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Hillingdon Landscape Character Assessment

Prepared for the London Borough of Hillingdon
by
LUC

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- Charmian Baker (London Borough of Hillingdon)
- Robert Reeves (London Borough of Hillingdon)
- John Lawson (London Borough of Hillingdon)

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The LUC team consisted of Kate Ahern (Principal), Kate Milner (Project Manager), Hannah Leach (Landscape Architect), and Paul Munday (GIS Consultant).

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Hillingdon is the most westerly of the London Boroughs, bordered to the east by the Boroughs of Harrow, Ealing and Hounslow. Hertfordshire lies to the north of Hillingdon and it is bordered by Buckinghamshire (South Bucks District) and Berkshire (Slough) to the west and adjoins Surrey (Spelthorne District) to the south (refer to **Figure 1.1**).
- 1.2 Hillingdon extends from Harefield in the north to Heathrow Airport in the south. The Colne Valley Regional Park forms the western boundary. Hillingdon covers an area of forty-two square miles, making it London's second largest borough. It is home to around 250,000 people who live in urban and suburban communities, with some village settlements. The borough contains considerable tracts of open land, woodland, agricultural fields, flooded gravel pits, two regional parks (Stockley and Harmondsworth Moor), and rivers. Water is a dominant feature in the landscape, including the River Colne, branching Fray's River and Wraybury River, and the Duke of Northumberland's River, as well as flooded gravel pits in the north and the Grand Union Canal.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

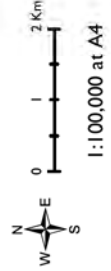
- 1.3 The purpose of the report is to provide place-based evidence about the character, function and quality of the landscape within the Borough. The character assessment has been carried out to provide a greater understanding of the landscape character of Hillingdon Borough, which can then be used to influence and inform policy, planning and management actions from the outset.
- 1.4 It consider a range of aspects, including natural, cultural/ social and aesthetic/ perceptual relationships to provide an understanding of the evolution, diversity, character and sensitivities of the landscape of the borough.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

- 1.5 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
- **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology:** Summarises the approach for undertaking the study.
 - **Chapter 3: The Landscape Character of Hillingdon:** Provides key characteristics and guidelines for each landscape type and a description and evaluation for each component character area.
 - **Chapter 4: The Townscape Character of Hillingdon:** Provides a broad summary of each townscape type.

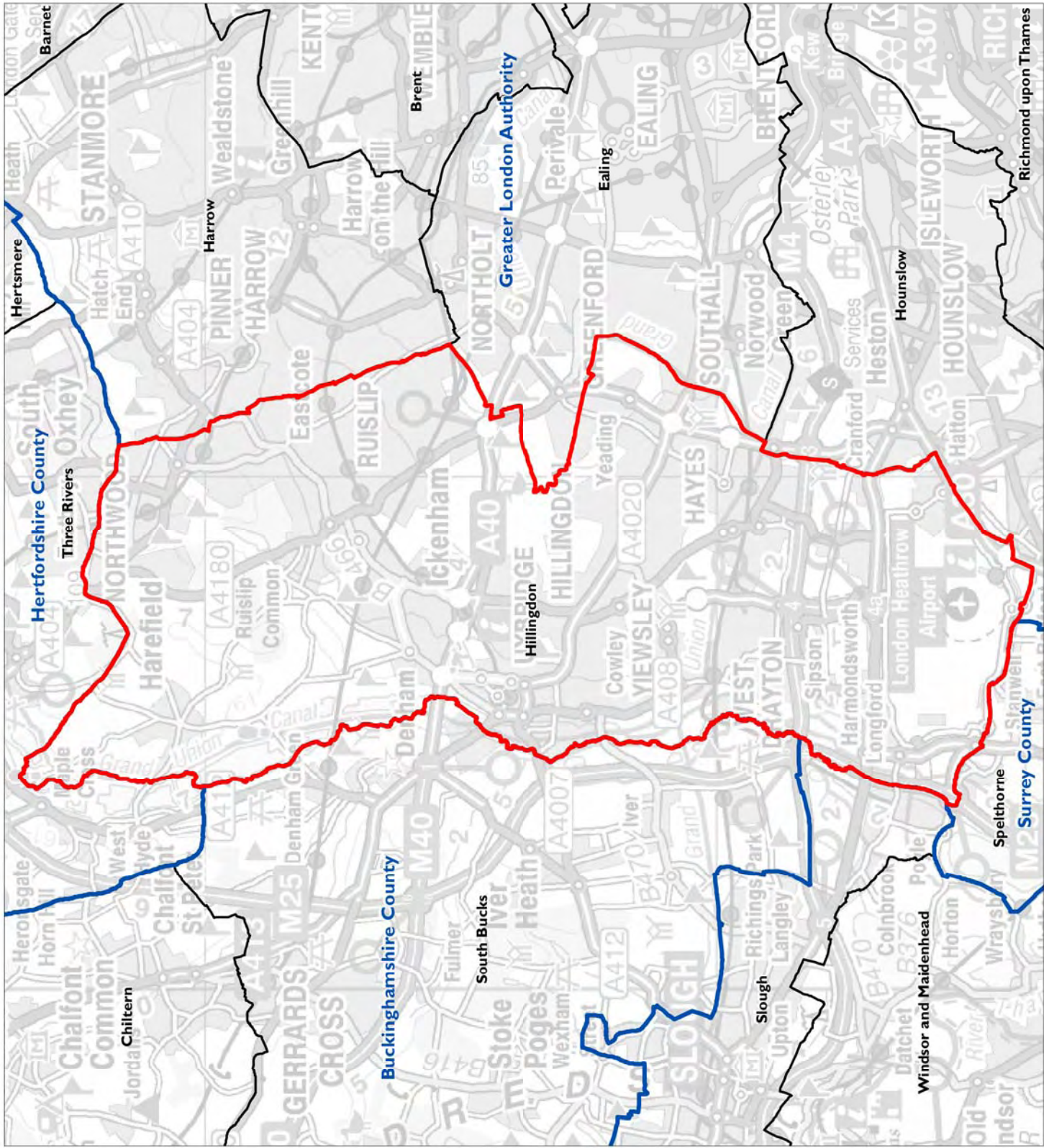
Figure 1.1 Location Plan

- Key**
- Hillingdon Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Local Authorities



Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011



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2 Method Statement

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 2.1 The study follows the accepted method for landscape character assessment as set out in '*Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland*' published by The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2002.
- 2.2 The borough wide assessment has been prepared within the framework of the 'Character of England Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Features Map'¹ (refer to **Figure 2.1**). It is also undertaken within the context of and with reference to London's Natural Signatures: The London Regional Landscape Framework prepared by Natural England in 2010 (refer to **Figure 2.2**). The classification nests within this regional Natural Signatures typology to form part of a robust hierarchy.
- 2.3 The method aims to be transparent, objective, robust and consistent with that used in the adjacent South Bucks Landscape Character Assessment (LUC 2011). It has involved five main stages, described below:
 - Data Collation
 - Characterisation
 - Field Survey
 - Evaluation
 - Consultation
- 2.4 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was used throughout the study as the tool for collating, manipulating and presenting data. This study was undertaken at a 1:25,000 scale, as appropriate for a borough wide assessment.

DATA COLLATION

- 2.5 **Baseline Data:** This stage involved the collation and mapping of a wide range of existing information on the characteristics of Hillingdon Borough including baseline maps of topography, bedrock geology, superficial geology, landform, hydrology, historic landscape and biodiversity (refer to **Appendix I**). It also included collation of information relating to the 'perceptual' characteristics of the landscape, such as literary references or as a source of artistic inspiration.

CHARACTERISATION

- 2.6 The process of characterisation draws together all the information outlined above, to develop a draft classification of the landscape character of Hillingdon. The approach follows best practice as promoted by the Countryside Agency in the Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland (2002) in maintaining a distinction between landscape types and character areas, and developing a hierarchical approach as follows:

¹ produced in 2005 by The Countryside Agency with support from English Heritage

- **Landscape Types** - which are generic and share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influences, e.g. 'Undulating Farmland' and 'River Corridor'.
 - **Landscape Character Areas** - which are single and unique, discrete geographical areas of the landscape type, e.g. 'Hill End Undulating Farmland' or 'Yeading Brook River Corridor'.
- 2.7 For the purposes of this borough-wide assessment emphasis has been placed upon the definition and subdivision of the landscape at a scale of 1:25,000 and at the Landscape Character Area scale i.e. the identification of particular geographical areas of distinctive landscape.
- 2.8 To provide a complete assessment for the entire borough, Hillingdon's urban areas have also been classified into broad **Townscape Character Types**, which define areas of common townscape type and their key characteristics. The classification provides a basis for a future more detailed townscape assessment to be undertaken.

FIELD SURVEY

- 2.9 A field survey was undertaken to appraise the draft characterisation. This specifically focussed on:
- Verification and fine-tuning of the classification of the landscape character areas (and types) identified;
 - Making refinements to landscape character area (and type) boundaries and names;
 - Recording landscape character;
 - Assessing sensitivities and strength of character/ intactness to inform the landscape strategy and guidelines;
- 2.10 A systematic and rigorous approach was adopted for the survey, with information recorded on 1:25,000 scale maps and a Field Survey Sheet (see **Appendix 2**). A comprehensive photo record was also made.

NOTES ON THE CHARACTERISATION

- 2.11 **A note on boundary lines:** The precision of boundaries drawn around landscape character areas and types varies with the scale and level of detail of the assessment. This assessment has been mapped at a scale of 1:25,000 which means that it is suitable for use at this scale only.
- 2.12 In reality, landscape character rarely changes abruptly and the boundaries indicated in The Hillingdon Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) therefore sometimes represent zones of transition in character relating to changes in topography, geology, soils, cultural patterns, land use etc. rather than marked changes on the ground. In practice boundaries of this nature have frequently been drawn to follow physical or mappable features such as roads, lanes or field boundaries which provide 'best fit'.
- 2.13 **A note on built areas:** This is primarily an assessment of the landscape character of Hillingdon Borough. Townscape types have been broadly identified, but townscape is not considered in detail. Built settlement edges

have however been considered in terms of their relationship to the surrounding landscape in the landscape character area descriptions.

EVALUATION

- 2.14 The approach for the evaluation undertaken as part of the Hillingdon Borough LCA follows current best practice and make judgements on the landscape highlighting potential sensitivities and identifying future management needs, through broad landscape guidelines.

CONSULTATION

- 2.15 A stakeholder workshop was held in February 2011 with an invited audience of c.26 participants including representatives of national agencies (e.g. English Heritage and Natural England) local interest groups (resident's associations, wildlife groups, local history, local societies etc.) plus borough councillors. The objectives of the workshop were to:
- Explain the process of Landscape Character Assessment and relevance to Hillingdon.
 - Validate the landscape characterisation map including character area boundaries, names, key characteristics and sensitivities.
 - Understand perceptions of what people value as important/special about Hillingdon.
- 2.16 The views and comments of participants were recorded and integrated into the relevant character area descriptions. A summary of the workshop is provided at **Appendix 3**.

FORMAT OF THE ASSESSMENT

- 2.17 An overview of each landscape type is provided with more detailed information provided for each landscape character area within the type.

Landscape Types

- 2.18 Each section is initiated by a summary map illustrating the location of the landscape type in relation to the borough as a whole, and identifying constituent character areas. An integrated summary of key characteristics of the landscape type and a general description is provided. In addition, broad landscape guidelines at the landscape type level are presented.

Landscape Character Areas

The majority of information is provided at the detailed character area level. Each character area has a summary map illustrating its location in relation to the borough as a whole and a more detailed map of the character area. A sheet of illustrative photographs is also provided. Information is presented as follows:

Key Characteristics: an integrated bullet point summary of key characteristics of the character area.

Description

Location and Boundaries: a brief description of where the area lies within the borough. It includes information about how the boundaries of the area were defined and relationship with adjacent areas.

Landscape Character: an integrated summary of the character of the area as set out in the following more detailed descriptions.

Geology, topography/landform and hydrology: background information on the geology landform and hydrological features which contribute to character is provided. The information was obtained from published map sources. Refer to **Figures a, b, c and d)**

Land Use and Settlement: the pattern of land use, settlement and building materials as well as the road and footpath network is described. The information has been obtained from 1:25,000 OS map and field observations.

Biodiversity: a summary of the key biodiversity features using information on designated sites, and information contained in the designated site citations. Refer to **Figures h and i.**

Historic Environment: a summary of the key historic processes and features and their contribution to character using information from the historic landscape classification (broad for London and more detailed for the Colne Valley) and distribution of designated sites. See **Figures e, f and g.**

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape: This section covers perceptual characteristics, tranquillity, and artistic/literary perceptions:

Perceptual characteristics include those defined in the landscape character assessment guidance i.e. scale, enclosure, diversity texture, form, line colour, balance, movement, pattern, etc. focussing on how specific elements contribute to the aesthetic characteristics.

Tranquillity is defined by analysis of noise levels, perceived naturalness, visible overt human impact and density of settlement/ diffusion of people. These criteria have been drawn from the University of Northumbria's method for defining tranquillity².

Perceptions recorded through for example descriptive writings and visual arts can indicate how the landscape has changed over time, and communicate the special perceptual qualities of the landscape. Information on the perceptual/experiential landscape is a key part of the field survey.

Designations: a list of designations specific to each character area is provided.

Evaluation

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities: These are the key positive landscape and visual attributes that, if lost or altered, would change the character of the landscape.

TOWNSCAPE CHARACTER

- 2.19 A broad classification of townscape types across Hillingdon Borough is presented at the same scale and to provide consistency with the landscape character assessment. The classification provides a broad framework for a more detailed townscape assessment to be undertaken in the future. For each landscape type outline key characteristics are described. Supported by a location map and photographs.
- 2.20 The classification has been developed through desk based assessments and no field work has been undertaken.
- 2.21 The historic development map for London (within London's Natural Signatures), OS 1:25,000 mapping, Hillingdon Borough Unitary Development Plan (adopted 1998, Saved Policies 2007) and the OS First Edition Map for the Borough were sources used to aid development of the classification.

² Mapping Tranquillity: Defining and Assessing a Valuable Resource', co-commissioned by the Campaign to Protection Rural England and the Countryside Agency.

Figure 2.1: National Character Areas



Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011

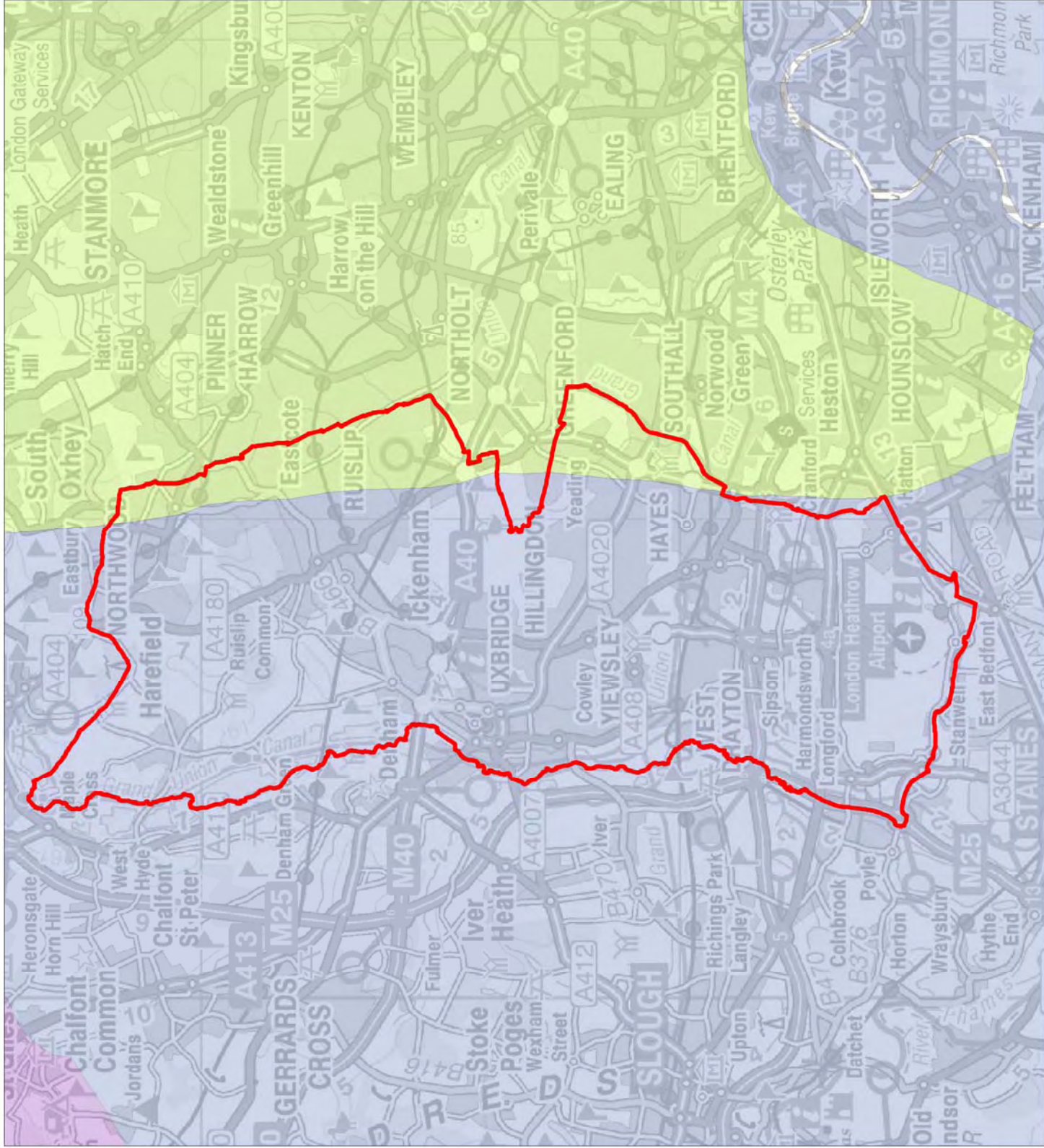












Figure 2.2: London's Natural Signatures Natural Landscape Areas

Key

-  Hillingdon Boundary
-  Barnet Plateau
-  Brent River Valley
-  Colne River Valley
-  Hampstead Ridge
-  Hayes Gravels
-  Hounslow Gravels
-  Ruislip Plateau
-  Upper Thames
-  Wandle River Valley

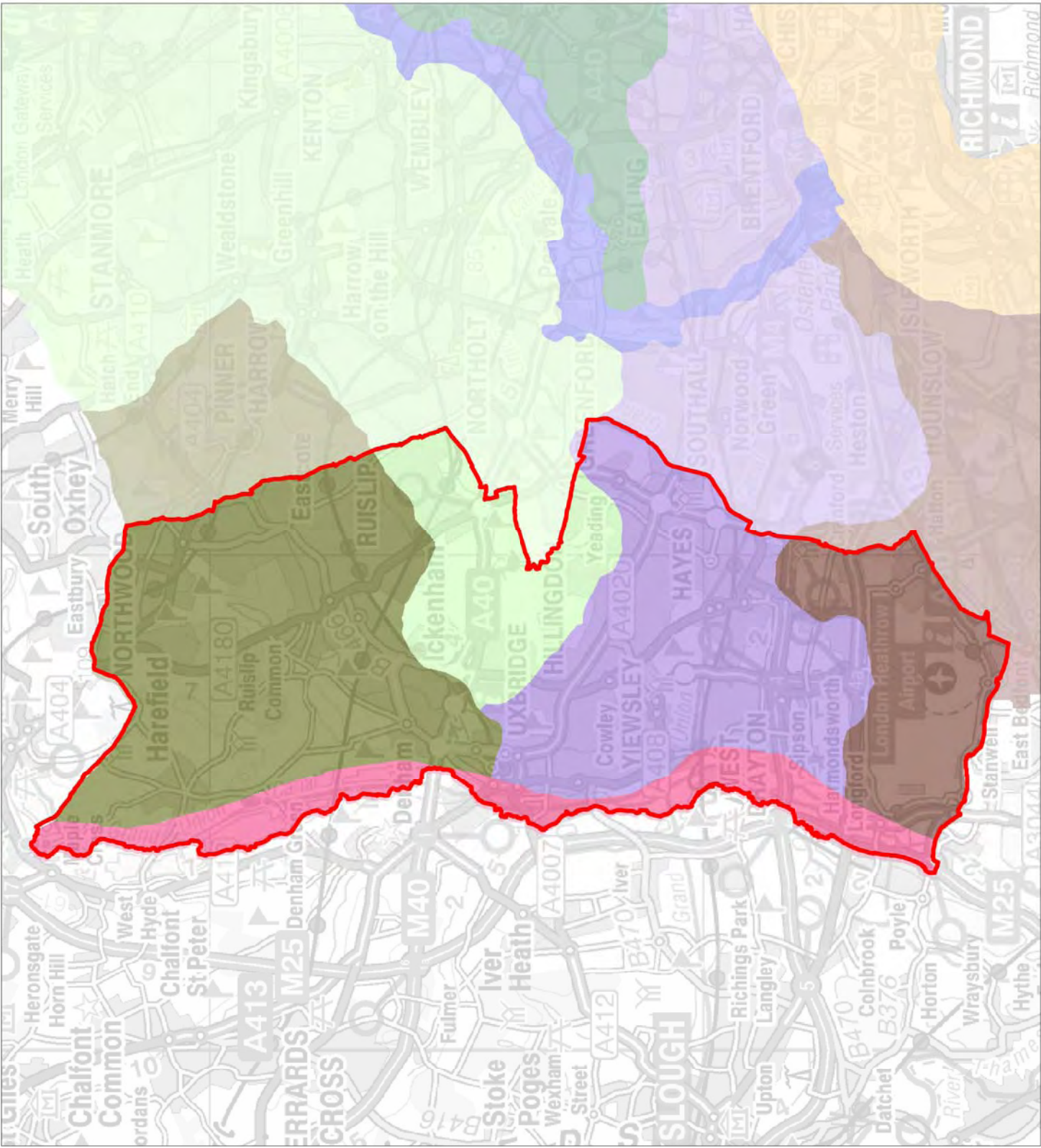
Note: the area depicted is located entirely within the London Basin Natural Area (not shown)



1:100,000 at A4

Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011



3 The Landscape Character of the Hillingdon

- 3.1 The character of Hillingdon Borough has been created by a combination of physical, historic, natural, social and economic processes. The diversity is recognised in the identification **13 landscape types**. Each of these landscape types has a distinct and relatively homogenous character with similar physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, land cover and historic evolution. The landscape types are further subdivided into component **landscape character areas**. The character areas are discrete geographic areas that possess the common characteristics described for the landscape type. Each character area has a distinct and recognisable local identity.
- 3.2 The landscape classification for Hillingdon is set out in **Table 3.1** and illustrated on **Figure 3.1**. The classification and boundary mapping has been undertaken using GIS, with mapping at a scale of 1:25,000.
- 3.3 The townscape classification of Hillingdon is set out in **Table 3.2** and illustrated in **Figure 3.1**.

Table 3.1: The Hillingdon Landscape Classification

| Predominant Super Landscape Type (from London's Natural Signatures Landscape Areas) | Landscape Character Type | | Landscape Character Area | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Colne River Valley | A | Floodplain | A1 | Upper Colne Floodplain– Stocker's Lake to Springwell Lake |
| | | | A2 | Mid Colne Floodplain– Broadwater Lake to Shire Ditch |
| | | | A3 | Mid Colne Floodplain - Little Britain Lakes |
| | | | A4 | Lower Colne Floodplain – Frays Island to Stanwell Moor |
| Ruislip Plateau | B | Open Valley Sides | B1 | Harefield |
| | | | B2 | Uxbridge |
| | C | Undulating Farmland | C1 | Hill End |
| | | | C2 | South Harefield |
| | | | C3 | New Years Green |
| | D | Wooded Undulating Farmland | D1 | Harefield |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | E | Clay Golf | EI | Northwood Hills |
| | F | Wooded Valley | FI | Ruislip |
| Ruislip Plateau/ Hayes Gravels | G | River Corridor | G1 | Upper Pinn |
| | | | G2 | Lower Pinn |
| | | | G3 | Yeading Brook |
| Barnet Plateau | H | Clay Plateau Aerodrome | HI | Northolt |
| | I | Encapsulated Farmland | I1 | Hayes Park |
| Hayes Gravels | J | Gravel Terrace Recreation | J1 | Stockley |
| | | | J2 | Minet |
| | K | Open Gravel Terrace | K1 | Harmondsworth |
| K2 | | | Harlington | |
| Hounslow Gravels | L | Gravel Terrace Infrastructure | K3 | Cranford |
| | | | L1 | Heathrow |

Table 3.2: The Hillingdon Townscape Classification

| Townscape Character Type (TCT) | Area |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Historic Core | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwood • Harefield • Eastcote • Ruislip • Ickenham • Uxbridge • Yeading • Hillingdon • Cowley • Hayes • West Drayton • Harmondsworth • Harlington • Sipson • Longford |
| Retail Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwood • Northwood Hills • Hayes • Eastcote • Ruislip Manor • Uxbridge • Ruislip • HayesTown • Yiewsley/ West Drayton |
| Inter War Suburbs/ Metroland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwood • Harefield • Eastcote • Ruislip • Ruislip Manor • West Ruislip • South Ruislip • Ickenham • Uxbridge • Cowley • Hillingdon • North Hillingdon • Hayes • Hayes Town • Yeading • Yiewsley • West Drayton |
| Commercial Airport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heathrow |
| Industrial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Ruislip |
| Industrial and Commercial Canal Side | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uxbridge • Cowley • Hayes • Bulls Bridge • Yiewsley |
| Institutional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunel University |

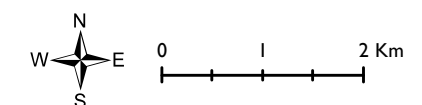
Figure 3.1: Hillingdon Classification

Key

- Hillingdon Boundary
- Landscape Character Type (LCT)**
- A. Floodplain
- B. Open Valley Sides
- C. Undulating Farmland
- D. Wooded Undulating Farmland
- E. Clay Golf
- F. Wooded Valley
- G. River Corridor
- H. Clay Plateau Aerodrome
- I. Encapsulated Farmland
- J. Gravel Terrace Recreation
- K. Open Gravel Terrace
- L. Gravel Terrace Infrastructure
- Townscape Character Types**
- Historic Core
- Retail Centre
- Inter-war Suburb/Metroland
- Commercial Airport
- Industrial
- Industrial and Commercial Canal Side
- Institutional Development

Landscape Character Areas (LCA)

- A1. Upper Colne Floodplain – Stocker’s Lake to Springwell Lake
- A2. Mid Colne Floodplain – Broadwater Lake to Shire Ditch
- A.3. Mid Colne Floodplain – Little Britain Lakes
- A4. Lower Colne Floodplain – Frays Island to Stanwell Moor
- B1. Harefield Open Valley Sides
- B2. Uxbridge Open Valley Sides
- C1. Hill End Undulating Farmland
- C2. South Harefield Undulating Farmland
- C3. New Years Green Undulating Farmland
- D1. Harefield Wooded Undulating Farmland
- E1. Northwood Hills Clay Golf
- F1. Ruislip Wooded Valley
- G1. Upper Pinn River Corridor
- G2. Lower Pinn River Corridor
- G3. Yeading Brook River Corridor
- H1. Northholt Clay Plateau Aerodrome
- I1. Hayes Park Encapsulated Farmland
- J1. Stockley Gravel Terrace Recreation
- J2. Minet Gravel Terrace Recreation
- K1. Harmondsworth Open Gravel Terrace
- K2. Harlington Open Gravel Terrace
- K3. Cranford Open Gravel Terrace
- L1. Heathrow



