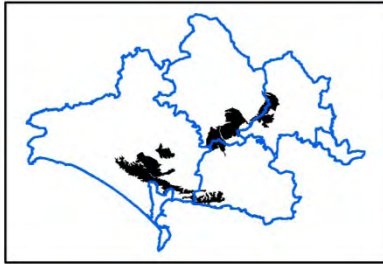






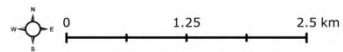
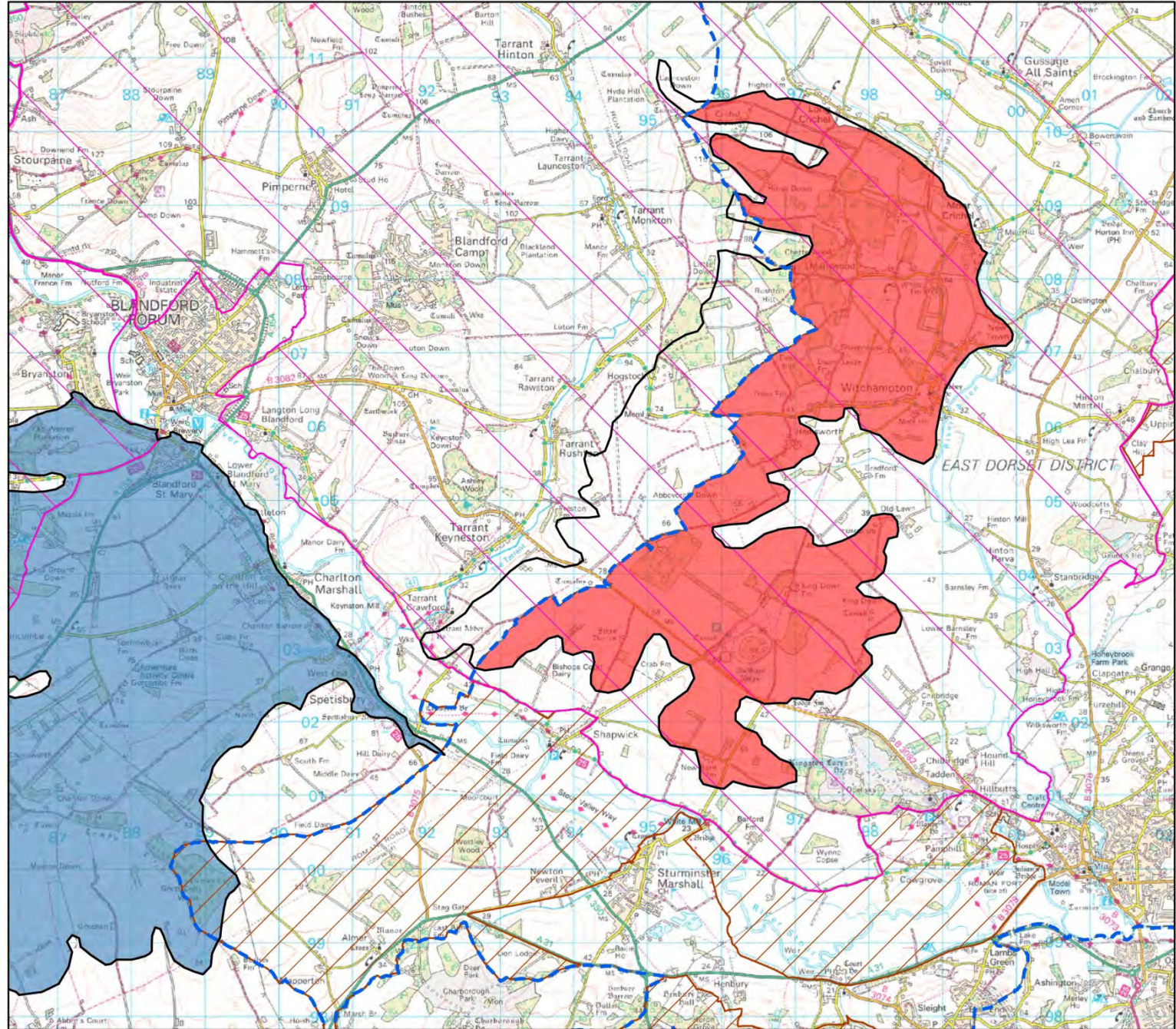


# Landscape character type: Open Chalk Downland



-  District boundary
-  AONB
-  Area of Great Landscape Value
- Dorset Landscape Character Type**
-  12. Open Chalk Downland
- East Dorset Landscape Character Area**
-  12A - East Dorset Downs
-  12B - South Blandford Downs



## Open Chalk Downland LCT overview

The Open Chalk Downland LCT forms part of the belt of chalk (also incorporating the Chalk Valley and Downland, Chalk Ridge/Escarpment, Wooded Chalk Downland and Chalk Valley River Floor LCTs) that runs north east to south west through the centre of the county. It represents the areas which are not directly associated with the river valleys cut into the chalk or border it. In the East Dorset Downs an area of Open Chalk Downland sits within a broader area of the Chalk Valley and Downland LCT. There is no physical distinction between the Chettle/Abbeycroft Downs (in North Dorset) and the East Dorset Downs, where the boundary between the two follows the District boundary. There is also a very small area of Open Chalk Downland in and around Great Coll Wood on the District boundary in the South Blandford Downs. As there is little specific reference in the East Dorset District Assessment to the South Blandford Downs, which is mostly located in North Dorset, both areas are assessed together.

## Open Chalk Downland LCT characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"Elevated areas of open chalk upland with a broad rolling landform... Gentle curving convex profiles to the landform"*

This is a large scale landform.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Uniform and homogenous landscape character"*

*"Patchwork of large-scale arable fields subdivided by low, straight and weak hedges"*

*"Isolated small blocks of geometrically shaped woods"*

### Visual exposure:

*"An expansive open scale with panoramic views to distant landmarks"*

### Development and activity:

*"Sparsely populated with few settlements and scattered isolated farmsteads"*

There is consequently a strong sense of remoteness.

## Open Chalk Downland LCT value characteristics

Almost all of the Open Chalk Downland in the District lies within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. The AONB is valued for special qualities which include a distinctive landform, simplicity and openness, a sense of history and remoteness and a tranquil, rural character.

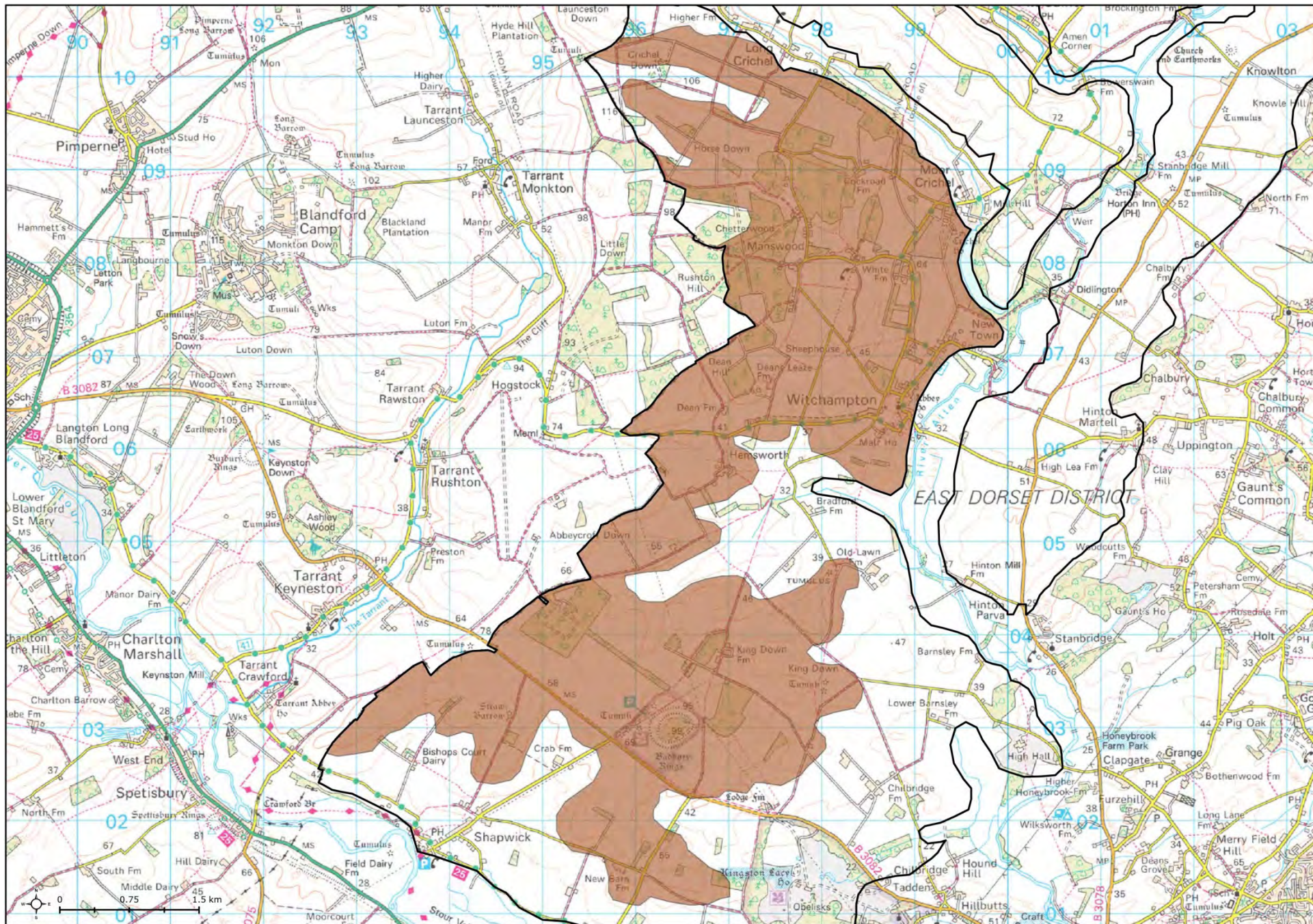
The principal Management Objective for the Open Chalk Downland LCT is to conserve the distinct landscapes, and the Management Objectives also make reference to restoring the condition of characteristic features so as to *"increase visual unity"* and *"make the combination of patterns and elements more distinct"*.

The distinctive character of the Open Chalk Downland has literary associations with Thomas Hardy, and throughout the area there are ancient monuments in exposed locations which add an important historic dimension to the landscape. Badbury Rings in particular is noted as a *"prominent and key landmark"*.

Open Chalk Downland LCT sensitivity to wind energy	Open Chalk Downland LCT sensitivity to solar PV energy
<p>This is an open, large scale landscape, and these characteristics are typically considered less sensitive to strong features such as wind turbines than more human-scale environments, but the “grand and dramatic” landscape scale of the AONB-designated chalk downs is one its ‘special qualities’. The “simple and elemental character of the open downland – wide expansive skies, dominant skylines, dramatic escarpments and panoramic views”, and its tranquil, rural nature, are also ‘special characteristics’ of the AONB which could be adversely affected by wind energy development. The Open Chalk Downland’s distinctive landform, uniformity (deriving from an absence of visual clutter and consistency of arable cultivation) and visual openness could all be compromised by the introduction of high vertical structures with movement.</p> <p>In terms of development and human influence this is a rural landscape with little modern intrusion and a strong sense of remoteness, so sensitivity is relatively high.</p>	<p>The undulating, rounded forms of the downland landscape are moderately sensitive to the introduction en masse of rigid forms such as solar panels, and the openness and large scale of the landscape, with low hedges, increases sensitivity. Geometric fields on more even slopes are of lower sensitivity if they are either reasonably well screened by woodland blocks or are located some distance from strong viewpoints, but the value attached to this AONB landscape, in which prominent modern development is rare and the “simple and elemental” and “peaceful, tranquil and deeply rural” characteristics of the area are ‘special qualities’, makes any location relatively sensitive to solar PV development.</p>

# Landscape character area: East Dorset Downs (part)

Area: 2263 hectares



## East Dorset Downs LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"...an open, low-profile, undulating, and smooth landscape"... "This area includes some of the most dramatic parts of the Chase within East Dorset District."*

*"The area comprises a plateau that dips gently from north to south"*

In East Dorset the Open Chalk Downland areas are typically more gently undulating than the slopes down into the chalk river valleys to the north (Crichel, Gussage and Monkton Up Wimborne) and west (Tarrant) but a little steeper than the slopes down to the broader Stour and Allen valleys.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"A largely uncluttered landscape of simple shapes, where line tends to be as important as colour"... "Tree-cover within the area is sparse, except for a number of fairly small and self-contained woods"... "Most roads and tracks in the area tend to be straight."*

*"The landscape south of the Avenue is characterised by a rectangular field pattern extending towards the Stour. This 'grain' is not evident further north where fields are more irregular. Here, field sizes tend to be larger to the west and smaller towards the River Allen."*

*"The colours seen within the chalkland landscape form an important aspect of its character; they reflect the manner in which the landscape is managed as much as the seasonal differences."*

### Visual exposure:

*"Long distance views across and beyond the District boundary from downland hills and ridges"*

The area is overlooked by the higher ridge/plateau alongside the Tarrant Valley (in North Dorset District) and there are more distant views from high points in the Rolling Wooded Pastures to the east. Within the LCA Badbury Rings is an important viewpoint with panoramic vistas in all directions. The central-northern part of the Open Chalk Downland area, centred on Manswood, is heavily wooded and consequently has more restricted views. The northern tip of the area, on Crichel and Launceston Downs, is exposed to views from the A354 and the ridge-top road between the Crichel and Gussage valleys.

### Development and activity:

*"...open, empty character..."*

Other than Witchampton there are only isolated farms in the area.

## East Dorset Downs LCA value characteristics

The LCA lies within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

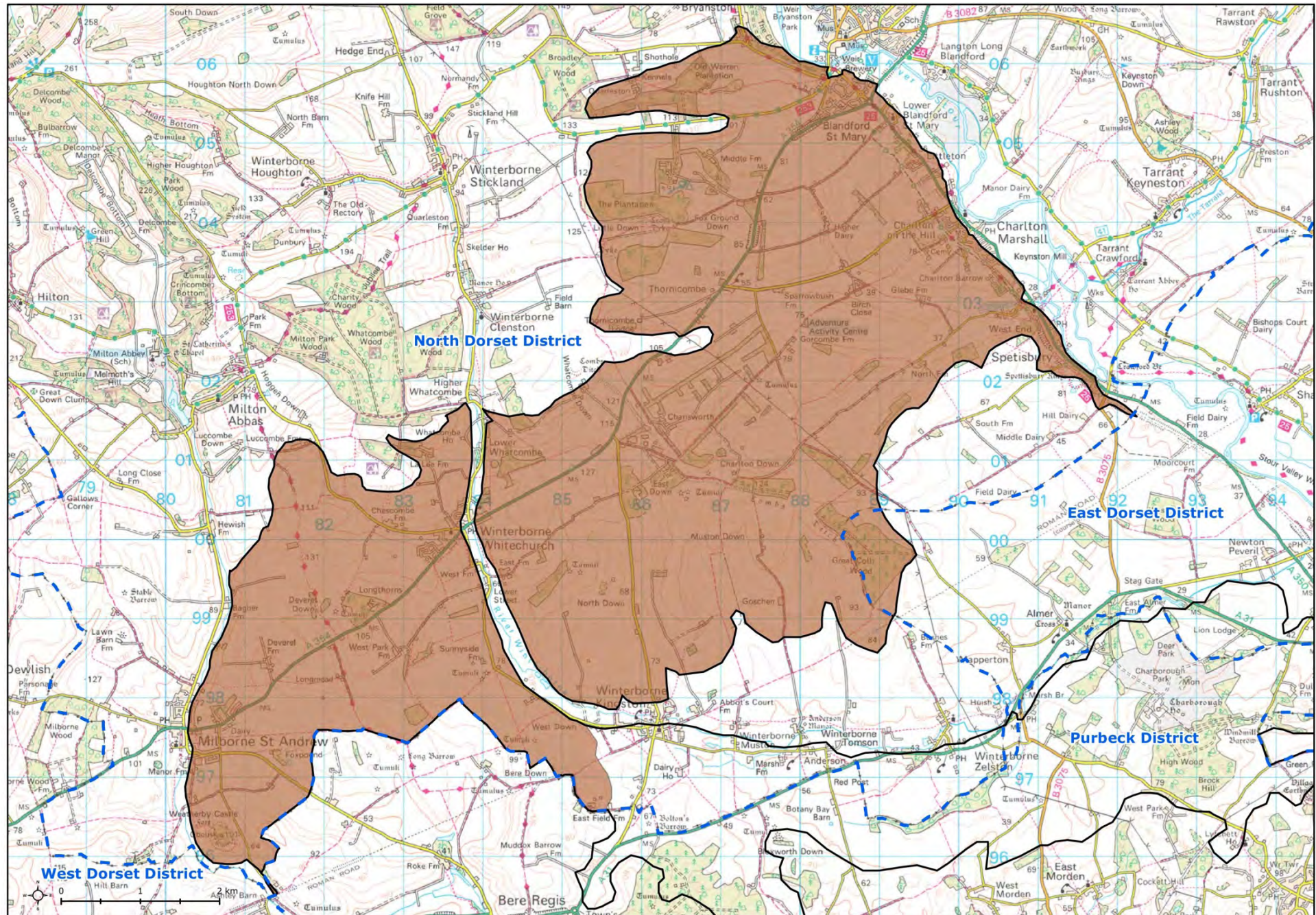
There are many significant archaeological sites in the area, including hilltop earthworks and burial mounds.

There are two parkland estates in the East Dorset Downs, Kingston Lacy and Crichel, which are noted for their distinctive landscapes and which, whilst not located in the Open Chalk Downland LCT, are close enough that they could be affected by development within the LCT.

