible groundwater pollution, putting the Bedhampton Springs at risk; especially in sub-area 10aii Manor Lodge Road to Blendworth Common where there is a concentration of sink holes as prevalent features. This is an important issue to be managed.
- ix. Local people want the parklands that adjoin the parish, Staunton Country Park and Stansted Estate (in West Sussex), retained for historic and educational purposes, with excellent access and recreation opportunities continued. Assurances about their long-term management can be sought by Parish representation on the respective Park Management Committees.
- x. Continuing improvements and continuing co-operation with the Staunton Country Park along the western boundary of the Village should be supported for planning, historic and recreational reasons.
- xi. Regarding the Lower Lavant Valley, there is concern over the sub-division of the fields including fencing and huts, typical of urban fringe or suburban localities. This is a marked change in character. Opportunities to encourage a more rural approach such as screening of huts and sheds could be pursued with the owners. The issue might also be raised when planning applications for change of land-use are lodged.



Swallow hole, Rowlands Castle Golf Course, photograph by Peter McDowell



Allotments, photograph by Mark Wilson.

Landscape Development Considerations:

- i. As noted, the community feels that the parish's distinct identity as a separate community is dependent on retention of the gaps between Rowlands Castle, Havant and Emsworth, and want to avoid creeping coalescence with urban Havant. The physical separation from suburbs to the south must be maintained.
- ii. Within the Village, some recent developments have notably improved Rowlands Castle as a place to live: the Pharmacy, renovation of both 'The Stores' and 'The Hardware' (including retention of the Village Post Office), and sympathetic extensions to both churches. Indeed, while sensitive to the smaller scale and local characteristics of the Village, they have been welcomed as a means of protecting both shops and services which villagers already enjoy.
- iii. It is recommended that future developments take into account the distinctive character of the Village (as indicated in the VDS), to achieve the highest quality of design. A particular feature, resonant with flints in the open fields to the north, is the widespread use of flint lacing in cottages, walls and, notably, the railway arches. Recent developments around the Old School, including the new St John's Church hall, have made an attractive use of flint walling.
 - Well-designed local buildings and landscape should be influenced by local forms and include use of local materials especially flints, but avoid pastiche.
 - Housing design should avoid over-dominance of parked cars.
 - Sensitive detailing of road edges - informal grass edges, verges, and lack of kerbs - all contribute to a more rural feeling.
 - Improved footpaths should support the Village centre by making access to shops and services easy by foot.
 - Enhanced 'green' vistas with tree planting, hedges and shrub, preferably native species such as yew, box or beech in preference to walls and fences should be pursued.
- iv. Seasonal flooding of the lower lavant stream is an occasionally severe problem. Landscape changes that could worsen or impede flows should be avoided.
- v. A major concern for local people is that some changes are likely to bring more traffic to the area. This will impact further on the rural character of the Village. More traffic will mean quiet rural lanes become busier and tranquillity is reduced. Changes currently proposed are all likely to increase traffic. These include new housing developments, visitors to the National Park, and to the Havant Thicket reservoir.

When new development is permitted, the quality of the highway and public realm should be conserved and enhanced to lessen the impact of traffic – as set out in highway policy such as *Local Transport Plan 3 – Joint Strategy for South Hampshire*. Traffic ought to be directed away from rural lanes, residential roads and lanes and the Village centre.



Flooded field in the Gap, photograph by Alan Bridger



Flooding in Woodberry Lane, photograph by Catherine Billam



Rowlands Castle as a place to live: From top left, clockwise: Rowlands Castle Golf Club, cyclists at The Village Coffee Shop, Pharmacy, Links Lane cottages, Deer Leap wall, extension to Church on the Green, signs on the Green. Photographs by Catherine Billam, Joy Roberts, Sandra Hodgetts

Appendix

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

EVENTS

In order to involve the local residents and to ensure that the LLCA reflects the opinions and aspirations of the wider community a range of consultation and communication events were arranged as outlined below. Over 100 participants were directly involved in the consultation.

1. The 2008 Parish Plan found that the landscape and village environment were highly regarded features of the parish. To re-validate this a survey questionnaire was placed in the community magazine. Though response was low it confirmed that opinions had not changed.

	% Respondents	
	Parish Plan	LCA
A. What is most important to you about the parish?		
☐ The village environment	78	72
☐ Access to the countryside	70	70
B. Respondents strongly agreeing, "the countryside around the parish is very important."	90	94

2. Public presentations on the LLCA's role and progress were held at the 2011 and 2012 Annual Parish Meetings, the 2011 Village Fair and at Finchdean in March 2012. Progress was regularly communicated to the community by way of articles in the RCA magazine and via three feedback sessions to the Parish Council.
3. Five guided local walks were organised to obtain residents' perceptions of the landscape. Responses were gathered during the walks, in post-walk 'focus groups' and by questionnaire. About sixty residents attended one or more walks, with an average of twenty-six per walk.
4. A workshop with 30+ members of the WI and the Historical Society was held in October 2011.
5. Discussions were held with local farmers to seek their views on opportunities and threats to the landscape and their visions for the future. Officers from the Forestry Commission, Staunton Country Park (HCC) and Portsmouth Water Company also participated.
6. Children on the School Council of the local St John's Primary School were asked for their thoughts regarding the Parish and surrounding countryside during January 2012.
7. Two groups of local enthusiasts assisted with drafting the Historical and Biodiversity sections.
8. An LLCA photo competition was organised with prizes for Vistas, Wildlife, Buildings, and Recreation. Raising awareness, it produced many of the images used in this publication.
9. A draft of the LLCA was placed on the RCA website in spring 2012 and residents were invited to comment. A public event, during March 2012, presented the draft LLCA, along with the photo competition entries and awarded prizes to the winners.