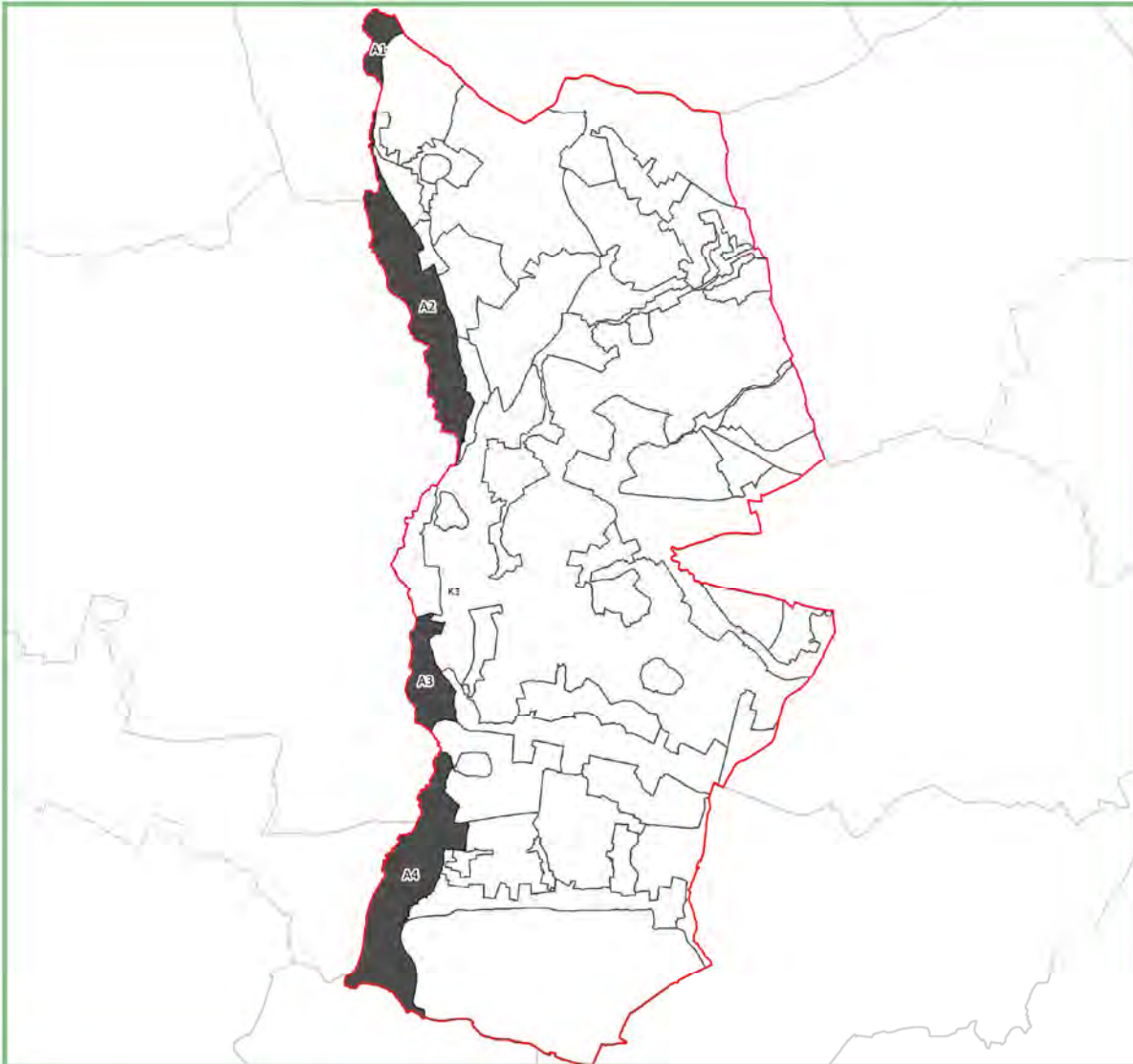
1:75,000 at A3

Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 23/05/2012



LCT A FLOODPLAIN



LCT A FLOODPLAIN

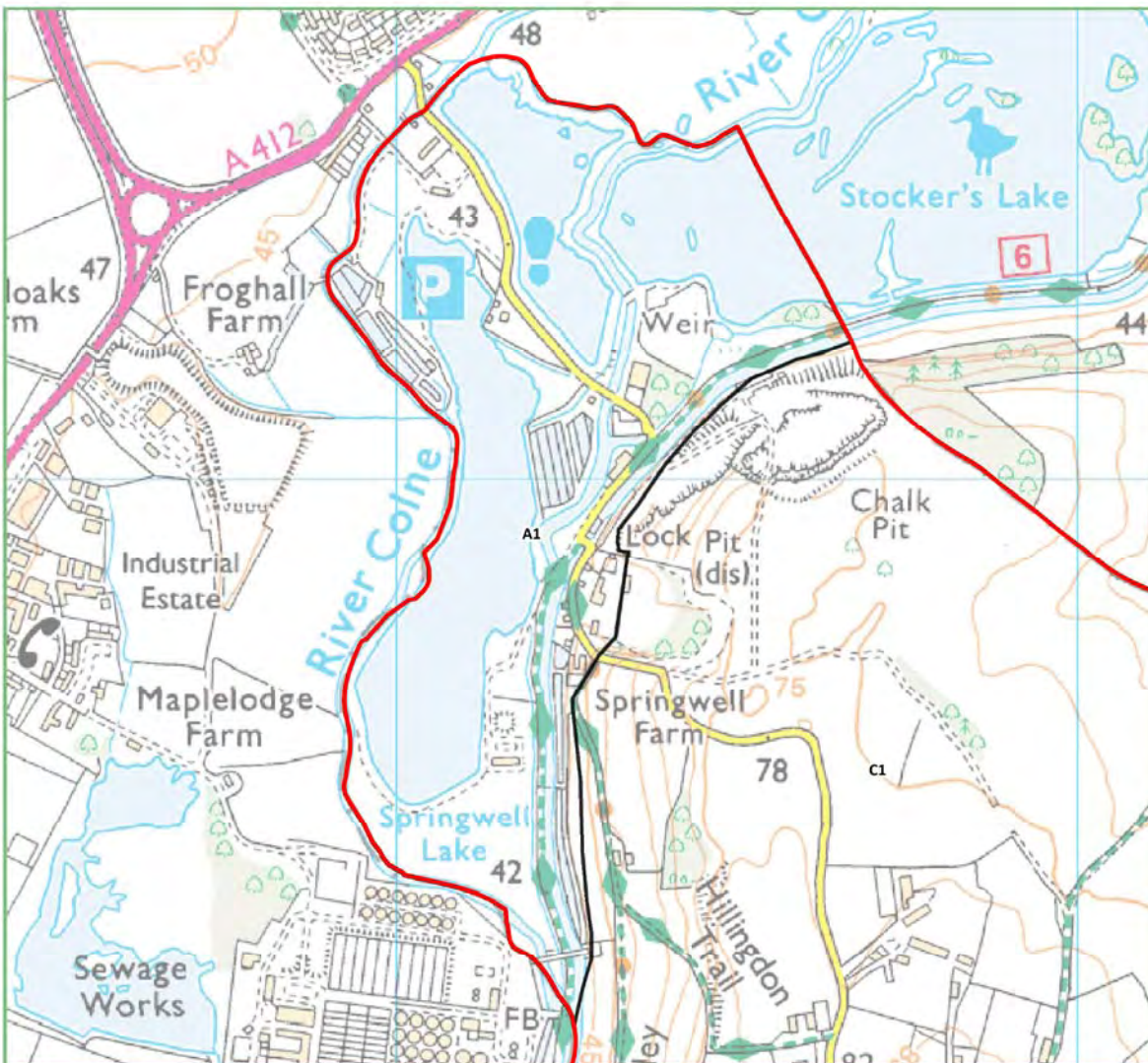
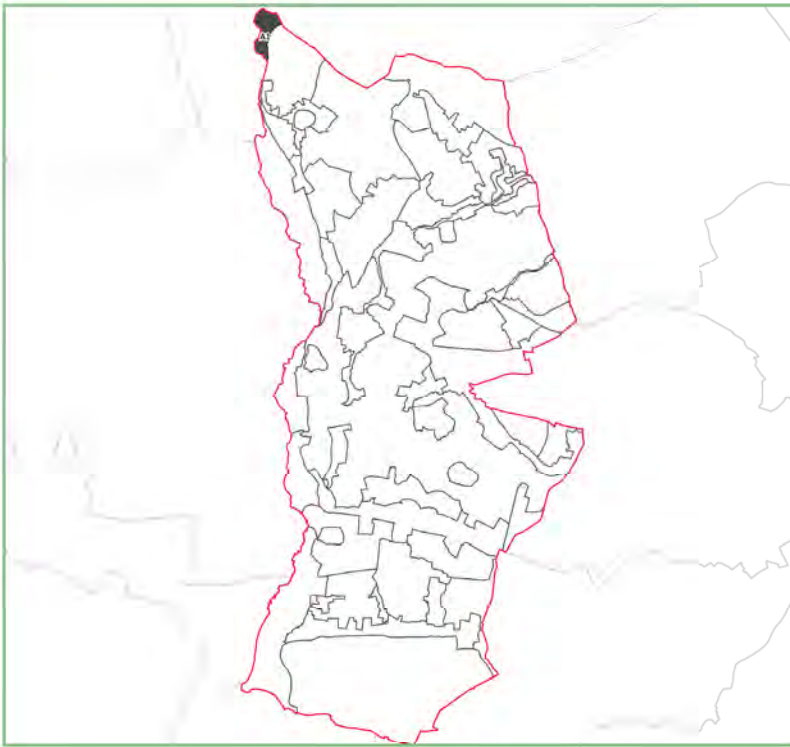
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying flat, floodplain with very little topographic variation, typically underlain by a mosaic of chalk formation and overlying gravel and alluvium deposits. Often the land is worked, made or infilled ground.
- Water is a dominant feature in the landscape, including the River Colne, Grand Union Canal and a number of lakes.
- Pockets of floodplain meadows, grassland and woodland, with a variety of wetland and riparian habitats supporting a diverse fauna and flora.
- Influenced by sand and gravel extraction, with former gravel pits flooded to create lakes. Recreational activities include bird watching, fishing, walking and cycling.
- Dense tree cover often found along waterways and around lakes, creates a strong sense of containment and enclosure, restricting views to adjacent landscapes. Some open views across water bodies and linearly along water courses.
- Settlement density is relatively low, often comprising isolated properties and small clusters of housing; and few roads pass through the landscape.
- Several local footpaths and a number of long distance footpaths provide access to, and connect to water bodies and woodland.
- A strong sense of tranquillity results from the absence of settlement and the dominance of water bodies and woodland.
- Close proximity to roads, pylon lines and remaining industrial working occasionally interrupt the landscape.

Constituent LCAs

- A1 - Upper Colne Floodplain– Stocker's Lake to Springwell Lake
- A2 - Mid Colne Floodplain– Broadwater Lake to Shire Ditch
- A3 - Mid Colne Floodplain -Little Britain Lakes
- A4 - Lower Colne Floodplain – Frays Island to Stanwell Moor

LCA A1 UPPER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – STOCKER'S LAKE TO SPRINGWELL LAKE



LCA A1 UPPER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – STOCKER'S LAKE TO SPRINGWELL LAKE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying flat, floodplain with very little topographic variation, underlain by Chalk formation with a mosaic of overlying Shepperton Gravel and Alluvium.
- Water bodies such as Springwell Lake and Stocker's Lake dominate the landscape, with the River Colne and the Grand Union Canal bordering the north, west and eastern edges.
- Pockets of floodplain grassland and woodland, with a variety of wetland and riparian habitats supporting a diverse fauna and flora.
- An area of meadowland in the north east, possibly in use from the 11th century for cultivation of hay.
- Part of the Colne Valley Regional Park, the landscape is heavily influenced by sand and gravel extraction, with former gravel pits flooded to create lakes. Recreational activities associated with the flooded gravel pits include bird watching and fishing.
- Dense naturally regenerated tree cover along waterways and around lakes, creates a strong sense of containment and enclosure, restricting views to adjacent landscapes.
- Settlement density is sparse and has a modern 'new build' character, comprising individual properties and small clusters.
- Springwell Lock Conservation Area is located in the south west of the character area including the old brick arch bridge, lock and nearby farm cottages (late 19th century).
- A single, winding rural road passes through this landscape. Several local footpaths provide access to water bodies and woodland with the Grand Union Canal Walk, Ebury Trail, and the Colne Valley Trail long distance footpaths passing along the east boundary.
- Views are often confined by woodland, with some open views across water bodies and linearly along water courses, such as the Grand Union Canal.
- A strong sense of tranquillity results from the absence of settlement and the dominance of water bodies and woodland. A largely undisturbed character with a strong sense of containment.

LCA A1 UPPER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – STOCKER'S LAKE TO SPRINGWELL LAKE

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north west of Hillingdon Borough, within the *Colne River Valley Natural Landscape Area*, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. The borough administrative boundary forms the character area boundary to the west, north and south, and the character extends into Three Rivers District. The flat floodplain of this landscape distinguishes it from the rising valley side topography to the east. The area follows the floodplain of the River Colne from the southern tip of Stocker's Lake in the north to Springwell Lake in the south.

The Colne Valley River floodplain forms a continuous landscape, through the Borough and adjacent districts, however it is separated into distinct character areas by the borough boundary, topography and settlement.

Landscape Character: A small character area forming part of the low lying flat floodplain of the Colne Valley which extends into Three Rivers District. Dominated by water, with Springwell and Stocker's Lakes comprising significant land cover, and bound by the River Colne along the north and west margins and the Grand Union Canal to the east. Pockets of woodland, wetland meadow and some reedbeds are interspersed and provide valuable wildlife habitats. Dense tree cover provides a sense of enclosure and contains views along water courses and across open water bodies. A largely undisturbed character, with one road and limited settlement, which contribute to a tranquil and peaceful landscape. Footpaths provide access to the area, particularly close to water bodies, with recreational opportunities including canal barging, angling and bird watching.

Geology: The Upper Colne Valley is underlain by Lewes Nodular Chalk formation. A mosaic of Shepperton Gravel and Alluvium overlay the area, with open water bodies associated with worked gravels deposits.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying flat, floodplain topography, approximately 45m, with very little topographic variation. Main level changes as a result of water bodies, such as flooded gravel pits and the canal.

Hydrology: Water is an important characteristic of this landscape. The River Colne runs along the north and west boundary, and the channelised Grand Union Canal borders the eastern edge. Extensive gravel and sand extraction has taken place, and subsequent flooding has produced a network of lakes, which are prominent features in this character area, such as Springwell Lake and Stocker's Lake.

Land Use and Settlement: A relatively small character area forming part of the Colne Valley Regional Park, which extends to the north, south and west. It is dominated by a mosaic of hydrological features with dense tree cover in between, particularly surrounding water bodies. The network of lakes is formed from the subsequent flooding of former gravel pits. Small areas of interspersed meadow,

LCA A1 UPPER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – STOCKER'S LAKE TO SPRINGWELL LAKE

grassland and occasional small fields of paddock are scattered throughout. Important recreational opportunities are typically associated with water bodies, for example angling, bird watching and boating. Several local footpaths provide access to the area, passing through woodland and along watersides and the Grand Union Canal Walk, Ebury Trail and the Colne Valley Trail run along the eastern edge of the area.

Settlement density is low and modern in character, with individual properties and small clusters of buildings dispersed along a single road which cuts through the area. Small pockets of industry are also scattered across the area, screened by woodland.

Biodiversity: The character area is important for biodiversity, in particular the network of wetland habitats associated with waterways and lakes. Three lakes are located within the character area, Springwell Lake, Stocker's Lake West Gravel Pit and a small part of Stocker's Lake, which extends east into Three Rivers District, as well as two small watercress beds. All of which provide a wide range of habitats, particularly for birds. The River Colne also supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, set within floodplain grassland, damp woodland and flowing alongside the flooded gravel pits. Springwell and Stocker's Lakes are both recognised as Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, the latter of which is also a local nature reserve. To the South of Springwell Lake and north of Maple Cross Sewage Works (which lies outside the character area) is a large area of reedbed, which adds to the diversity of habitats. Wet woodland borders the lakes, River Colne and Grand Union Canal, with common species including alders and crack willow.

Historic Environment: During the industrial revolution, the Grand Union Canal was constructed along the Colne Valley, which runs through a large section of the character area. This encouraged localised industry, and thus much of the landscape within this area is heavily influenced by sand and gravel extraction. Springwell Lock Conservation Area is located in the south west of the character area including the old brick arch bridge, lock and nearby farm cottages (late 19th century) and also recognised for its landscape setting, located close to the canal and river and surrounded by many trees and high hedges. In 1967 the Colne Valley Regional Park (which this character area lies within) was established, which covers this character area. The landscape was transformed for leisure, recreation and conservation, and many former gravel pits developed into lakes and other water bodies.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: High woodland cover contributes to a sense of intimacy and enclosure. The mosaic of woodland and water bodies provides a variety of texture and colour. Varying levels of enclosure are experienced across open areas of water, contrasted with enclosed dense woodland areas. Views are often confined within the character area by woodland, with some open views across water bodies, and linearly along waterways, such as the Grand Union Canal. Occasional views are achieved to higher ground of Rickmansworth. A strong sense of tranquillity results from the absence of settlement and the dominance of woodland. Some small industrial workings occasionally interrupt an otherwise intact and balanced landscape. Local footpaths pass through woodland and alongside

LCA A1 UPPER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – STOCKER'S LAKE TO SPRINGWELL LAKE

waterways and water bodies, making the area accessible to the public and providing numerous recreational opportunities.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation: Springwell and Stocker's Lakes
- Local Nature Reserves: I No (Stocker's Lake)
- Conservation Area: Springwell Lock

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Water bodies and waterways, including chalk rivers, flooded gravel pits and the canal, with their associated habitat and wildlife value.
- The range of habitats associated with the geology and waterside location including floodplain grassland, wet woodlands, watercress beds and reedbeds.
- Semi-natural meadows which may date back to the 11th century for cultivation of hay.
- Occasional open views across water bodies and channelled views along linear waterways.
- The low density of settlement and absence of roads and dominance of water and woodland which contribute to a strong sense of tranquillity. Vulnerability to potential future infilling of undeveloped areas.
- The containment and enclosure provided by woodland which restricts views out to adjacent landscapes.
- Recreational opportunities and public rights of way access particularly associated with water bodies.



Meandering River Colne. Densely vegetated waterside edges



Stocker's Lake. Enclosed by woodland with a surrounding footpath



Grand Union Canal, enclosed by trees and offering recreational opportunities along the adjacent towpath



Settlement density is low and has a modern character, comprising individual properties and small clusters



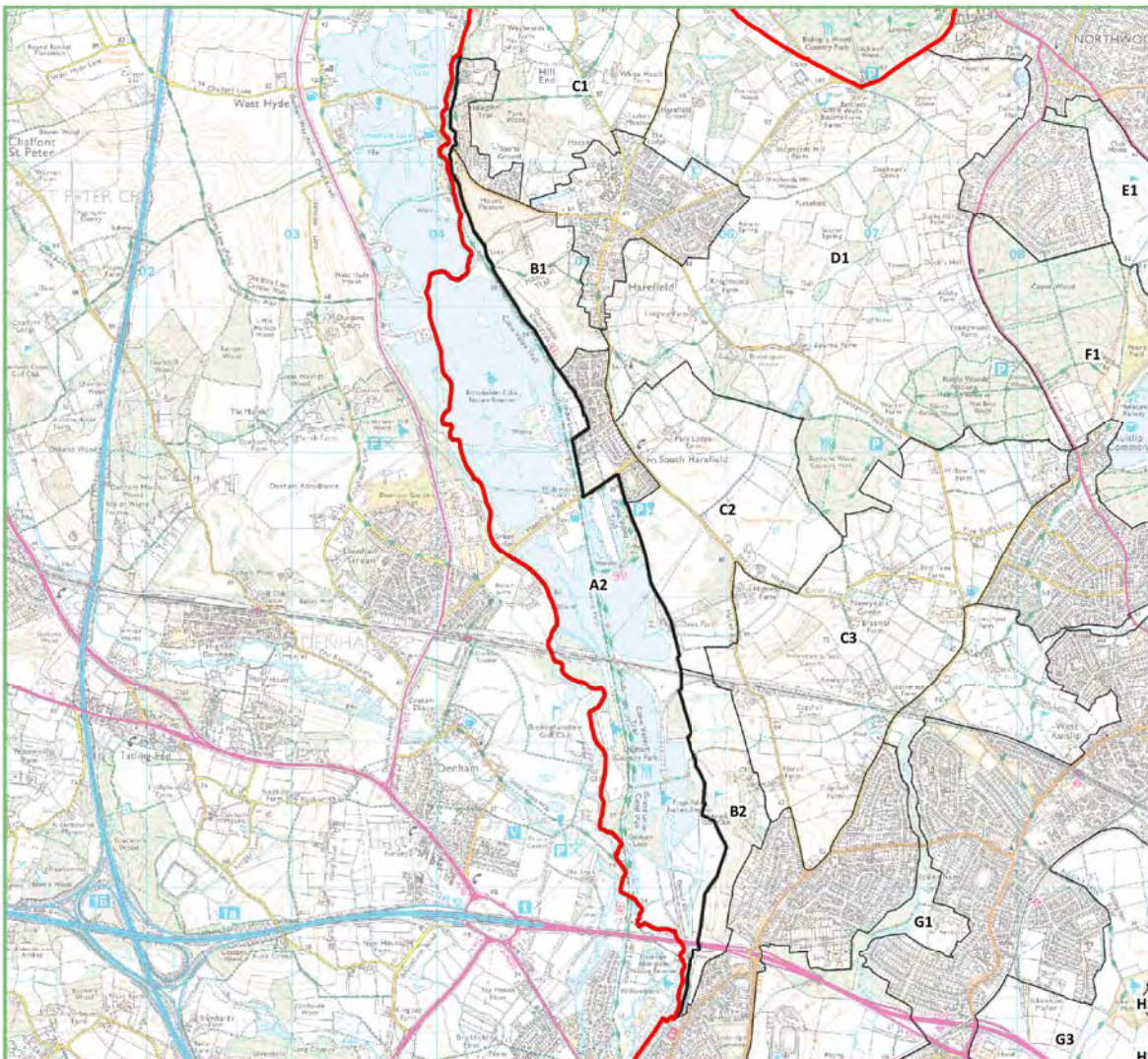
Small scale interspersed paddock, with wooden field boundaries



A single, winding rural road passes through this landscape, enclosed by high hedgerows and trees

LCA A1 Upper Colne Floodplain - Stocker's Lake to Springwell Lake

LCA A2 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - BROADWATER LAKE TO SHIRE DITCH



LCA A2 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - BROADWATER LAKE TO SHIRE DITCH

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying flat, floodplain with very little topographic variation, cut into the chalk with overlying gravel and alluvium deposits.
- Water bodies including chalk rivers (River Colne and Fray's River), flooded gravel pits and the Grand Union Canal dominate the landscape, with interspersed pockets of unimproved floodplain meadows and woodland. The Grand Union Canal demonstrates a linear built feature, which contrasts with the more natural water courses.
- Dense tree cover typically situated along waterways and lakes, creates a strong sense of containment and enclosure, restricting views to adjacent landscapes. Areas of 18th-19th century woodland in the south west.
- A variety of wetland and riparian habitats which support a diverse fauna and flora, particularly within designated SSSIs, at Frays Farm Meadows, Denham Lock Wood and Mid Colne Valley, which demonstrate a legacy of industry and wildlife.
- Settlement density is sparse, and restricted to highly dispersed isolated properties, which are located along the boundaries of the character area.
- Few roads pass through this landscape, however the area is easily accessible by foot, with several long distance and local footpaths, often within woodland, and along water courses. Moorhall Road crosses the Colne River, with varying degrees of enclosure and long views down the River Colne.
- Influenced by a history of sand and gravel extraction, many of the pits have been flooded to create lakes, with some small pockets of industry still remaining.
- Some areas of 19th century enclosure in the south.
- Views are often confined by woodland, with expansive views across open lakes, and linearly along water courses, such as the Grand Union Canal.
- A strong sense of tranquillity results from the absence of settlement and the dominance of water bodies and woodland.
- Close proximity to the M40 creates some local audible impacts and pylon lines and remaining industrial working occasionally interrupt an otherwise intact landscape.
- Part of the Colne Valley Regional Park with recreational opportunities, often associated with water ways and lakes, for example canal barging, angling, bird watching, walking, cycling and numerous water sports.

LCA A2 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - BROADWATER LAKE TO SHIRE DITCH

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north west of Hillingdon Borough, within the *Colne River Valley* Natural Landscape Area, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. The borough administrative boundary forms the western edge of the character area, and the character extends northwards into Hertfordshire District and west into South Buckinghamshire. The flat floodplain of this landscape distinguishes it from the rising valley side topography to the east. The area follows the floodplain of the River Colne from Broadwater Lake in the north to Shire Ditch in the south.

The Colne Valley River floodplain forms a continuous landscape, through the borough and adjacent districts, however it is separated into distinct character areas by the borough boundary, topography and settlement.

Landscape Character: Part of the low lying flat floodplain of the Colne Valley which extends into Hertfordshire and South Buckinghamshire. Dominated by water including the River Colne, Grand Union Canal and lakes, formerly gravel pits, which are a reminder of the area's industrial past. The waterbodies are interspersed with pockets of wet meadow, grassland and woodland providing valuable wildlife habitats and recognised by a number of designated SSSIs. Tree cover provides a strong sense of enclosure and channels views along water courses with some expansive views across lakes. This containment along with the absence of settlement and roads, and dominance of water and woodland, contribute to a tranquil and peaceful landscape. Linear long distance footpaths pass through the area and there are numerous recreational opportunities associated with the water including watersports, angling and bird watching. In proximity to densely populated areas this intact, linear landscape is invaluable for recreation, nature conservation and quiet enjoyment.

Geology: The Mid Colne Valley is underlain predominately by Seaford Chalk formation and Newhaven Chalk formation, with a small area of Lambeth Group in the south. These are overlain by Shepperton Gravel and Alluvium.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying flat, floodplain topography, with very little topographic variation. Main level changes as a result of water bodies, such as flooded gravel pits and the canal. Topography approximately varies between 35m and 40m.

Hydrology: Hydrological features are an important characteristic of this landscape, comprising the River Colne, the Grand Union Canal and numerous lakes, such as Broadwater Lake Nature Reserve. Extensive gravel and sand extraction has occurred within the valley, which have been subsequently flooded to produce a network of lakes, which dominate this character area. The River Colne typically flows along the western edge and the Grand Union Canal cuts through the floodplain centrally..