East Dorset Downs LCA sensitivity to wind energy		East Dorset Downs LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																	
<p style="text-align: center;">Turbine height (m)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤35</td> <td>≤65</td> <td>≤99</td> <td>&gt;99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cluster size</td> <td>1</td> <td><b>M</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2-4</td> <td><b>MH</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>&gt;4</td> <td></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> </table>			≤35	≤65	≤99	>99	Cluster size	1	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>		2-4	<b>MH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>		>4		<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Development size (ha)</td> <td>≤1</td> <td><b>M</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤10</td> <td><b>M</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤30</td> <td><b>MH</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>&gt;30</td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> </table>		Development size (ha)	≤1	<b>M</b>		≤10	<b>M</b>		≤30	<b>MH</b>		>30	<b>H</b>
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East Dorset Downs LCA sensitivity to wind energy		East Dorset Downs LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																	
<p>Sensitivity to single turbines less than 35m high is judged to be moderate and sensitivity to groups of 2-4 turbines less than 35m high is <b>medium-high</b>. Sensitivity to any larger scales of development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The “simple and elemental character of the open downland – wide expansive skies, dominant skylines, dramatic escarpments and panoramic views”, and its tranquil, rural nature, are key ‘special characteristics’ of the AONB which could be adversely affected by wind energy development. The more wooded areas are more likely to provide locations where screening would reduce sensitivity to smaller turbines but the exposure of much of the area to views from Badbury Rings elevates sensitivity across most of the LCT. In general, the “grand and dramatic” landscape scale and high intensity of character, which are also noted as ‘special qualities’ of the AONB, would be diminished by the presence of wind turbines.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location is prominent within long views from Badbury Rings, major roads, PROW or key viewpoints (which may be identified in Parish Action Plans, Village Design Statements or other Settlement Appraisals);</li> <li>• Location is in the proximity of visible archaeological features, the Beech Avenue or The Drive Plantation, or is close enough to parklands such as Kingston Lacy or Crichel to intrude on their wooded settings.</li> </ul>		<p>Sensitivity to solar PV schemes of less than 10 hectares is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to solar PV schemes of 10-30 hectares is <b>moderate-high</b>. Sensitivity to larger schemes is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>As the District Assessment comments, the landscape has a ‘soft’ appearance, largely derived from the combination of the landform, with its pillow-like curves and folds, and the low-cut hedgerows which accentuate the contours of the land. Geometric solar arrays would be out of character with the “simple and elemental character of the open downland” and its tranquil, rural nature, are key ‘special characteristics’ of the AONB which could be adversely affected by solar PV development. However, the extent of tree cover in the central-northern area around Manswood does reduce sensitivity for schemes which fit in with the scale of the fieldscape.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location is prominent within long views from Badbury Rings, major roads, PROW or key viewpoints (which may be identified in Parish Action Plans, Village Design Statements or other Settlement Appraisals);</li> <li>• Location is in the proximity of visible archaeological features, the Beech Avenue or The Drive Plantation; The landform is more undulating.</li> </ul>																																	

## Landscape character area: South Blandford Downs (part)

Area (within East Dorset District): 69 hectares



### South Blandford Downs LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"An undulating area of chalk downland distinctively subdivided by the predominantly south flowing chalk valleys... merges with the downland areas to the south"*

*"In the far south of the area around Weatherby Castle, a more intimate valley landscape is created as it becomes tighter and constricted by topography..."*

The Open Chalk Downland topography in the South Blandford LCA is more varied and undulating than the Chalk Valley & Downland slopes in the south eastern part of the LCA. In the north eastern part of the LCA it forms spurs and combes which slope down from high points in the Upper North Winterborne Valley LCA towards the Stour Valley. West of the Winterborne it includes all of the downland feeding into the three north-south river valleys (the Devil's Brook, Milborne and Winterborne) and the River Piddle to the south, although the western and southern parts of the LCA are in West Dorset and Purbeck districts respectively.

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"...intensively farmed with large to medium sized geometrical shaped fields bounded by low, straight clipped hedges"*

Field sizes and shapes do vary, and+ are noted as being smaller in the south of the area.

*"...several small, geometric-shaped plantation woodland blocks which dot the landscape and define the horizon in many places"*

*"There are widely spaced out, straight roads lined by low clipped hedgerows and the A354 dominates the central part of the area, as it crosses the upland"*

#### Visual exposure:

*"...an expansive landscape with some open views to the horizon"*

*"Parts of the urban edges of Winterborne Whitechurch and Milborne St Andrew become visible, and create an impact, as they have developed up the side slopes of the downland over time"*

The eastern part of the LCA is overlooked by the hill tops above the Winterborne and there are long views from the downs to the east of the Stour. The western part is overlooked in panoramic views from high ground above Milton Abbas.

There are passing views into much of the area from the A354, and into the southern edge of the area from the A35 and A31.

#### Development and activity:

*"Settlements are few and found mainly along the edges of the Stour Valley with a few isolated farmsteads scattered across the area"*

The principle villages within the area, such as Bere Regis, Milborne St Andrew and Winterborne Whitechurch, are on the lower slopes close to valley floors.

### South Blandford Downs LCA value characteristics

The northern fringes of the LCA, in North Dorset District, fall within the Dorset AONB and the whole area forms part of the setting for higher chalk downland within the Dorset AONB to the north and the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB to the east.

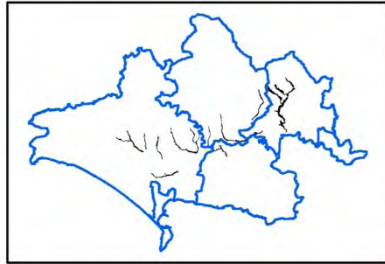
The following are noted as key features: Weatherby Castle, the Jubilee Trail (which runs along the top of the downs between the Milborne and Winterborne valleys), Longthorns Wood and its surrounding tumuli, Milborne Wood and the parkland landscape around Whatcombe House.










The "hard urban edge" of Blandford St Mary is noted as a detracting feature.

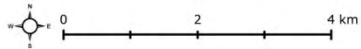
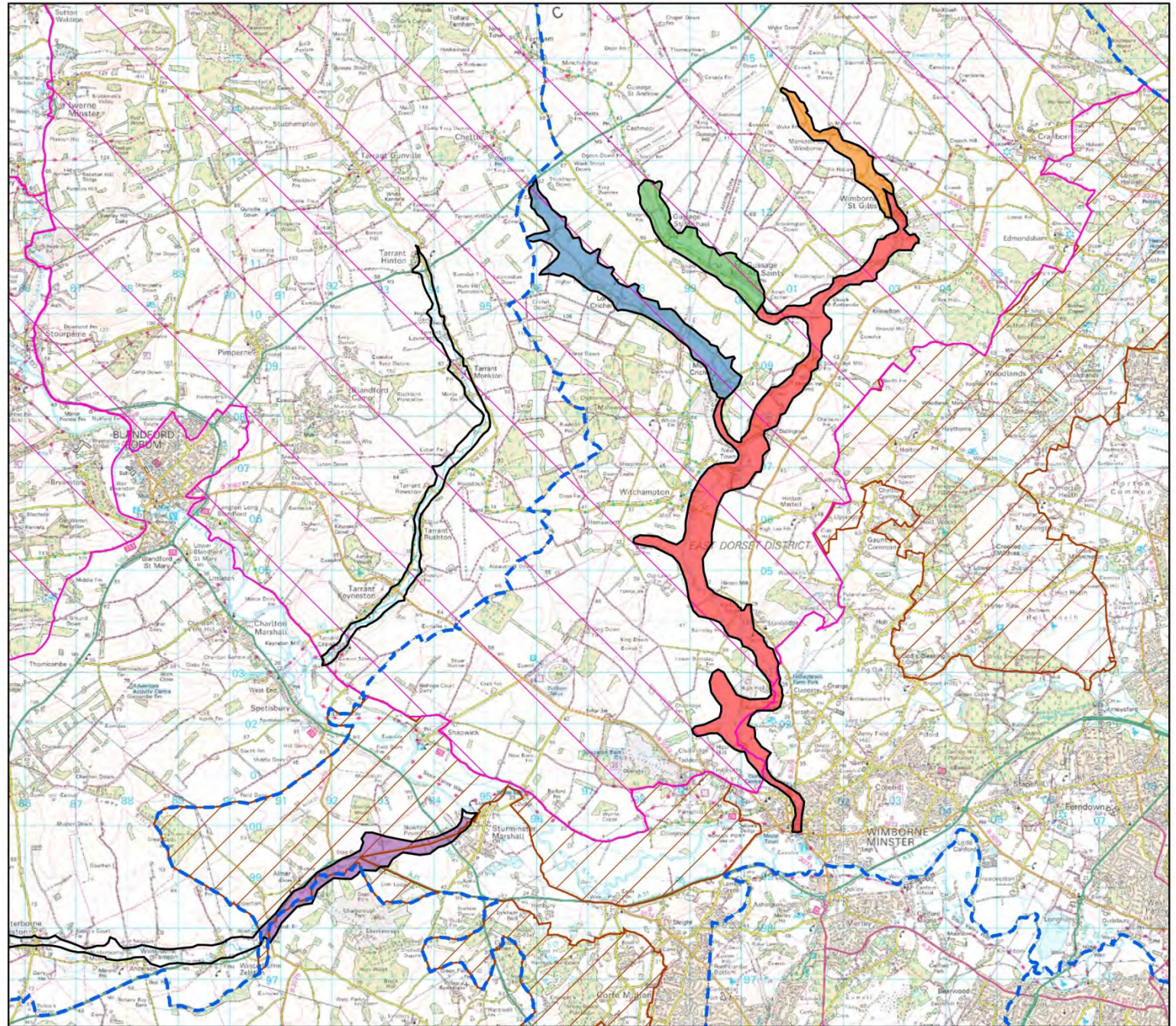


South Blandford Downs LCA sensitivity to wind energy					South Blandford Downs LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
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South Blandford Downs LCA sensitivity to wind energy					South Blandford Downs LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
<p>Sensitivity to single turbines less than 35m high is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to 2-4 turbines less than 35m high or to single turbines 36-65m high is <b>moderate-high</b>. Sensitivity to all other scales of development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The undulating slopes within this LCA are moderately sensitive to wind energy development, with lower slopes being more sensitive than crests, but the distinctive, homogeneous character of the downland landscape, with arable fields, low hedges and a sense of openness, is a key element of its value which therefore elevates sensitivity. Smaller turbines could be located in association with woodland blocks or farm buildings, so as not to create entirely new focal points in the landscape.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location appears in middle distance of longer, panoramic views from high ground on or near the chalk escarpment;</li> <li>• Turbine appears prominent in context of smaller scale valley landscape;</li> <li>• Location affects the prominence or character of landmarks such as Weatherby Castle, Longthorns Wood, Whatcombe Park, Milborne Wood or Great Coll Wood;</li> <li>• There is prolonged visibility in views from the Jubilee Trail.</li> </ul>					<p>Sensitivity to solar PV schemes of less than 10 hectares is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to solar PV schemes of 10-30 hectares is <b>moderate-high</b>. Sensitivity to larger schemes is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The simplicity and ruralness of the open downs are typically sensitive to modern development, but areas of flatter ground, or locations in which woodlands provide some screening, would be less sensitive than more exposed or undulating positions.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location appears in middle distance of longer, panoramic views from high ground on or near the chalk escarpment;</li> <li>• Development appears prominent in context of a valley landscape;</li> <li>• Location is on exposed slope;</li> <li>• Field shape is irregular;</li> <li>• Location affects the prominence or character of landmarks such as Weatherby Castle, Longthorns Wood, Whatcombe Park, Milborne Wood or Great Coll Wood;</li> <li>• There is prolonged visibility in views from the Jubilee Trail.</li> </ul>																																						

# Landscape character type: Chalk River Valley Floor



-  District boundary
-  AONB
-  Area of Great Landscape Value
- Dorset Landscape Character Type**
-  22. Chalk River Valley Floor
- East Dorset Landscape Character Area**
-  22A - Allen Valley
-  22B - Criche Valley
-  22C - Gussage Valley
-  22D - Lower Winterborne Valley
-  22E - Monkton Up Wimborne Valley



## Chalk River Valley Floor LCT overview

Chalk River Valley Floor areas are identified on County LCT mapping but described as part of the typology for the Chalk Valley and Downland LCT, with which they are associated. In East Dorset three river valley LCAs – Monkton Up Wimborne, Gussage and Crichel – run in a generally north west to south east direction, draining off the chalk into the Allen Valley (which in turn feeds south into the Stour). The Lower Winterbourne Valley LCA originates in North Dorset and continues into East Dorset, where the river joins the Stour.

## Chalk River Valley Floor LCT characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"The distinctive north south aligned, secluded chalk valleys of this landscape drain and subdivide the surrounding chalk downlands"*

The Chalk River Valley Floor LCT character areas are narrowly defined to include only the valley bottoms and lowest slopes, the surrounding hillsides and ridges typically being categorised as the Chalk Valley & Downland LCT but in some cases as Open Chalk Downland.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Smaller scale pattern of fields and winding ribbons of trees along the valley floors creates a more sheltered and secluded character"* (in comparison to the more open, exposed chalk downs)

*"Historic now disused water meadows are key features"*

### Visual exposure:

Lateral views from the chalk valley floors are constrained to the immediate ridgelines. Longer linear views are available in places but vegetation bends in the valley form also limit these. Outside of the LCT there is very limited perception of the valleys beyond the immediate hillsides and crests.

### Development and activity:

*"Distinctive settlements of stone, brick and flint in linear form along the valley floors"*

## Chalk River Valley Floor LCT value characteristics

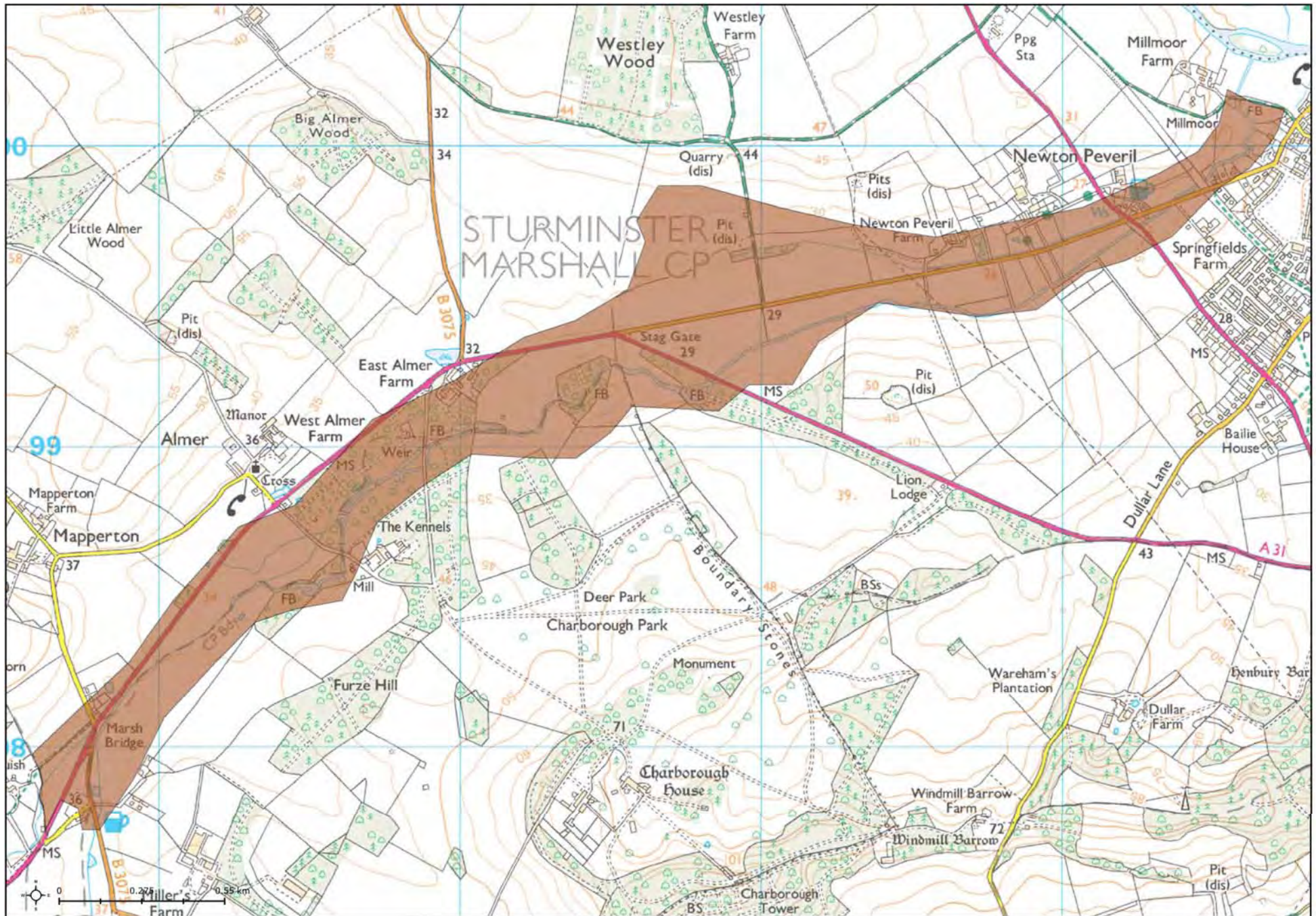
Almost all of the chalk river valley floor areas are designated for their landscape value. Only the southern tip of the Allen valley, where it enters the town of Wimborne, and the Winterborne Valley are not in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, and most of the latter, although not subject to statutory designation, is part of the Stour Valley AGLV. The distinctive valley floor settlement pattern, the historic character of these villages, the remoteness and tranquillity associated with their location and the contrast between open downs and intimate valleys are 'special qualities' of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

The management guidance notes for the Chalk Valley and Downland LCT include aspects specifically relating to the valley floors. These include *"Conserve and enhance the pattern and character of valley floor 'ribbon development' villages"* and *"Conserve and restore remnant water meadow systems that are an important historic landscape feature..."*

Chalk River Valley Floor LCT sensitivity to wind energy	Chalk River Valley Floor LCT sensitivity to solar PV energy
<p>The rivers that meander along the chalk valley floors are the key physical features within this LCT and the introduction of significant vertical landscape elements would detract from these and also jar with the sheltered, secluded, small-scale of the landscape and with its distinct, historic character. The upper sections of turbines could potentially appear above the ridge tops in views, which would have a significant impact on the perception of these valleys that presents exists in views across the open downlands from locations away from the immediate valley tops.</p>	<p>The predominant land use types are pastoral, including water meadows with historic value, and these would be sensitive to the introduction of solar energy. There may be some scope for smaller solar schemes to be located where they would not be widely perceived in the local landscape and would not appear out of scale, but the sharp, geometric forms of solar development are likely to clash with the historic, pastoral character of the valleys wherever they are sited, and any location immediately adjacent to a river would be likely to detract from its sinuous form.</p>

# Landscape character area: Lower Winterborne Valley

Area: 152 hectares



## Lower Winterborne Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"A narrow chalk stream corridor and valley sides defined in most places by a clear break in slope"*

The lower reaches of the Winterborne Valley, east of Winterborne Kingston, are much shallower with no clear distinction between the valley floor and the surrounding Chalk Valley & Downland LCT.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Copses and hedgerows along the length of the valley contribute to a sense of containment" (East Dorset LCA)*

*"The land is intensively farmed and the area is more pastoral than the adjoining arable chalk downland" (North Dorset LCA)*

*"There are occasional groups of planted poplars and willows which, together with the naturally occurring tree groups, form characteristic linear features along the streamside" (North Dorset LCA)*

### Visual exposure:

*"The brick walls marking the boundary of the Charborough Park Estate form a striking feature in the views along part of the valley floor." (East Dorset LCA)*

East of Winterborne Kingston there are few locations with either residential or public views down to the valley floor from the surrounding area, but further north the steeper valley sides afford more views down into the valley from ridge top roads.

### Development and activity:

*"The settlement pattern and road network follow the stream corridor to create a distinctive pattern... use of locally distinctive material such as brick and flint... presence of large country houses in big gardens with mature trees contributes to the character of the settlements on the valley floor" (North Dorset LCA)*

*"Winterborne Whitechurch is the main settlement and a key feature on the valley floor at the junction with the A354." (North Dorset LCA)*

*"The valley of the Winterborne has a long history of associated habitation, focused in three early settlements at Mapperton, West Almer and East Almer, all set at the edge or just to the north of the boundary of the valley gravel and the chalk" (East Dorset LCA)*

*"The A31 trunk road, which at this point is a traditional single-carriageway road flanked with hedgerows and hedgerow trees, follows the valley of the River Winterborne, passing Almer to the north." (East Dorset LCA)*

## Lower Winterborne Valley LCA value characteristics

*Most of the Lower Winterborne Valley is designated at District level as part of the Stour Valley AGLV.*

*"The parkland landscape of Whatcombe Park is an important local feature..." (North Dorset LCA)*

The walls, lodges and gateways to Charborough Park and the manor and church at Almer are noted as key features in the East Dorset LCA.