RESIDENTS RESPONSES

The largest group of comments were obtained from the 89 residents who participated in either the walkers' group events (59) or the joint meeting with the WI and Historical Society (30). The comments from these meetings were pooled and grouped into either likes or concerns. In addition the comments were – where possible – attributed to either landscape character area 3a or 10a. Where named locations were given these have been included into the relevant local character area discussions. The comments are summarised in Table 1.

Table I - Summary of residents comments (Walkers, WI & Historical Society)

LIKES			CONCERNS		
	<i>n</i>	%		<i>n</i>	%
Vistas	23	22	Development	35	42
Biodiversity	15	14	Landscape loss	21	25
Peace & tranquillity	12	11	Water quality (aquifer feed)	9	11
Landscape variety	26	24	Fly tipping	5	6
Undeveloped/natural	11	10	Biodiversity loss	4	5
Access & amenity	20	19	Flooding	11	13
Grouped by name/location					
Landscape zones 3a	<i>n</i>		Landscape zones 3a	<i>n</i>	
Wellsworth lane (Sussex Border path)	4		Wellsworth Lane (Sussex Border Path) – vehicle use	7	
Lavant valley views	5				
Whitehill views	4				
Wildflower meadows	10				
Woodland Hangers	4				
Idsworth church	3				
Finchdean	1				
Chalton Downs	4				
Landscape zones 10a			Landscape zones 10a		
The Holt	8		Havant Gap loss	4	
Havant Thicket woodland	4		Fly tipping (in Holt)	3	
Allotments	2		Woodlands to rear of Oaklands & Keyline	2	
Stansted Park	3		Mays Coppice Farm development	5	
Staunton Park	1		Haphazard development (fields from Nightingdale Bottom to Comley Bottom)		
Woodlands to rear of Oaklands & Keyline	1				
Residents Attendance					
Walkers groups: 59 residents attended one or more group walk. Attendance per group - 21 walk I, 33 walk II, 25 walk III, 33 walk IV.					
WI/Historical Society: 30 members of the above attending a landscape workshop held at the RC Parish Hall					

To obtain input from younger members of the community a structured discussion with pupil members from the School Council of St John's Primary School was carried out. This revealed that Staunton Park and Stansted Forest were well-liked locations for outside school activity (hiding, walks around the lake, throwing stones in lake), as were bridle paths. They also gave their opinions as to their 'Hopes' and 'Concerns' for the parish,

'Hopes' included:

- ☐ Stay as a village
- ☐ More ponds, especially duck ponds
- ☐ Like green/corn fields around village
- ☐ Would like more footpaths
- ☐ More buses to/from village
- ☐ More local shops ... for less driving

'Concerns' included:

- ☐ More houses – harder to get into countryside, more traffic & more smoke
- ☐ Don't want builders

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan for east Hampshire 2009
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
EHDC	East Hampshire District Council
HCC	Hampshire County Council
ILCA	South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment
LCA	2006 East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment
LLCA	Rowlands Castle Local Landscape Character Assessment
PUSH	Partnership for Urban South Hampshire
RCA	Rowlands Castle Association
RVEI	Roadside Verges of Ecological Interest
SDNP	South Downs National Park
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
VDS	Rowlands Castle Village Design Statement 2000
WSCC	West Sussex County Council

STEERING GROUP & CONTRIBUTORS

Steering group:	Fiona Charlesworth (RCA), Sandra Hodgetts, Peter McDowell, Chris White, Cllr Bill Wilson (RCPC), Mark Wilson
Contributors:	Pat Carter, Gordon Charlesworth (RCA), Jonathan Dicks, Alan Drinkwater, Paul Marshman, Richard Milton, Steve Radcliffe
Design:	Ruth Butler



Winners of the Photography Competition

From top left clockwise: Cornfields by Vera Whitlock; Village Fair by Karen Urquhart; Badgers by Vera Whitlock; Pixi-land by Anni Cooter; Steam Engine Over Bridge by Margaret Kilby; St Huberts by Frances Fawcett; Bonfire/Fireworks by Mark Seaman; Country Picnic by Yvonne Bish



St Hubert's Church, Old Idsworth through the seasons, photographs by Steve Radcliffe

Very many thanks to all those who provided help and support in the production of our Local Landscape Character Assessment. In particular, support from the following organisations is gratefully acknowledged:

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