Land Use and Settlement: The area is part of the Colne Valley Regional Park, which extends to the north, south and west. It is dominated by a mosaic of hydrological features with dense tree cover along waterways and lakes and areas of

LCA A2 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - BROADWATER LAKE TO SHIRE DITCH

meadow and grassland interspersed. Former gravel pits have been developed into a network of lakes running through the area, with some small pockets of gravel extraction continuing today. Many of these lakes provide important recreational opportunities, for example angling, bird watching and water sports. The Grand Union Canal also offers numerous recreational opportunities, with the adjacent towpath used for walking and cycling. Long distance footpaths pass through the area; the Grand Union Canal Walk, Colne Valley Trail and the London Loop. Several other footpaths provide access to the area, passing through woodland and along watersides.

Settlement density is sparse, with isolated properties dispersed along the boundaries, transitional with adjacent character areas. A railway line cuts across the character area centrally on a brick viaduct and a disused railway line is situated in the far south. Pylon lines are located in the south of the landscape.

Biodiversity: The character area is important for biodiversity, in particular the network of wetland habitats associated with waterways and lakes. The River Colne is set within unimproved floodplain meadows, damp woodland and flooded gravel pit, which support diverse flora and fauna. The character area is within the Mid Colne Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation Site, and recognised as an area of ecological importance, with a diverse range of habitats. Shire Ditch lies in the south, comprising alder and willow woodland and wet grassland areas. To the north of this and adjacent to Frays River lays Frays Farm Meadows, an SSSI of unimproved wet alluvial grassland with a significant diversity of species, including a large number of sedges and a variety of grassland communities. The meadows also provide habitats for waders, wildfowl and wintering species. Denham Lock Wood lies to the east, a relatively large area of wet woodland and also an SSSI, supporting a range of wetland habitats and dominated by broadleaved, mixed and yew lowland woodland. The Mid Colne Valley SSSI is located in the north of the area to the east of South Harefield and encompasses open water, such as Broadwater Lake, and lowland calcareous grassland. Local nature reserves are found at Denham Quarry Park and Fray's Valley, both situated in the south of the area.

Historic Environment: During the industrial revolution, the Grand Union Canal was constructed along the Colne Valley, and runs through a large section of the character area. This encouraged localised industry, and thus much of the landscape within this area is heavily influenced by sand and gravel extraction. In 1967 the Colne Valley Regional Park was established. The landscape was transformed for leisure, recreation and conservation, and many former gravel pits restored as lakes and other water bodies.

There are three conservation areas alongside the canal; Widewater Lock, Denham Lock and Black Jack's Lock. Black Jack's Lock is a small conservation area, including three historic houses, Black Jacks Mill (mid to late 18th century yellow brick and pebble dashed), Black Jack's Cottage (Grade II, 17th century thatched cottage), and a cottage to the south of Black Jack's Mill. Widewater Lock conservation area comprises the 19th century lock and lock keepers cottage (Grade II). Denham Lock

LCA A2 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - BROADWATER LAKE TO SHIRE DITCH

again consists of a very small area, made up of the lock keepers cottage (dated 1905) and the lock, set besides the river and canal. A small number of other Grade II listed features including several footbridges on the administrative boundary in the west, cross the River Colne.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A linear landscape with high woodland cover contributes to a sense of intimacy and enclosure. The mosaic of woodland and water bodies provides a variety of texture and colour. Varying levels of enclosure are experienced across open areas of water, contrasted with enclosed dense woodland areas. Views are often confined within the character area by woodland, with some long views across open water, along waterways, such as the Grand Union Canal and occasional views towards valley slopes. A strong sense of tranquillity results from the absence of settlement and the dominance of woodland, however close proximity to the M40 creates local audible impacts across the area. Pylon lines and some remaining industrial working occasionally interrupt an otherwise intact and balanced landscape. The area is served by a good network of footpaths, passing through woodland and alongside waterways and water bodies, making the area easily accessible to the public and providing recreational opportunities.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation: Mid Colne
- SSSI: 3No. Frays Farm Meadows, Denham Lock Wood and Mid Colne Valley
- Local Nature Reserves: 2 No. Frays Valley and Denham Quarry Park
- Conservation Areas: Widewater Lock; Denham Lock; Black jack's Lock
- TPOs: East of Denham Fisheries; Land adjacent to Grand Union Canal; Waterloo Covert; The Alders Wood; Altcar Covert; Woodland between Railway and Canal

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Water bodies and waterways, including chalk rivers, flooded gravel pits and the canal, with their associated habitat and wildlife value.
- The range of habitats associated including water meadows, unimproved grassland and wet woodlands.
- Open views across water bodies and channelled views along linear waterways.
- The low density of settlement and absence of roads and dominance of water and woodland which contribute to a strong sense of tranquillity.

LCA A2 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - BROADWATER LAKE TO SHIRE DITCH

- The containment and enclosure provided by woodland which restricts views out to adjacent landscapes.
- Occasional open views, especially along waterways, such as from Moorhall Road along the River Colne.
- Extensive recreational opportunities and public rights of way access, particularly associated with water bodies.



Long linear views along the Grand Union Canal. Contained by woodland. Adjacent towpath provides access by foot and cycle



Frays Valley Nature Reserve. Open expansive views, towards a wooded backdrop



Recreational opportunities such as watersports at Broadwater Lake



Footpaths wind through enclosed woodland



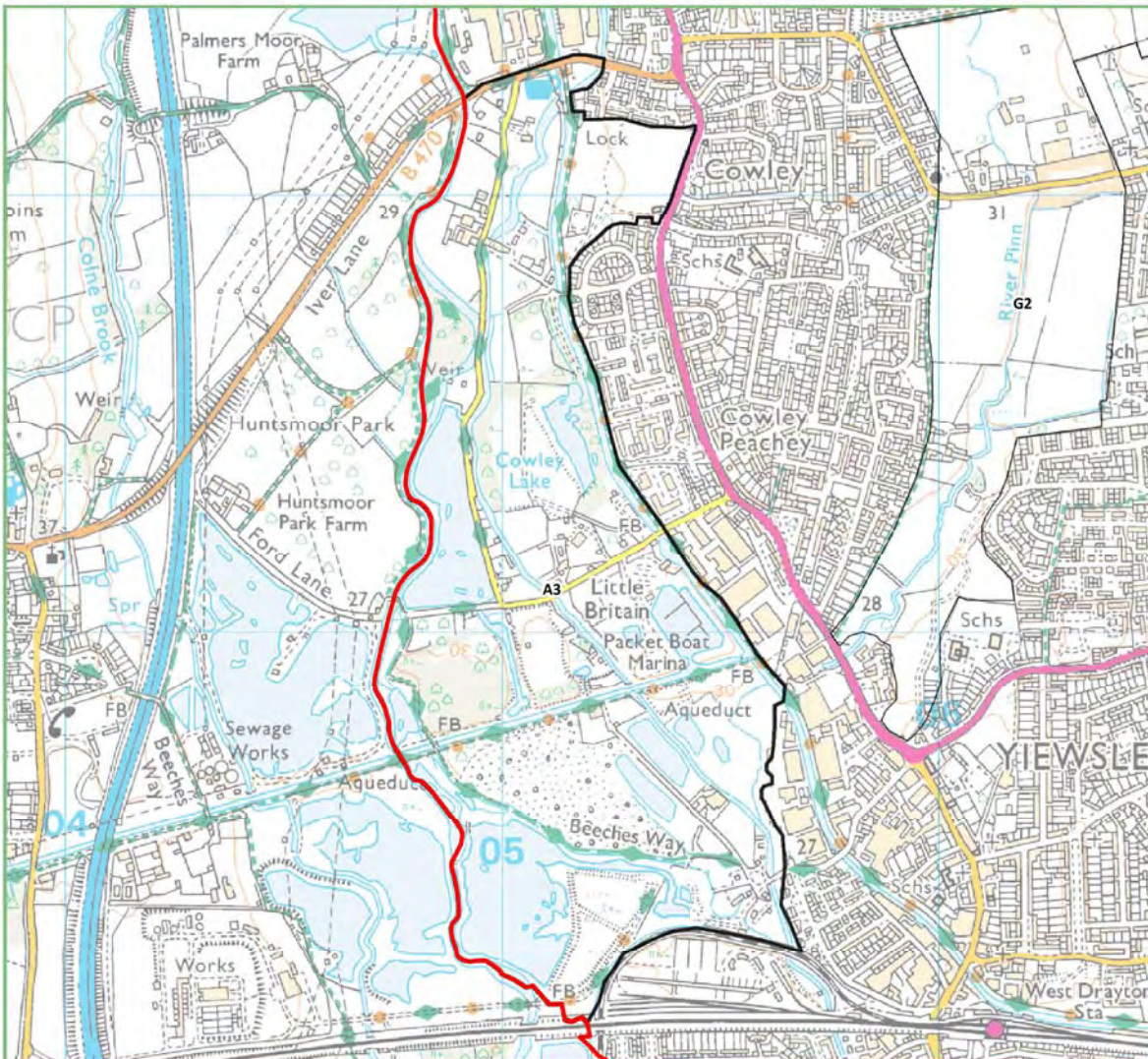
Railway viaduct and scrub woodland



Evidence of existing sand and gravel workings interspersed and enclosed within woodland

LCA A2 Mid Colne Valley Floodplain - Broadwater Lake to Shire Ditch

LCA A3 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN- LITTLE BRITAIN LAKES



LCA A3 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - LITTLE BRITAIN LAKES

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying flat, floodplain with very little topographic variation, comprising a mosaic of alluvium Shepperton Gravel and some pockets of Lynch Hill Gravel Formation. Predominantly infilled or worked ground.
- Water bodies including chalk rivers (River Colne and River Fray), flooded gravel pits and the Grand Union Canal dominate the landscape, with interspersed pockets of grassland, scrub, wasteland, wetland, woodland and meadows.
- Dense tree cover typically situated along waterways and lakes, creates a strong sense of containment and enclosure.
- A variety of wetland and riparian habitats which support a diverse fauna and flora, particularly within the Little Britain Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.
- Settlement density is relatively low, comprising isolated properties and small clusters of housing. The edge of Cowley and Yiewsley imparts a strong urban character and a number of waste tips are present.
- Few roads pass through this landscape, however the area is easily accessible by foot, with several long distance, such as the London Loop and the Beeches Way, and local footpaths, often within woodland and along water courses.
- Influenced by a history of sand and gravel extraction, many of the pits have flooded to create lakes.
- Views are often confined along waterways, with expansive views across open lakes and linearly along water courses, such as the Grand Union Canal.
- Pockets of tranquillity and an intimate character results from the dominance of water bodies and woodland and limited settlement.
- Part of the Colne Valley Regional Park with recreational opportunities, often associated with water ways and lakes, for example canal barging, angling and bird watching.

LCA A3 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - LITTLE BRITAIN LAKES

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the west of Hillingdon Borough, predominately within the *Colne River Valley* Natural Landscape Area, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. A small section along the east edge lies within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Landscape Area. The Borough administrative boundary forms the western edge of the character area, and the character extends westwards into South Buckinghamshire District. Dense settlement surrounds the character area to the north and east and a railway line defines the southern boundary.

The Colne Valley River floodplain forms a continuous landscape, through the Borough and adjacent districts, however it is separated into distinct character areas by the borough boundary, topography and settlement.

Landscape Character: Part of the low lying flat floodplain of the Colne Valley which extends into South Buckinghamshire. Dominated by water including the River Colne, Frays River, the Grand Union Canal and lakes, formerly gravel pits, such as Little Britain Lakes. The waterbodies are interspersed with a mosaic of grassland, scrub, wasteland, wetland, woodland and meadows, which provide valuable wildlife habitats. Tree cover provides a strong sense of enclosure and channels views along water courses with some expansive views across lakes. Intimate and tranquil pockets largely in association with water bodies and woodland are interspersed with settlement and occasional waste sites, particularly in the east and south. Linear long distance footpaths pass through the area and there are numerous recreational opportunities associated with the water including angling and bird watching. In close proximity to densely populated areas along the eastern edge which reduces intactness and imparts a strong urban edge character.

Geology: The Mid Colne Valley is underlain predominately by a mosaic of alluvium and Shepperton Gravels. Some pockets of Lynch Hill Gravel Formation are located along the eastern edge. Much of the land is worked or infilled ground.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying flat, floodplain topography, at around 30m AOD, with very little topographic variation. Main level changes as a result of water bodies, such as flooded gravel pits and the canal.

Hydrology: Hydrological features are an important characteristic of this landscape, comprising the River Colne along the western edge, the Frays River, the Grand Union Canal along the eastern edge, and numerous manmade lakes and Packet Boat Marina, such as Little Britain Lake. The Grand Union Canal also cuts across the area east to west, along an aqueduct. Extensive gravel and sand extraction has occurred within the valley, which have been subsequently flooded to produce a network of lakes, which dominate this character area.

Land Use and Settlement: The area is part of the Colne Valley Regional Park. It is dominated by a mosaic of hydrological features with dense tree cover along

LCA A3 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - LITTLE BRITAIN LAKES

waterways and lakes and small grassland areas interspersed. Former gravel pits have developed into a network of lakes running through the area, such as Little Britain. Many of these lakes provide important recreational opportunities, for example angling and bird watching. Packet boat Marina is located in the east, and a number of fisheries are located within the area. The Grand Union Canal, River Colne and Frays River also offer numerous recreational opportunities, with the adjacent towpaths and footpaths used for walking and cycling. An urban park is located adjacent to the canal in the north. Four long distance footpaths pass through the area; the Grand Union Canal Walk, the Colne Valley Trail, the Beeches Way and the London Loop. Several other footpaths provide access to the area, passing through woodland and along watersides.

Areas of industry, such as waste sites, are particularly prominent in the south and east. Settlement density is relatively low, with isolated properties and small clusters of houses. A strong urban edge character filters in along the western edge, from housing and industry associated with Cowley and Yiewsley. One road passes through the area, with varying degrees of enclosure, often enclosed by tree cover.

Biodiversity: The character area is important for biodiversity, in particular the network of wetland habitats associated with waterways and lakes. Little Britain Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, covers a large proportion of the character area, and comprise a variety of habitats, such as lakes, canals, rivers, scrub, wasteland, wetland, woodland and meadows. To the west, the River Colne is a particularly fast flowing gravel bottomed stretch of river lined by willow, oak, ash and hawthorn along the banks. The Frays River cuts through the area, a slower flowing river, with extensive areas of reeds. Distinctive crack willow trees often overhang the water's edge, and sycamore and elder are common. Little Britain Lake itself is a large lake in the west, supporting a range of habitats, with numerous small islands, providing important habitats for many water bird species and amphibians. Willows and alders grow along the lake margins. Scrub, woodland and wasteland species occupy occasional waste and tip sites. Pockets of damp woodland are interspersed throughout though area. A further Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation is the Grand Union Canal, which runs on the east boundary between areas of housing and industry at Cowley and Yiewsley. The canal also branches off in an east direction towards Slough, crossing the River Colne and Frays River.

Historic Environment: During the industrial revolution, the Grand Union Canal was constructed through the Colne Valley. This encouraged localised industry, and much of the landscape within this area is heavily influenced by sand and gravel extraction. The surrounding areas have a strong industrial character. In 1967 the Colne Valley Regional Park was established. The landscape was transformed for leisure, recreation and conservation, and many former gravel pits restored as lakes and other water bodies.

A mixed historic character, with unrestored land and post 1885 industrial land use centrally within the character area. Pockets of 20th century enclosure are located in

LCA A3 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - LITTLE BRITAIN LAKES

the north and south east and two areas of 19th-20th century woodland areas interspersed. Several areas of flooded restored mineral extractions are scattered throughout. The character area is influenced by modern day land use and has a character which has developed largely over the previous two centuries.

The large conservation area of Cowley Lock covers the north of the character area, with a number of waterside pubs and restaurant and listed buildings. Here a group of buildings are centred around the lock, with a brick arch bridge, the 'Shovel' public house and cottages. The area includes fields and woodland to the south west of these buildings, with a number of old buildings, including the Grade II listed Old Mill House

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A flat landscape with high woodland cover contributes to a sense of intimacy and enclosure. The mosaic of woodland and water bodies provides a variety of texture and colour. Varying levels of enclosure are experienced across open areas of water, contrasted with enclosed dense woodland areas. Views are often confined within the character area by woodland, with some long views across open water, such as Little Britain, and along waterways, such as the Grand Union Canal. Pockets of tranquillity exist away from settlement and industry, and a rural character prevails in the north and west. In places the road is contained by water either side, creating an intimate character and affording open views to the east across water. The east and south are more interrupted and less intact, interspersed with industry such as tips and largely influenced by the urban edge character of Cowley and Uxbridge. The area is served by a good network of footpaths, passing through woodland and alongside waterways and water bodies, making the area easily accessible to the public and providing recreational opportunities.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation: Little Britain, Cowley; The Grand Union Canal
- Conservation Areas: Cowley Lock
- Metropolitan Open Land: Cowley Recreation Ground
- TPOs: Land around Cowley Lake; 'The Island', Packet Boat Lane Ford

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Water bodies and waterways, including rivers, flooded gravel pits and the canal, with their associated habitat and wildlife value.

LCA A3 MID COLNE FLOODPLAIN - LITTLE BRITAIN LAKES

- The mosaic of habitats including water meadows, woodland, wasteland and wetland.
- Open views across water bodies and channelled views along linear waterways.
- The relatively low density of settlement, absence of roads and dominance of water and woodland which contribute to a sense of tranquillity.
- The containment and enclosure provided by woodland which restricts views out to adjacent landscapes.
- Extensive recreational opportunities and public rights of way access particularly associated with water bodies.
- The close proximity to a dense urban edge and areas of industry. Further development could impact on the landscape character.



Woodland encloses the Grand Union Canal, and views are channelled linearly



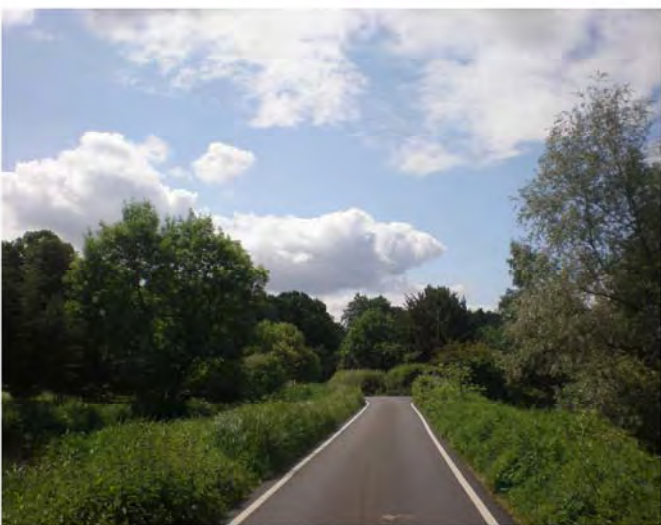
Wetland vegetation and woodland surround Little Britain Lake. Open views across the water body to a wooded backdrop



Fray's River meanders through the character area, banked by vegetation, such as reeds



Woodland cover provides a sense of enclosure, with small footpaths winding through

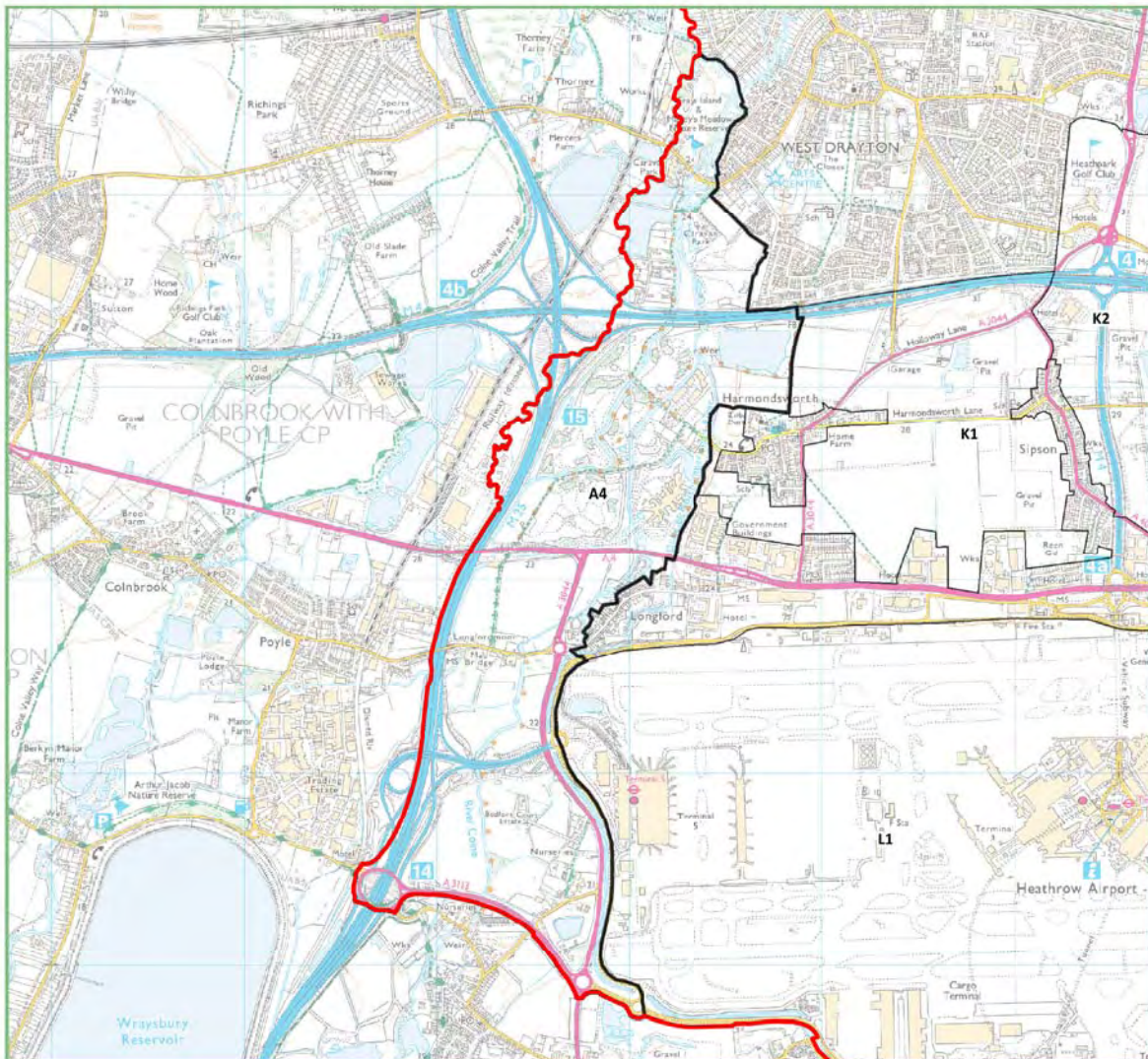
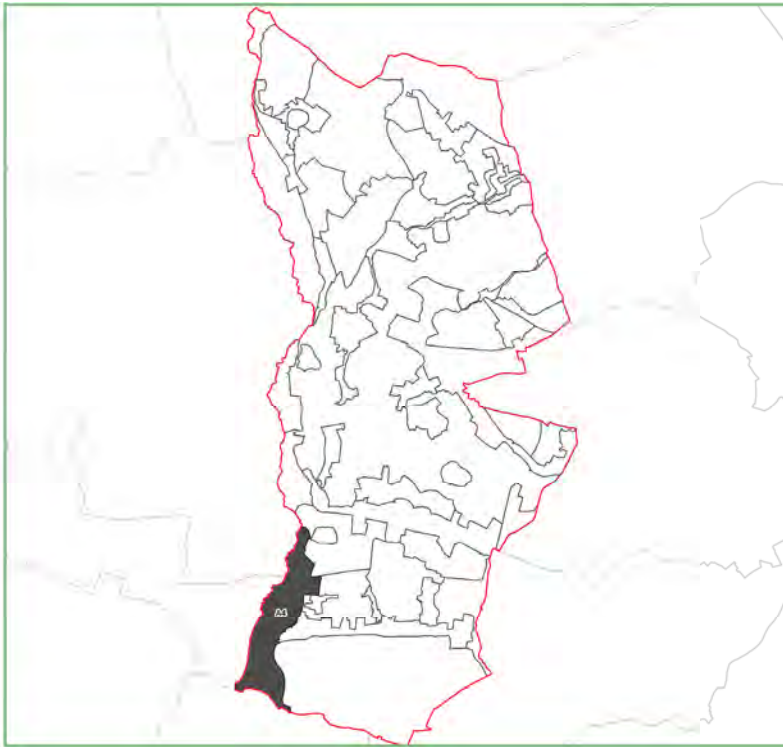


Road passing through the area, is bounded by vegetation and lined either side by water. A strong rural character



Urban park, in the north of the character area. An open character, with amenity grassland and scattered trees

LCA A4 LOWER COLNE FLOODPLAIN - FRAY'S ISLAND TO STANWELL MOOR



LCA A4 LOWER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – FRAYS ISLAND TO STANWELL MOOR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying, predominantly flat floodplain, underlain with London Clay Formation, and an overlying mosaic of alluvium and Shepperton Gravel. Much of the land is worked, made or infilled ground.
- Water is a dominant feature in the landscape, including the River Colne, branching Fray's River and Wraybury River, and the Duke of Northumberland's River, as well as flooded gravel pits in the north.
- Harmondsworth Moor a reclaimed landfill site and gravel workings which has been transformed into a Country Park, comprising woodland, grassland, scrub, ancient meadows and extensive water features. The BA headquarters Waterside development forms part of this park.
- Dense tree cover typically situated along waterways and lakes, and within the country park landscape in the north creates a strong sense of containment and enclosure.
- Open fields of pasture and grazing dominates the south, with scattered trees.
- Largely contained within the Lower Colne Site of Metropolitan Importance, with a range of habitats, including woodland, with common species such as, crack willow, ash, hawthorn, sycamore and elder, scrub, meadow and wildflowers and riverine habitats.
- Settlement density is relatively low, comprising isolated properties. Pockets of industry are scattered throughout, such as sand and gravel works, and Heathrow Airport has a dominant influence on the character in the south east.
- Settlement edges of West Drayton, Longford and Harmondsworth are located along the eastern edge. Some key views to the Tithe Barn and Church on the edge of Harmondsworth and towards the Colne from Longford edge.
- A number of busy roads cut through the landscape, such as the M25, M4, A4 and a number of smaller 'A' roads. A dense network of footpaths provides recreational opportunities in the north.
- Varying levels of enclosure, with greater tree cover in the north, creating a sense of intimacy and enclosure, contrasting with more open farmland in the south.
- Views are often confined by woodland, with long views across open farmland in the south.
- Intimate pockets of tranquillity result from the relatively low density of settlement and the dominance of water bodies and woodland.
- Heathrow Airport and a number of busy roads, have a strong influence on the character area, creating localised audible and visual impacts.

LCA A4 LOWER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – FRAYS ISLAND TO STANWELL MOOR

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the south west of Hillingdon Borough, predominately within the *Colne River Valley* Natural Landscape Area, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. A small section along the south east lies within the *Hounslow Gravels* Natural Landscape Area, and two further sections along the west lie within the *Hayes Gravels*. The borough administrative boundary forms the western edge of the character area, and landscape character extends north west into South Buckinghamshire District, west into Slough Borough and south into Spelthorne Borough. The dominance of water largely distinguishes this area from the landscape to the east. Heathrow Airport lies along the south east boundary and settlement edges of Longford, Harmondsworth and West Drayton lie to the east and north.