Lower Winterborne Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Lower Winterborne Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																														
<p style="text-align: center;">Turbine height (m)</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>≤35</th> <th>≤65</th> <th>≤99</th> <th>&gt;99</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Cluster size</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		≤35	≤65	≤99	>99	Cluster size	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	H			H	H	H	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Development size (ha)</th> <th>≤1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f00;"><b>MH</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #f00;">H</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Development size (ha)	≤1		<b>MH</b>		H		H		H
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<p>Sensitivity of the valley floor area to any scale of wind energy development is <b>high</b>. The LCA is narrowly defined to exclude the downs that form the valley sides so any development within it would be located close to the river itself and would detract from the natural linear form. The small scale of riverside fields and the presence of human-scale features (buildings, trees, bridges) and historic settlement pattern are all sensitive.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be particularly high where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development affects the visual prominence of Charborough Park Tower or its distinctive walls, gates and woodland perimeter;</li> <li>• Development affects the setting of Whatcombe Park.</li> <li>• Attractive views, such as to Almer Manor and the adjacent church, are identified.</li> </ul>	<p>Any schemes other than those below 1 hectare in size are considered to have <b>high</b> sensitivity in the small-scale, secluded valley landscapes. Sensitivity to schemes of less than 1 hectare is judged to be <b>moderate-high</b>.</p> <p>The lack of physical breadth within the LCA, typically 200-300m, limits the scope for solar schemes of any scale, particularly because the presence of geometric rows of arrays in locations close to the river would detract from its meandering, linear character. There may however be locations where the valley is wider, and/or where the A31 already intrudes on landscape character, where sensitivity to smaller schemes would be slightly lower.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field edges are irregular, bordering the river or associated streams;</li> <li>• Development affects the visual prominence of Charborough Park Tower or its distinctive walls, gates and woodland perimeter;</li> <li>• Development affects the setting of Whatcombe Park.</li> </ul>																														

# Landscape character area: Allen Valley

Area: 692 hectares





### Allen Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

A shallow-sided valley.

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Flat water meadows lie either side of the river as it meanders throughout its length, contrasting with the adjacent arable fields"*

*"Copses and riverside trees trace the course of the river. North of Witchampton there is a continuous belt of woods and plantations extending as far as Crichel (Loverley) Mill"*

Fields are irregular in shape, with the river or feeder streams forming boundaries.

#### Visual exposure:

*"The landscape along the river is much more intimate than that of the surrounding countryside. The best public views of the river can be found where minor roads to the west of the B.3078 cross over the river, undoubtedly these views are enhanced by the historic character of the bridges themselves many of which are listed"*

#### Development and activity:

*"Sparsely developed with secluded and intimate character"*

*"Distinctive, traditional building materials, flint, red brick and thatch"... "simple bridges"*

At its southern end the valley passes through the town of Wimborne Minster, where it joins the Stour.

### Allen Valley LCA value characteristics

Aside from where it enters the town of Wimborne, the LCA is designated within the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire AONB.

Historic bridges at Lumber Lane and Stanbridge, and various historic mills are noted as key landscape features.

### Allen Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy

		Turbine height (m)			
		≤35	≤65	≤99	>99
Cluster size	1	H	H	H	H
	2-4	H	H	H	H
	>4		H	H	H

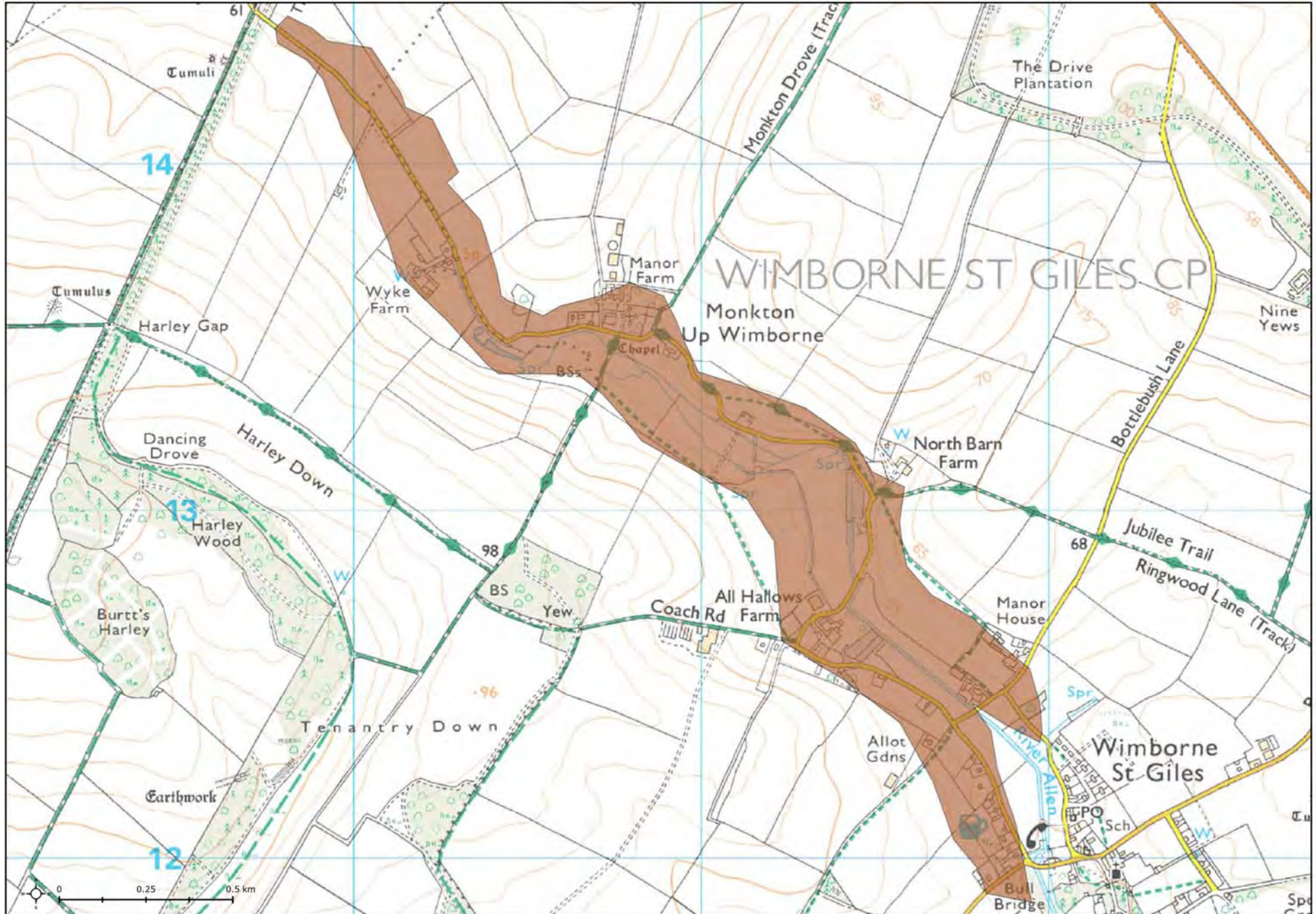
### Allen Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy

Development size (ha)	≤1	H
	≤10	H
	≤30	H
	>30	H

Allen Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Allen Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy
<p>Sensitivity of the valley floor area to any scale of wind energy development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The LCA is narrowly defined to exclude the downs that form the valley sides so any development within it would be located close to the river itself and would detract from the natural linear form. The intimate quality and historic, undeveloped character of the well-treed landscape are 'special qualities' of the AONB and would be very sensitive to any wind energy development.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be particularly high where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development detracts from the historic setting of St Giles's House and its parkland;</li> <li>• Development is in the vicinity of historic river crossing points or buildings directly associated with the river, such as the water mills at Stanbridge, Crichel, Didlington and Hinton Mill.</li> </ul>	<p>Sensitivity to all scales of solar PV development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The relationship between water meadows and the river is a direct one, in terms of function and form, and any distinct change of land use, such as the introduction of rigid, geometric, man-made structures such as solar arrays, would be a significant change which would affect the homogeneous character and historic value of the LCA. The undeveloped character of the valley adds further to sensitivity: the gentle slope of the surrounding downland towards the river and the strength of the tree belts and blocks that fringe the LCA mean that there is little visual exposure beyond the area boundaries, which limits the impact of any development in visual terms but heightens sensitivity in terms of the intimacy and strength of landscape character. These characteristics are valued as 'special qualities' associated with the AONB designation.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be particularly high where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development is in the vicinity of historic river crossing points or buildings directly associated with the river, such as the water mills at Stanbridge, Crichel, Didlington and Hinton Mill.</li> </ul>

# Landscape character area: Monkton Up Wimborne Valley

Area: 92 hectares



### Monkton Up Wimborne Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"The profile of the valley is very shallow... The gentle valley sides allow the open downland landscape to permeate the northern end of the village [Monkton Up Wimborne]"*

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Farmland extends as far as good drainage will allow. Field sizes vary, but follow the pattern of the chalk landscape. Water meadows characterise the valley bottom."*

*"A narrow winding lane continues up the valley linking Wimborne St Giles with Monkton Up Wimborne. Beyond this hamlet at the head of the valley the lane straightens out and the downland influence is reasserted."*

*"Farmland with relatively few trees, apart from St. Giles Park"*

#### Visual exposure:

*"Unspoilt views of the water meadows can be obtained from the listed bridge near French's Farm."*

There are views down into the valley from the Jubilee Trail long distance route, which crosses it.

#### Development and activity:

*"Set apart from the village of Wimborne St. Giles, there are a number of modest manor houses and traditional farmhouses fairly evenly dispersed throughout the valley, which gives the area a lived-in character in contrast to the surrounding downland."*

### Monkton Up Wimborne Valley LCA value characteristics

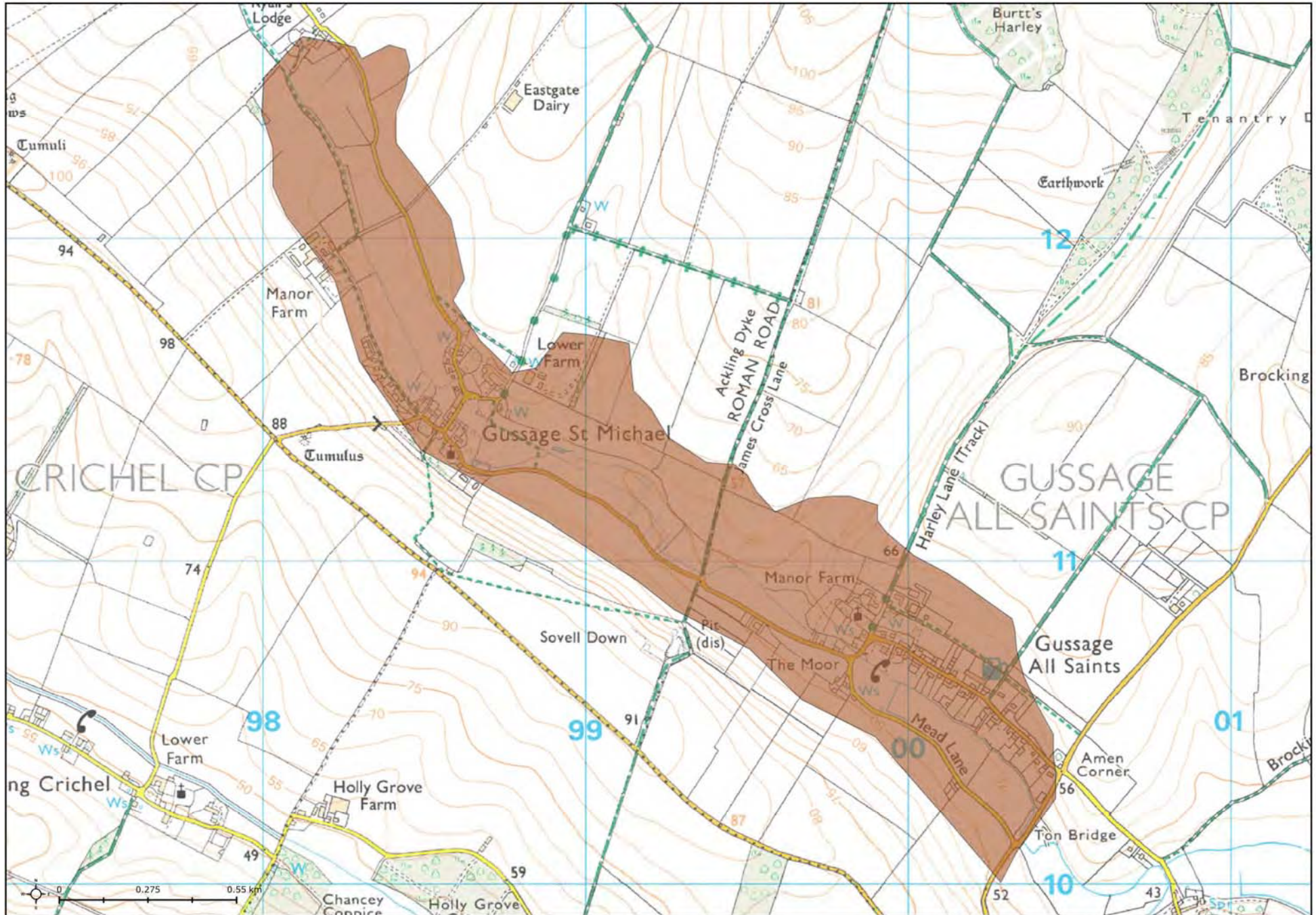
The LCA is situated within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

The Church of St Giles and old bridges crossing the River Allen are noted as key features.

Monkton Up Wimborne Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Monkton Up Wimborne Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																			
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# Landscape character area: Gussage Valley

Area: 157 hectares



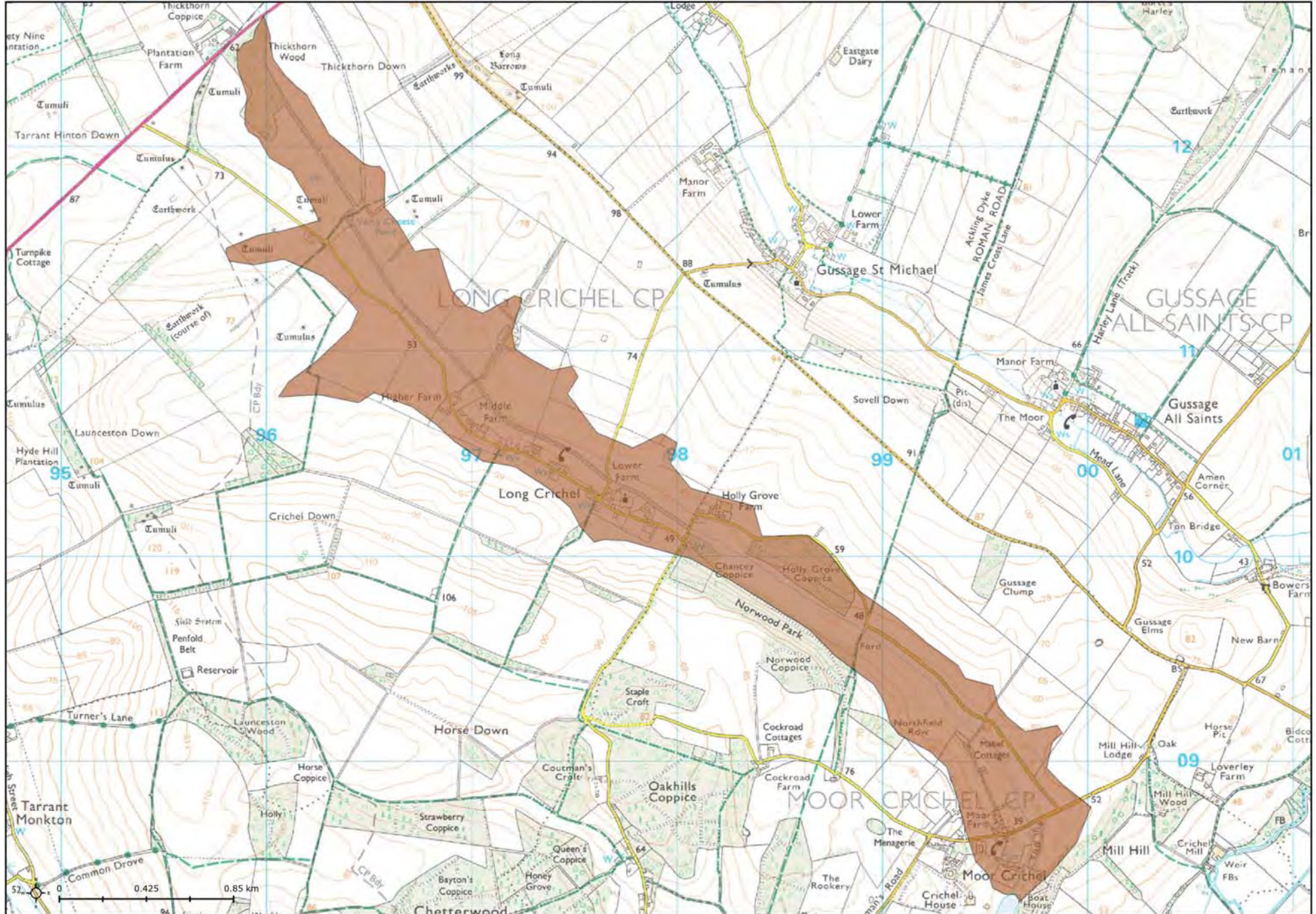
Gussage Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria	
<p><b>Scale and complexity of landform:</b></p> <p><i>"The valley sides are steeply pronounced particularly on the south side which rise to Sovell and Thickthorn Downs"... " Beyond Gussage St. Michael, to the north, the valley flattens out and its general character merges with the downland."</i></p>	<p><b>Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:</b></p> <p><i>"Farmland extends as far as good drainage will allow. Field sizes vary, but follow the pattern of the chalk landscape. Water meadows characterise the valley bottom."</i></p> <p><i>"A narrow winding lane continues up the valley linking Wimborne St Giles with Monkton Up Wimborne. Beyond this hamlet at the head of the valley the lane straightens out and the downland influence is reasserted."</i></p> <p><i>"...trees tend to be concentrated within the generous curtilages that characterise the villages"</i></p>
<p><b>Visual exposure:</b></p> <p>Linear views along the valley are limited by tree cover, and there are no distant views into the LCA. The Jubilee Trail runs along the crest of the downs to the north of the valley, Gussage Hill being the principal high point.</p>	<p><b>Development and activity:</b></p> <p>Activity is focused along the valley road, which links two linear valley floor settlements: Gussage All Saints and Gussage St Michael. Farm buildings are also grouped along the valley floor.</p>
Gussage Valley LCA value characteristics	
<p>The LCA is situated within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.</p> <p>The churches of All Saints and St Michael are identified as key features, but it is noted that <i>"their influence is restricted by the surrounding landform and treescape"</i>. The villages in the valley include many historic properties and old bridges (those at Bull Bridge and south of Ryalls Farmhouse are mentioned as key features).</p>	

Gussage Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy					Gussage Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
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# Landscape character area: Crichel Valley

Area: 257 hectares



### Crichel Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"Steep sided valley gradually spreading out into downland to the north."*

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"The field pattern is square to the road, with hedges that run up the slopes on either side generating a strong rhythm. Except for Norwood Park and adjacent coppices, the farming regime of the nearby downs extends across the valley largely uninterrupted."*

*"The landscape is extensively farmed, with a number of large farms sited along the valley. Each farm complex comprises a compact grouping of traditional and modern buildings that stands out against the open, sometimes tree-less landscape."*

*"Around the church and Long Crichel House are fine specimen trees giving a park-like appearance to the adjacent watermeadows."*

#### Visual exposure:

There are clear views into the valley from the ridge top road to the north, and from a number of public rights of way which drop down into the valley on both sides.