The Colne River floodplain forms a continuous landscape, through the borough and adjacent districts, however it is separated into distinct character areas by the borough boundary, topography and settlement.

Landscape Character: A low lying floodplain landscape which forms part of the Colne Valley Regional Park. Water dominates this landscape, with The River Colne, branching Fray's River and Wraysbury River, and the Duke of Northumberland River meandering through the area, and a number of lakes (flooded former gravel pits) situated in the north. Harmondsworth Moor, Country Park in the north and Frays Island and Mabey's Meadow Nature Reserve, supports a range of habitats including woodland, grassland, scrub, meadows, plus extensive water features and accessed by an extensive network of footpaths. An enclosed and intimate landscape, which contrasts with open pasture and grazed farmland in the south, with long views across farmland. Heathrow Airport and a number of busy roads create localised audible and visual impacts and have a stronger influence on the character area particularly in the south.

Geology: The Mid Colne Valley is underlain by London Clay Formation, with a mosaic of overlying alluvium and Shepperton Gravel. Much of the land is worked, made or infilled ground.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying, predominantly flat, floodplain topography. Main level changes as a result of water bodies, such as flooded gravel pits, and in the north within Harmondsworth Moor, where landform has been manipulated to develop an undulating terrain. Topography lies approximately between 20m and 25m.

Hydrology: Hydrological features are an important characteristic of this landscape. The River Colne, which also branches into the Wraysbury River and Fray's River, and the Duke of Northumberland's River meander through the character area, with the later running largely along the western edge. A number of lakes occupy the landscape in the north, in areas of former gravel extraction.

LCA A4 LOWER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – FRAYS ISLAND TO STANWELL MOOR

Land Use and Settlement: The area is part of the Colne Valley Regional Park. It is highly influenced by a mosaic of hydrological features. In the north Harmondsworth Moor occupies the landscape, a reclaimed landfill site which has been transformed into a Country Park surrounding the British Airways (BA) headquarters (Waterside). The wider Country Park comprises undulating terrain, extensive tree planting, grassland, scrub, ancient meadows and extensive water features, including lakes and ponds and dissected by Wraysbury River, River Colne and Duke of Northumberland's River. Extensive footpaths and tracks meander through the park. Frays Island and Mabey's Meadow Nature Reserve is situated in the extreme north of the character area, and accessible only by footbridges. This is willow woodland set between the Colne and Frays River. The south of the character area is dominated by pasture and grazed farmland, interspersed by woodland clumps. Trees line the River Colne which runs centrally through this part of the character area.

Pockets of industrial and commercial land use are scattered throughout the character area, such as sand and gravel works and scrap metal sites, particularly prominent along the western edge, closer to Heathrow Airport and settlement edges (West Drayton). Settlement density is low throughout, with some scattered properties, again along the western edge. A caravan and mobile homes park is located in the far north west.

The edges of West Drayton, Harmondsworth and Longford form the eastern edge of the area and the landscape provides a setting to these settlements, particularly the historic villages. Heathrow Airport is situated immediately south west of the character area, and imposes a strong built character on the landscape. A number of busy roads cut through the area, with the M25 running along the east boundary. The M4, A4, A3044 and several smaller 'A' roads pass through the landscape.

Biodiversity: The character area is important for biodiversity, in particular the network of wetland habitats associated with waterways and lakes. Harmondsworth Moor provides a range of habitats, with extensive tree cover, ancient meadows, and grassland, which all support a range of insects, including butterflies, grasshoppers and bush crickets, and birds, such as lapwing, skylark and kingfisher. Lakes/ponds and river corridor, support a range of wetland habitats. Willow woodland, meadow and river banks provide further habitats and biodiversity value at Frays Island and Mabey's Meadow Nature Reserve, with several species of orchids. Hedgerows with trees and woodland clumps provide valuable wildlife habitats in the south of the area, where agriculture dominates.

The Lower Colne Site of Metropolitan Importance covers a large proportion of the character area. The River Colne, which branches into the Frays River and the Wraysbury River is an important component of this site. Riverine willow woodland, wet meadow and wildflowers are found along these stretches. The river is relatively fast flowing in which many fish species are typical. Woodland and scrub line river corridors, including crack willow, ash, hawthorn, sycamore and elder. The Wraysbury River stretch is recognised for its rich diversity of aquatic vegetation, such as great yellow cress, reeds, yellow flag, water crowfoot and river dropwort.

LCA A4 LOWER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – FRAYS ISLAND TO STANWELL MOOR

Three gravel pits are included within this site, with particularly rich ornithological interest.

Historic Environment: Much of the landscape within this area is influenced by sand and gravel extraction, and parts of the surrounding areas to the west have a strong industrial character. In 1967 the Colne Valley Regional Park was established. The landscape was transformed for leisure, recreation and conservation, and many former gravel pits restored as lakes and other water bodies. Harmondsworth Moor and the British Airways headquarters (Waterside) were created on 260 acres of reclaimed land close to Heathrow Airport, formerly a landfill site and gravel workings. The British Airways Headquarters was consented permission to develop its headquarters here, under Section 106 Agreement, which required the additional development and management of a Country Park. Originally a flat landform, excavations from the underground car park was used to model the landform, thus generating the undulating form of the park today.

The south of the character area, south of Bath Road is a transitional industrial and mineral landscape. 20th century field enclosures comprise the area to the north of Bath Road and south of the A4. To the north of the A4 the area has a mixed historic character, comprising a large area of recreation, post 1885 industrial landscape, meadow, and flooded restored mineral extraction..

A number of listed buildings are located in the character area, particularly along the eastern edge, close to settlement. Colne Cottage, The Loft and Kings Bridge are found on the edge of Longford Village, and a bridge over the Northumberland's River is situated on the edge of Harmondsworth. Grade II* listed Old Mill House and Frays Cottage, late 18th century, are both situated adjacent to West Drayton, and a Grade II listed milestone at Mad Bridge is situated centrally. Small sections of Longford Village and West Drayton Green Conservation Areas filter into the character area along its eastern edge.

Longford was known for its water mills which were constructed along the River Colne in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, though none survive today. Records dating from the 16th century describe Longford as pasture ground subject to heavy flooding from the River in times of heavy rain. To the west of the Tithe Barn, archaeological excavations have revealed landscape covered with evidence of Saxon buildings including two timber halls.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: Varying levels of enclosure, with greater tree cover in the north, generating a more intimate and enclosed character. A greater sense of openness in the south, which is emphasised by the flatter landform of this character area. The mosaic of woodland and water bodies provides a variety of texture and colour, and creates a peaceful and tranquil landscape, particularly in the north. Heathrow Airport and a number of busy roads, have a stronger influence on the south part of the character area, creating localised audible and visual impacts. A dense network of footpaths provides access and recreational opportunities in Harmondsworth Moor. Views are confined by woodland, with more extensive vistas

LCA A4 LOWER COLNE FLOODPLAIN – FRAYS ISLAND TO STANWELL MOOR

in the south across open flat farmland. There are attractive views from the eastern edge of Harmondsworth Moor to Grade I listed Tithe Barn and the Church of St Mary in Harmondsworth village, creating a sense of place and strong historical context. Views to the Colne and woodland are afforded northwards from the edge of Longford.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation: Lower Colne
- Conservation Areas: Longford Village; West Drayton Green
- TPOs: Land Hall Grounds off Summer House Lane

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Water bodies and waterways, including rivers, and flooded gravel, with their associated habitat and wildlife value.
- The mosaic of habitats including water meadows, woodland, grassland and wetland.
- Open views across farmland in the south.
- Dominance of water and woodland which contribute to a sense of tranquillity.
- The containment and enclosure provided by woodland particularly in the north.
- Recreational opportunities and public rights of way access particularly associated with water bodies and Harmondsworth Moor.
- Views from Harmondsworth Country Park to Tithe Barn and church in Harmondsworth which provide strong historical context.
- Views to the River Colne and woodland afforded northwards from the edge of Longford.
- The landscape as a setting to the historic villages of Longford and Harmondsworth, contributing to the character of the villages



Harmondsworth Moor Country Park, gently undulating landform and footpath which weave through areas of grassland and woodland



Meandering Duke of Northumberland's River, with densely vegetated river banks



'Waterside' British Airways Headquarters and surrounding designed landscape



Open lake, a former gravel extraction pits, with surrounding reed vegetation and wooded edges



Views east out of the character area towards the Tithe Barn and Church on the edge of Harmondsworth

LCA A4 Lower Colne Floodplain - Fray's Island to Stanwell Moor

LCT A FLOODPLAIN – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

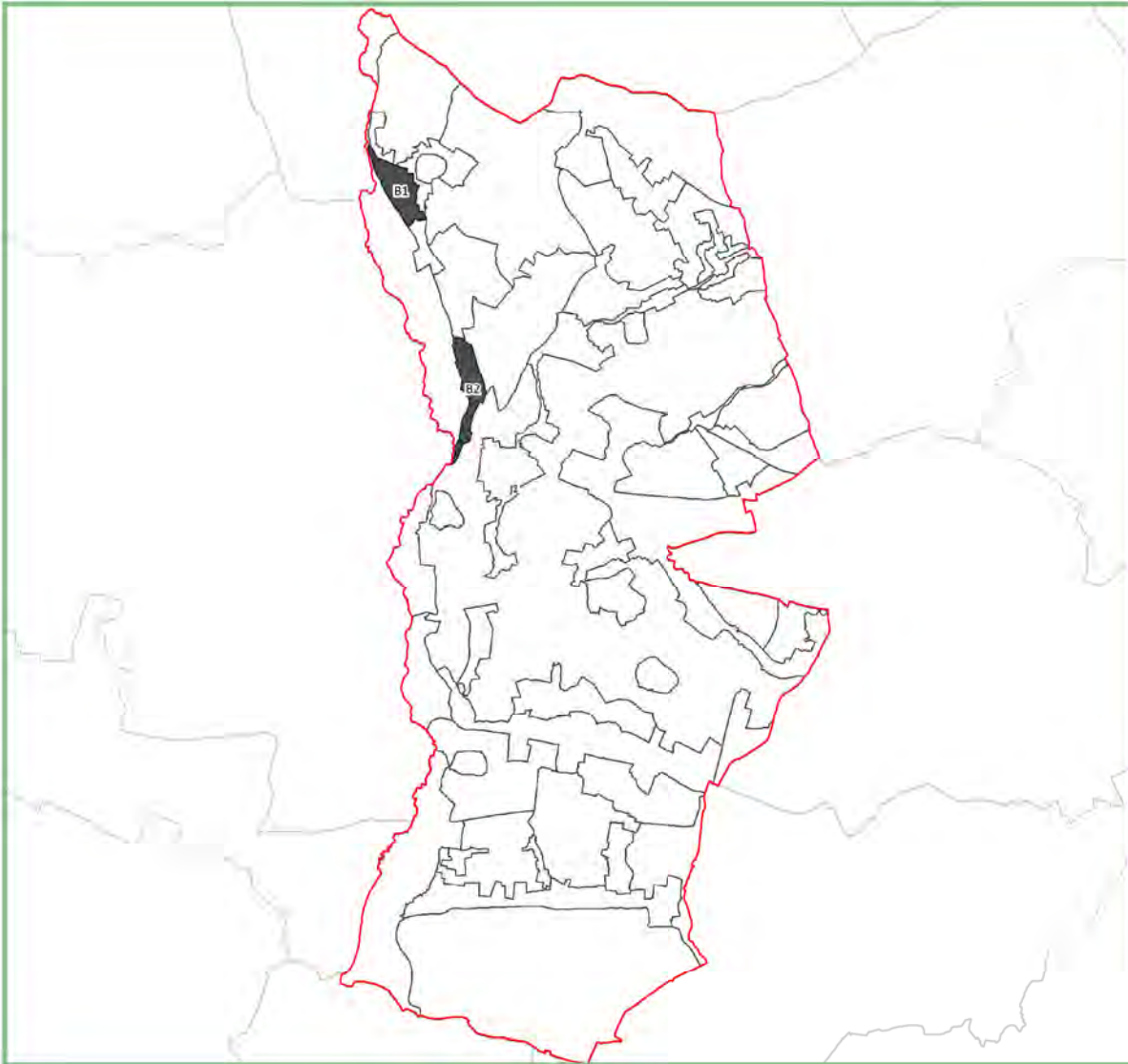
- A1 - Upper Colne Floodplain– Stocker’s Lake to Springwell Lake
- A2 - Mid Colne Floodplain– Broadwater Lake to Shire Ditch
- A3 - Mid Colne Floodplain -Little Britain Lakes
- A4 - Lower Colne Floodplain – Frays Island to Stanwell Moor

Strategy/Vision: To conserve and enhance the character of the Floodplain as a green infrastructure resource, including areas of important ecological and recreational value, such as water bodies, wetland habitats and woodland. To manage and enhance areas of former industrial land use, and to maintain the strong sense of tranquillity, and rural character with limited settlement.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Monitor water quality in the rivers, lakes and ponds, seeking to reduce run off and water pollution from surrounding industry and roads.
- Encourage appropriate management and protection of water bodies and wetland/riparian habitats and seek opportunities to extend and connect habitats and enhance biodiversity interest.
- Encourage appropriate and sustainable management to enhance the mosaic of water bodies, woodland, wetland, meadow and other habitats.
- Monitor further industrial development, particularly the replacement of old industrial infrastructure with large modern industry, which is likely to have an adverse impact on the landscape character. Where development occurs, ensure sensitive integration of industry with the landscape.
- Encourage management and restoration of hedgerows, filling in gaps where necessary and seek opportunities to recreate and extend these habitats.
- Conserve open views across expanses of water, and linearly along rivers and canals.
- Conserve the strong sense of tranquillity, largely associated with an absence of settlement, dominance of woodland and water, and strong sense of containment.
- Conserve and enhance opportunities for recreation, through management, and through promotion of the Regional Park and associated activities/facilities.
- Conserve and develop easy access within the floodplain and enhance links between the floodplain, and adjacent landscapes and urban areas.
- Avoid prominent vertical development and large scale infrastructure, which is likely to impact greatly on the low lying, floodplain character.
- Consider opportunities for further screening/buffering of roads, industry and abrupt urban edges through sensitive tree planting.
- Consider management of the area as part of the wider Regional Park, in terms of access, ecology, and recreation.

LCT B OPEN VALLEY SIDES



LCT B OPEN VALLEY SIDES

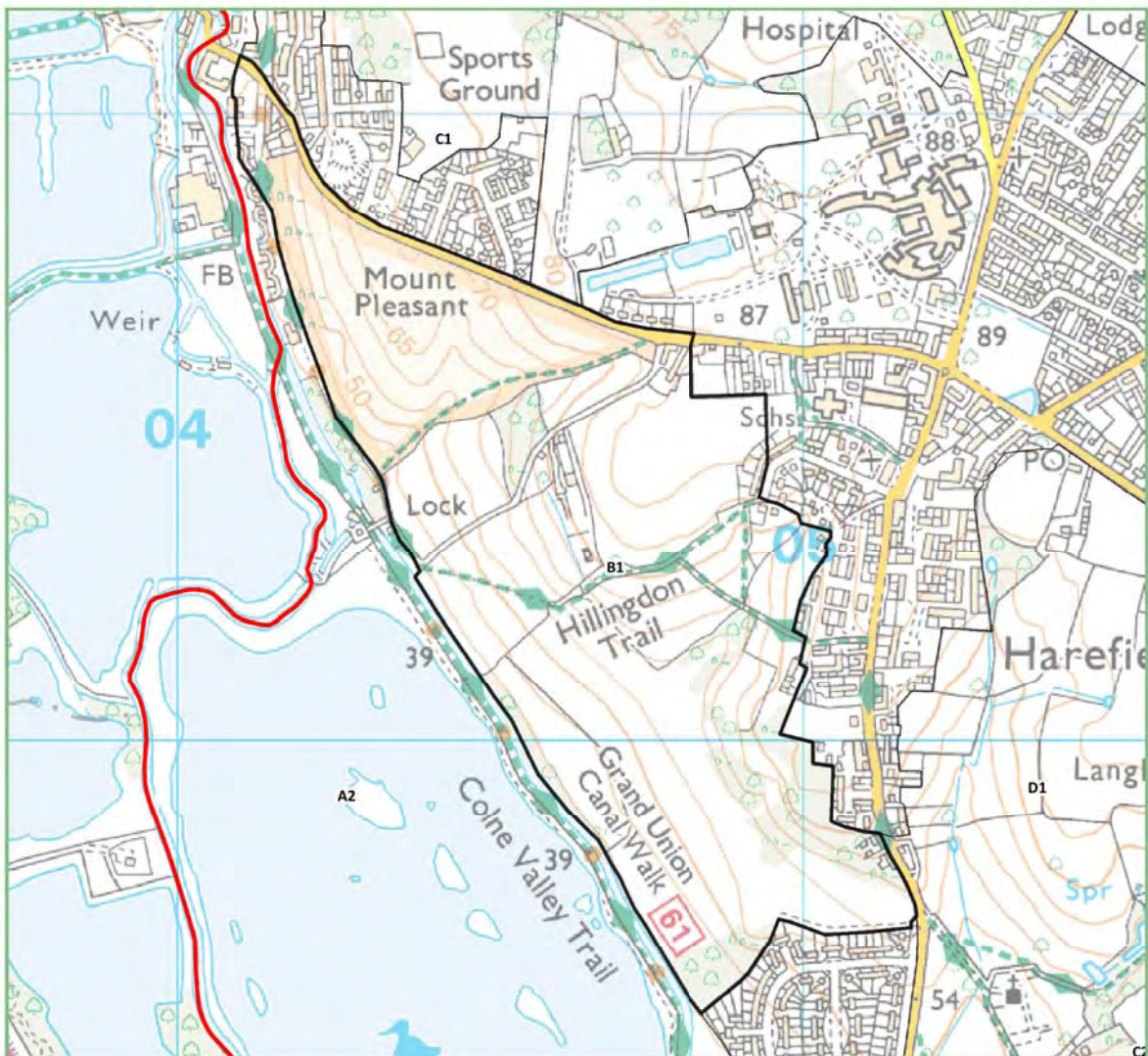
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Rolling, open valley slopes of the Colne Valley, often comprising London Clay on the upper slopes, with chalk exposed on lower slopes.
- Typically grassland with some areas of small woodland and copses. Amenity grassland associated with recreational land use, such as Uxbridge Golf Course.
- Important areas of calcareous grassland/relic calcareous habitats, herb rich meadows, woodland and grassland are designated areas for nature conservation.
- Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmsteads, small linearly dispersed settlement, or buildings in association with recreational activities such as Uxbridge Golf Course. Limited access by roads.
- Often contained by settlement along the top of the valley.
- A number of footpaths, both local and long distance, cross the valley slopes.
- Open, long views across the Colne Valley from higher slopes, and to and from adjacent landscapes within South Buckinghamshire District.
- A simple and unified landscape, which retains a natural character due to the presence of woodland and has a sense of tranquillity.

Constituent LCAs

- B1 – Harefield Open Valley Sides
- B2 – Uxbridge Open Valley Sides

LCA BI HAREFIELD OPEN VALLEY SIDES



LCA B1 HAREFIELD OPEN VALLEY SIDES

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Rolling, open valley slopes of the Colne, with London Clay forming the upper slopes, and the underlying Lambeth Group, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation revealed along lower slopes.
- Predominately grassland with some small woodland and copses, including wooded land on the western fringe of Harefield. A mix of rough and scrubby grassland contrasted with smoother, calcareous grassland, with some undefined field boundaries, and an area of pre 18th century regular enclosure.
- Important areas of calcareous grassland or relic calcareous habitats are recognised as SSSI's, namely, Mid Colne Valley and Harefield Pit, and Sites of Borough Grade I Importance, such as East Colne Valley Chalk Pits, Harefield Pits.
- An area of common land is situated immediately south of Mount Pleasant.
- Small streams transverse the valley slopes and the rolling landform allows for the collection of water in small depressions.
- Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmsteads and small linearly dispersed settlement, predominantly spread along lower valley.
- Contained by Mount Pleasant, Harefield and South Harefield to the north, east and south. Modern edge development of Mount Pleasant/ Harefield is prominent along the ridgeline/valley top.
- One road runs along the northern boundaries and a sunken rural track passes through the area, enclosed by trees.
- The Hillingdon Trail cuts through the area, and the Colne Valley Trail, Grand Union Canal Walk and London Loop pass along the western boundary, along the Colne Valley floodplain. Smaller local and informal footpaths also cross the valley slopes.
- Open, long views west across the Colne Valley and views to and from adjacent landscapes within South Buckinghamshire District.
- A simple and unified landscape, with limited overt development, creating a tranquil and calm character.

LCA B1 HAREFIELD OPEN VALLEY SIDES

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north west of Hillingdon Borough predominately within the *Colne River Valley Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures), with the east edge situated within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area*. The floodplain of the Colne Valley lies to the west of the character area, with the settlement edge of Mount Pleasant, Harefield and South Harefield forming the northern, western and southern boundaries of the character area, respectively. The valley slopes of this landscape distinguishes it from the flatter, floodplain to the west and plateau to the east.

Landscape Character: Relatively steep valley side of the Colne Valley, with a rolling landform. Fields of grassland are interspersed with small woods and copses. Areas of rough and scrubby grassland contrast with smoother, grazed calcareous grassland. Loss of field boundaries is evident in places with some large fields. Areas of calcareous grasslands occur at Coppermill Down, part of the Mid Colne Valley SSSI and Harefield Pit, a Site of Borough Grade I Importance, and forming part of an SSSI. Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmsteads and houses situated along the lower slopes in the west. The landscape is crossed by one small, rural and sunken track, which is enclosed by trees. A simple landscape, with a patchwork of grassland and small woods along open valley slopes, which allow for panoramic views to the west, across the Colne Valley floodplain and into South Buckinghamshire District.

Geology: The Colne River has cut down into the clay and chalk geology to reveal London Clay on the upper slopes, followed by a narrow sliver of Lambeth Group, with Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation exposed along lower slopes. A small pocket of Gerrards Cross Gravel Formation overlays the underlying geology on the highest point of the slope. Harefield Pitt SSSI is largely recognised for its geological importance, covering part of a disused chalk quarry, which exposes a sequence through the Upper Chalk, Reading Beds and London Clay. The Upper Chalk and the Reading Beds have extensive remnants of crustaceans. In addition the remains of an important palaeo - environmental indicator, Charophytes, are found in the Reading Beds.

Topography/ Landform: Relatively steep, gently rolling valley sides of the Colne Valley, rising from approximately 45m in the west to 90m in the east.

Hydrology: Small streams cut down the valley slopes and the rolling landform allows for the collection of water in small depressions.

Land Use and Settlement: The area is predominantly fields of grassland interspersed with small woods and copses. Grassland is a mix of rough and scrubby, contrasted with smoother, managed calcareous grassland. Fields boundaries are not prominent, with field boundary loss evident.

Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmsteads and houses predominately along the lower slopes in the west, along the Colne Valley floodplain.

LCA B1 HAREFIELD OPEN VALLEY SIDES

A road runs along the north edge, along the boundary of Mount Pleasant, with one small, rural and sunken track cutting through the landscape itself, enclosed by trees.

The modern settlement edges of Mount Pleasant/ Harefield are prominent in place (on the valley top/ridgeline). The edge of South Harefield abutting the character area is integrated and screened by trees and garden vegetation. Building materials are typically render and red brick.

Hillingdon Trail long distance footpath passes through the area, and the Colne Valley Trail, Grand Union Canal Walk, and the London Loop run along the western boundary, on the edge of the Colne Valley Floodplain. Smaller local and informal footpaths also cross the valley slopes.

Biodiversity: A mosaic of hedgerows, grassland and small woodland clumps, with mature trees, such as oak, elm and ash, provide a range of habitats and wildlife. Small streams which flow down the valley slopes provide habitats for wetland flora and fauna. Coppermill Down is a large area of calcareous grassland to the north, comprising a mix of herb species and fine grasses, and an abundance of cowslips. It also forms part of the Mid Colne Valley SSSI. East Colne Valley Chalk Pits is a Site of Borough Grade I Importance, located along the eastern boundary of the character area, comprising a chalk outlier overlooking the Colne Valley. This site is made up of four separate chalk pits, three of which are located further north outside of the character area, with Harefield Pit located along these slopes. East Colne Valley Chalk Pits are primarily recognised for the calcareous and orchid habitats, together with many other rare and important species. However, Harefield Pit has been subjected to significant disturbance in recent years and thus only small remnants of these habitats exist today. A small section of Harefield Pit, in the south is designated an SSSI.

Historic Environment: Harefield Village Conservation Area permeates into the north east of the area incorporating Colne Farmhouse and Barns (listed) on the edge of the ridgeline overlooking the Colne with long views over the valley. There is some evidence of early, pre 18th century enclosures within the character area.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A simple landscape, with rolling valley slopes and a patchwork of grassland and small woodland clumps. A variety of textures, with grassland punctuated by trees, providing a vertical element to an otherwise smooth landscape. Open valley slopes allow for panoramic views to the west, with vistas towards the Colne Valley floodplain, across a wooded and open water landscape and into South Buckinghamshire. In addition, views back to these valley slopes are possible from the valley slopes of the Colne Valley in adjacent landscapes, within South Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire Districts. The settlement edges of Mount Pleasant, and Harefield contain the area along the upper slopes. Few detracting features are present within the character area and strong sense of tranquillity prevails throughout, with limited settlement and roads.

Designations:

- Greenbelt

LCA B1 HAREFIELD OPEN VALLEY SIDES

- Sites of Borough Grade I Importance: East Colne Valley Chalk Pits
- Sites of Metropolitan Importance: Grand Union Canal in Hillingdon; Coppermill Down
- Conservation Areas: Harefield Village
- SSSI I No. Mid Colne Valley, Harefield; Harefield Pit
- TPOs: Land west of Woodfield Terr and Dovedale Cl, Harefield; Disused cement and brickworks, adjacent to Canal, Harefield; Foundary Site, Jacks Lane, Harefield

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The patchwork of grassland and occasional woodland clumps, in close proximity to the settlement edges of Mount Pleasant, Harefield and South Harefield.
- Open slopes with few detracting features and important views across the Colne Valley and into South Buckinghamshire.
- Calcareous grassland and associated habitats, particularly SSSIs and Sites of Borough Grade I Importance which need active management to retain character and biodiversity interest.
- Small woodland blocks and copses, which provide valuable habitats and biodiversity value.
- Early, pre 18th century enclosure, which are rare and provide time depth.
- Streams and small ponds which add to the diversity of habitats in the landscape.
- Limited traffic along one single rural track, which could be vulnerable to further development and widening.
- The low density of settlement within the area which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.
- The rural and tranquil character that prevails away from modern settlement edges on the boundaries, which would be vulnerable to further expansion and development.
- Simple and rural landscape, which could be vulnerable to the introduction of further development.