#### Development and activity:

The character of the Crichel Valley, centred on the village of Long Crichel, is described as being quite different to its neighbouring valleys because *"the area is much less developed, and in consequence, more rural and totally unspoilt."*

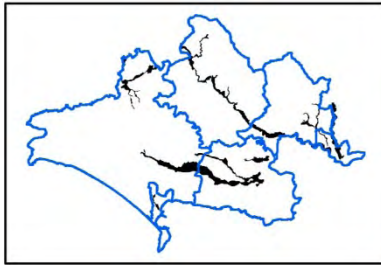
### Crichel Valley LCA value characteristics

The LCA is situated within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

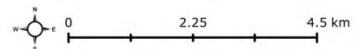
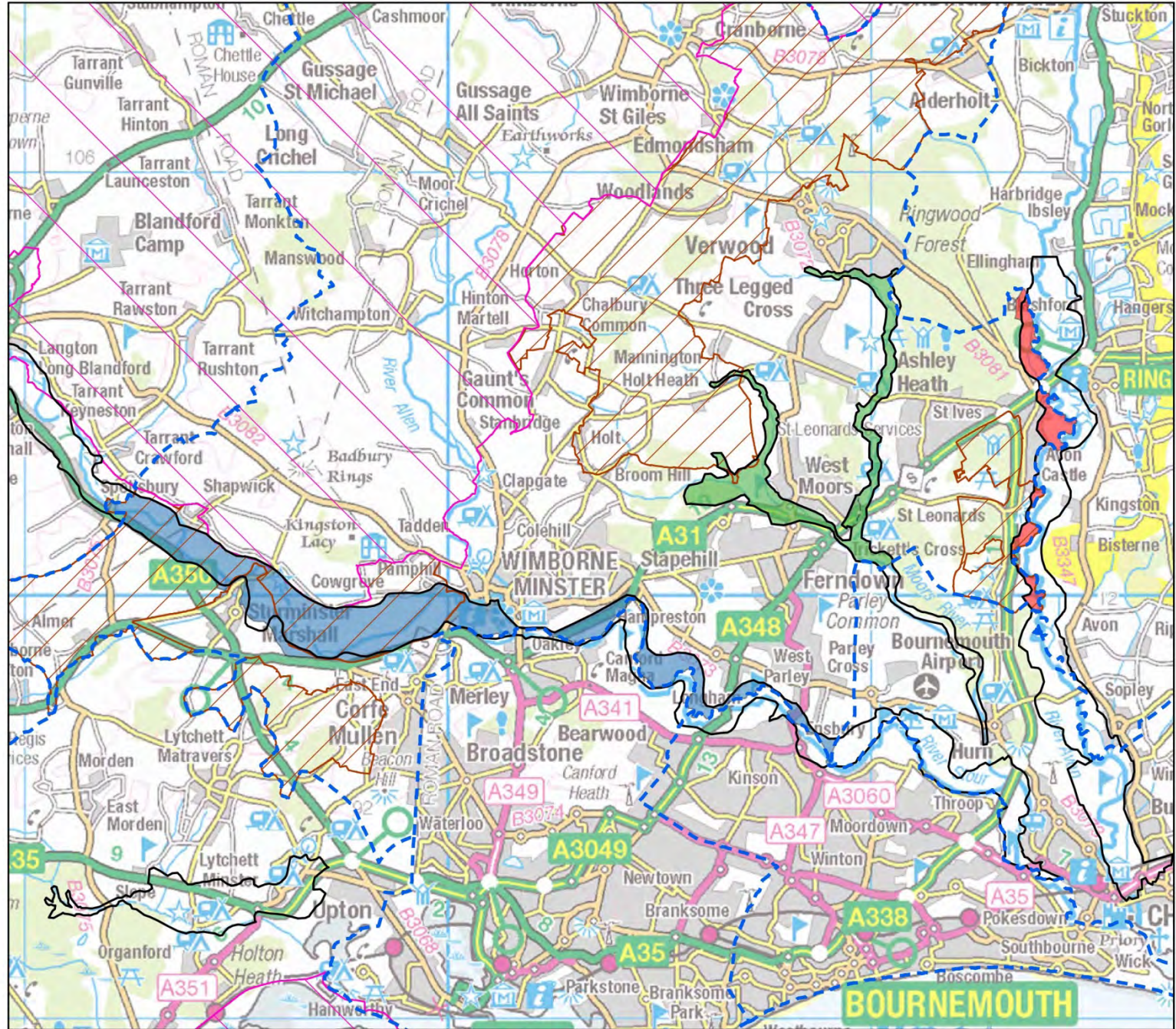
Long Crichel village and Crichel Park, which is noted as having a strong influence on landscape character in the immediate area, are identified as key features.

Crichel Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Crichel Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																			
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<p>Sensitivity of the valley floor area to any scale of wind energy development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The LCA is narrowly defined to exclude the downs that form the valley sides so any development within it would be located close to the stream itself and would detract from the natural linear form. The downland surrounding the flatter, northern end of the valley has a very expansive, open, undeveloped character which would be sensitive to wind energy development, particularly if it affected the distinctive skylines of bare chalk downs with geometric plantation blocks. The settled and intimate, historic character of the valley is a 'special quality' of the AONB and gives it a human scale which would be very sensitive to wind energy development. In addition to affecting linear views along the valley, any development would be visible from the higher downs, intruding on longer views across the AONB landscape.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be particularly high where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development detracts from the historic setting of the two villages, in particular the core areas around the churches;</li> <li>• Development affects the setting of historic river crossing points, such as Bull Bridge and the bridge near Ryalls Farmhouse;</li> <li>• There is strong visibility of the development from Gussage Hill, or prolonged views along the Jubilee Way.</li> </ul>	<p>Sensitivity to all scales of solar PV development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The farmed fields extending down to the stream along most of its length into the LCA towards its northern end are less sensitive as a land use type than the water meadows which occur around Crichel Park and which are more typical alongside other chalk valleys, such as the Allen. However, the strongly rural, unspoilt character of the Crichel Valley is a 'special quality' of the AONB which has a high sensitivity to such distinctly modern development as solar PV, regardless of scale.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be particularly high where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development detracts from the parkland setting of Crichel House, or the historic character of Long Crichel village.</li> </ul>																																			

# Landscape character type: Valley Pasture



- District boundary
- AONB
- Area of Great Landscape Value
- Dorset Landscape Character Type**
- 5. Valley Pasture
- East Dorset Landscape Character Area**
- 5A - Lower Avon Valley
- 5B - Lower Stour Valley
- 5C - Moors River Valley



## Valley Pasture LCT overview

The Valley Pasture LCT is associated with the floodplains of two major rivers that discharge to the Channel at Christchurch, the Avon and the Stour. In East Dorset there are three Valley Pasture LCAs, representing stretches of the Stour and Avon and also the Moors River (and associated tributaries) which joins the Stour in Christchurch Borough.

A small area at the northern end of the Avon Valley Pasture LCA is categorised at County-level as Heath/Forest Mosaic LCT. For locations in this area, reference should be made to the assessments for both the Avon Valley Pasture and the Ringwood-Hurn Forest/Heath Mosaic.

## Valley Pasture LCT characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"Flat and open valley floor landscape with distinctively meandering river channels which often floods"*

The valley pastures are not typically bounded by significantly higher terrain, but the valley form can vary from wider floodplains to a narrower, incised valleys.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Typically a grazed pastoral landscape"*

*"Generally large fields with a mosaic of smaller fields abutting the river edges"*

*"Groups of riverside trees follow the watercourses creating key features along the valleys"*

*"Old water meadow systems and features are common."*

The sense of land use scale varies, depending on field sizes and extent of tree cover.

### Visual exposure:

As flat, low-lying areas there will typically be exposure to views from surrounding higher ground, although areas that are not significantly higher will have views restricted by the trees and small copses which are commonplace in the LCT. In East Dorset the Valley Pastures are typically bordered by either flat river terraces or, in the case of the Moors River system and the west side of the Avon, forested heathlands, both of which offer limited intervisibility, but there are some higher ridges with stronger views.

### Development and activity:

*"The valley floors are the focus for settlements, transport and infrastructure corridors and historic river crossings"*

*"Settlements ... are often on the slightly elevated low terraces to the side of the valleys"*

*"...sand and gravel extraction has and still is taking place, creating its own set of impacts"*

## Valley Pasture LCT value characteristics

*"The valleys provide the historic and cultural setting to many county towns"*

*"Historic river crossings points are often over old bridges"*

The overall management objective for the LCT is *"to conserve the strong visual unity of the valley, the diversity of semi-natural habitats and to restore features such as wet*

*woodlands pastures, water meadows, boundary features and historical lanes and bridges". The extent of degradation of the landscape in places is recognised by the statement that "Opportunities for large-scale multi-functional landscape restoration and creation should be promoted and explored particularly in the Stour Valley"; however this can be considered to apply principally to the LCT in its lower more urbanised reaches.*

Between the District's western boundary (with North Dorset) and Wimborne most of the Stour Valley is designated locally as an AGLV, and borders the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB to the north.

**Valley Pasture LCT sensitivity to wind energy**

The Valley Pasture LCT is narrowly defined to encompass only the area spanned by the meanders of the present-day course of the Stour, so its character is first and foremost dictated by the presence of the river. Any development in the immediate proximity of the river would be likely to detract from its meandering landscape form. The character and sensitivity of the LCT is also subject to a variety of influences depending on the character of the landscape through which it passes. Valley Pastures are always topographically level, and so are not in themselves unsuitable for wind energy development in this respect, but where the surrounding landform rises to create a narrow incised valley, sensitivity, will be higher than is the case where the landform is a more open plain.

In terms of land use, there is a traditional relationship between Valley Pastures and grazing, so sensitivity to development which is perceived as industrial rather than agricultural would be high in areas where modern development has a limited influence. Although development within floodplains is very limited, adjacent slightly elevated landscapes have historically attracted settlement and communications links, but in some locations the character of the landscape is still strongly influenced by historic features such as mills and bridges. Where there has been modern development that is large scale or commercial in character, such as business parks and power lines, sensitivity in terms of naturalness is more limited, but smaller scale residential or recreational land use, particularly where it includes historic features, can give a human scale to the landscape that would be sensitive to the introduction of wind turbines.

Visually the degree of exposure varies depending on surrounding landscapes, with less intervisibility where river terraces or low hills frame the LCT, and where the landscape is well treed, but more in the vicinity of higher hills.

**Valley Pasture LCT sensitivity to solar PV energy**

The Valley Pasture LCT is narrowly defined to encompass only the area spanned by the meanders of the present-day course of the Stour, so its character is first and foremost dictated by the presence of the river. Any development in the immediate proximity of the river would be likely to detract from its meandering landscape form. The character and sensitivity of the LCT is also subject to a variety of influences depending on the character of the landscape through which it passes. Valley Pastures are always topographically level, and so are not in themselves unsuitable for solar PV development in this respect, but where the surrounding landform rises to create a narrow valley sensitivity will be higher than is the case where the landform is a more open plain.

In terms of land use, there is a traditional relationship between Valley Pastures and grazing, so sensitivity to development which is perceived as industrial rather than agricultural would be high in areas where modern development has a limited influence. Water meadows and rough grazing land would be particularly sensitive, but arable land which has intruded on the pastoral character would be less sensitive. Although development within floodplains is very limited, adjacent slightly elevated landscapes have historically attracted settlement and communications links, but in some locations the character of the landscape is still strongly influenced by historic features such as mills and bridges. Where there has been modern development that is large scale or commercial in character, such as business parks and power lines, sensitivity in terms of naturalness is more limited, but smaller scale residential or recreational land use, particularly where it includes historic features, can give a human scale to the landscape that would be sensitive to the introduction of solar PV development.

Visually the degree of exposure varies depending on surrounding landscapes, with less intervisibility where river terraces or low hills frame the LCT, and where the landscape is well treed, but more in the vicinity of higher hills.

# Landscape character area: Lower Stour Valley

Area: 1268 hectares



## Lower Stour Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"A wide and flat, meandering flood plain ... As the river progresses from Shapwick in the west to Parley in the east through the District it is normally bounded on each side by terraces of valley gravel that mark the former floodplain. However, in places the valley edge is also demarcated by chalk downland in the west and, further to the east, by ridges of clay and gravel, notably at Pamphill, Merley and Dudsbury."*

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"...open, pastoral landscape character found in the western half of the valley"*

*"Gravel extraction and water abstraction to serve the urban areas have led to the creation of extensive reservoirs at Longham..."* (partly within the adjoining River Terrace LCT)

*"... a significant landscape feature with associated river terraces and important trees and small linear copses along its length"*

### Visual exposure:

*"The character of the river valley is particularly influenced by [ridges of clay and gravel, notably at Pamphill, Merley and Dudsbury]. The associated woodland on this higher ground provides a backdrop to views along and across the valley as well as a sense of enclosure. Buildings and parkland on the ridges also provide significant points of interest along the course of the Stour as, for example at Little Pamphill where a group of cottages look southwards over the valley."*

*"The historic settlements of Shapwick, Sturminster Marshall and Wimborne are marked by their church towers in the views along the river valley"*

### Development and activity:

The more open western half of the LCA is described as being *"significantly influenced by the roads, road crossings and the developments that encroach along its length."*

*"The Ensbury Bridge crossing to the south east marks the limit of urban encroachment from the Bournemouth conurbation to the south and the ribbon development along the A.347 from West Parley to the north."*

*"At Shapwick, Cowgrove, Hampreston and Parley the valley is crossed by prominent overhead powerlines."*

## Lower Stour Valley LCA value characteristics

Between the District's western boundary (with North Dorset) and Wimborne most of the Stour Valley is designated locally as an AGLV, and west of Pamphill it forms part of the setting of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB to the north.

'Key features' noted for the LCA include:

- Isolated nucleated farmsteads
- Road crossings and historic multi-arched bridges e.g. White Mill, Julian's, Canford and Longham Bridges
- Views of the church towers at Shapwick, Sturminster Marshall and Wimborne
- Views of Canford School
- Historic water mill sites e.g. White Mill.



Lower Stour Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy

		Turbine height (m)			
		≤35	≤65	≤99	>99
Cluster size	1	M	MH	H	H
	2-4	MH	H	H	H
	>4		H	H	H

Lower Stour Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy

		Development size (ha)
	≤1	LM
	≤10	M
	≤30	MH
	>30	H

Lower Stour Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy

Sensitivity to single turbines less than 35m high is judged to be **moderate** and sensitivity to groups of 2-4 turbines is **moderate-high**. Sensitivity to single turbines 35-65m high is **moderate-high** and sensitivity to all other scales of development is **high**.

The Valley Pasture LCA is defined as a wide belt of land between Spetisbury and Wimborne, and its character is fairly open. Although there are numerous trees the hedges are typically low and fields are medium sized. From Wimborne to the eastern end of the LCA the River Stour forms the district boundary, so the LCA is narrower in breadth, in particular where it is pinched by higher ground as at Wimborne, Little Canford and Dudsbury. There are some locations which do not immediately border the river which would be less sensitive in terms of landscape pattern. Larger turbines would appear out of scale with the landscape, particularly in the vicinity of settlements, but smaller turbines could be associated with more isolated farmsteads in the LCA or development on the fringes. Sensitivity could be higher where:

- Land use is rough pasture / water meadow or fields front onto the river;
- Field boundaries are well treed, making the landscape smaller in scale;
- Location has adverse impact on setting of historic features such as old mills, churches, bridges or ponds;
- Location is close to higher ridges, such as Pamphill or Dudsbury, where there is greater visual exposure. There are prolonged views from long distance recreational routes.

Lower Stour Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy

Sensitivity to solar farms less than 1 hectares in area is **low-moderate**, sensitivity to developments of 1-10 hectares is **moderate**, sensitivity to 10-30 hectare developments is **moderate-high** and to larger developments it is **high**.

The Valley Pasture LCA is defined as a wide belt of land between Spetisbury and Wimborne. From Wimborne to the eastern end of the LCA the River Stour forms the district boundary, so the LCA is narrower in breadth, in particular where it is pinched by higher ground as at Wimborne, Little Canford and Dudsbury. The landscape character is fairly open but there are numerous trees and small linear woodlands to provide screening. There are some more regularly shaped fields which do not immediately border the river which would be less sensitive in terms of field pattern, and occasionally these are in arable use or close to modern development or the A31, which also reduces sensitivity. Further east there are other non-pastoral land uses which reduce sensitivity – e.g. lakes and golf courses. Sensitivity could be higher where:

- Fields have little screening;
- Fields front onto the river or are irregular in form (e.g. between Pamphill and Wimborne);
- Land use is rough pasture / water meadow;
- Location has adverse impact on setting of historic features such as old mills, bridges or ponds.
- There are prolonged views from long distance recreational routes.

# Landscape character area: Moors River

Area: 518 hectares



## Moors River LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

The river valley is essentially flat and the surrounding LCAs have no significant changes in elevation in the vicinity of the river valleys other than at their northern extents, where Mannington Brook flows close to Holt Heath and The River Crane passes beneath Redman's Hill (Horton Common). Landscape scale is therefore large.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

Fields within the Moors/Crane and Uddens valleys are almost all grass, with varying degrees of grazing. As the LCA is narrowly defined in most places many fields tend to have meandering riverside edges, but there are a number of, generally small, well enclosed fields too.

The fringes of the LCA are generally well treed, with many small woodland blocks, and a larger area of woodland, Ferndown Forest, is partly within the character area. The Crane and Uddens Water and Mannington Brook are also largely tree-lined, but the Moors Rivers is more open along most of its length within the District.

*"The landscape of the alluvial valley tends to merge with that of the terrace, forest heath and heath/farmland mosaic areas on either side, the greatest landscape contrast being provided where the woodland blocks of the forest heaths encroach from the west along the course of the Valley and the urban areas and associated urban fringe uses to the south and north of Uddens Water and Mannington Brook."*

### Visual exposure:

The well wooded surroundings to this LCA limit intervisibility with surrounding character areas, and serve to reduce the visual impact of nearby urban areas. Within the LCA itself lateral valleys views are often limited by trees.

From elevated viewpoints further afield, the area appears dominated by forest, with few features, although distant chalk high ground forms part of the horizon in some views (e.g. from Ramsdown, near Hurn).

### Development and activity:

Although there is little built development within the floodplain the LCA is strongly influenced by modern development, with the urban areas of Ferndown (Trickett's Cross), West Moors, St Leonards, Three Legged Cross and Verwood all being close to the LCA edge and the A31 crossing it. Pylon lines are prominent features following sections of both the Moors River and Mannington Brook valleys.

*"The valley of Uddens Water is bisected by the northern section of the A31 Ferndown by pass that now has a significant influence on the landscape of this part of the character area."*

## Moors River LCA value characteristics

There are a number of caravan parks and camp sites close to the LCA, and the Moors Valley Country Park is an important local amenity, but aside from several golf courses partially located within the LCA the focus of local recreational activity tends to be the forest and heath areas rather than the river valley. Ferndown Forest is the only significant wooded area that lies largely within the LCA. Several promoted walking trails, the Castleman Trailway and the Ferndown, Stour and Forest Trail, cross the area. No public rights of way follow the river valleys, although the Council is in the process of developing a riverside walk along part of Uddens Water.

There are ecological designations relating to parts of the LCA, but aside from the wet heathland of Slop Bog, and small areas of fen, the landscape interest associated with these designations is limited (they are mostly improved grassland areas, designated as 'supporting' habitat for the Moors/Crane River).

Several small areas on the western side of the LCA are designated at District level as part of the Woodlands AGLV, but there are no statutory designations.

Moors River LCA sensitivity to wind energy		Moors River LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
<p style="text-align: center;">Turbine height (m)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤35</td> <td>≤65</td> <td>≤99</td> <td>&gt;99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cluster size</td> <td>1</td> <td>2-4</td> <td>&gt;4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>LM</b></td> <td><b>M</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>M</b></td> <td><b>MH</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> </table>			≤35	≤65	≤99	>99	Cluster size	1	2-4	>4			<b>LM</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>MH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>			<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Development size (ha)</td> <td>≤1</td> <td><b>LM</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤10</td> <td><b>LM</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤30</td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>&gt;30</td> <td><b>H</b></td> </tr> </table>		Development size (ha)	≤1	<b>LM</b>		≤10	<b>LM</b>		≤30	<b>H</b>		>30	<b>H</b>
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<p>Sensitivity to single turbines less than 35m high is judged to be <b>low-moderate</b> and sensitivity to groups of 2-4 turbines is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to single turbines 35-65m is judged to be <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to groups of 2-4 turbines of this scale is <b>moderate-high</b>. Sensitivity to all other scales of development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The character of this landscape is very enclosed, so sensitivity to large turbines would be high, but there are locations away from the river course that would be less sensitive to smaller turbines. The extent of development and activity in the vicinity of the LCA reduces sensitivity to wind energy, particularly if it is associated with farmsteads or industrial/business development on the fringes of the area.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields front onto the river;</li> <li>• At the northern end of the LCA, where there is noticeably higher ground close to the valley;</li> <li>• Development detracts from the natural setting of riverside recreation; Turbines intrude on views towards the coast from Holt Heath, affecting the undeveloped, wild qualities of that area.</li> </ul>		<p>Sensitivity to solar farms less than 10 hectares in area is <b>low-moderate</b> and sensitivity to larger developments it is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The enclosed character of this LCA, and many fields within it, means that there are locations where sensitivity to solar PV development which did not intrude on the immediate riverside would tend to be relatively low. There would however be some sensitivity to any loss of pastoral land use.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields have little screening;</li> <li>• Fields front onto the river;</li> <li>• Land use is rough pasture, fen or wet heath;</li> <li>• Development detracts from the natural setting of riverside recreation.</li> </ul>																																						

# Landscape character area: Lower Avon Valley

Area: 199 hectares



## Lower Avon Valley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

The river valley is wide and flat, and to the east it is bordered by extensive river terraces that are only slightly more elevated. To the west the landform rises more distinctly but there are no significantly higher areas, other than the heathland near Matchams, so landform scale is medium-large.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Within East Dorset's boundary there are just two major areas of pastureland, at Watton's Ford and further to the south at Week Farm. Pasture forms the predominant land-use on the east bank of the river."*

*Woods and copses within the character area also make a crucial contribution to its special character and identity."*

Whilst there are some significant woodland block and tree lines within the LCA, and riverside trees in places, the Avon Valley is characterised by large, open meadows, subdivided only by fences and ditches. The presence of smaller channels linked in to the river reflects the historic function of some of these pastures as water meadows.

### Visual exposure:

*"The woods on the hills ... to the west overlook the flat, open meadowland either side of the River Avon and provide a significant backdrop to views within and across the valley."*

*"Extensive views along valley"*

There is a viewpoint on the heathland near Matchams that gives strong views across the Avon Valley, but the western side of the river (i.e. the area within East Dorset) is hidden from view by intervening tree cover.

### Development and activity:

*"To the north of the area on the west bank, the valley abuts the urban development at Avon Castle..."*

The A31 crosses near the northern end of the LCA, but other than a couple of farms on the margins there is no built development and there are no byways bar the track at Wattons Ford.

Ringwood sites on the river terrace to the east of the Avon, but the lack of elevation and extent of tree cover mean that there is little sense of urban intrusion. Although there are some residential views from Ashley, which sits on rising ground to the west of the valley, the amount of tree cover limits visual exposure.

## Lower Avon Valley LCA value characteristics

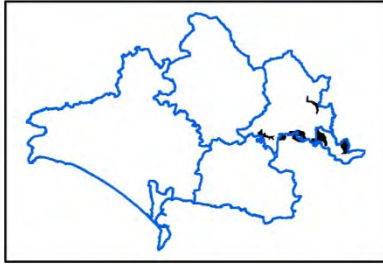
The District assessment mentions the area's *"special character and identity"*. This is associated principally with its secluded nature and with its homogeneity of character, over the valley as a whole through Wiltshire and Hampshire as well as Dorset, associated with long history of use as grazed water meadows and wet grasslands.











Much of the Avon Valley has an international level of ecological protection reflecting its importance as a wetland and habitat for birds, and this in turn reflects its traditional land use.

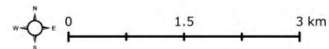
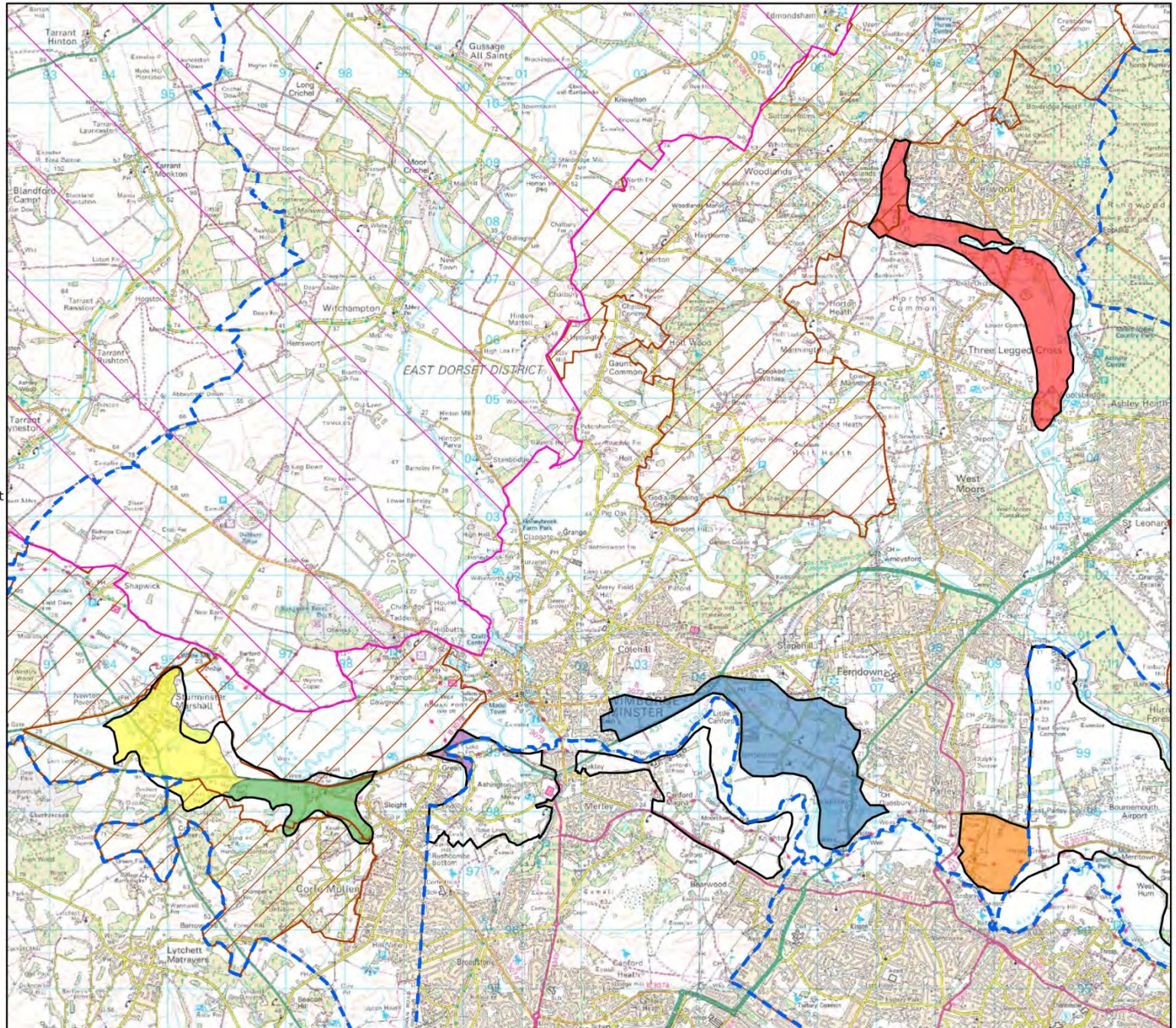
At the southern end of East Dorset District the LCA, and adjoining heath and woodland, are designated as part of the Avon Valley AGLV.

Lower Avon Valley LCA sensitivity to wind energy					Lower Avon Valley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
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<p>Sensitivity to all scales of wind energy development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>Although the Avon Valley Pasture and its adjoining river terrace constitute a broad landform, the sense of seclusion resulting from well-wooded margins, a lack of modern development and activity, and historic pastoral character combine to make this a sensitive LCA.</p>					<p>Sensitivity all scales of solar PV development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>Locations towards the edge of the LCA in which land has been agriculturally improved are less sensitive, but in general terms the openness of the fields, the presence of the River Avon and associated channels and the historic character of the water meadow fieldscape make this area sensitive to modern development, despite the fact that visual impact beyond the character area is likely to be very limited.</p>																																						

# Landscape character type: River Terrace



-  District boundary
-  AONB
-  Area of Great Landscape Value
- Dorset Landscape Character Type**
-  2. River Terrace
- East Dorset Landscape Character Area**
-  2A - Dewlands-Rushmoor River Terrace
-  2B - Hampreston River Terrace
-  2C - Henbury - Corfe, Morden-Lychett farmland/woodland mosaic
-  2D - Merley Ridge - Canford River Terrace
-  2E - Parley River Terrace
-  2F - Sturminster Marshall River Terrace





## River Terrace LCT overview

The River Terrace LCT is associated with the lower reaches of the two major rivers that discharge to the Channel at Christchurch, the Avon and the Stour, although the current courses of the rivers are characterised as the Valley Pasture LCT. The lowest stretches of both rivers are in Christchurch Borough but there are some terrace areas within East Dorset. The East Dorset assessment defines four distinct LCAs along the Stour: furthest west is the Sturminster Marshall LCA, which includes the village and land to the south and east; south of the Stour to the west of Poole a small piece of the Merley Ridge – Canford River Terrace lies within the District but most of the LCA is in Poole Borough; south of Wimborne and Ferndown is the Hampreston LCA and between Ferndown and Bournemouth lies the Parley River Terrace. Lastly there is a stretch of River Terrace south of the River Crane near Verwood: the Dewlands – Rushmoor River Terrace LCA.

At County-level, the boundaries of the River Terrace LCT between Sturminster Marshall and the Merley Ridge are not contiguous with the District LCA boundaries<sup>12</sup>: the River Terrace south of Sturminster Marshall extends eastwards almost as far as the Merley Ridge – Canford LCA, across the lower slopes of the Henbury-Corfe LCA (which is mostly categorised as Rolling Wooded Pasture). This part of the Henbury-Corfe LCA is therefore assessed as River Terrace.

## River Terrace LCT characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"A wide and flat landform with deep alluvial and gravel soils"*

All river terraces are relatively flat, sloping only gently down towards adjacent river valleys.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Mixed agricultural land of arable and livestock with some marginal 'urban fringe' farming"*

*"Medium scale landscape"*

*"Fields subdivided by low hedges and or fencing"*

### Visual exposure:

*"Woodland blocks and shelter belts form important landscape features and backdrops"*

*"There are important groups of interconnected trees, copses and tall mature hedgerows which frame horizons and vistas in places"*

### Development and activity:

*"Heavily influenced and impacted on by urban development including sand/gravel extraction, power lines and transport corridors and the south east Dorset conurbation"*

*"Scattered farmsteads across the rural parts"... "Some quiet relatively isolated areas"*

## River Terrace LCT value characteristics

None of the River Terraces LCAs are within designated AONBs but a small proportion of the area falls within District AGLV designations. The river terraces between Sturminster Marshall and Corfe Mullen can be considered to form part of the setting of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

Being flat areas elevated slightly above river floodplains the River Terrace LCT areas have attracted significant development over a long period of time, in terms of settlement and also transport, communications and power supply links. These have given rise to landscape characteristics which are typically considered to detract from landscape value but the proximity to sizeable areas of population also elevates other aspects of landscape value, namely the role of these LCAs for recreation and as 'buffers' of open land

<sup>12</sup> Small areas of the Valley Pasture LCT are included within the Sturminster Marshall LCA, and small areas of the River Terrace LCT are included within the Lower Stour Valley LCA. These are not large enough to warrant separate assessment but when considering landscape sensitivity in these locations the characteristics of both the LCA in which it is assessed and the LCT in which it is categorised at County-level should be taken into account.

between urban areas. The LCT description notes that *"Away from [the urban edge] there are some quiet lanes and paths which act as important accessible recreational areas"*.

This value, but also the need for landscape improvement in some locations, is reflected in the principal management objective for the River Terrace landscape type: to *"maintain and enhance the value of the area as a buffer, control and minimise the impact of development and transport infrastructure/use and the opportunities for large-scale multi-functional landscape restoration and creation should be promoted and explored"*.

**River Terrace LCT sensitivity to wind energy**

The lack of undulations and absence of distinctive shapes mean that the landform is less sensitive to wind energy development.

The extent of development and activity that is typically found within this LCT means that there is rarely a strong sense of tranquillity or remoteness, but it also gives a human scale to the landscape that would be sensitive to the introduction of wind turbines. Visually there are unlikely to be panoramic vistas or dramatic skylines to be interrupted by new development, although any tall structure will be widely visible and visually dominant.

**River Terrace LCT sensitivity to solar PV energy**

The lack of undulations makes the sensitivity of River Terraces low in topographical terms. Land use varies, but the typical medium scale and fairly geometric field pattern can be considered moderately sensitive. Ground cover also varies, with low hedges or fences giving an open character in places but stronger hedgerows and tree groups creating more enclosure and visual screening in other locations. There is potential in places to introduce planting to increase screening, one of the LCT assessment management objectives for the area being to *"... integrate new and existing development in a more sympathetic way e.g. by using new and existing woodland blocks and shelter belts to integrate development"*.

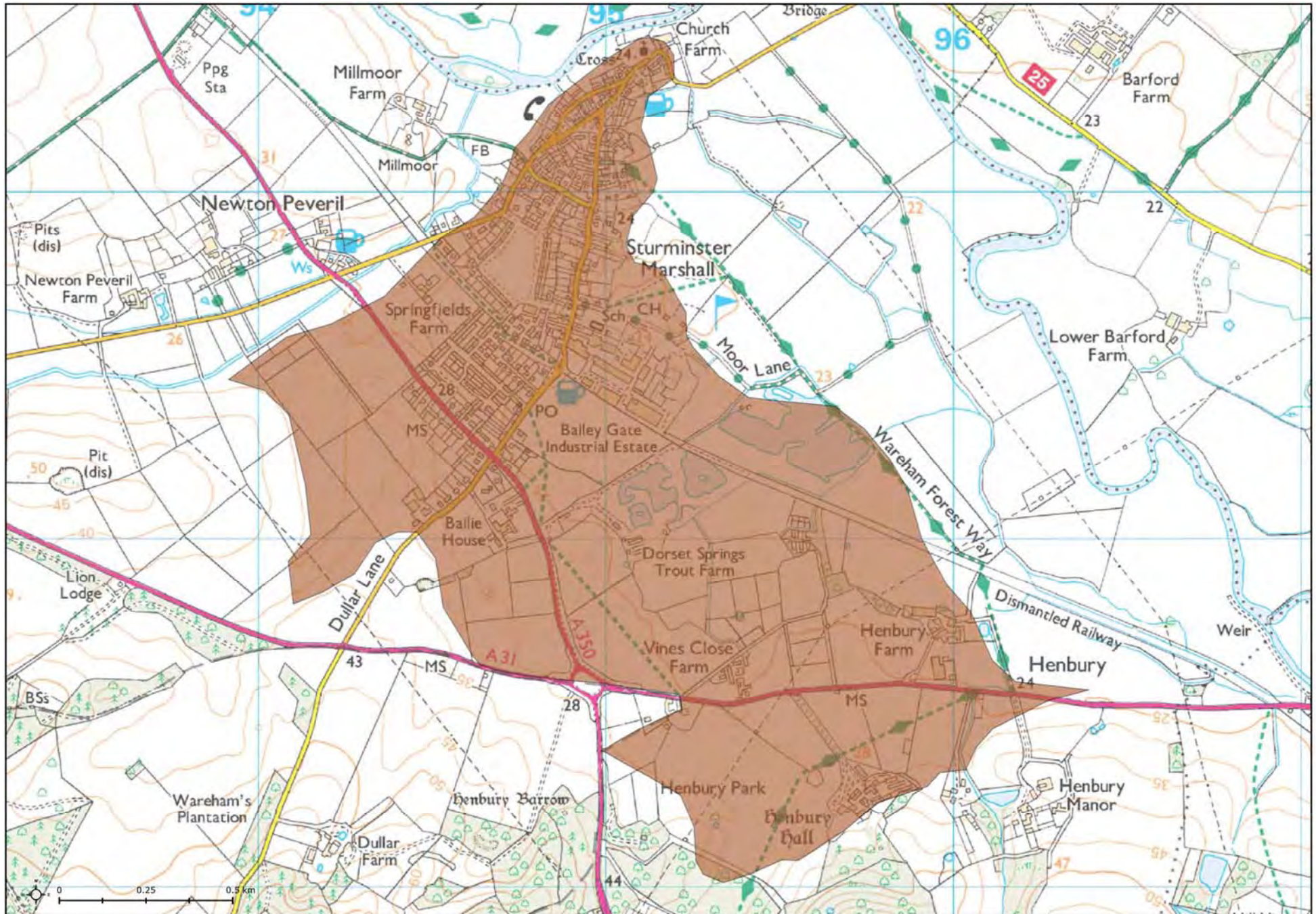
Views within the River Terrace LCT are typically limited by the lack of elevated viewpoints, and slopes beyond the LCT boundaries are usually gentle, so interaction with other LCTs is often limited and woodland blocks within the LCT, or the urban edge, will often form horizons.

The extent of modern development and activity reduce the sense of naturalness within much of the LCT, but there are more rural areas where there is some sense of separation from urban influences.

Landscape value considerations will be important in determining the level of sensitivity to solar development in any given part of the LCT. Areas which are important in recreational terms, or as 'islands' of rural land use separating more urban surroundings, will have a higher value than the quality of their landscapes would warrant in purely scenic terms, and consequently greater sensitivity. Locations which fall within the settings of historic village cores or parkland estates will also have elevated sensitivity.

## Landscape character area: Sturminster Marshall

Area: 239 hectares



### Sturminster Marshall LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

The Sturminster Marshall LCA, comprising the village and land to the south and east, is relatively flat, rising only gently to the south.