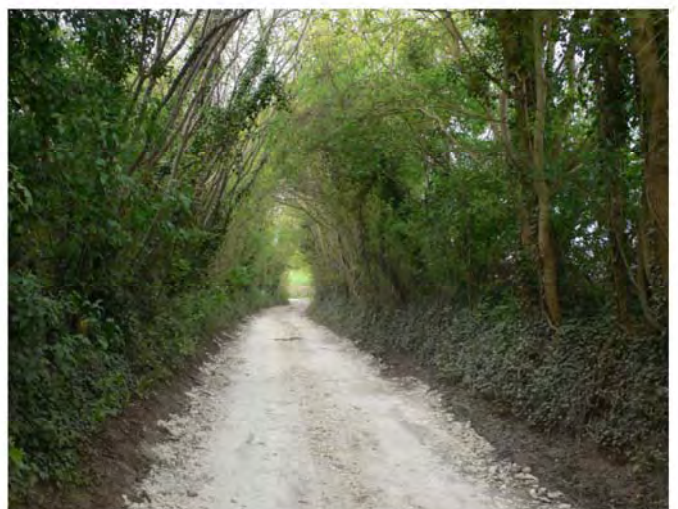
Gently rolling valley sides. Calcareous grassland, with a soft texture. Interspersed with occasional woodland clumps



Open slopes with small clumps of trees. Rough and scrubby grassland



Open, long views west across the Colne Valley and views to and from adjacent landscapes within South Buckinghamshire District



Sunken rural track, sunken and enclosed by trees



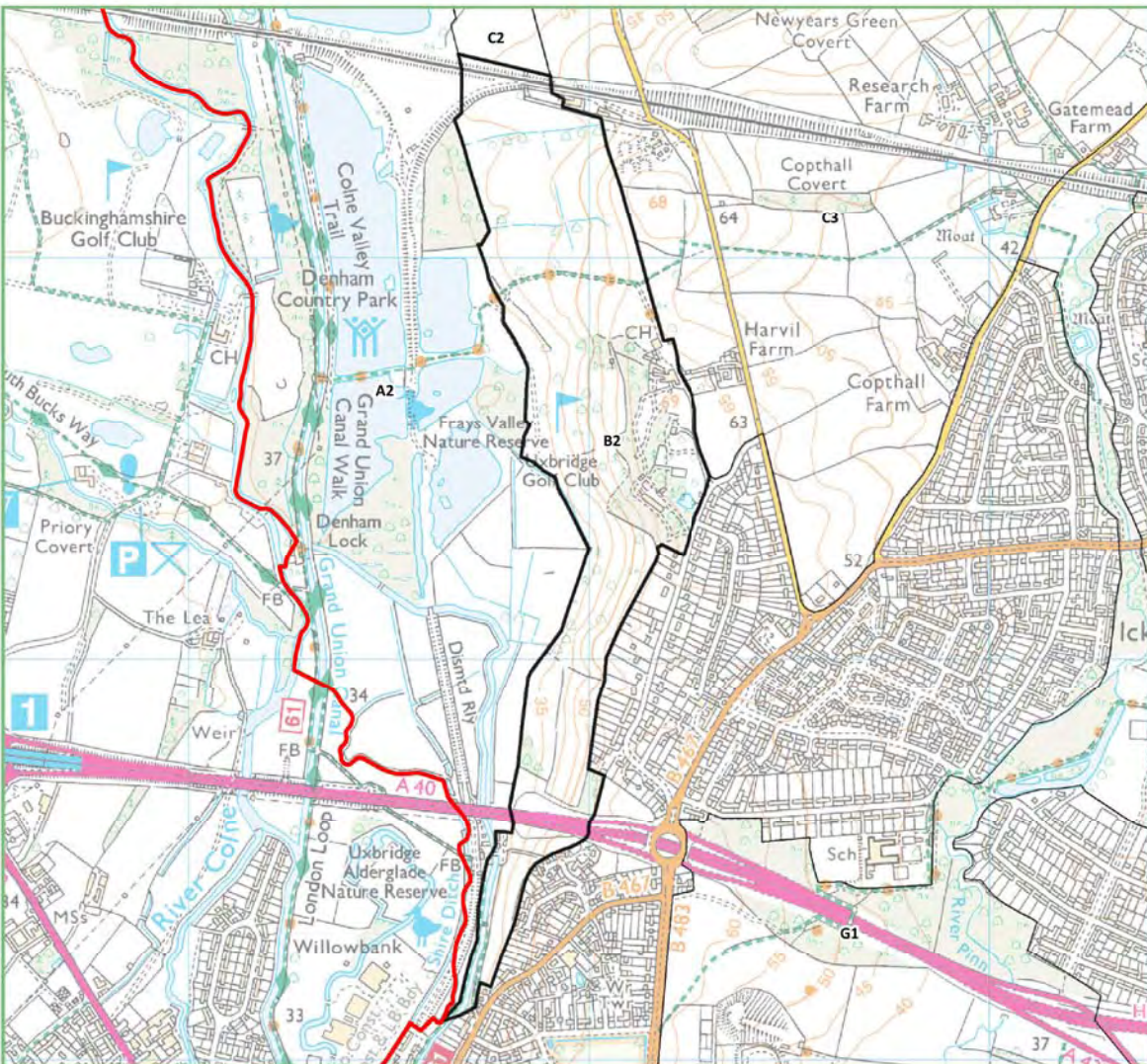
Long open and uninterrupted views



Settlement density is low, with modern settlement edge prominent on the ridgeline/ valley top

LCA BI Harefield Open Valley Sides

LCA B2 UXBRIDGE OPEN VALLEY SIDES



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gently rolling, open valley slopes of the Colne Valley, comprising London Clay on the upper slopes, and Lambeth Group along lower slopes.
- A mosaic of amenity grassland, wooded copses and tree lines make up the landscape, which comprises Uxbridge Golf Course.
- Herb rich meadows, woodland and grassland are located at Harefield Hall and the Lodge, and recognised as a Site of Borough Grade II Importance. Part of the Mid Colne Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation falls within the lower slopes the character area.
- Settlement density is low, with a collection of building largely associated with Uxbridge Golf Course along the central eastern boundary.
- Contained by the modern settlement edge of Ickenham and Uxbridge to the south east, which is partly screened by trees within the golf course landscape and garden vegetation.
- The busy A40 cuts through the southern extent of the character area and a railway line runs along the northern edge. Footpaths are generally in association with the golf course.
- Open views from higher slopes, west across the Colne Valley and into South Buckinghamshire.
- A landscape designed for recreation which retains a natural character due to the presence of woodland and has a sense of tranquillity.

LCA B2 UXBRIDGE OPEN VALLEY SIDES

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the west of Hillingdon Borough within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The floodplain of the Colne Valley lies to the west, with the settlement edges of Uxbridge and Ickenham forming the south western boundaries of the character area. The valley slope of this landscape distinguishes it from the flatter, floodplain to the west and plateau landform to the east.

Landscape Character: Relatively steep valley side of the Colne Valley, with smoothly rolling landform. The character area is dominated by Uxbridge Golf Course and is a designed landscape of amenity grassland and wooded copses. Small woodland clumps provide valuable habitats and wildlife, and occasional ponds provide habitats for wetland based flora and fauna. Harefield Hall and The Lodge is a relatively large area of woodland and grassland recognised as a Site of Borough Grade II Importance. Settlement density is very low, with most buildings associated with Uxbridge Golf Centre on the edge of Ickenham. The A40 cuts through the southern extent of the character area and a railway line runs along the northern edge. Open valley slopes allow for panoramic views to the west, with long vistas over the Colne Valley floodplain and into South Buckinghamshire.

Geology: The Colne River has cut down into the geology to reveal predominately London Clay on the upper slopes, and Lambeth Group exposed along the lower slopes. Some overlying Lynch Hill Gravel Formation is located on the lower slopes, in the south west.

Topography/ Landform: Relatively steep and smoothly rolling valley sides of the Colne Valley, rising from approximately 35m in the west to 70m in the east.

Hydrology: Few notable hydrological features. Occasional small ponds, located close to woodland areas.

Land Use and Settlement: Recreation is the primary function of this landscape, dominated by Uxbridge Golf Course. The landscape comprises a mosaic of amenity grassland and wooded copses and lines of trees which delineate fairways.

Settlement is very low, with a small cluster of modern buildings in association with Uxbridge Golf Centre along the central eastern boundary. The modern settlement edges of Ickenham and Uxbridge, with typically red brick and render building materials, contain the character area to the south east. This built edge is partly screened by trees within the golf course landscape and garden vegetation.

The A40 cuts through the southern extent of the character area and a railway line runs along the northern edge. Footpaths link to the Colne Valley and tracks are associated with the golf course.

Biodiversity: Small woodland clumps and occasional ponds provide valuable habitats. Harefield Hall and The Lodge is a relatively large area of woodland and grassland and recognised as a Sites of Borough Grade II Importance. Herb rich

LCA B2 UXBRIDGE OPEN VALLEY SIDES

meadows are located in the north, with a range of diverse meadow species. Woodland is primarily oak and ash, with some birch and elm. A pond is also located within this area, which is the habitat of Great Crested Newts. Part of the Mid Colne Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation falls within the lower slopes the character area, which is also recognised as an area of ecological importance, with a diverse range of habitats, such as low lying damp grassland and scrub, with crack willow and alder.

Historic Environment: One Grade II listed buildings is found within the character area, Harefield Place. A small area of ancient woodland is also located along the western boundary.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A designed golf course, with a simple land cover of grassland slopes and woodland clumps, often linear in form. Higher open valley slopes allow for long views to the west, with attractive vistas towards the Colne Valley floodplain, across a wooded and open water landscape. In addition, views to and from the character area are possible from opposite valley slopes of the Colne Valley, located within the adjacent landscapes, in South Buckinghamshire District. Few detracting features are present within the character area and sense of tranquillity prevails throughout, with limited settlement and roads. The dominant recreational use of the landscape however, results in a relatively high diffusion of people. Traffic noise from the M40 to the south, and day time operation of a waste transfer station to the north, create audible impacts which encroach on the landscape.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Sites of Borough Grade II Importance: Harefield Hall and the Lodge
- Sites of Metropolitan Importance: Mid Colne Valley
- TPOs: Harefield Place, The Drive, Ickenham

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Open undeveloped slopes and important views across the Colne Valley, which could be interrupted by development.
- Small woodlands and copses, which provide valuable habitats and biodiversity value in a designed golf course landscape.
- Small ponds which add to the diversity of habitats in the landscape
- The low density of settlement within the area which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.

LCA B2 UXBRIDGE OPEN VALLEY SIDES

- The tranquil character away from modern settlement edges on the boundaries, which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.
- Simple and harmonious landscape, with limited land use, which could be vulnerable to the introduction of further development.
- The small pockets of herb rich meadows, grassland and scrub, and pond, which provide important habitats and biodiversity value.
- The tree stock which needs maintaining through sensitive new planting and appropriate management.



A landscape designed for recreation which retains a natural character due to the presence of trees and woodland



Wooded copses and lines of trees delineate fairways



Gently rolling, open valley slopes of the Colne



Low lying damp grassland and scrub, with crack willow and alder; transitional with the Colne Floodplain

LCT B OPEN VALLEY SLOPES –STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

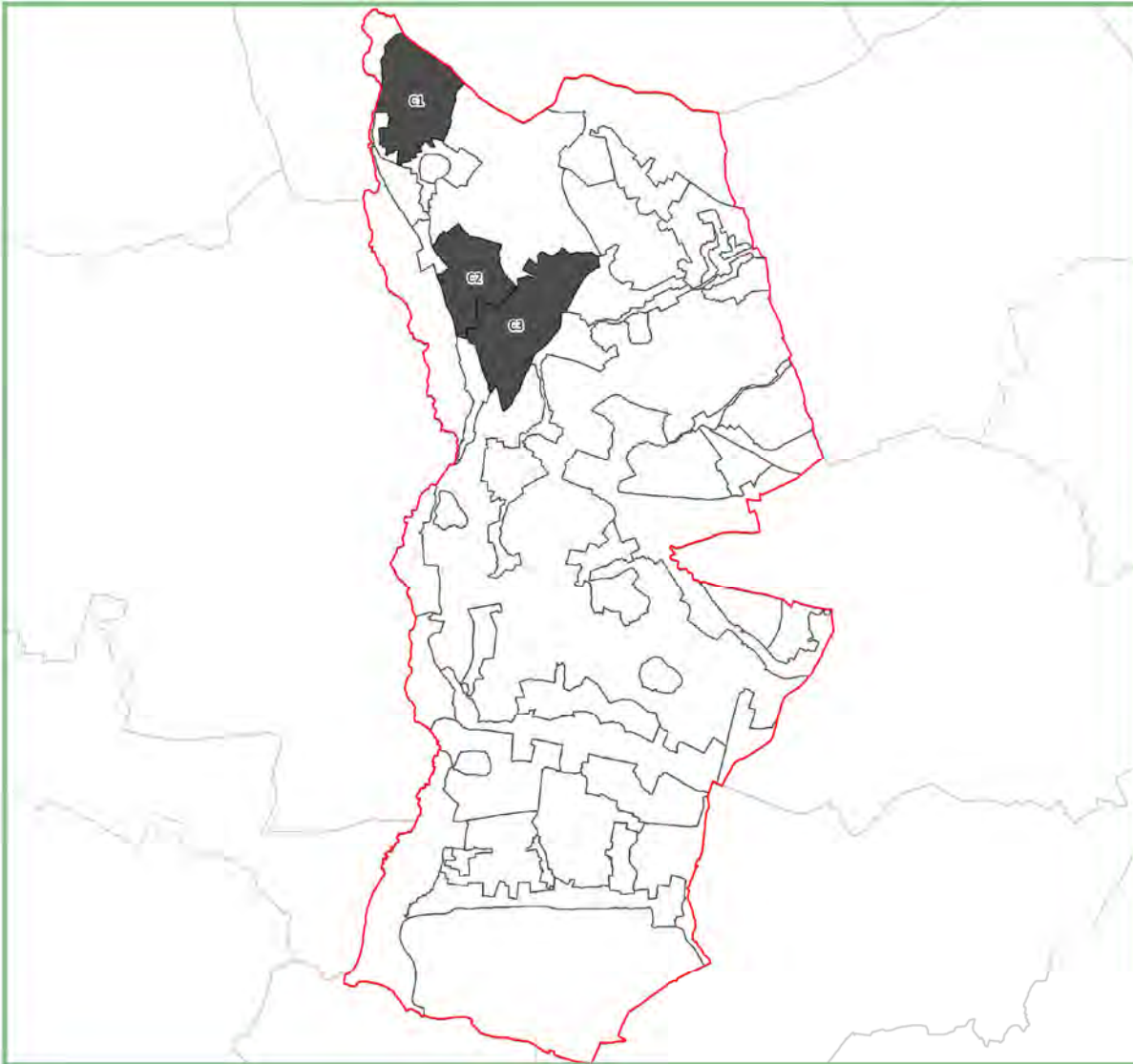
- B1 – Harefield Open Valley Sides
- B2 – Uxbridge Open Valley Sides

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and manage the open slopes and mosaic of grassland and woodland, between settlement area and the Colne Valley Regional Park. Maintain the undeveloped character and long views across the Colne Valley.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Manage and conserve the patchwork of grassland, woodland and small copses.
- Maintain open, uninterrupted views from valley slopes, particularly across the Colne Valley.
- Seek to maintain this landscape as an important 'buffer', between the Colne Valley and settlement development along the valley tops. Maintain the undeveloped character of the valley sides and limited settlement.
- Manage edges of settlement along the valley tops, to encourage softening of abrupt urban edges through sensitive tree planting.
- Conserve and manage the small, valuable pockets of habitats, such as woodland, tree copses, ponds and grassland habitats, and seek opportunities to visually and ecologically link fragmented habitats, and maintain diversity.
- Conserve occasional areas of early enclosures, which provide time depth and historical significance.
- Conserve the simple, harmonious landscape, and tranquil character of the valley sides.

LCT C UNDULATING FARMLAND



LCT C UNDULATING FARMLAND

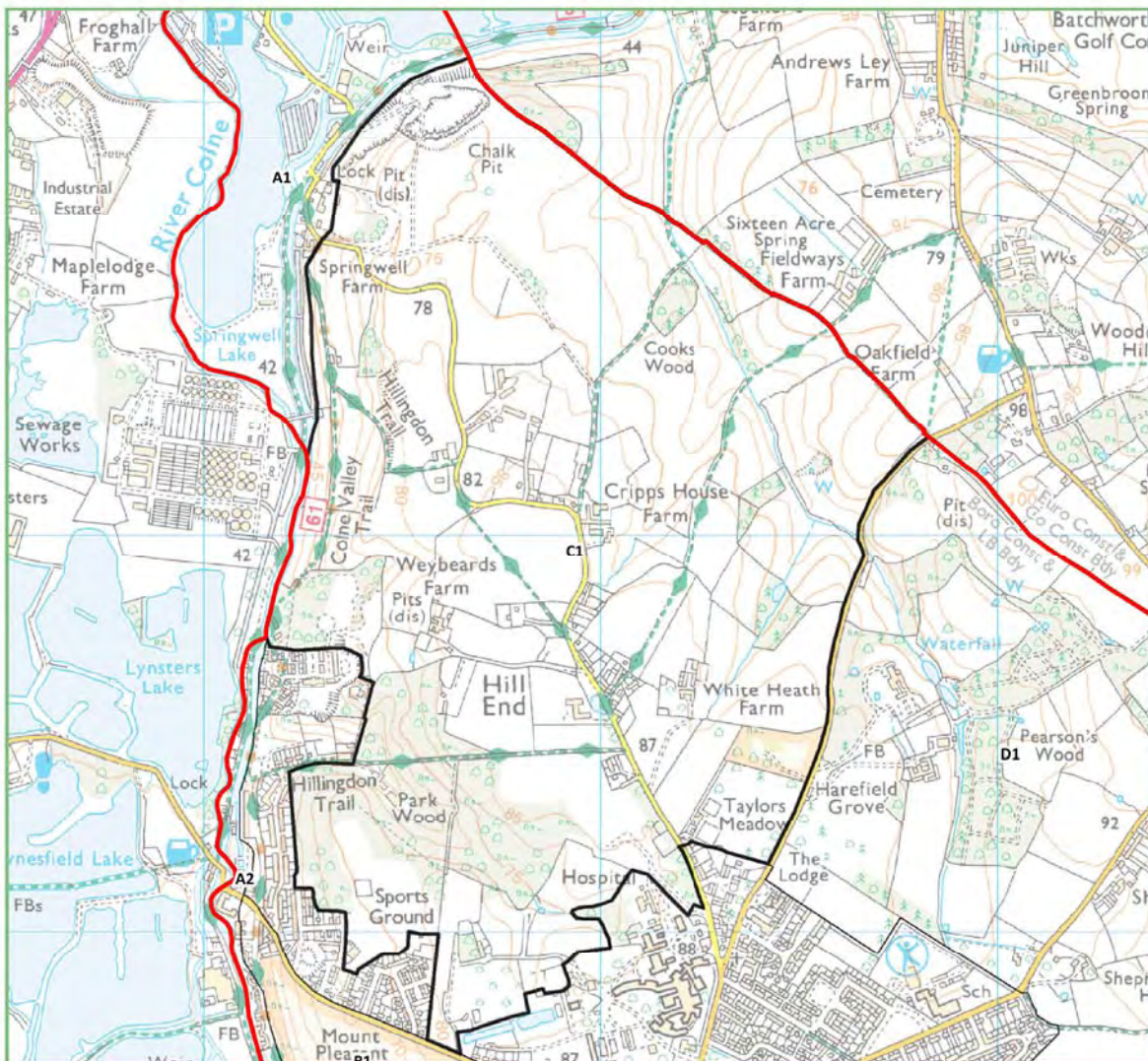
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- An elevated, gently undulating farmland to the east of the Colne Valley and underlain predominantly by Lambeth Group, Chalk Formation and London Clay.
- A mix of early 18th and 19th century field enclosures, with areas of larger 20th/21st century fields. Farmland is a mix of rough grazing, arable and some pasture, and fields are bounded hedgerows and scattered trees
- Tree cover is often sparse, with some areas of woodland supporting a range of habitats.
- Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmstead (both modern and historic in character). Built settlement edge are predominantly softened and integrated by hedgerows, trees and garden vegetation but do appear abrupt in places.
- Open views across farmland and west towards the Colne Valley. Settlement or woodland sometimes limits views.
- Footpaths cross farmland, linking farmsteads and features of interest, such as the Colne Valley and Bayhurst Wood Country Park in the adjacent landscape. Some long distance footpaths pass through the landscape.
- Busy roads, pylon lines and interspersed waste and recycling sites occasionally interrupt the landscape and reduce intactness, contributing to an urban fringe character. Away from these features, a rural and tranquil character prevails.

Constituent LCAs

- C1 – Hill End Undulating Farmland
- C2 – South Harefield Undulating Farmland
- C3 – New Years Green Undulating Farmland

LCA C1 HILL END UNDULATING FARMLAND



LCA CI HILL END UNDULATING FARMLAND

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- An elevated, gently undulating small scale farmland landscape steeply rising to the east of the Colne Valley and underlain by Lambeth Group and Chalk Formation with overlying gravels.
- Fields of rough grazing and paddocks are delineated by hedgerows with trees and wooden post and rail fencing, and interspersed with small woods.
- Predominantly 19th century field enclosures, with areas of 20th/21st century enclosure interspersed.
- Park Wood is a large ancient woodland in the south of the area, and recognised as an SSSI with a diverse range of woodlands and bird species.
- A tributary to the River Colne crosses the north east of the area along with several streams and ponds are scattered throughout - adding to the diversity of habitats within the farmland landscape.
- Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmsteads and linearly dispersed settlement spread along Springwell Lane and Hill End Road, which runs through the character area.
- Contained by Mount Pleasant and Harefield to the south. Modern edge development along this boundary is often well integrated by hedgerows, trees and garden vegetation.
- A dense network of footpaths including several long distance footpaths, the Colne Valley Trail, Hillingdon Trail and the London Loop, well serve the landscape and connect it to places of interest, such as the Colne Valley and Bishops Wood Country Park.
- Open views across farmland, with important views west over the Colne Valley. Woodland and topography occasionally limit views, with wooded field boundaries often providing a backdrop.
- Away from modern edge settlement a rural character prevails and a low diffusion of people contributes to a sense of tranquillity.

LCA CI HILL END UNDULATING FARMLAND

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north of Hillingdon Borough predominately within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures), with the west edge situated within the *Colne River Valley Natural Landscape Area*. The borough administrative boundary forms part of the western edge and the northern edge of the character area, with the landscape character continuing north into Hertfordshire. The settlement edge of Harefield forms the southern boundaries of the character area and the valley top of the eastern side of the Colne Valley defines the area's western boundary. The small scale undulating character of this landscape distinguishes it from the flatter, larger scale farmland and large blocks of woodland to east.

Landscape Character: A gently undulating small scale farmland landscape elevated and steeply rising above the Colne Valley to the west. Fields of rough grazing and paddocks are typically delineated by hedgerows and wooden fences. The network of native hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees provide important wildlife habitats in this agricultural landscape. Old Park Wood, recognised as a SSSI supports a range of woodland types, and generates a strong sense of enclosure in the south west. Pockets of calcareous grassland are located at Springwell Lane Chalk Pit, Springwell Pit Wood and Summer House Lane Chalk Pit, which forms part of the East Colne Valley Chalk Pits, a Site of Borough Grade I Importance. Settlement density is low with scattered farmsteads and small scale linear clusters of settlement, largely confined along Springwell Lane and Hill End Road. Numerous long distance and local footpaths cross farmland and connect to features of interest, such as the Colne Valley and Bishop's Wood Country Park. Long views occur across open farmland and west across the Colne Valley. However, undulating topography, high hedgerows and areas of woodland occasionally confine and limit views.

Geology: Underlain centrally by a large area of Lambeth Group, with Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation elsewhere. In the north, a large pocket of Winter Hill Gravel overlays the underlying geology, with Gerrards Cross Gravel formation in the south.

Topography/ Landform: An elevated and gently undulating landform to the east of the Colne Valley, with land rising steeply along this boundary. The highest ground is at Hill End (85m AOD). Several small streams and tributary rivers cut into the landscape, and create gentle undulations.

Hydrology: A tributary to the River Colne crosses the north east of the area, with several smaller branching streams. Small farm ponds are scattered through the area, and occasional ponds occur in association with woodland.

Land Use and Settlement: The area is predominantly rough grazing and paddocks. Fields are small to medium sized and bounded by hedgerows and wooden post and rail fencing with some evidence of boundary loss. Trees also delineate field boundaries, often forming a wooded backdrop to views. Occasional small woods are

LCA C1 HILL END UNDULATING FARMLAND

interspersed between farmland, with the exception of Park Wood in the south, a relatively large, and prominent woodland.

Settlement density is relatively low with scattered farmsteads throughout the area and small scale linear clusters of settlement. Settlement is largely confined along Springwell Lane and Hill End Road, the single main route through this landscape, a winding rural road often enclosed by tall hedgerows.

The modern settlement edges of Mount Pleasant and Harefield contain the area to the south, with typically render and red brick properties, and a dominant settlement edge character. Trees along field boundaries and garden vegetation occasionally soften the built edge and provide integration with adjacent farmland landscape. Harefield Hospital is a prominent building on the southern boundary of the character area.

Several long distance footpaths cross farmland and link settlement to features of interest in adjacent landscapes including the Colne Valley and Bishop's Wood Country Park. These are the Colne Valley Trail, Hillingdon Trail and the London Loop. Numerous smaller local footpaths also cross the landscape.

Biodiversity: The network of native hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees provide wildlife habitats in the agricultural landscape. Old Park Wood, a Site of Metropolitan Importance and recognised as an SSSI, is located in the south of the area. This woodland supports a range of woodland types, such as alder woodland, and is home to a diverse range of birds. East Colne Valley Chalk Pits is a Site of Borough Grade I Importance, located along the eastern boundary of the character area, comprising a chalk outlier overlooking the Colne Valley. This site is made up of four separate chalk pits, three of which are located within this area, namely, Springwell Lane Chalk Pit, Springwell Pit Wood and Summer House Lane Chalk Pit. Small pockets of calcareous grassland are located within each, along with a diverse range of flora and fauna, with many orchid species. Another ecologically important area within the landscape is White Heath Farm and Harefield Grove, which consists of pastures, arable fields, copses and hedgerows. Much of this site is improved and semi-improved pastures, with a number of ancient species rich hedgerows. Patches of oak-ash woodland, rough land and scrub add to the ecological value and character.

Historic Environment: Three Grade II listed buildings are found within the character area, namely, Cripps Farmhouse; A barn south east of Cripps Farmhouse, and White Heath Farmhouse. A large area of ancient woodland is located in the south of the character area, at Park Wood. Springwell Lock Conservation area spreads into the north west of the area incorporating the disused chalk pit. This conservation area is recognised for the old brick arch bridge and lock which lie in the adjacent Colne Floodplain, and its distinctive riparian landscape setting, located close to the river and canal.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: This is a relatively small scale farmland landscape contained by topography, areas of woodland and settlement (to the south). Some views are open across farmland, with long views west over the Colne

LCA CI HILL END UNDULATING FARMLAND

Valley including to the sewage works outside the borough boundary. Woodland and the undulating topography occasionally limit views elsewhere, with wooded field boundaries providing a backdrop to many views.