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Fields are large but of irregular shape, tree cover is sparse, confined largely to field boundaries"*

Most of the farmed fields in the LCA are arable but there are smaller areas of pasture. The fields to the south west of Sturminster Marshall are more geometric in form, but with only low boundary hedges. The modified patterns of a fishery also take up a sizeable area. Sturminster Marshall Golf Club is mostly within the adjacent Valley Pasture LCT.

#### Visual exposure:

The LCA is adjoined to the south by the Morden Lytchett Rolling Wooded Pasture LCT and the Bloxworth/Charborough Downs, and other chalk downlands lie just across the Winterborne Valley to the north west and the Stour Valley to the north. Whilst there is no significantly higher ground to offer strong views above trees and hedgerows into the Sturminster Marshall LCA, the surrounding hills do provide a backdrop to views across the area and the wooded Henbury Hill and Charborough Park are prominent in views out from the LCA.

The Wareham Forest Way long distance route passes through the southern part of the LCA, and along the eastern edge.

#### Development and activity:

*"Part of this character area is overlain by the development at Sturminster Marshall and bisected by the A350. The historic village has been considerably extended from the its riverside core southwards to the A350."*

*"A golf course and a series of large fish farm lakes lie to the east of the settlement. The undeveloped part of this character area is also adversely affected by the presence of the busy A.350 and the A31 trunk road and the 400kv overhead pylon line."*

There are large buildings associated with farms to the south of Sturminster Marshall and with the Bailey Gate Industrial Estate.

### Sturminster Marshall LCA value characteristics

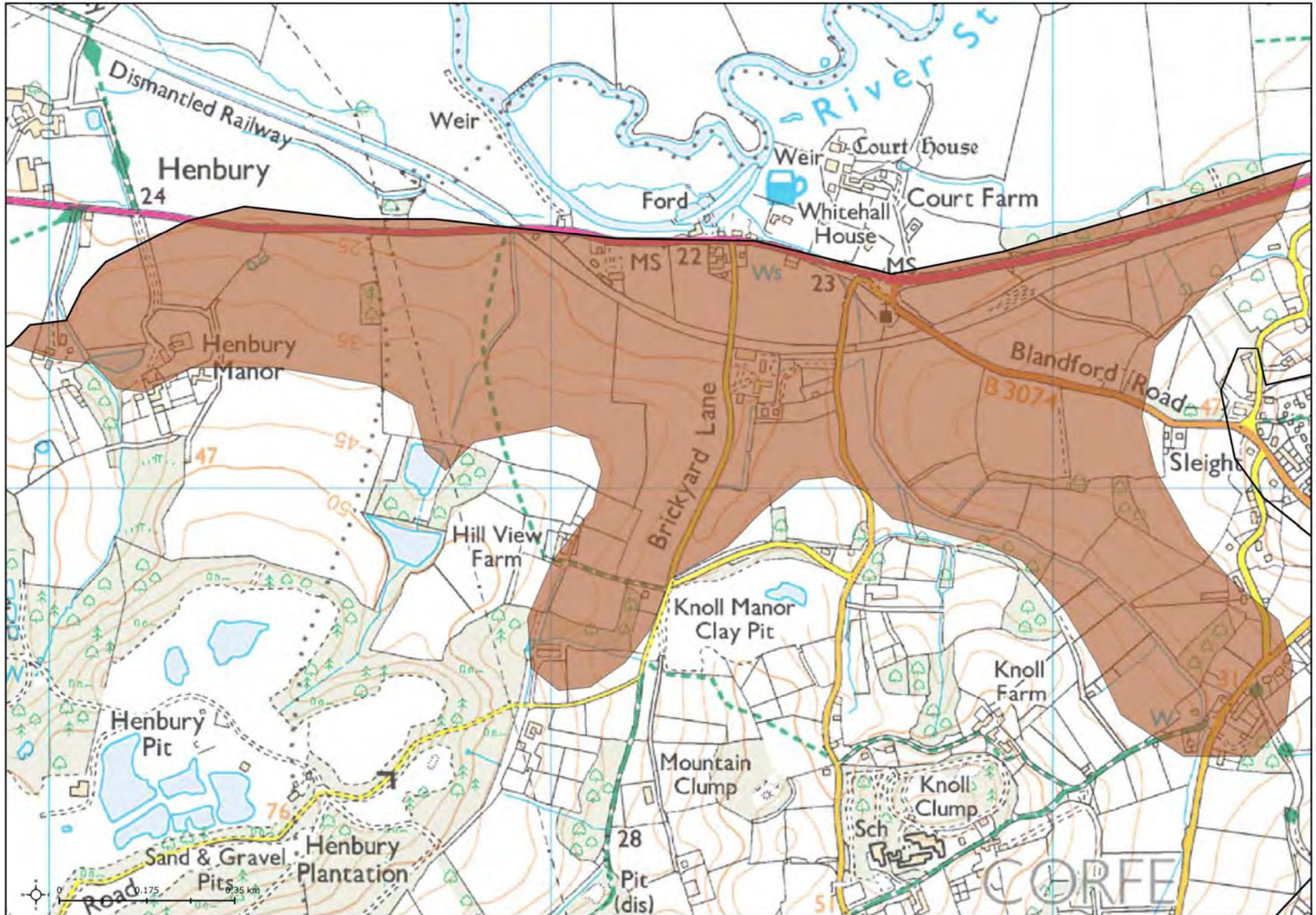
*"The historic Henbury House lies at the southern edge of this character area, in a slightly elevated location overlooking the river terrace."*

Henbury Hall, Sturminster Marshall village and its historic church are noted as key features in this LCA, and Henbury Hall and its Park are designated within East Dorset District as part of the Stour Valley AGLV.

Sturminster Marshall LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Sturminster Marshall LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																					
<p style="text-align: center;">Turbine height (m)</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤35</td> <td>≤65</td> <td>≤99</td> <td>&gt;99</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Cluster size</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;">1</td> <td style="background-color: orange;">2-4</td> <td style="background-color: red;">&gt;4</td> <td style="background-color: red;">&gt;4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: yellow;"><b>LM</b></td> <td style="background-color: orange;"><b>M</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: yellow;"><b>M</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>MH</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> </tr> </table>		≤35	≤65	≤99	>99	Cluster size	1	2-4	>4	>4		<b>LM</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>MH</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>		<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Development size (ha)</td> <td>≤1</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;"><b>LM</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤10</td> <td style="background-color: yellow;"><b>LM</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤30</td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>&gt;30</td> <td style="background-color: red;"><b>H</b></td> </tr> </table>	Development size (ha)	≤1	<b>LM</b>		≤10	<b>LM</b>		≤30	<b>H</b>		>30	<b>H</b>
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Landscape character area: Henbury-Corfe (part)

Area: 126 hectares



### Henbury-Corfe LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

**Scale and complexity of landform:**

There is a consistent but gentle slope up in southerly direction.

**Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:**

Field hedges are generally low, but the landscape is well treed. Land use is mostly pasture but some arable and fields are medium-sized.

**Visual exposure:**

There are relatively open views northwards to a wooded skyline, formed either by trees along the embankment of the disused railway line, trees along the banks of the Stour or more distant wooded ground around Kingston Lacy and Pamphill. To the south field edge trees or the woodlands along the side of Henbury Hill also form a wooded horizon. Views into the ground level of the LCA are limited by topography and trees/woodland but there are open views over it from higher locations to the north and west.

**Development and activity:**

The A31 passes east-west through the LCA, close to its northern edge. There are a number of large farm complexes, some set back towards the edges of the LCA, and a hamlet at Mill Street. A prominent pylon line crosses the area.

### Henbury-Corfe LCA value characteristics

The Stour Valley AGLV borders the northern edge of the LCA and the Corfe Mullen AGLV skirts the southern fringe.

The area around Henbury Manor and, just beyond the LCA boundary, Henbury Hall, has a parkland character which adds to the quality of the landscape.

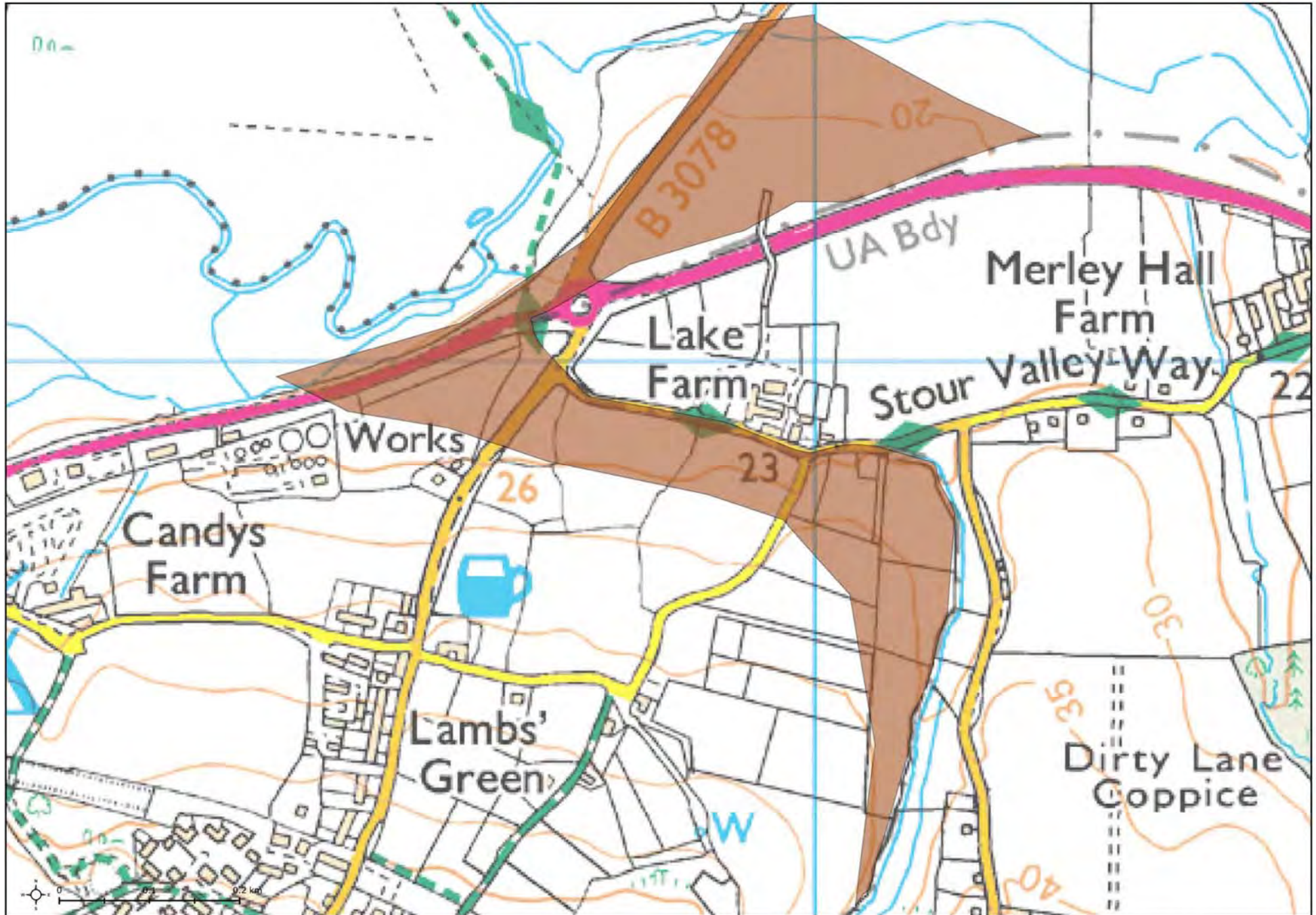
Corfe Mullen's original parish church, St Hubert's, together with the historic Court House across the road at Court Farm (just outside of the LCA) have historic value.

Henbury-Corfe LCA sensitivity to wind energy		Henbury-Corfe LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
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Landscape character area: Merley Ridge – Canford

Area: 16 hectares



### Merley Ridge - Canford LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

Within East Dorset District this LCA consists of 16 hectares of land bisected by the A31. The area to the north of the road is flat and the area to the south is relatively flat but slopes uphill, particularly at its eastern end, towards Lambs' Green.

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

The extent of this LCA within East Dorset accounts for only small parts of larger fields. To the north of the A31 it forms a small part of a large, irregularly shaped pasture which is mostly categorised as the Lower Stour Valley Pasture. To the south the LCA forms the lower northern ends of a number of irregular pasture fields, the higher parts of which are classified as Wooded Pasture.

The boundaries of the fields to the south of the A31 are strongly treed, although one has been subdivided into fenced paddocks, but the field to the north is, like most others in this part of the Stour Valley, bounded by meandering streams with some (mostly low) trees and shrubs.

#### Visual exposure:

There is a significant contrast between the field to the north of the A31 and those to the south. In visual terms the former is part of the Stour Valley, exposed to views from the A31, B3078, roads and rights of way crossing the valley and higher ground above it (e.g. Wimborne Minster and Pamphill).

#### Development and activity:

Although traffic on the A31 and B3078, and the proximity of Wimborne to the north and the outskirts of Corfe Mullen to the south, make this a busy area the Stour Valley itself is devoid of development bar a few farmsteads. There are residential properties nearby (Lake Farm) and a sewage works alongside the A31 to the west.

### Merley Ridge - Canford LCA value characteristics

The eastern boundary of the Stour Valley AGLV runs along the edge of the field to the north of the A31. The Stour Valley Way passes through the LCA along a road, but has very limited views into the fields due to screening by trees.

### Merley Ridge - Canford LCA sensitivity to wind energy

		Turbine height (m)			
		≤35	≤65	≤99	>99
Cluster size	1	M	MH	H	H
	2-4	M	MH	H	H
	>4		H	H	H

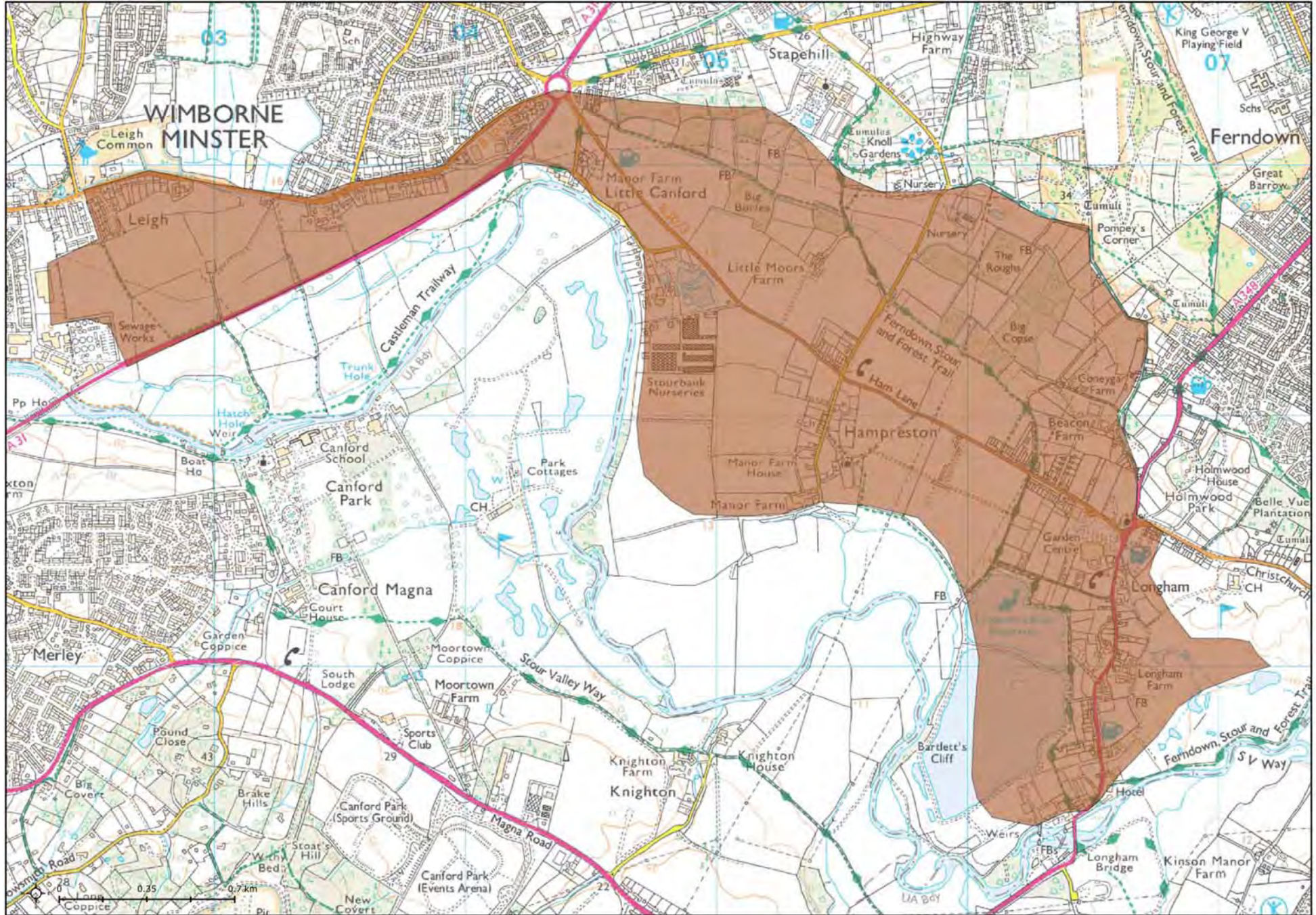
### Merley Ridge - Canford LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy

		North of A31		South of A31	
		Development size (ha)		Development size (ha)	
Development size (ha)	≤1		MH		M
	≤10		H		M
	≤30		H		H
	>30		H		H

Merley Ridge - Canford LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Merley Ridge - Canford LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy
<p>Sensitivity to turbines less than 35m high is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to up to 4 turbines 35-65m tall is <b>moderate-high</b> and sensitivity to all other scales of development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The small part of the field to the north of the A31 that lies in the Merley Ridge – Canford LCA should be considered as part of the Stour Valley and the undeveloped character of the valley in this area, and dominance of irregular field boundaries following streams, would be of high sensitivity to large wind turbines. However, the LCA’s fringe position is slightly less sensitive than the central or riverside parts of the valley and the visual intrusion and noise associated with the developed road corridor reduce sensitivity to developments which are not of a scale that would have a significant impact on the openness of the valley.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location is to the south of the A31, at slope-foot and strongly enclosed by trees.</li> </ul>	<p>To the north of the A31, sensitivity to solar PV schemes of less than 1 hectare is <b>moderate-high</b> and sensitivity to larger schemes is <b>high</b>. To the south of the A31, sensitivity to solar PV schemes of less than 10 hectares is <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to larger schemes is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>Topographically the level landform is of low sensitivity to solar development but the undeveloped character of the Stour Valley in this area and dominance of large, open pastures with irregular field boundaries following streams would be of high sensitivity. The small part of the field to the north of the A31 that lies in the Merley Ridge – Canford LCA should be considered as part of that valley; its fringe position is slightly less sensitive than the central or riverside parts of the valley but any development north of the A31 would still be incongruous.</p> <p>The strong enclosure of the area of the LCA to the south of the A31 means that sensitivity to solar PV development is lower here, despite the irregular shape of the fields. In practice, any development would be likely to span both the River Terrace and Wooded Pasture LCTs, but there is no distinct change in sensitivity between the two types.</p>

# Landscape character area: Hampreston

Area: 453 hectares



### Hampreston LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

The landform slopes very gently south towards the Stour.