Modern development along the character area boundary and running along Springwell Lane and Hill End Road, fragments the landscape in places, reducing intactness and contributing to an urban fringe character. However away from these influences a rural character prevails, and a low diffusion of people contributes to a sense of tranquillity.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Countryside Conservation Area: North West Hillingdon
- Sites of Borough Grade I Importance: East Colne Valley Chalk Pits
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation: Medipark Site, Harefield; White Heath Farm and Harefield Grove
- Sites of Metropolitan Importance: Old Park Wood, Harefield
- SSSI I No. Old Park Woods, Harefield
- Conservation Areas: Springwell Lock
- TPOs: Springwell chalk pit, Harefield; Plantation east of Springwell chalk pit, Harefield; Cooks Wood, Harefield; Springwell Lane, Harefield; Wood adjacent to gravel pit off Springwell Lane; Springwell Lane; Wood north west of Weybeards Farm, Springwell Lane; Park Wood, Harefield; West side of Hill End Road; Former North Wards, Harefield Hospital

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The patchwork of farmland fields and occasional woodlands, in close proximity to the settlement edges of Mount Pleasant and Harefield. Without appropriate management an urban fringe character could prevail over rural character.
- Woodland, particularly Park Wood (ancient woodland) which supports diverse flora and fauna, and provides recreational opportunities.
- The calcareous grasslands at Springwell Lane Chalk Pit, Springwell Pit Wood and Summer House Lane Chalk Pit which need active management to retain character and geological and biodiversity interest.
- The hedgerow network and hedgerow trees, which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor.

LCA C1 HILL END UNDULATING FARMLAND

- Streams and ponds which add to the diversity of habitats in the farmed landscape.
- Open views across farmland, with important long views west over the Colne Valley.
- Limited roads which are rural and winding in character which could be vulnerable to further development and widening.
- The relatively low density of settlement which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.
- The rural and tranquil character that prevails away from modern settlement edges which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.



Gently undulating farmland interspersed with small woods



Small scale fields, often paddocks and rough grazing with wooden fence and hedgerow boundaries with mature hedgerow trees



A network of footpaths, often enclosed by scrub and trees



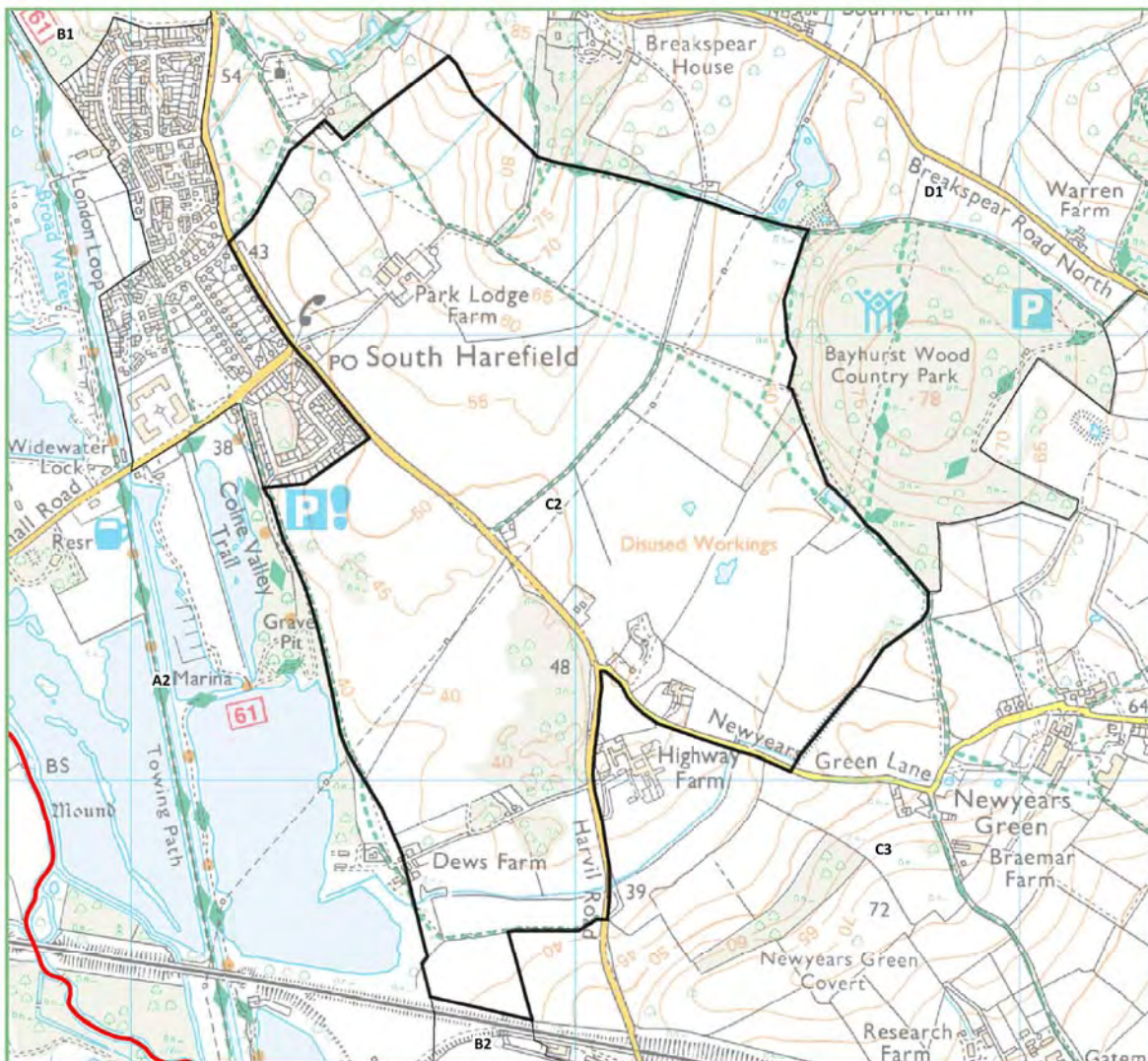
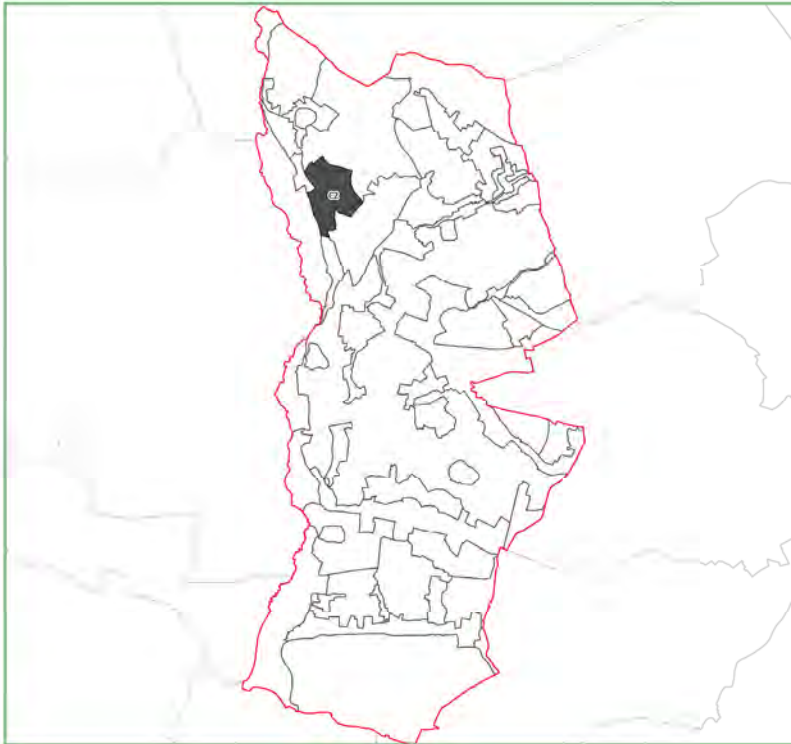
Rural winding roads enclosed by high dense hedgerows



Settlement edge of Mount Pleasant in the south, which contains the character area

LCA CI Hill End Undulating Farmland

LCA C2 SOUTH HAREFIELD UNDULATING FARMLAND



LCA C2 SOUTH HAREFIELD UNDULATING FARMLAND

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A large scale and open landscape, with gently undulating and sloping landform, predominantly underlain with Lambeth Group.
- Noticeably flatter in the south, with a more undulating topography in the north.
- Predominantly large scale 20th/21st century, geometric, arable farmland, with some areas of rough grazing, and bounded by hedgerows and scattered trees.
- Tree cover is relatively sparse with the exception of Dew's Dell, a Site of Borough Grade I Importance, which supports a range of habitat types, including dry acid grassland, woodland and marshland.
- Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmstead, with occasional large modern agricultural buildings/sheds prominent in the landscape. The modern settlement edge of South Harefield runs along the north west boundary. A number of scattered small, rural farms, dating to the 1900s, and located along the boundary.
- Views are often open across farmland, with long vistas north east towards Bayhurst Wood and west over the Colne Valley.
- Crossed by the busy Harvil Road, a number of pylon lines, and interspersed by several waste and recycling sites, all of which reduce the intactness of the character area, and contribute to an urban fringe character. Away from these features, a rural and tranquil character prevails.
- Footpaths cross farmland and link farmsteads to features of interest in adjacent landscapes including the Colne Valley and Bayhurst Wood Country Park.

LCA C2 SOUTH HAREFIELD UNDULATING FARMLAND

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north west of Hillingdon Borough within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The settlement edge of South Harefield and the valley top of the eastern side of the Colne defines the area's western boundary. The character area is transitional to *Character Area C3 New Years Green Undulating Farmland*, which lies to the south east. The large scale and open landscape, with gently undulating and sloping landform distinguishes it from smaller scale farmland landscape to the south east.

Landscape Character: A large scale and open landscape, largely comprising 20th/21st century enclosures of arable farmland and some rough grazing. A gently undulating and sloping landform, predominantly underlain with Lambeth Group, however noticeably flatter in the south. Settlement is sparse with scattered farmsteads, typically modern, with large agricultural buildings. However, some small rural farms remain, scattered along the boundary, dating back to the 1900s. The modern settlement edge of South Harefield marks the north west boundary. Tree cover is limited. With important habitats at Dew's Dell, supporting a range of habitat types, including dry acid grassland, woodland and marshland. Long views are afforded across open farmland, with important views north east towards Bayhurst Wood and west over the Colne Valley. Footpaths link these areas of interest, crossing farmland. Although a rural character and pockets of tranquillity exist, the busy Harvil Road, a number of pylon lines, and several waste and recycling sites, reduce the intactness of the landscape and contribute to an urban fringe character.

Geology: The area is underlain predominantly with Lambeth Group, with a thin sliver of Seaford Chalk Formation and New Haven Formation along the western boundary. A small pocket of London Clay underlies the character area in the north.

Topography/ Landform: A gently undulating and sloping landform, which lies to the east of the Colne Valley. In the south landscape is noticeably flatter, with a more undulating topography in the north. The highest ground is also in the north, near Park Lodge Farm (80m AOD), and from here the land slopes down south east towards the Colne Valley, at approximately 40m.

Hydrology: A small tributary to the River Colne crosses the south west of the area and small scattered ponds are located in the east of the area.

Land Use and Settlement: The area is predominantly large scale arable farmland, with some areas of rough grazing. An area of smaller fields is found in the north, close to the settlement of South Harefield. Fields are geometric, bounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Elsewhere tree cover is relatively sparse, with the exception of the south west of the area, which has a relatively large area of woodland north of Dews Farm.

LCA C2 SOUTH HAREFIELD UNDULATING FARMLAND

Settlement density is low with farmsteads scattered throughout the area. The modern settlement edge of South Harefield runs along the north west boundary. Red brick and render are common building materials.

Harvil Road is the only road which passes through the landscape, however this road is relatively busy. A waste and recycling site is a notable feature in the south of this area. A number of pylon lines also transverse this area.

A number of local footpaths cross the landscape, particularly in the north of the area, linking farmsteads to features of interest in adjacent landscapes including the Colne Valley, Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve.

Biodiversity: The network of hedgerows and hedgerow trees provide wildlife habitats in the agricultural landscape. Dew's Dell, a Site of Borough Grade I Importance, is a relatively large area adjacent to Harvil Road, east of Dew's Farm, with a range of habitat types, including dry acid grassland, woodland and areas of marshland. Within the areas of acid grassland, orchids and herb-rich grassland species occur. Woodland is typified by young oaks and silver birch. A small part of Bayhurst Wood Country Park, which forms part of Ruislip Woods and Poor's Field Site of Metropolitan Importance, filters into the area in the north west. Here, varied and diverse woodland exists, and sessile oaks, hornbeam and beech are typical.

Historic Environment: Park Lodge Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building located at Park Lodge Farm in the north of the character area. Relics of another Grade II listed building are situated adjacent to the character area boundary in the north, specifically, the garden walls to the east and south of church gardens nursery cottage. The character area is largely 20th century enclosure, with scattered 1900s rural farms on edges of character area.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: This is a large scale, open farmland landscape. Views are open across the patchwork of farmland, towards built edges (South Harefield), or wooded field boundaries. Bayhurst Wood lies on rising ground to the north east of this area providing a backdrop to views across farmland and a point of reference. There are panoramic views west across the Colne Valley.

In places the landscape has a rural character with uninterrupted views across farmland and few roads. However modern development along the north western edge, the presence of a waste site, large modern farm buildings and some unmanaged boundaries fragment the landscape, reduce intactness and contribute to an urban fringe character.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Metropolitan Importance: Ruislip Wood and Poor's Field.
- Site of Borough Grade I Importance: Dew's Dell

LCA C2 SOUTH HAREFIELD UNDULATING FARMLAND

- TPOs: Copse, Harefield Moor, Harefield; Copse south of Moorhall Dell, Harefield; Dew's Dell, Harefield

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The hedgerow network and trees, which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor.
- Occasional areas of woodland which contain a diversity of tree species and provide wildlife habitats.
- Ponds which add to the diversity of habitats in the farmed landscape
- Views across open farmland with long views north east to Bayhurst Wood and west over the Colne Valley.
- The relatively, low density of settlement (comprising farmsteads), which would be vulnerable to further expansion and development.
- The limited number of roads which would be vulnerable to over widening and over development.



Large scale flat open farmland



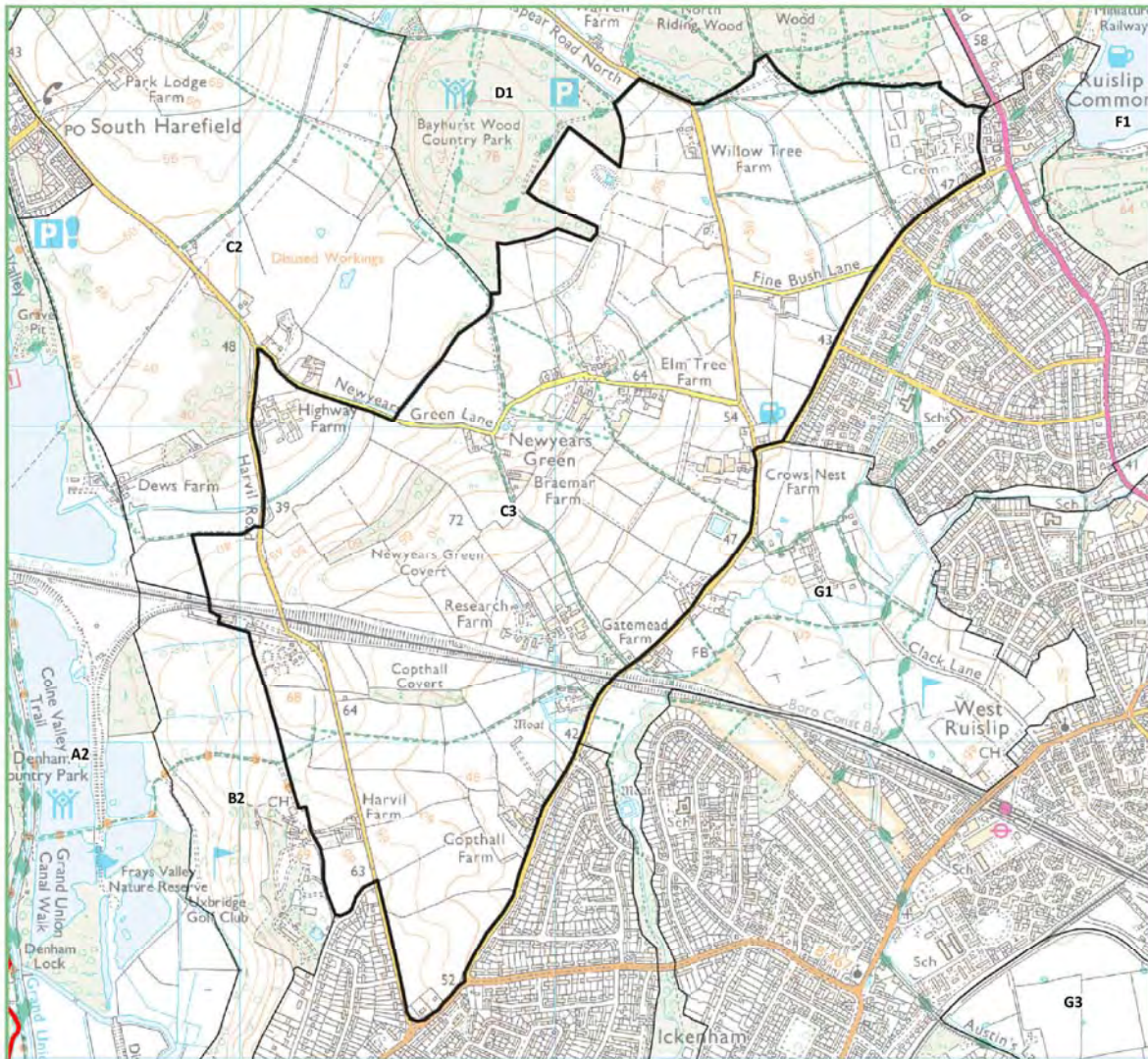
Long views over farmland towards the Colne Valley



Settlement edge of South Harfield

LCA C2 South Harefield Undulating Farmland

LCA C3 NEW YEARS GREEN UNDULATING FARMLAND



LCA C3 NEWYEARS GREEN UNDULATING FARMLAND

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gently undulating small scale farmland landscape to the east of the Colne Valley, underlain by London Clay.
- Fields of pasture/rough grazing and paddock are delineated by native hedgerows or wooden post and rail fencing. Fields systems are 18th century irregular and 19th century enclosures.
- Mature hedgerow trees (oaks) are distinctive landscape features, rising above low cut hedgerows in an otherwise sparsely treed landscape.
- Newyears Green Covert and Copthall Covert are linear strips of woodland with large woodland blocks outside the area providing a wooded backdrop to farmland. Newyears Green Covert has recently been extended with a young plantation to the west.
- Brackenbury Railway Cutting and Newyears Green Covert are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation supporting woodland and unimproved pasture - along with scattered field ponds they add to the diversity of habitats within the farmland landscape.
- Settlement density is low with farmsteads dispersed throughout the area. A number of farm houses are historic in character with large modern agricultural buildings/sheds prominent in the landscape.
- Contained by Ruislip and Ickenham to the east and south. The built edges are predominantly softened and integrated by hedgerows, trees and garden vegetation but do appear abrupt in places. Visually contained by woodland to the north.
- A medieval moated site scheduled monument and a Grade II listed house are located at Brackenbury Farm on the edge of Ickenham.
- Unmarked rural roads and busier roads cross the area. The London-High Wycombe railway line crosses the south in cutting, largely hidden within the wider landscape.
- Views are varied - open across the patchwork of farmland, towards built edges or contained along hedged roads. Bayhurst Wood and Ruislip Wood provide a distinctive backdrop to views and a point of reference.
- The presence of a number of waste and recycling sites.
- Footpaths cross farmland and link settlement to features of interest in adjacent landscapes including the Colne Valley and Bayhurst Wood Country Park.

LCA C3 NEWYEARS GREEN UNDULATING FARMLAND

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north of Hillingdon Borough within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The settlement edges of Ickenham and Ruislip form the southern and eastern boundaries of the character area. The valley top of the eastern side of the Colne defines the area's western boundary. The small scale undulating character of this landscape distinguishes it from the flatter, larger scale farmland and large blocks of woodland to north.

Landscape Character: A gently undulating small scale farmland landscape underlain by London Clay. Fields of pasture/ rough grazing and paddock are typically geometric in form delineated by native hedgerows with distinctive mature hedgerow trees (oaks) or wooden fences. Small linear woodlands, such as Newyears Green Covert and Copthall Covert, hedgerows and scattered field ponds provide valuable habitat diversity within the agricultural landscape. Settlement density is low, consisting of scattered farmsteads, with large modern farm sheds/ agricultural buildings and a number of historic farm houses. Ruislip and Ickenham border the character area to the east and south respectively. Several rural roads cross the landscape, linking settlement, and the London-High Wycombe railway line passes through the south of the area. Footpaths cross farmland and connect the area with adjacent areas such as the Colne Valley and Bayhurst Wood Country Park. Long views occur across open farmland, however, topography, high hedgerows and settlement edge confine and restrict views. Bayhurst Wood and Ruislip Wood provide a distinctive backdrop to views and a point of reference. The presence of a number of waste/recycling sites and unmanaged boundaries interrupt the rural farmland character and emphasise the urban fringe location.

Geology: Underlain by London Clay formation with a transition to Lambeth Group at the northern and eastern boundaries.

Topography/ Landform: A gently sloping and undulating landform to the east of the Colne Valley. The highest ground is at Newyears Green Covert (70m AOD) from here the land slopes down northwards to a tributary of the Colne and southwards to the River Pinn. The landform also slopes eastwards from the Colne Valley top (68m AOD) to the River Pinn.

Hydrology: A tributary to the River Pinn crosses the east of the area and a tributary to the Colne runs partly along the northern boundary. Small farm ponds are scattered through the area.

Land Use and Settlement: The area is predominantly pasture/ rough grazing and paddocks. Fields are geometric, with some more irregular, bounded by native hedgerows or wooden post and rail fencing. Hedgerow trees (oaks) are a distinctive feature, rising above low hedgerows within an otherwise sparsely treed landscape. Newyears Green Covert and Copthall Covert are linear strips of woodland with

LCA C3 NEWYEARS GREEN UNDULATING FARMLAND

large areas of woodland outside the area (at Bayhurst Wood and Ruislip Wood) forming wooded backdrops to farmland.

Settlement density is low with large farmsteads scattered throughout the area. Large farm sheds/ agricultural buildings are prominent in the landscape. A number of the farmhouses are listed buildings and historic in character (e.g. St Leonard's Farmhouse, Crow's Nest Farmhouse and Copthall Farmhouse). The modern settlement edges of Ruislip/ West Ruislip and Ickenham contain the area to the east and south. Properties on the edge of Ickenham are set back from the road; hedgerows and trees along field boundaries and garden vegetation soften the built edge and provide integration with adjacent farmland landscape. The built edge of Ruislip is less screened and more prominent in views. Red brick and white render are common building materials.

Unmarked rural roads and busier roads cross the area, contained by hedgerows. The London-High Wycombe railway line crosses the south of the area in cutting and is largely hidden within the wider landscape. A number of waste and recycling sites are notable in this area (e.g. Newyears Green Lane).

Footpaths cross farmland and link settlement to features of interest in adjacent landscapes including the Colne Valley, River Pinn, Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve. The majority of this landscape is within the Colne Valley Regional Park.

Biodiversity: The network of native hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees provide wildlife habitats in the agricultural landscape. Newyears Green and Brackenbury Railway Cutting are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Borough Grade I and II respectively). The Newyears Green site comprises an unimproved pasture and a narrow strip of woodland (Newyears Green Covert). A diversity of woodland trees include oak, ash, hornbeam, silver birch, beech and lime, field maple and wild cherry. The grazed pasture contains species rich damp patches around a pond and spring (including sneezewort a typical herb of ancient grasslands). The Brackenbury Railway Cutting site supports dwarfed oak woodland and a tall herb population.

Historic Environment: A medieval moated site scheduled monument and a grade II listed house are located at Brackenbury Farm on the edge of Ickenham. Newyears Green Covert probably dates from the nineteenth century when small farm were planted to accommodate the demand for hunting and shooting in Victorian England.

In the north and south of the area, fields are 18th century irregular enclosure. In the centre of the area, to the south of New Years Green, 19th century field systems are present.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: This is a small scale farmland landscape contained by topography, woodland and settlement. Views are open across the patchwork of farmland, towards built edges (Ickenham and Ruislip) or contained

LCA C3 NEWYEARS GREEN UNDULATING FARMLAND

along hedged roads. Bayhurst Wood and Ruislip Wood lie on rising ground to the north of this area providing a backdrop to views across farmland and a point of reference.

In places the landscape has a rural character with uninterrupted views across farmland. However modern development along its edges, the presence of a number of waste sites, large modern farm buildings and some unmanaged boundaries fragment the landscape, reduce intactness and contribute to an urban fringe character.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Colne Valley Regional Park
- Scheduled monuments: 1 No. Brackenbury Farm medieval moated site
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation: 2 No. Newyears Green (Borough Grade I) and Brackenbury Railway Cutting (Borough Grade II)
- TPOs: Cophall Covert

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The patchwork of farmland fields in close proximity to the settlement edges of Ickenham and Ruslip. Without appropriate management an urban fringe character prevails over rural character.
- The hedgerow network, which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor.
- Hedgerow trees which are distinctive visual features in a sparsely treed landscape.
- Narrow strips of woodland (coverts) which contain a diversity of tree species and provide wildlife habitats.
- Field ponds which add to the diversity of habitats in the farmed landscape
- Views across open farmland with a patchwork of fields delineated by hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
- Views to Bayhurst Wood and Ruislip Wood which provide a wooded backdrop, point of reference and sense of place.
- The intact 19th century field systems and 18th century irregular enclosures.
- Unmarked, hedged roads which retain a rural character contrasting with the busier roads.

LCA C3 NEWYEARS GREEN UNDULATING FARMLAND

- The relatively, low density of settlement (comprising farmsteads), which would be vulnerable to further expansion and development.