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"To the east the landscape is more agricultural, with large regular fields used predominantly for arable or grazing, a large group of glasshouses lie south of Ham Lane close to the river but are screened to view by intervening woodland"*

*"South of Ham Lane important landscape trees lie on field boundaries and along the river banks. North of Ham Lane there are important plantations that provide a backdrop to the view from the road."*

#### Visual exposure:

Low, wooded and fairly short horizons frame this LCA, providing a consistent backdrop that gives a greater degree of containment than would otherwise exist in this flat landscape and helps to define the landscape character of the area, despite intrusive development close to the roads and multiple pylon lines.

#### Development and activity:

*"...the western part of the area is influenced by the industrial and residential developments at Leigh and Brook Road and by the A.31 Wimborne by pass that crosses the river to the south west and the roundabout at Canford Bottom."*

*"The urban influence on the landscape character returns at the village of Hampreston and, at the easternmost point, the developments, both commercial and residential at Longham that lie either side of the busy A.348."*

Several pylon lines cross the area, most evidently between Hampreston and Longham.

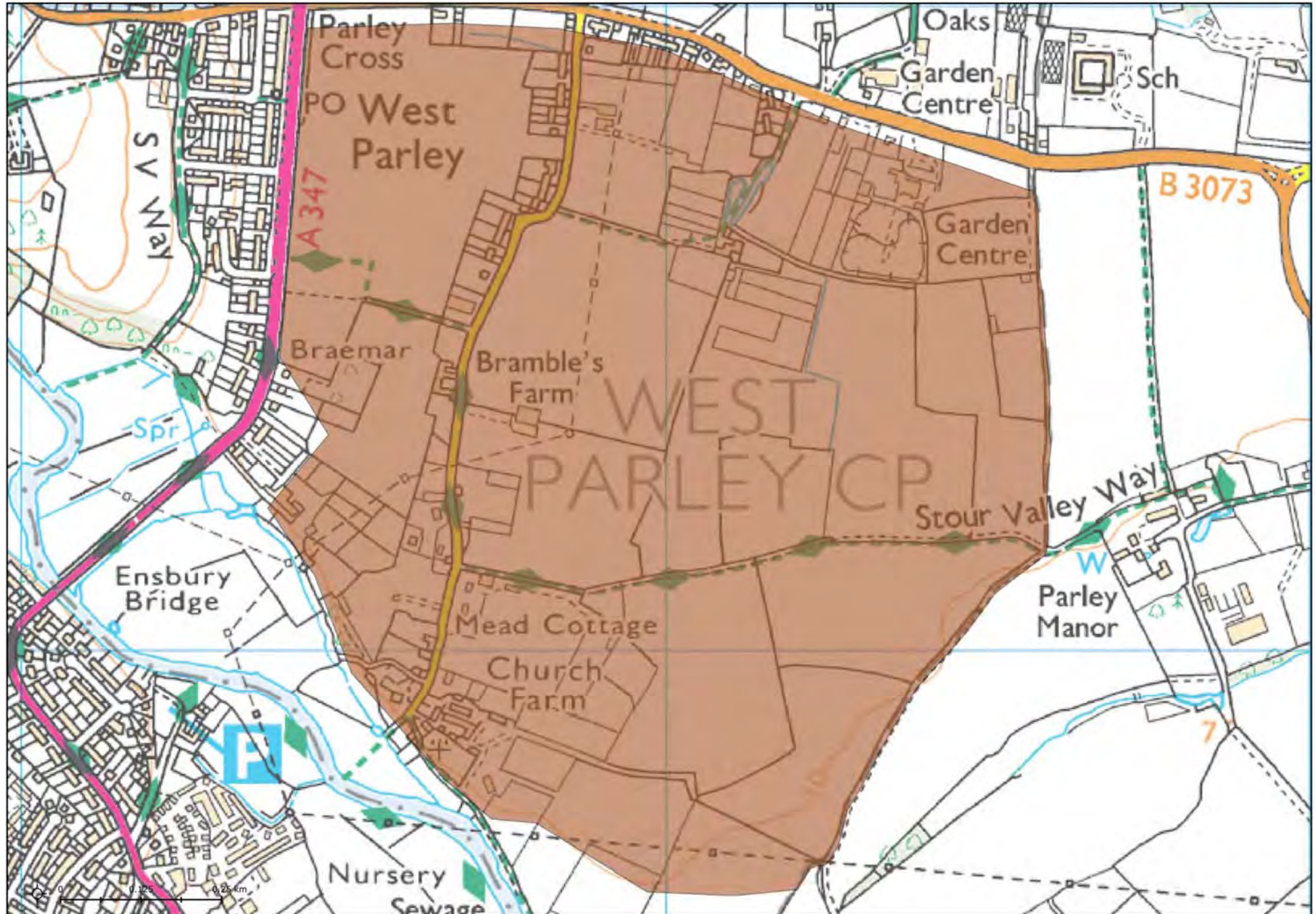
### Hampreston LCA value characteristics

There are no landscape designations relating to this LCA. Hampreston village and church are noted as key features.

Hampreston LCA sensitivity to wind energy					Hampreston LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																			
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Landscape character area: Parley

Area: 125 hectares



**Parley LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria**

**Scale and complexity of landform:**

*"This character area is broad and largely flat..."*

There is a barely perceptible slope down towards the River Stour.

**Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:**

*"...mainly used for agriculture... Large irregularly shaped fields occupy this terrace. Tree cover is sparse."*

**Visual exposure:**

This LCA is bordered by the A347 to the west and the B3073 (Christchurch Road) to the north, both of which are lined by housing and commercial developments, so views into undeveloped parts of the LCA are limited. The horizons are low and wooded, interrupted in places by the pylons which pepper this area and the Valley Pasture to the south, but few views do not also feature built development. There are passing views across the LCA from the Stour Valley Way to the west near Dudsbury Rings, before it descends into the valley.

**Development and activity:**

*"There are ribbons of housing and other developments such as nurseries and garden centres along the Christchurch Road and housing along Church Lane that impinge upon the more rural character of the character area. The rural character is also impacted by the movements of aircraft in and out of the nearby Bournemouth Airport to the east."*

**Parley LCA value characteristics**

There are no landscape designations relating to this LCA. West Parley hamlet is noted as a key feature. The Stour Valley Way long distance route passes east-west through the LCA.

**Parley LCA sensitivity to wind energy**

		Turbine height (m)			
		≤35	≤65	≤99	>99
Cluster size	1	L	LM	H	H
	2-4	LM	M	H	H
	>4		H	H	H

**Parley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy**

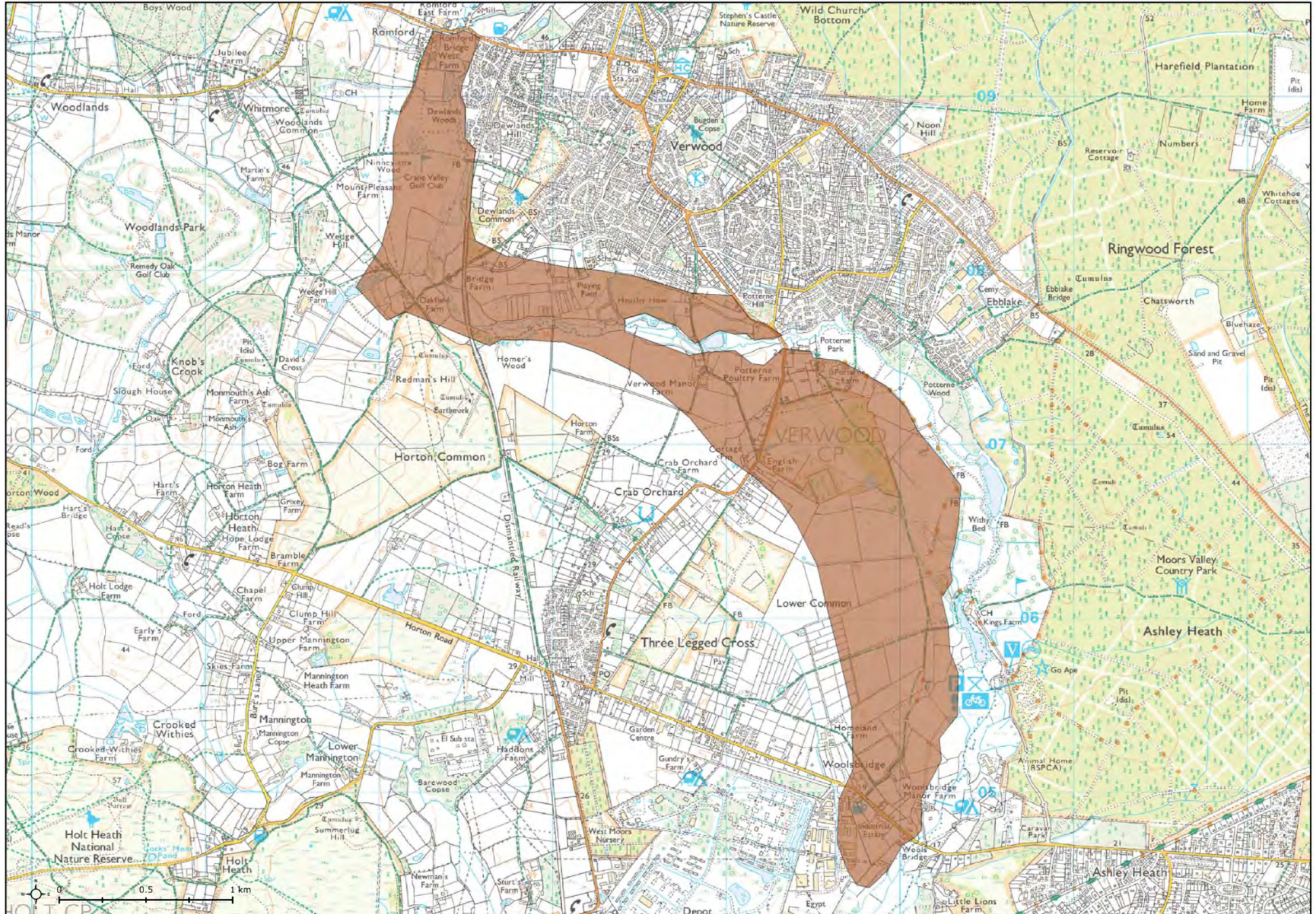
Development size (ha)	≤1	LM
	≤10	M
	≤30	H
	>30	H



Parley LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Parley LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy
<p>Sensitivity to single turbines less than 35m high is <b>low-moderate</b>, sensitivity to developments with 2-4 turbines less than 35m is <b>moderate-high</b> and sensitivity to all other scales of development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>There are no strong sensitivities associated with the landform, land use or field patterns in this LCA. The extent of development and activity and absence of any distinctive features reduce value in terms of landscape character but, as is recognised in the management objectives for the River Terrace LCT, give a value to the remaining open areas as a buffer between urban areas and ribbon developments. Sensitivity to moderately-scaled wind development that does not significantly affect openness, particularly where turbines can be associated with existing farms or other commercial buildings, would be lower, although larger clusters of turbines are likely to add visual clutter to a landscape which is already adversely affected by pylons and overhead lines.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development is not associated with existing focal points, adding visual 'clutter' to the landscape;</li> <li>• Development is close to the historic core of West Parley (the southern end of the settlement, towards the church);</li> <li>• Development is prominent from the Stour Valley Way (either within the LCA, along the southern bank of the river or from high ground at Dudsbury).</li> </ul>	<p>Sensitivity to solar farms of less than 1 hectare is <b>low-moderate</b>, sensitivity to developments of 1-10 hectares is <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to larger developments is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>There are no strong sensitivities associated with the landform, land use or field patterns in this LCA. The extent of development and activity and absence of any distinctive features reduce value in terms of landscape character but, as is recognised in the management objectives for the River Terrace LCT, give a value to the remaining open areas as a buffer between urban areas and ribbon developments. Although there is little intervisibility with other LCAs, the general lack of trees and high hedges within the area would be likely to increase the exposure of a solar PV development.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development is close to the historic core of West Parley (the southern end of the settlement, towards the church).</li> </ul>

# Landscape character area: Dewlands - Rushmoor

Area: 374 hectares



## Dewlands - Rushmoor LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

The area is largely flat, and other than at the northern end does not abut significantly higher ground.

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"The area is predominantly pasture and grazing linked with smallholdings. The northern section contains part of the Crane Valley Golf Course. Potterne Recreation Ground occupies a middle section of this character area. Further south field sizes diminish and periodic urban fringe uses such as sites used for car boot sales can be found. Tree cover is largely confined to field boundaries, although larger woodland blocks can be found to the north adjacent to the urban area. Remnant heathland can be found at Lower Common forming part of the Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI, SAC and SPA."*

The northern section of the LCA includes the River Crane, which is strongly lined with trees as it runs along the eastern side of the golf course. Fields in the central section of the LCA are geometric and open but those in the south are smaller, more irregular and more enclosed.

### Visual exposure:

Strong tree lines and woodland belts fringe much of the LCA, limiting visibility from adjoining character areas (including the adjacent Moors Valley Country Park) and typically creating a wooded backdrop to outward views. There are some views into the northern part of the LCA from higher ground to the west, but these are principally of the Crane Valley Golf Course, with Verwood as a backdrop.

### Development and activity:

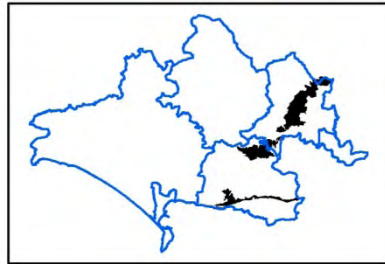
A number of towns and villages lie close to the LCA, with Verwood just to the north of the Crane River, Three Legged Cross to the west and Ashley Heath to the south east, but tree/woodland screening restricts the visual influence of all of these. Within the LCA built development is limited chiefly to farmsteads and pylon lines, although the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate at the southern end of the area detracts from landscape character and land use does reflect the proximity of the urban fringe (as noted above). Roads have little influence on the area.







## Dewlands - Rushmoor LCA value characteristics

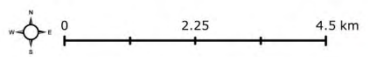
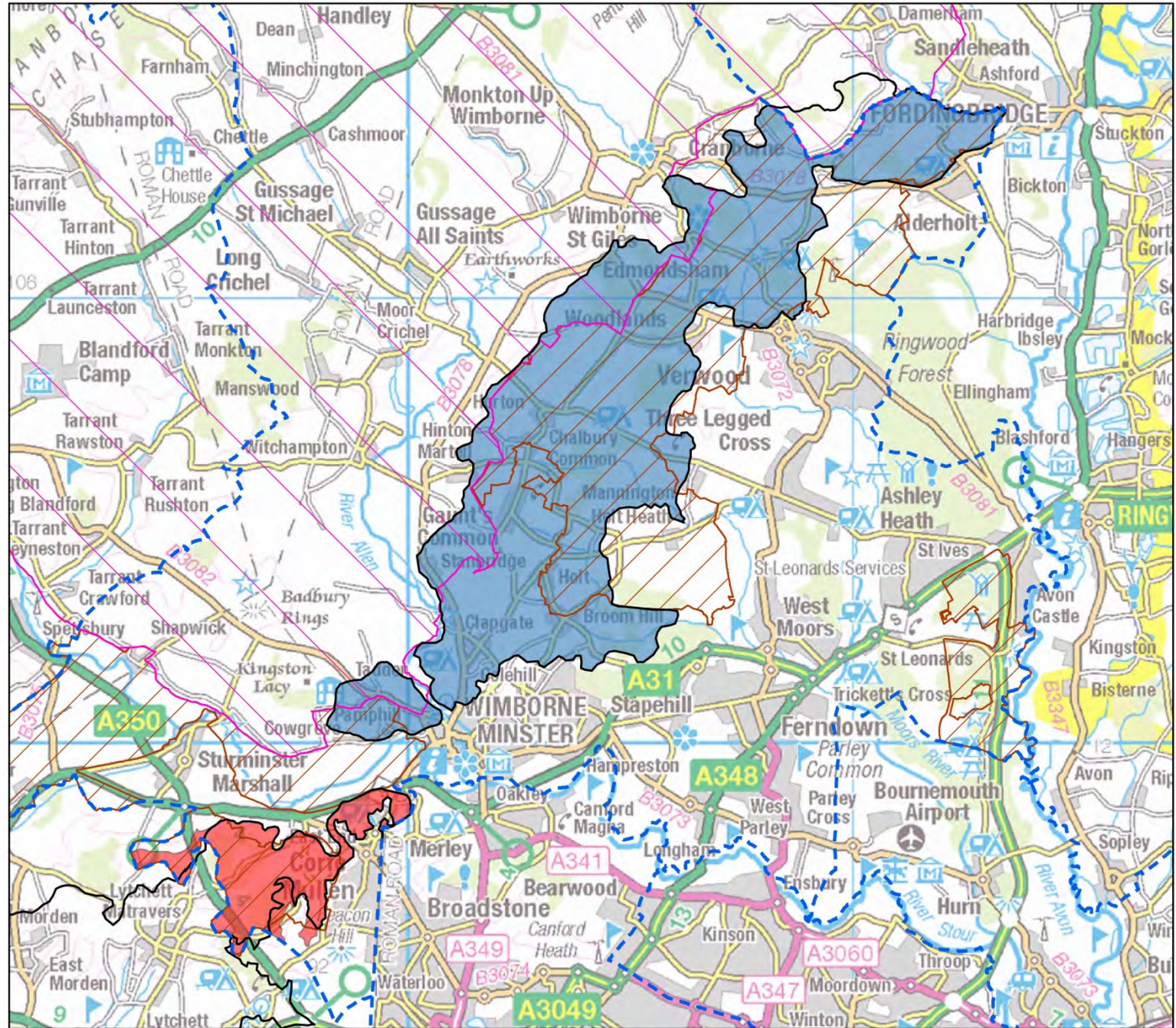
There are no landscape designations. Golf courses (parts of both the Crane Valley and Moors Valley courses) and Potterne recreation ground are indicative of 'formal' recreational value within the LCA, but not of 'informal' recreation where broader landscape character can be a key part of the experience. Whilst the designations relating to Lower Common are ecological rather than landscape ones, they reflect the survival of a historic landscape type.