Fields of pasture delineated by hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are a distinctive feature



Gently undulating landform with rough grazing farmland. Large farm buildings area prominent with farm houses historic in character



Open views across farmland with woodland on rising topography in the adjacent landscape providing a backdrop



Settlement edge of Ruislip which borders the character area



Hedged roads cut the area, some rural in character and others busier



A number of waste and recycling centres are located in this area

LCT C UNDULATING FARMLAND – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

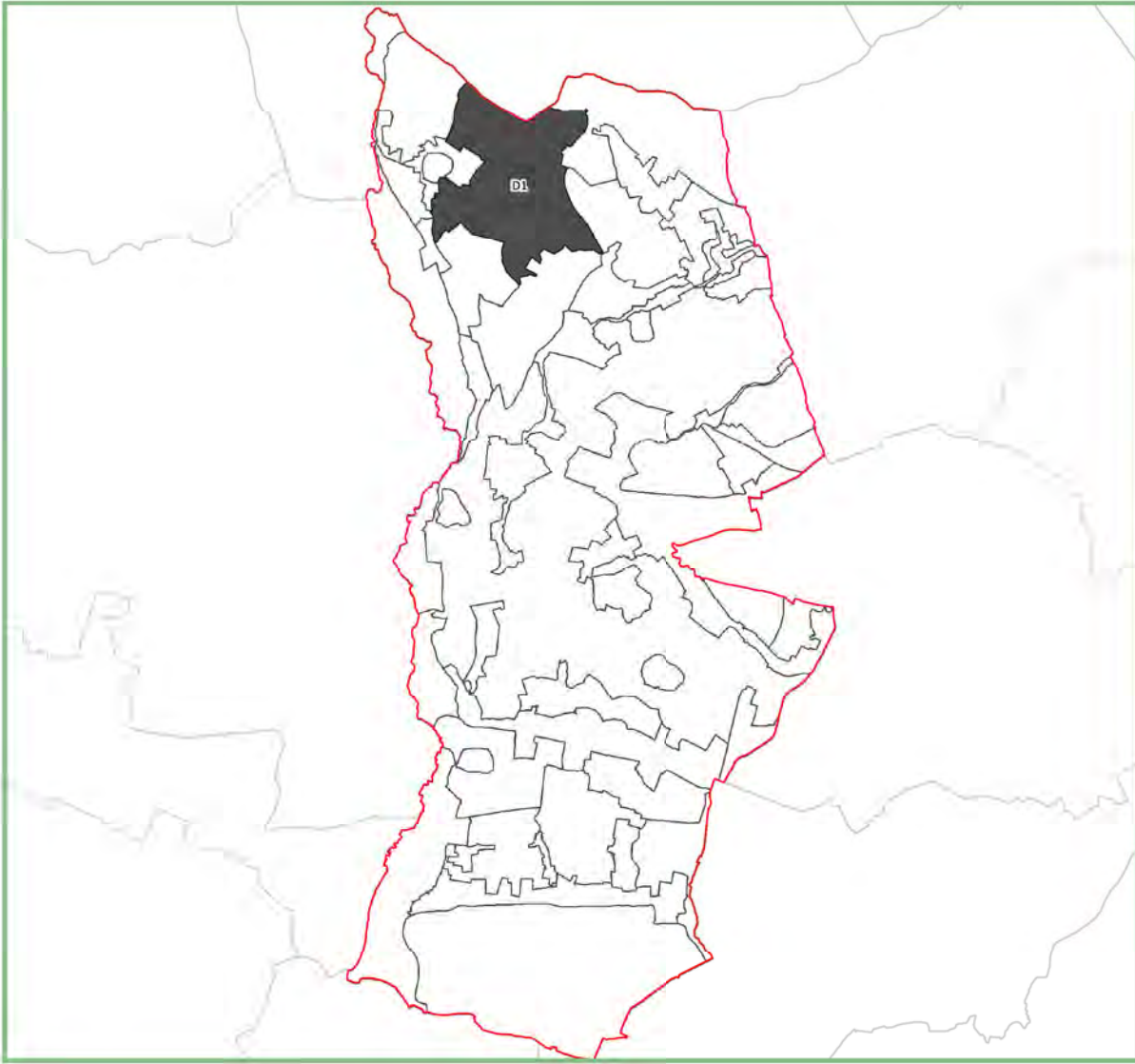
- C1 – Hill End Undulating Farmland
- C2 – South Harefield Undulating Farmland
- C3 – New Years Green Undulating Farmland

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and enhance this open farmland landscape, with pockets of woodland and wooded field boundaries. Maintain the rural and tranquil character that occurs away from settlement edges and seek to enhance integration of the built edges with the rural landscape.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and enhance the network of hedgerows, and hedgerow trees. Gap up hedgerows and seek to plant hedgerow trees.
- Conserve and manage the small areas of woodland to improve biodiversity value, provide enclosure in the landscape and form an important part of the landscape pattern. Maintain connections between woodlands and hedgerows to provide wildlife corridors.
- Promote appropriate management of farmland, to help generate a wildlife rich habitat, and visually attractive landscape.
- Maintain the essentially intact rural character, with limited urban influences - settlement and roads.
- Ensure that new buildings and development is sensitively integrated into the landscape through careful siting. Seek to soften and integrate existing urban edges with the landscape, through additional planting.
- Conserve the historic field patterns (early 18th and 19th century enclosures) and avoid further divisions or expansions.
- Maintain open views across fields, and avoid introducing large scale elements (such as pylons and masts) which would disrupt important views and the open landscape character.

LCT D WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND



LCT D WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND

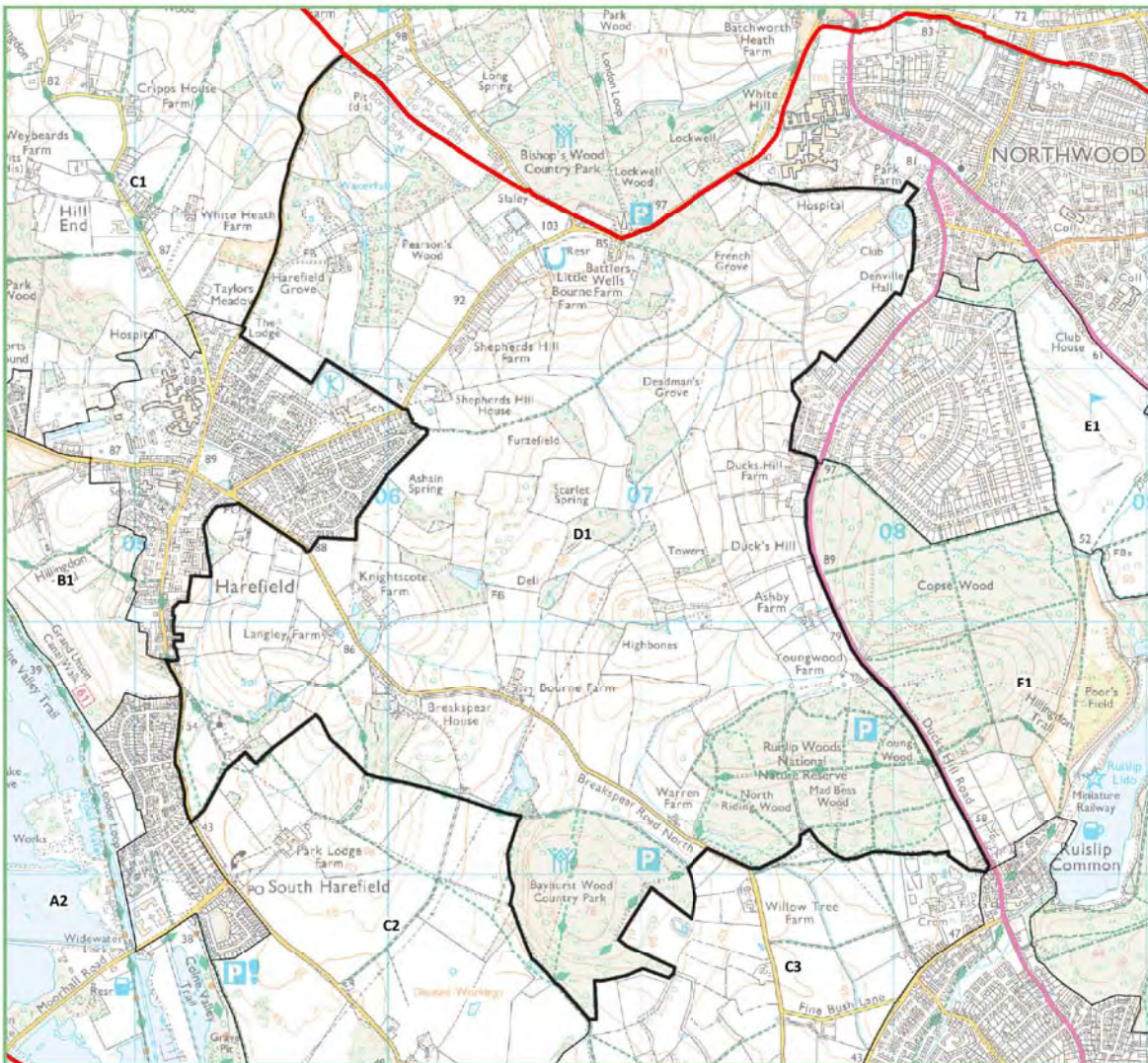
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- An undulating tributary valley landform of the River Colne, underlain predominantly by London Clay Formation, with occasional Lambeth Group on the valley floor, and sand and gravel formations on higher ground
- A mosaic of farmland (pasture and rough grazing, and some areas of paddock) and woodland.
- A tributary valley passes through the landscape, fed by several smaller streams, which flow from numerous ponds/lakes located on higher valley slopes.
- Occasional large areas of ancient woodland. Common species include common or sessile oak, hornbeam, beech, aspen and sweet chestnut.
- Settlement density is low, typically comprising scattered farmsteads, with some modern edge settlement.
- Few roads cross the landscape, and a number of local footpaths pass through the area, including several long distance footpath. Woodland areas provide recreational opportunities with numerous tracks and footpaths.
- Varying degrees of enclosure, with open fields contrasted with dense woodland areas.
- Open fields allow for panoramic vistas, with long views across the patchwork of farmland to adjacent landscapes. Woodland provides a backdrop to views.
- A uniform landscape, with high woodland cover and low settlement density, which contributes to a sense of intimacy and tranquillity and a strong rural character.

Constituent LCAs

- DI – Harefield Wooded Undulating Farmland

LCA DI HAREFIELD WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND



LCA DI HAREFIELD WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A smoothly undulating tributary valley landform of the River Colne, underlain by London Clay Formation, with occasional Lambeth Group following the valley floor. Some sand and gravel formations on higher ground in the north and west.
- A mosaic of farmland and woodland, comprising medium sized sinuous fields of pasture and rough grazing, and some areas of paddock. Some areas of 19th century enclosure in the south. Field boundaries are commonly defined by a dense network of hedgerows with mature trees (oaks), and occasional wooden post fencing.
- A tributary to the River Colne flows from north east to south west, feed by several smaller streams, which flow from numerous ponds/lakes located on higher valley slopes. A smaller tributary to the River Pinn winds through the landscape in the south east.
- Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Wood National Nature Reserve comprise two large areas of ancient woodland in the south of the area, both SSSIs with significant biodiversity value. Common species include common or sessile oak, hornbeam, beech, aspen and sweet chestnut.
- Settlement density is low, comprising scattered farmsteads, and only one linear row of housing in the north, along Northwood Road. Modern settlement edge of Harefield and Northwood are prominent in the west and east, respectively.
- Few roads cross the landscape, often ancient. A number of local footpaths pass through the area, with several marked routes, including The Hillingdon Trail long distance footpath. Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Wood National Nature Reserve provide recreational opportunities and numerous footpaths providing easy public access.
- Historic parkland is found at Harefield Place, Grade II listed remains of a 17th-century country mansion and gardens of a later age. Breakspear House, a Grade I listed manor house is a noticeable feature in the landscape from the south.
- Varying degrees of enclosure, with open fields contrasted with dense woodland areas. Open rolling fields allow for panoramic vistas, with long views towards across the landscape and glimpses of distant urban settlement. Bayhurst Wood provides a prominent backdrop to many views south.
- A uniform landscape, with high woodland cover and low settlement density, which contributes to a sense of intimacy and tranquillity and a strong rural character.

LCA DI HAREFIELD WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north of Hillingdon District, within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area*, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. The borough administrative boundary forms the northern edge of the character area, and the character area continues into Hertfordshire District. Harefield village largely defines the western boundary, and Northwood village and Copse Wood border the eastern boundary. The undulating valley topography and distinctly wooded character of this landscape distinguishes it from adjacent landscapes.

Landscape Character: A smoothly undulating and rolling, valley landscape with a mosaic of woodland and farmland. Tributaries to the River Colne cut through the landform in a north east to south west direction, fed from a number of ponds/lakes on higher valley sides. A small tributary to the River Pinn flows in the south east. Fields of pasture and rough grazing are delineated by a dense network of hedgerows, with scattered mature trees, and interspersed with woodland. Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Wood National Nature Reserve are significant areas of ancient woodland and together form a SSSI. Located in the south of the area, they are often prominent as a backdrop to views, and support a diverse range of habitats, including acid and neutral grassland, ponds and marshland. Settlement density is low, with scattered farmsteads and a singular linear row of housing in the north. Harefield and Northwood are modern settlements on the west and east boundaries. Grade II registered park and garden is located at Harefield Place, comprising the earthwork remains of a 17th-century country mansion and gardens of a later age, and Breakspear House, a Grade I listed manor house features prominently in the landscape to the south. A uniform landscape, with high woodland cover and low settlement density, which contributes to a sense of intimacy and tranquillity and a strong rural character. Varying degrees of enclosure are experienced, with open fields contrasting with dense woodland areas and valley landform. Open panoramic views across farmland with long views to distant urban areas.

Geology: Predominately underlain by London Clay Formation with Lambeth Group underlying tributary valley bottoms centrally and south. Some pockets of sand and gravel formations overlay clay on higher slopes in the west and north, with Gerrards Cross Gravel Formation in the west.

Topography/ Landform: A tributary valley to the River Colne, with an undulating and rolling landform, which runs along a north east to south west axis. Further smaller tributaries cut into the landform creating undulating valley sides. A small tributary to the River Pinn cuts into the landscape in the south east corner of the character area. Topography varies approximately between 50m and 95m.

Hydrology: A tributary to the River Colne flows from north east to south west, with further smaller tributaries feeding in from the east and west. A small tributary to the River Pinn also passes through the landscape in the south east. Streams tend

LCA DI HAREFIELD WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND

to originate from a number of ponds and small lakes situated on higher valley sides. A number of ponds are located intermittently along the valley floor. A small waterfall is located in Pearson's Wood in the north.

Land Use and Settlement: A mosaic of farmland and woodland, with a mix of medium sized fields of pasture and rough grazing, and some areas of interspersed paddock. Field boundaries are commonly defined by a dense network of hedgerows with mature trees (oak hedgerow trees are particularly notable at intervals along Breakspear Road), and occasional wooden post fencing and metal rail. Sinuous field boundaries predominate, often interspersed with woodland, which provides a backdrop to views. Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Wood National Nature Reserve comprise two large areas of woodland in the south of the area, both prominent features in the landscape.

Settlement density is low, comprising individual farmsteads, often relatively large scale and modern in character. A single small row of housing is located in the north of the area, along Northwood Road. The settlements of Harefield and Northwood are prominent along the west and east boundaries, respectively.

Access by road is limited, with only two rural roads crossing the landscape. A number of local footpaths pass through the area, with numerous woodland tracks, particularly through Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Wood National Nature Reserve, providing good public access to these areas and recreational opportunities. The Hillingdon Trail, long distance footpath, passes through the area in the south. A pylon line crosses the landscape, north to south, creating a visible feature in the landscape.

Biodiversity: Tributary streams to the River Colne and River Pinn, and ponds located on higher slopes provide valuable wetland habitats. The dense network of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodlands provide important wildlife habitats within this farmland landscape. The south of the character area is particularly important for nature conservation, with a large complex of ancient woodlands. Mad Bess Woods, Young Woods and North Riding Woods combine to form Ruislip Woods National Nature Reserve, and together with Bayhurst Wood make up an SSSI. These woodlands contain a diverse range of habitats, including acid and neutral grassland, ponds and marshland. Common species include common or sessile oak, hornbeam, beech, aspen and sweet chestnut. Numerous smaller woods are dispersed across the character area, many of which are ancient woodland. Shepherd's Hill Woods and fields comprise a relatively large area which extends across much of the north and central part of the landscape, and is recognised as a Site of Borough Grade I Importance. This area contains a number of ancient woodlands, meadows and pastures. Another important area within the landscape is White Heath Farm and Harefield Grove, which consists of pastures, arable fields, copses and hedgerows. Much of this site is improved and semi-improved pastures, with a number of ancient species rich hedgerows. Patches of oak-ash woodland, rough land and scrub add to the ecological value and character. Breakspear House Woods is small woodland dominated by ash, with frequent oak and sycamore. A

LCA DI HAREFIELD WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND

shrub layer of abundant field maple, hawthorn, English elm and cherry laurel, and a rich woodland floor add to the biodiversity.

Historic Environment: Harefield Place, a Grade II registered park and garden of historic interest, is located in the south of the character area, comprising the earthwork remains of a 17th-century country mansion and gardens of a later age. A number of other listed buildings are located within the character area, including, Breakspear House, a Grade I listed, mid 17th century manor house with large grounds and the Church of St Mary, Grade I, south of Harefield. The village of Harefield is a conservation area and the designation extends south eastwards into this character area to incorporate Langley Farm, Breakspear House and Bourne Farm set in open countryside.

A number of ancient woodlands are located within the character area, with large areas located at Bayhurst Wood Country Park and Ruislip Wood National Nature Reserve.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A simple landscape, unified by sweeping rolling valley landform. The high woodland cover and limited settlement and roads, contributes to a sense of intimacy and enclosure and a strong rural character. The mix of woodland provides a variety of texture and colour, with a rich seasonal interest. Varying levels of enclosure are experienced, with open fields, contrasting with dense woodland areas and enclosed valley landform. Open rolling fields allow for panoramic vistas, with long views across the landscape and, and towards distant urban areas, such as Ruislip, Harefield and Northwood. A tranquil and peaceful landscape, with a strong rural character. Pylon lines are prominent features in the landscape, occasionally interrupting the overall intactness of the area.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- National Nature Reserves: Ruislip Woods
- SSSI: Ruislip Woods (Tarleton's Lake & Bayhurst Wood, and Mad Bess Wood)
- Countryside Conservation Area: North West Hillingdon
- Sites of Metropolitan Importance: Ruislip Wood and Poor's Field
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation: Harefield Church and woods; The Dairy Farm, Harefield; White Heath Farm and Harefield Grove; Knightscode Farm Ponds, Harefield; Breakspear House Woods
- Sites of Borough Grade I Importance: Shepherds Hill Woods and Fields, Harefield/Northwood.
- Conservation Areas: Village of Harefield

LCA DI HAREFIELD WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND

- TPOs: Adjoining south east side of Rickmansworth Road; Surrounding Harefield Grove; Whiteacres, Northwood Road; Battlers Wells Wood; French Grove, off Whitehall; Harefield Village

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

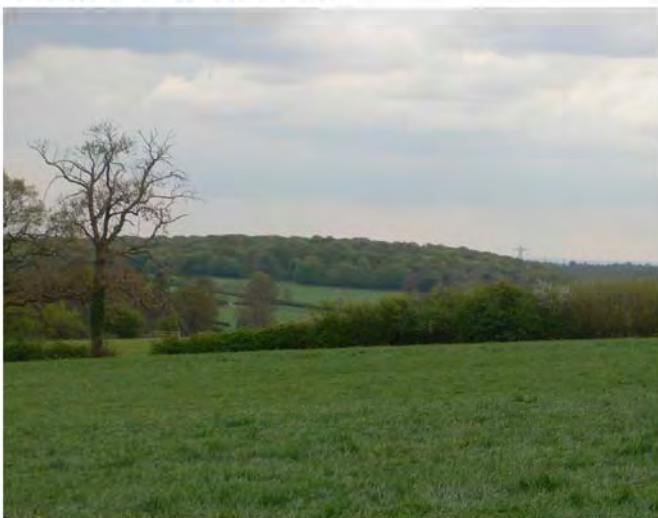
- The extensive woodland cover which includes large areas of ancient woodland and provides enclosure and a backdrop to views as well as biodiversity value.
- The smoothly rolling and undulating valley landform which would be vulnerable to further development.
- The intact hedgerow network, which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor.
- The open views across rolling farmland to wooded horizons and long views across the character area and out to adjacent landscapes and towards distant urban development such as Ruislip and Northwood.
- The strong rural character and low density of settlement (comprising farmsteads), which would be vulnerable to further development.
- The limited number of roads, typically rural in character, which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.
- Tributaries to the River Colne and River Pinn and numerous ponds, with their associated landscape and habitat value.
- The strong sense of intimacy and enclosure, as a result of high levels of woodland cover and limited settlement and the overall tranquil character of the area which prevails.
- The visual unity of the landscape, and organised, well balanced nature, with few interrupting features.
- Historic listed buildings, such as Harefield Place and Breakspear House, which provide important historic context and prominent features in the landscape.



Rolling topography, with a mosaic of farmland and woodland. Field boundaries are commonly defined by a dense network of hedgerows with mature trees



Low settlement density. Modern settlement edge in the north of the area



Long views across open rolling farmland. Bayhurst Wood provides a prominent backdrop to many views south



Breakspear House, Grade I listed manor house, perched on a hill



A tranquil and peaceful landscape, with a strong rural character. Few detracting features

LCA DI Harefield Wooded Undulating Farmland

LCT D WOODED UNDULATING FARMLAND – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

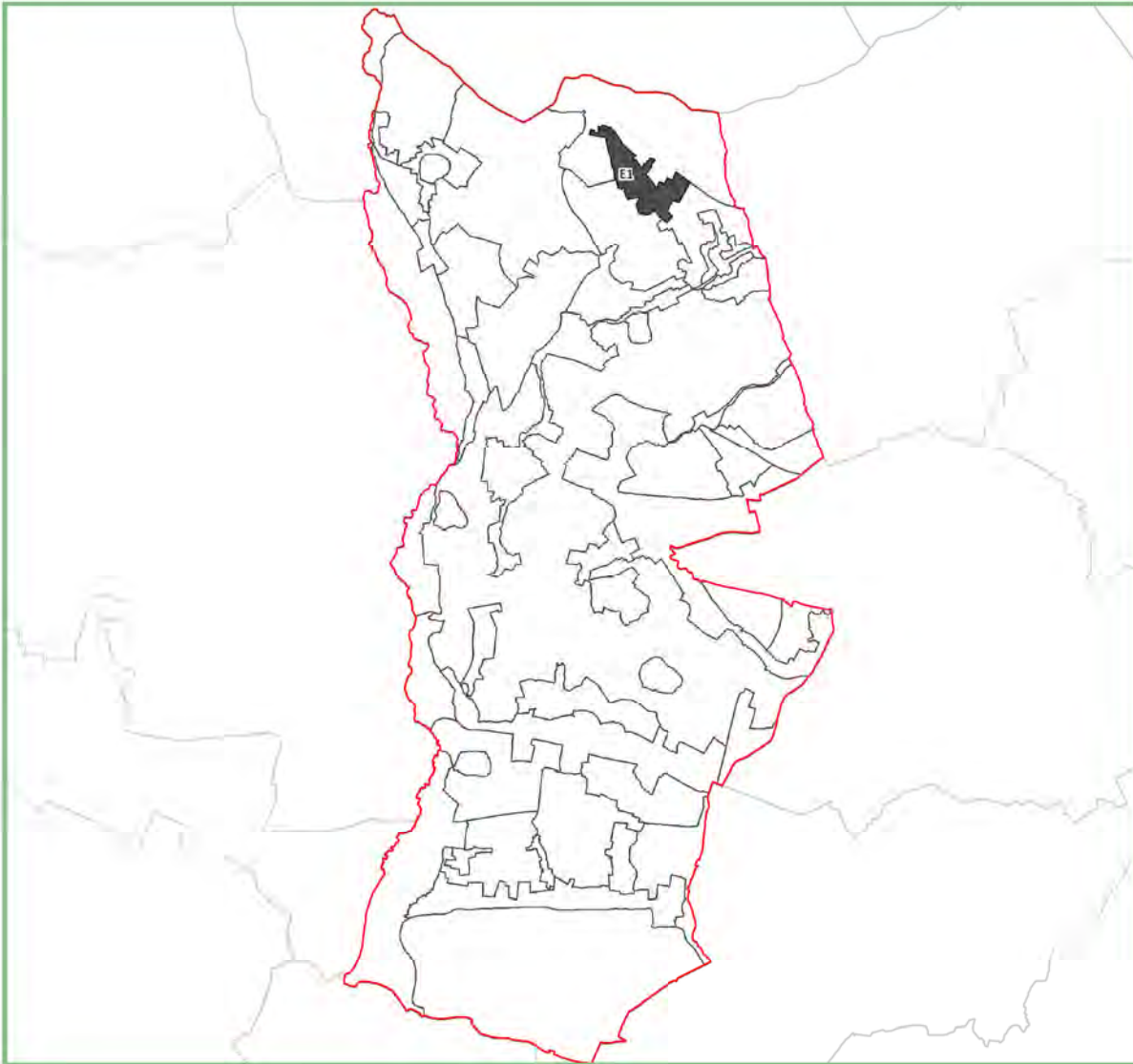
- DI – Harefield Wooded Undulating Farmland

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and manage the mosaic of woodland and farmland, to protect the wooded character, and conserve the rural intimate and tranquil character.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and enhance the extensive woodland cover, which provides important landscape character, enclosure and a backdrop to views.
- Conserve and manage ancient woodland parcels and plan for long term woodland management,
- Promote appropriate management of farmland, to help generate a wildlife rich habitat, and visually attractive landscape, as well as continuing the economic viability of the farmland.
- Conserve and manage the network of hedgerows, and hedgerow trees, which provide visual unity and a wildlife corridor. Consider replanting hedgerows which have been lost.
- Maintain the essentially undeveloped rural character, with limited settlement development and roads.
- Avoid introducing large scale elements (such as pylons and masts) which are highly visible and would disrupt the intimate undulating valley landscape.
- Conserve open views across arable farmland to wooded horizons.
- Ensure that new buildings and development is sensitively integrated into the landscape through careful siting, and screening. Seek to integrate and soften existing settlement edge.
- Conserve the character and setting of historic listed buildings, which provide important historic context and prominent features in the landscape.
- Conserve the intact, remote and peaceful character which is formed by the woodland cover, absence of modern development and roads.
- Conserve the areas of woodland which provide enclosure and form an important character of the area, and provide invaluable biodiversity benefit and recreational resource.
- Conserve and manage the character of rivers, streams and ponds, which provide an important wildlife corridor and intimate character.