Dewlands - Rushmoor LCA sensitivity to wind energy					Dewlands - Rushmoor LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																						
<p style="text-align: center;">Turbine height (m)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤35</td> <td>≤65</td> <td>≤99</td> <td>&gt;99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cluster size</td> <td>1</td> <td>2-4</td> <td>&gt;4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>LM</td> <td>M</td> <td>MH</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>M</td> <td>MH</td> <td>H</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>H</td> <td>H</td> <td>H</td> </tr> </table>						≤35	≤65	≤99	>99	Cluster size	1	2-4	>4			LM	M	MH	H		M	MH	H	H			H	H	H	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Development size (ha)</td> <td>≤1</td> <td>LM</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤10</td> <td>LM</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>≤30</td> <td>M</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>&gt;30</td> <td>H</td> </tr> </table>		Development size (ha)	≤1	LM		≤10	LM		≤30	M		>30	H
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<p>Sensitivity to single turbines less than 35m high is <b>low-moderate</b> and sensitivity to 2-4 turbines of that size is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to single turbines 35-65m high is <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to 2-4 turbines of this height is <b>moderate-high</b>. Sensitivity to all other scales of development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>There are no strong sensitivities associated with the landform or land use in this LCA, but the degree of enclosure by trees raises sensitivity to turbines which are likely to rise above the trees level in views from the wider area, including neighbouring heathlands. Sensitivity to small turbines associated with existing farms or other commercial buildings would be lower.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location is on sensitive remnant heathlands;</li> <li>• Development detracts from the character of the River Crane.</li> </ul>					<p>Sensitivity to solar farms of less than 10 hectares is <b>low-moderate</b>, sensitivity to developments of 10-30 hectares is <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to larger developments is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>This is a relatively well enclosed character area, with limited intervisibility, and the topography is of low sensitivity. Land use is influenced by the proximity of urban areas. Field sizes vary across the area, so development would be more acceptable if its scale was in keeping with existing hedgerow/tree boundaries.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location is on sensitive remnant heathlands;</li> <li>• Land is riverside pasture;</li> <li>• Development detracts from the character of the River Crane.</li> </ul>																																						

# Landscape character type: Rolling Wooded Pasture



-  District boundary
-  AONB
-  Area of Great Landscape Value
- Dorset Landscape Character Type**
-  10. Rolling Wooded Pasture
- East Dorset Landscape Character Area**
-  10A - Henbury - Corfe, Morden-Lytchett farmland/woodland mosaic
-  10B - Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts farmland/woodland mosaic



### Rolling Wooded Pasture LCT overview

The bulk of this LCT in the County is located within East Dorset District, in a band running from the north east corner of the county, close to Fordingbridge, down to the District boundary near the A350. The LCT continues to just south of Morden in the Purbeck District, and there is a separate narrow band further south around the margins of the Poole Basin. Within East Dorset the LCT is subdivided by river valleys: the Allen Valley separates the Woodlands-Colehill area from the small area around Hillbuts, although both are characterised within the same LCA, and the Stour separates off the Henbury-Corfe LCA. The area forms a distinct edge to the Chalk Valley & Downland LCT to the west. To the east it is bounded by a variety of LCTs, mostly featuring heathland elements but also valleys which feed the Moors River and several urban areas (Verwood, Winborne/Colehill and Corfe Mullen).

Although most of the Henbury-Corfe LCA area is defined at County-level as Rolling Wooded Pasture the boundaries are not contiguous. The lower, northern end of the LCA falls within the River Terrace LCT and is therefore assessed separately under that LCT. Some of the eastern part of the Henbury-Corfe LCA is categorised as Lowland Heath LCT; in this instance reference should be made to assessments for both the Henbury-Corfe LCA and the Upton Heath LCA.

### Rolling Wooded Pasture LCT characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"Undulating, low and rolling hills"*

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"Small scale, intimate and enclosed mosaic landscape"*

*"... an irregular patchwork of pasture, woods and hedgerows"*

#### Visual exposure:

*"Views limited by dense hedgerows and many small woods and copses"*

#### Development and activity:

*"Intimate wooded pastoral character"*

### Rolling Wooded Pasture LCT value characteristics

Large parts of this LCT are designated locally as AGLV, and the western fringes are included in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

The overall management objective for the LCT is to *"conserve its diverse intimate wooded pastoral character"* and one of the key guidance notes is to *"conserve the ancient pattern of small irregular fields and narrow lanes interspersed with irregular patches of woodland"*.

### Rolling Wooded Pasture LCT sensitivity to wind energy

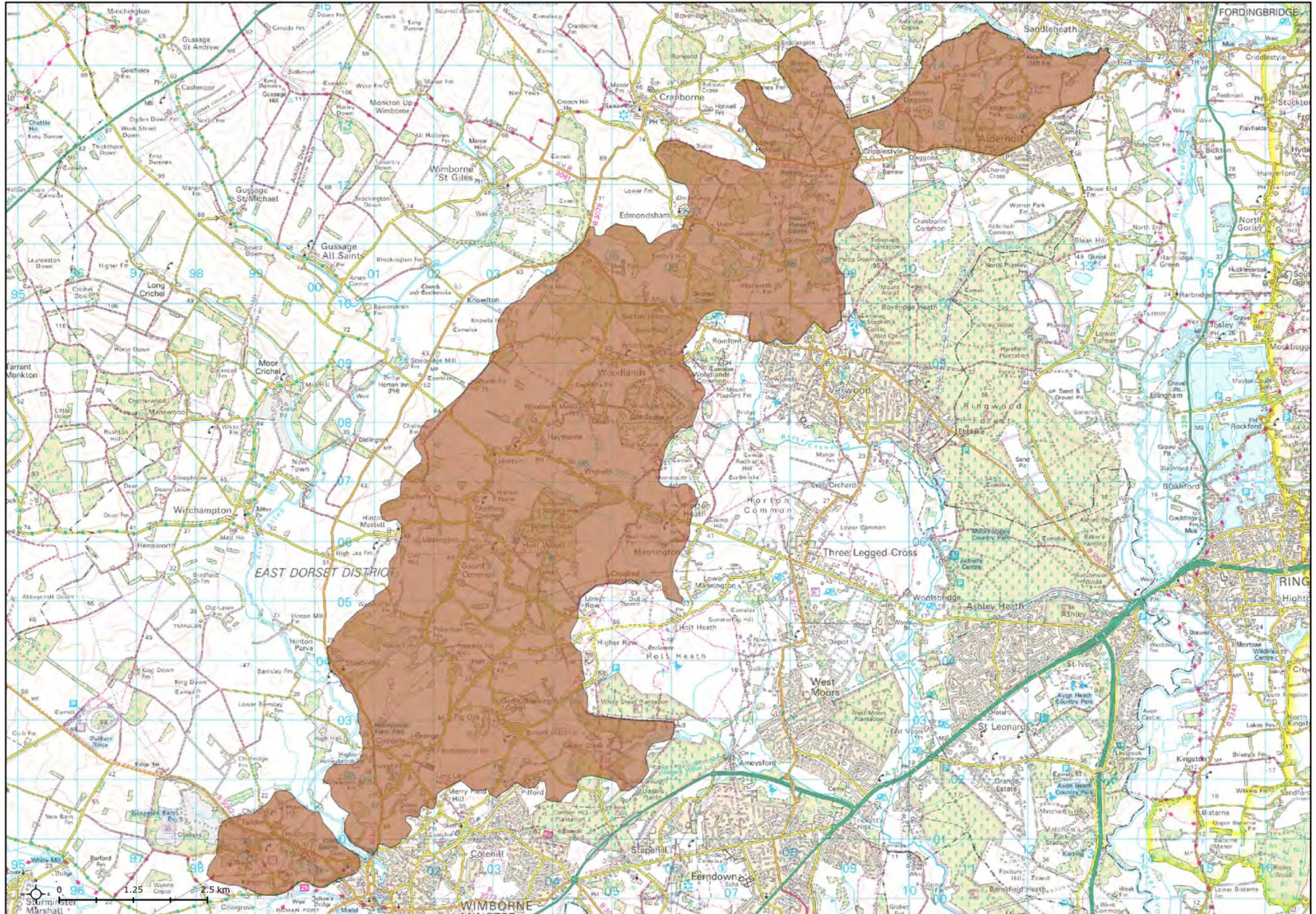
The landform variations, complex, small-scale mosaic of land cover and general lack of modern development make this a sensitive LCT. Scenic value is high both at a localised level, where the intimacy of the small scale, pastoral landscape also creates a sense of tranquillity, and on a wider scale, where the area has a strong presence as a backdrop to views from both east and west. This is reflected in the extent of AGLV and AONB coverage.

### Rolling Wooded Pasture LCT sensitivity to solar PV energy

The landform variations, scenic value and general lack of modern development tend towards making this a sensitive LCT, but there are likely to be locations where the strong screening effect of field boundaries limits any adverse impact to a small area. The strong patchwork character of the land use pattern makes it more robust than would be the case in a more open landscape, although solar PV development would present a strong contrast to the softer and more varied textures and forms of trees and hedgerows.

# Landscape character area: Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts

Area: 5721 hectares



### Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

#### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"To the east of the Allen valley the landform rises as an undulating ridge to form a clear physical edge to the chalk downland."*

*"Undulating landform, punctuated by hilltops"*

#### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"The land use is characterised by a mosaic of regular, medium-sized fields for stock grazing and arable. Fields are bounded by continuous, thick hawthorn hedgerows and hedgerow oaks. There are often substantial individual oaks in the larger fields."*

*"The centre of this landscape area is strongly influenced by Woodlands Park that flanks the area to the east"*

#### Visual exposure:

*"The area is one of contrast, between the enclosure afforded by the undulating landscape and substantial areas of woodland cover and the often long-distance views from its hilltops".*

*"The north western part of the Woodlands-Colehill area shares similar landscape characteristics to Cranborne Chase: long views, especially to the east and west, with wooded horizons."*

Referring to Hillbutts area: *"The elevated land provides views across the both the Allen and Stour Valleys, the latter being particularly striking"*

#### Development and activity:

*"Quiet, peaceful countryside largely unaffected by modern development"*

*"To the south-west of the Woodlands-Colehill area, modern developments in villages and hamlets such as Gaunts Common, Holt and Holt Wood, and individual properties beyond the village envelopes, have made an impact on the character of landscape."*

Referring to Hillbutts area: *"Less sympathetic in terms of impact on landscape character are the presence of the large complex of QE School and the 400kv overhead powerline and pylons, the latter are especially prominent at Little Pamphill"*

### Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts LCA value characteristics

The eastern boundary of the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB meanders in and out of the Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts LCA, with some prominent hills and the area around Woodlands being included. Being outside of the chalk downs these locations do not exhibit the typical 'special characteristics' of the AONB but have a strong visual relationship with the downs. Most of the Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts LCA east of the AONB is designated as part of the Woodlands AGLV.

*"...a varied, interesting and largely intact landscape."*

*"One of the most distinctive qualities is the variety of scenic landscapes that occur within such a relatively narrow band"*

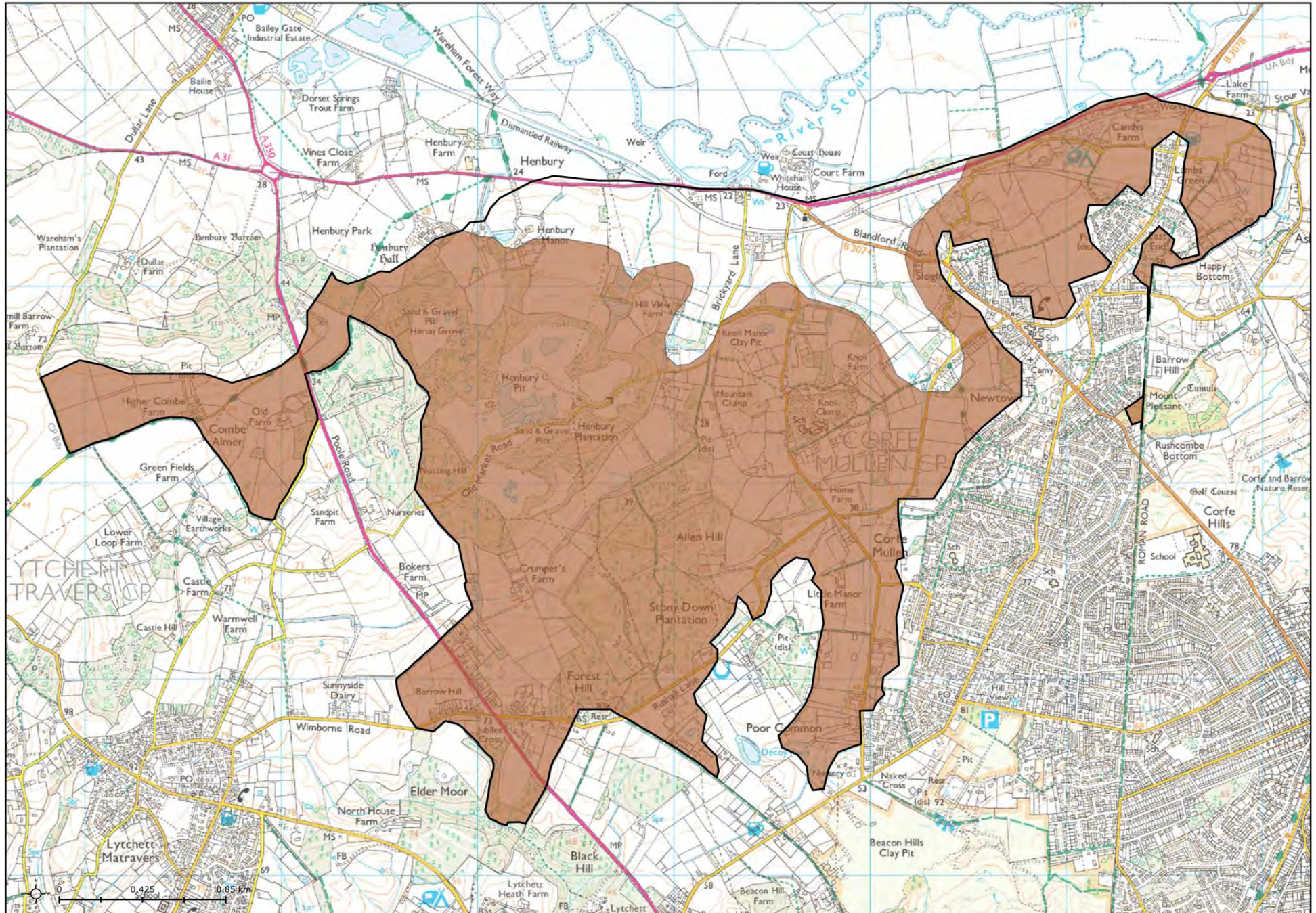
Woodlands Park, Chalbury Hill, Chalbury Church, Horton Tower, Pamphill Green and Little Pamphill are noted as key features.



Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts LCA sensitivity to wind energy	Woodlands-Colehill & Hillbutts LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																
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<p>Sensitivity to the introduction of single turbines less than 35m high is <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to 2-4 turbines of this height is <b>moderate-high</b>. Sensitivity to all other scales of wind energy development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The presence of wind turbines would potentially add uncharacteristic, large scale elements to views in this largely undeveloped LCA, acting as focal points to the detriment of other features and affecting the unity and scenic value of this intimate landscape. It would also affect its value as the setting of the AONB to the west, for which it forms a wooded backdrop. There may be locations where smaller turbines would appear more in scale with the landscape, either because the local landscape is more open than is typical or because they could be located in association with farmsteads that already have large, modern structures.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbines detract from the visual prominence of distinctive hills and other noted features, including Chalbury Hill, Chalbury Church and Horton Tower;</li> <li>• A potential site lies within the AONB, or is highly visible from within the wider AONB area to the west as a skyline feature;</li> <li>• A location is visible from within Kingston Lacy park or in linear views along the Stour Valley (i.e. in the Hillbutts area);</li> <li>• There is an adverse effect on the historic landscape character of Woodlands Park, Pamphill Green or Little Pamphill.</li> </ul>	<p>Sensitivity to the introduction of solar PV developments of less than 1 hectare is <b>low-moderate</b> and sensitivity to developments of up to 10 hectares is <b>moderate</b>. Sensitivity to all other scales of solar PV energy development is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>Whilst solar PV development would present a contrast to the softer textures that prevail in this landscape, and which contribute to the scenic value which is recognised in the AGLV designation, the extent of woodland cover and strong field boundaries offer scope for containing any adverse visual impact to a localised area. Sensitivity is also likely to be lower where modern development, such as overhead powerlines, already has an influence on landscape character. Larger developments would be out of scale with the field pattern and so sensitivity would be high.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development is on more exposed, higher ground;</li> <li>• Development affects the historic character of the setting of Woodlands Park, Chalbury Church, Horton Tower, Pamphill Green or Little Pamphill;</li> <li>• A potential site lies within the AONB, or is highly visible from within the wider AONB area to the west;</li> <li>• A location is visible from within Kingston Lacy park or in linear views along the Stour Valley (i.e. in the Hillbutts area).</li> </ul>																																

# Landscape character area: Henbury-Corfe (part)

Area: 748 hectares



## Henbury-Corfe LCA characteristics by susceptibility criteria

### Scale and complexity of landform:

*"Undulating landform, punctuated by hilltops"*

*With reference to the western side of the LCA: "The landscape is strongly influenced by the steep-sided, conical hills formed by the Reading Beds"... "The hills enclose the chalk landscape in the form of a combe..." (Corfe Mullen AGLV SPG)*

### Scale and complexity of land use and field pattern:

*"...a patchwork of small, enclosed fields and paddocks connected by a network of winding lanes"*

The western part of the LCA within East Dorset District has a more open, arable character, and is described as *"large scale"* in the Corfe Mullen AGLV SPG.

Deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantations are a defining characteristic of the central and eastern areas.

### Visual exposure:

*"Hilltops afford some panoramic views. Allen Hill, in Stoney Down Plantation, is a particularly good viewpoint..."*

Wooded hills at the centre of the LCA flank the shallow Crumpets Valley, which is described in the Corfe Mullen AGLV SPG as *"...an introspective small-scale landscape with few long-distance views"*.

*"When viewed from the north, the area's wooded hills provide an important backdrop to the Stour valley"*

### Development and activity:

*"Despite its proximity to the urban area, the main roads that pass nearby and the sand and gravel workings within, the AGLV is a surprisingly quiet and peaceful area"* (Corfe Mullen AGLV SPG)

Whilst sand and gravel extraction has altered the landscape in the central part of the LCA (Henbury Pit) its visual impact is well contained by woodland.

## Henbury-Corfe LCA value characteristics

Aside from the lower, north-facing slopes, mostly between the northern edge of Corfe Mullen and the A35, the Rolling Wooded Pasture area of the LCA lies within the Corfe Mullen AGLV.

Allen Hill and Stoney Down are noted as key local features in the LCA.

Henbury-Corfe LCA sensitivity to wind energy					Henbury-Corfe LCA sensitivity to solar PV energy																																				
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<p>Sensitivity to single turbines of less than 35m height is <b>moderate</b> and sensitivity to a group of 2-4 turbines of less than 35m height is <b>moderate-high</b>. Any larger groups or heights would be of <b>high</b> sensitivity.</p> <p>The defining characteristics of this LCA are typically weaker than in the north of the LCT because of greater intrusion from modern development (e.g. gravel extraction and power lines) and traffic, but much of the area has a small scale landscape and there are more introspective locations where character is not significantly affected by major roads.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turbines are close to prominent hills and other noted features, e.g. Allen Hill;</li> <li>• A potential site is highly visible from within the wider AONB area to the north;</li> <li>• Landscape is more undulating and small scale, with human scale features such as buildings and well-treed field boundaries.</li> </ul>					<p>Sensitivity to solar developments of less than 1 hectare is <b>low-moderate</b>. Sensitivity to developments above 10 hectares is <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The defining characteristics of this LCA are typically weaker than in the north of the LCT because of greater intrusion from modern development (e.g. gravel extraction and power lines) and traffic, but visual exposure is generally higher in these areas around the margins of the LCA. There are areas with a smaller landscape scale and strong, well-treed field boundaries, which are not significantly affected by major roads, but these tend to be more undulating and therefore more sensitive in topographical terms. Sensitivity would be lower in well-screened areas that have been affected by gravel extraction.</p> <p>Sensitivity could be higher where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location is on exposed slopes, particularly if highly visible from within the wider AONB area to the north;</li> <li>• Landscape is undulating.</li> </ul>																																				