LCT E CLAY GOLF



LCT E CLAY GOLF

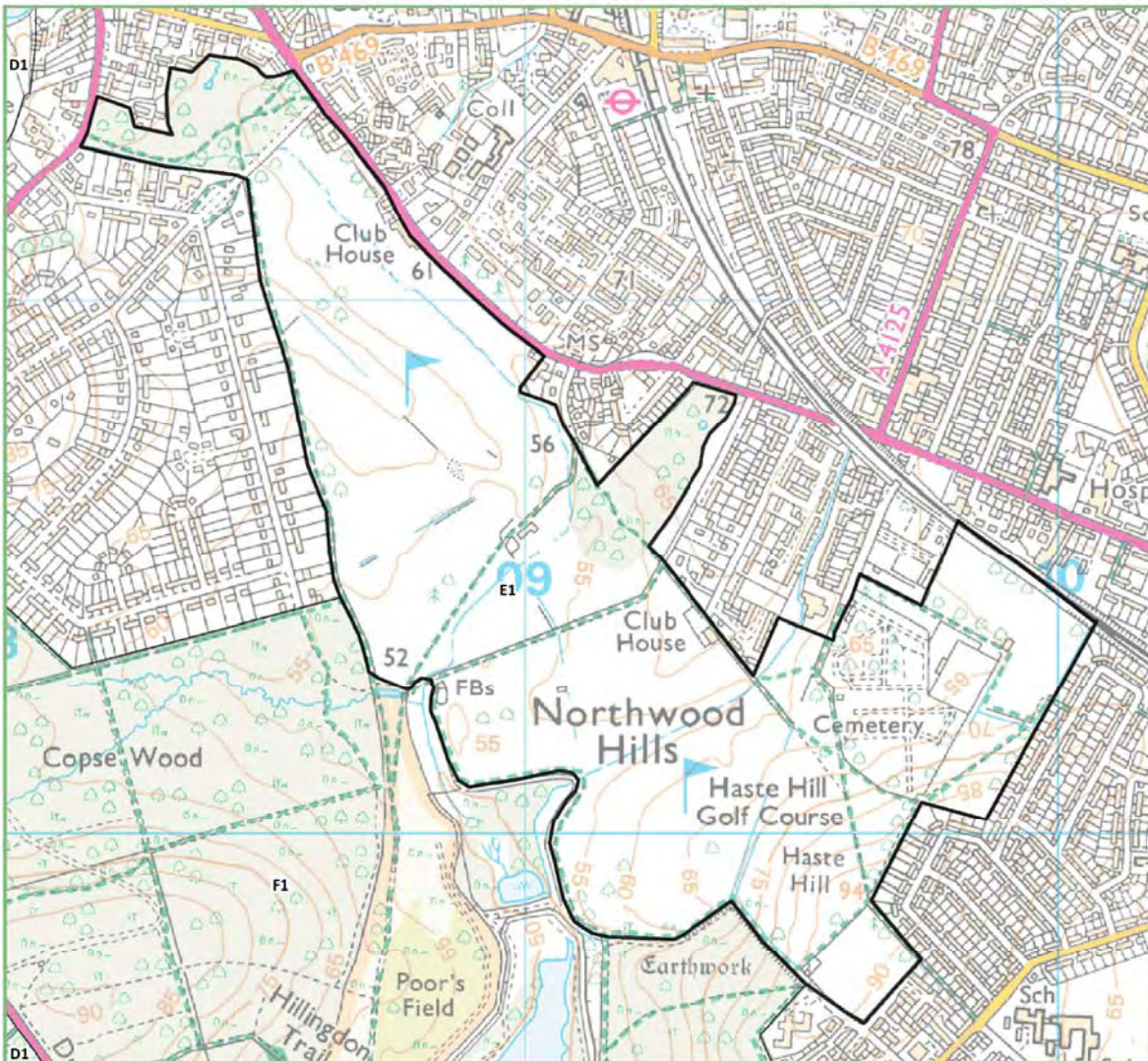
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gently undulating landform on Lambeth Group and London Clay geology, and cut by small tributary streams.
- A golf course landscape comprising a mosaic of grassland, heathland, small streams, wooded linear strips and copses.
- Closely mown amenity grass fairways, with interspersed areas of species rich grassland. Belts of woodland and tree lines fairways.
- Contained by modern suburban settlement and screened by densely wooded boundaries.
- Crossed by a number of footpaths often enclosed by woodland and linking the edge of settlement.
- Some short distance open views down fairways but a strong sense of enclosure prevails with woodland restricting views out.
- A designed golf course landscape, however a well established and strong natural character prevails, with a sense of tranquillity and peacefulness.

Constituent LCAs

- EI – Northwood Hills Clay Golf

LCA E1 NORTHWOOD HILLS CLAY GOLF



LCA EI NORTHWOOD HILLS CLAY GOLF

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gently undulating landform on Lambeth Group and London Clay geology, rising to the north-west and to Haste Hill in the south and cut by small tributary streams. Regionally important gravel pits at Hogs Back and Northwood
- A golf course landscape (Haste Hill and Northwood Golf Clubs) comprising a mosaic of grassland, heathland, small streams, wooded linear strips and copses.
- Areas of species rich grassland occur alongside closely mown amenity grass fairways. The Haste Hill Rough and Northwood Golf Course are Sites of Borough Grade I Importance valued for their neutral and acid grassland and heathland.
- Belts of woodland and tree lines fairways. Woodland in the north on a former gravel pit site comprises mature ash dominated woodland and is a Site of Borough Grade II Importance.
- Contained by the modern suburban edge of Northwood to the north, east and west which is screened from within the area by densely wooded boundaries.
- There is no settlement within the landscape and the only buildings are golf club houses. Northwood Cemetery is located in the east.
- Crossed by a number of footpaths often enclosed by woodland and linking the edge of Northwood to Ruislip Woods and the Cemetery.
- Evidence of past land uses including gravel pits in woodland (The Gravel Pit) and a trackway used for removing firewood and timber from Copse Wood and gravel from the pits.
- Some short distance open views down fairways but a strong sense of enclosure prevails with woodland restricting views out. Important views from Haste Hill to Northwood.
- A designed golf course landscape which has a mature, well established and strong natural character. A sense of tranquillity and peacefulness due to the presence of enclosing woodland, small streams and species rich grassland.

LCA EI NORTHWOOD HILLS CLAY GOLF

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies close to the northern edge of Hillingdon Borough within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The settlement edge of Northwood forms the boundary of the character area to the north, east and west. The southern edge is defined by the large expanse of woodland at Ruislip Woods.

Landscape Character: Gently undulating landform, underlain by Lambeth Group and London Clay geology, rising to the north west and south east (Haste Hill) from tributary streams on lowest ground. The character area is dominated by Northwood and Haste Hill Golf Courses which are designed landscapes comprising grassland and woodland strips. There is however a strong ecological character with areas of neutral and acidic grassland and heathland (recognised as Sites of Grade I Borough Importance) woodland belts and copses and small streams. There is no settlement within the landscape and the modern settlement edges of Northwood are entirely screened by wooded boundaries which restrict views out. This strong sense of enclosure, combined with the diversity of natural habitats, contributes to a tranquil and peaceful character. Evidence of past land use includes a trackway, once used for carrying gravel from pits to the north (now The Gravel Pit woodland) and removing firewood and timber from Copse Wood to the and south. A number of footpaths cross the golf courses, linking Northwood settlement to Ruislip Woods in the south and Northwood Cemetery.

Geology: Predominately underlain by rocks from the Lambeth Group which include mottled clays and sands with some pebbly beds and masses of fine sand. A transition to London Clay as the landform rises to the south east. and a small area of sand and gravel deposits on highest ground.

Topography/ Landform: Gently undulating landform rising to the north (65m AOD) and south east (Haste Hill 90m AOD) from lowest ground (55m AOD) where small tributary streams flow. Some small manipulations in landform have occurred to create the golf course landscape. Hummocks and hollows also occur in woodland to the north which is the site of former gravel pits.

Hydrology: Crossed by two small tributary streams, rising in woodland in the north east of the character area and in Northwood settlement, meandering southwards into Ruislip Woods. A number of drains/ditches occur in the east.

Land Use and Settlement: The designed landscapes of Haste Hill and Northwood Golf Courses dominate, comprising a mosaic of grassland, linear woodland blocks and tree lines which define fairways. The fairways are closely mown amenity grassland but the roughs are ecologically rich incorporating heathland and acid grassland. The boundaries of the character area are well wooded with a woodland copse (The Gravel Pit) on the northern boundary and transition to Ruislip Woods in the south. Woodland strips, clumps and tree lines within the golf course are mature and the landscape has a well established character. Tree species include oak, ash, willow, poplar, hawthorn and some coniferous trees. Northwood

LCA EI NORTHWOOD HILLS CLAY GOLF

Cemetery also occurs in this character area to the east, enclosed by woodland with copper beech trees notable.

The modern suburban edges of Northwood (with brick building materials and well vegetated gardens) are well concealed from this landscape by the wooded boundaries. There is no settlement within this area and the only buildings are the golf club houses.

A number of footpaths cross the golf courses linking the edge of Northwood with Ruislip Woods. These footpaths are enclosed by trees and woodland with grass verges and bramble understoreys. There are also footpaths and trackways around the cemetery and across the woodland copse (The Gravel Pit) in the north. This is a recreational landscape used for walking, dog walking and golf.

Biodiversity: The Haste Hill Rough and Northwood Golf Course Sites of Borough Grade I Importance valued for their grassland cover almost the whole character area. Northwood Golf Course is renowned for its relict acid grassland and heathland communities which thrive on sandy free-draining geology. Species present include parsely piet, early hair grass, sheep's sorrel and heath beadstraw. Haste Hill Rough comprises acid and neutral grassland divided into parcels by drains and trackways. Drier areas support red fescue and common bent-grass with couch grass and Hogweed on damper ground. Wet loving rushes and sedges are also present. Crack willows, poplars, sycamore, hawthorn, brambles and roses have begun to invade the grassland creating a habitat for birds with great spotted woodpeckers common.

The Gravel Pits, Northwood and St Vincent's Hospital Meadows Site of Borough Grade II Importance occur in the north and southern extents of the area. The small meadow of St Vincent's supports grassland dominated by red fescue, Yorkshire Fog and Rye Grass. Woodland at the Gravel Pits comprises mature gean, oak, beech, ash and sycamore.

Historic Environment: The Haste Hill Golf Course opened in 1926 and was designed by the eminent golf course architect, Harry Colt. Northwood Golf Course was founded in 1891. The woodland copse in the north (The Gravel Pit) was once used for gravel extraction by proprietors and occupiers of land in Ruislip. The trackway along the western edge of Northwood Golf Course was probably used for removing firewood and timber from Copse Wood to the south and for carrying gravel from pits at Northwood.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A designed golf course landscape with woodland and grassland often linear in form. A diversity of tree species and areas of acid grassland, heathland and neutral grassland provide varied texture and colour (e.g. the white stems of birch woodland and purple heather, copper beech against a green wooded backdrop) contrasting with the smooth, closely mown amenity grassland on the fairways. There short distance open views down the fairways with a strong sense of enclosure created by wooded boundaries (including Ruislip Woods to the south), woodland belts and tree lines. Views out are restricted by woodland and the settlement edge of Northwood is completely screened. The woodland, small

LCA EI NORTHWOOD HILLS CLAY GOLF

streams, grassland habitats and enclosure contribute to a sense of tranquillity and peacefulness. This is a designed recreational landscape but with a variety of habitats and high ecological value.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Sites of Borough Grade I Importance: The Haste Hill Rough and Northwood Golf Course Sites
- Sites of Borough Grade II Importance: The Gravel Pits, Northwood and St Vincent's Hospital Meadows Site
- Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGS): The Gravel Pits (identified by the Geodiversity Partnership in the draft version of the Mayor of London's 'London Foundations')

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Sense of enclosure and containment due to the presence of woodland within and on the boundaries of the area with few views out.
- Mature mixed species woodland strips, tree lines and copses, which provide valuable habitats and biodiversity value as well as colour and texture.
- Diversity of grassland habitats including relict acid and heathland communities which persist in the rough between closely mown fairways and are vulnerable to changes in management regimes.
- Small streams and ditches which add to the diversity of habitats in the landscape and creating contrasting wet and dry areas where different species thrive.
- Lack of settlement within the area and the unawareness of surrounding settlement due to woodland screening.
- Tranquil and peaceful character in proximity to modern settlement edges which is due to the enclosure, woodland, streams, grassland habitats and absence of built development.
- Balance between the recreational use and ecological value of the landscape which could be vulnerable to changes in management.
- The historic trackway and gravel pits in woodland which provide time depth and evidence of past land use.



Haste Hill and Northwood Golf Courses dominate. Manipulations occur in the gently undulating landform



Crossed by footpaths enclosed by woodland



Views down fairways to wooded backdrops



Northwood Cemetery in the east



Small streams and ditches provide habitat diversity



Tree lines and woodland belts delineate fairways. Species rich grassland in the roughs contrasts with smooth closely mown fairways

LCA EI Northwood Hills Clay Golf

LCT E CLAY GOLF – STRATEGY & GUIDLINES

Constituent LCAs

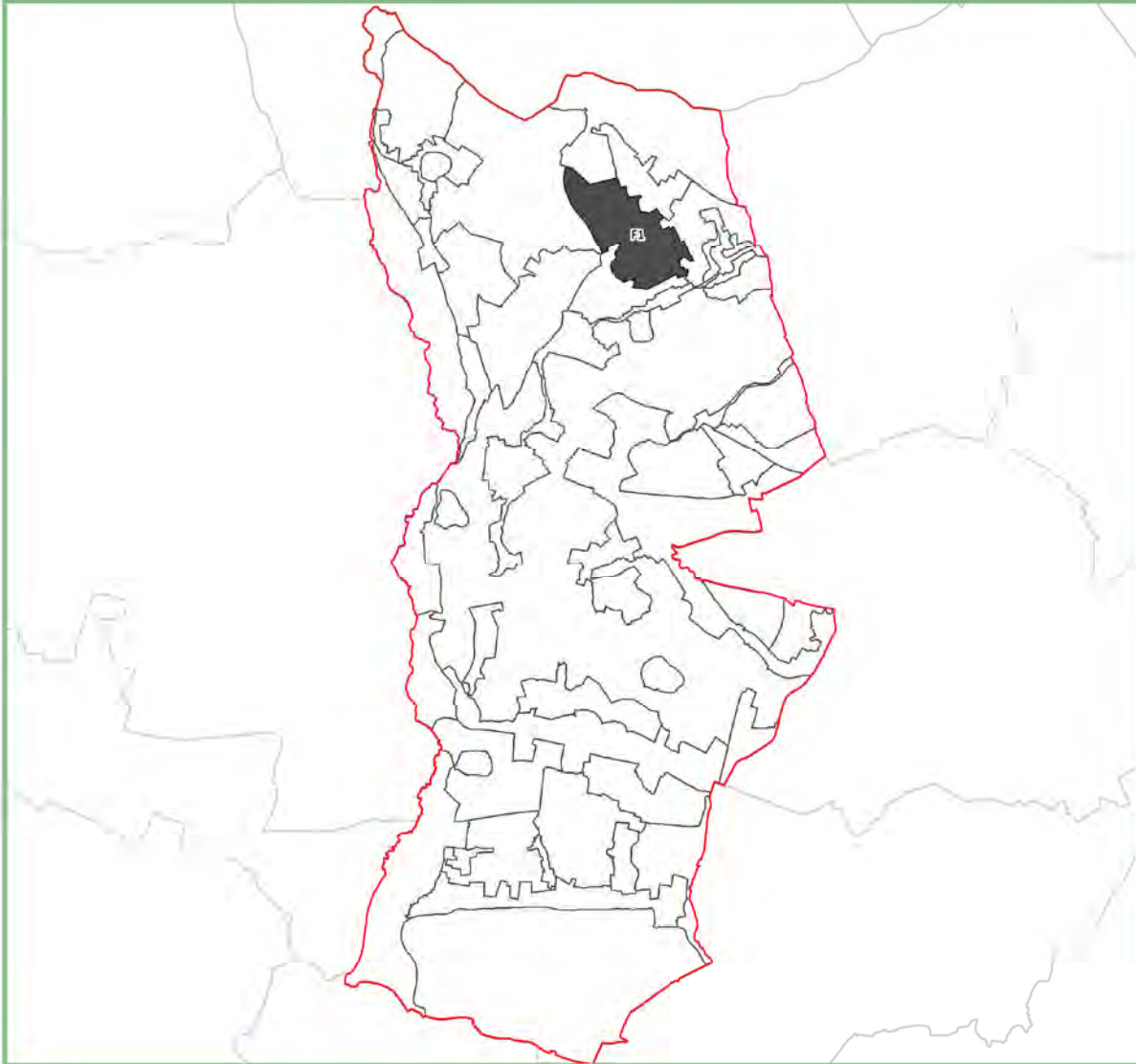
- EI – Northwood Hills Clay Golf

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and manage the recreational landscape, and the mosaic of grassland, heathland, and woodland. Maintain the tranquil character of the landscape and enclosure by woodland.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and encourage management and restoration of neutral and acid grassland and heathland. Seek to achieve a balance between conservation of habitats and management of the gold course.
- Conserve and manage areas of woodland to improve biodiversity value. Consider opportunities for further tree/woodland planting, and development of other habitats.
- Maintain wooded boundaries which provide enclosure and containment, creating a peaceful and tranquil landscape in proximity to modern settlement edge.
- Conserve small streams and ditches which add to the diversity of habitats and character of the landscape.
- Conserve the historic trackway and gravel pits in woodland which provide time depth and evidence of past land use.
- Maintain the largely undeveloped character.

LCT F WOODDED VALLEY



LCT F WOODED VALLEY

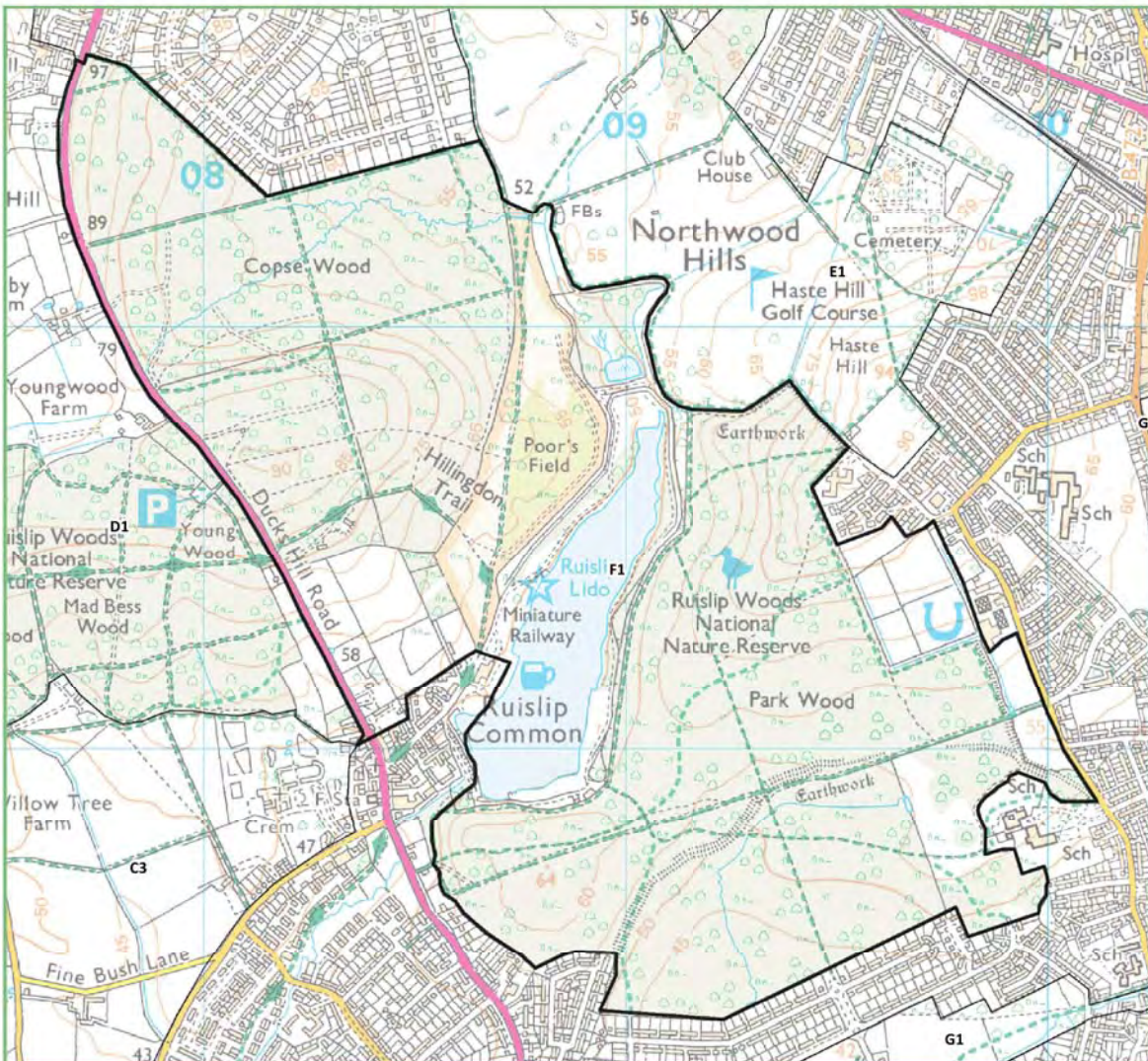
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A gently sloping wooded valley landform with a number of water bodies including a Lido, streams and small ponds.
- London Clay typically underlying upper slopes, with Lambeth Group on lower slopes. Alluvium deposits located on the valley bottom, with some pockets of sand and gravel on highest ground.
- Woodland is dominant, predominantly ancient with hornbeam and oak, ecologically rich and structurally diverse,
- Areas of acid and neutral grassland are located on former land used for common grazing. A number of tributary streams flow through woodland and small ponds support wetland habitats.
- Crossed by numerous paths and tracks through woodland.
- Varying degrees of enclosure, with large areas of woodland contrasting with the open expanse of water in the valley bottom.
- A strong ecological, historic and recreational character with a diversity of habitats and leisure opportunities.
- A sense of tranquillity and a rural character prevails with little awareness of adjacent built settlement edges.

Constituent LCAs

- FI – Ruislip Wooded Valley

LCA FI RUISLIP WOODED VALLEY



LCA FI RUISLIP WOODED VALLEY

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A gently sloping wooded valley landform with highest ground in Copse Wood and Park Wood sloping to the valley floor which comprises Ruislip Lido, streams and small ponds.
- A transition from London Clay on upper slopes to Lambeth Group on lower slopes. Alluvium deposits on the valley bottom and pockets of sand and gravel on highest ground.
- Park Wood and Copse Wood form part of Ruislip Woods SSSI and National Nature Reserve comprising structurally diverse and species rich ancient woodland.
- Woodland is predominantly hornbeam and oak, ecologically rich with a long history of coppice and standards woodland management.
- Areas of acid and neutral grassland occur including at Poor's Field which was once used for common grazing and is still grazed by cattle. A number of tributary streams flowing through woodland and small ponds support wetland habitats.
- The expanse of woodland provides a setting to the surrounding settlements of Northwood, Pinner and Ruislip and a woodland on higher ground (Copse Wood) is distinctive in the locality.
- Ruislip Lido (formerly Ruislip Reservoir designed to feed the Grand Union Canal) opened in 1933 and has an art deco style building(re-built following a fire). The Ruislip Lido miniature railway loops round the Lido.
- Crossed by numerous paths and tracks including straight footpaths which follow the lines of woodland compartments the Hillingdon Trail long distance path. Some bridleways through Park Wood.
- Enclosure provided by the large extents of ancient woodland contrasts with the open expanse of water in the valley bottom where there are long views to wooded backdrops.
- A strong ecological, historic and recreational character with a diversity of habitats and leisure opportunities. In the woodland a sense of tranquillity and a rural character prevails with little awareness of adjacent built settlement edges.

LCA FI RUISLIP WOODED VALLEY

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the north east of Hillingdon Borough within the *Ruislip Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The area is defined by the settlement edges of Northwood, Pinner and Ruislip to the north, east and south respectively. The western boundary is delineated by the A4180, Ducks Hill Road. The extent of woodland cover and valley landform distinguishes this area from the golf course landscape to the north east and the undulating farmland and woodland landscape to the north west.

Landscape Character: Gently sloping wooded valley underlain by London Clay and Lambeth Group on upper and lower slopes respectively. The open water of Ruislip lido dominates the valley floor with grassland, 'beaches' and woodland softening its edges. The large expanses of Park Wood and Copses Wood are predominantly hornbeam coppice and oak ancient woodland, part of the Ruislip Woods SSSI and National Nature Reserve. Areas of heath and neutral grassland (e.g. Poor's Field) and small streams through woodland add to habitat and species diversity. The woodland has a long history of woodland management and association with woodland industry: coppicing and grazing continue today. Ruislip Lido has its own history, formerly a reservoir designed to feed the Grand Union Canal and now a popular recreational resource. Numerous footpaths and tracks cross woodland and the Ruislip Lido Railway, set in woodland loops around. The landscape has evolved to provide a valuable ecological and recreational resource for local residents and also provides a setting to the surrounding settlements of Northwood, Pinner and Ruislip. Woodland provides enclosure with some open views afforded across open water and grassland to wooded backdrop. A strong sense of tranquillity and peacefulness prevails within woodland with little awareness of adjacent built settlement edges.

Geology: London Clay on upper slopes with pockets of sand and gravel deposits on highest ground. A transition to geology of the Lambeth Group which include mottled clays and sands with some pebbly beds and masses of fine sand on lower slopes. Alluvium corresponds with the extent of Ruislip Lido and follows the small streams and ponds to the north.

Topography/ Landform: A gently sloping valley landform with highest ground in the east of Copse Wood (90m AOD) and north of Park Wood (85m AOD) sloping eastwards and westwards respectively to the valley floor comprising Ruislip Lido, streams and ponds (50-55m AOD). The highest points of Ruislip Woods are within Park Wood and Copse Wood.

Hydrology: Large expanse of water at Ruislip Lido, formerly a reservoir. Tributary streams traverse Copse Wood feeding into the streams and ponds north of the Lido. A tributary of the River Pinn crosses Park Wood.

Land Use and Settlement: Expansive areas of predominantly hornbeam and oak woodland occupy the valley slopes with the open water of Ruislip Lido stretching along the valley bottom. Pockets of acid and neutral grassland occur, notable at

LCA FI RUISLIP WOODED VALLEY

Poor's Field on lower slopes to the west of the Lido which is grazed and fenced. Wetland habitats associated with the small streams flowing through woodland and ponds are also present.

There is no settlement within the character area; the woods form a landscape setting to Northwood, Pinner and Ruislip. These modern settlement edges are largely concealed from within the character area by woodland.

The woods are dissected by a number of straight footpaths which follow the lines of woodland compartments and are also crossed by more sinuous paths and numerous tracks. The Hillingdon Trail Long distance footpath crosses into Copse Wood and through Poor's Field.

There are no roads through this landscape except an access road to the car park (south of Poor Fields). Ruislip Lido Miniature Railway loops around the lake and there are three station stops (Water's Edge, Haste Hill and Wood Bay). The landscape is used extensively for recreation including walking, dog walking, horse riding and bathing.

Biodiversity: Park Wood and Copse Wood form part of Ruislip Woods which is a SSSI (designated 1950), National Nature Reserve (designated 1997) and Site of Metropolitan Importance comprising structurally diverse and species rich ancient woodland. The woodland is predominantly old hornbeam coppice with pedunculate and sessile oak standards. Typical of hornbeam woodland the ground flora is restricted often dominated by bramble or creeping soft grass. The pedunculate oak gives way to the sessile oak on sandy or gravelly surfaces, reflecting specific variations in the underlying bedrock (the mix of rocks from the London Clay Formation and Lambeth Group).

Areas of oak and birch occur within Copse Wood, a large area in the south west section of is secondary woodland on land that was cleared between 1806 and 1864 and heather is found on higher ground. The southern section of Park Wood contains a large area of aspen and gean (wild cherry) with hazel and hawthorn shrub layer. The presence of small streams in the woods encourages a diverse flora including remote sedge, water mint and wood spurge.

Poor's Field between the Lido and Copse Wood is neutral grassland in the south grading north into a fine grassy heath dominated by tufted hair grass. Other species typical of acid grassland and heath can be found here including heather, sheep's fescue and wavy hair-grass.

Historic Environment: Ruislip Woods is ancient semi natural woodland and some parts are remnant of the Wildwood that once completely covered England after the last ice age. The woods have been managed as a valuable asset since the middle ages and a management system of oak standards and coppice hornbeam evolved. Oaks were felled for use in construction of the Tower of London, Windsor Castle and for local buildings. Oak bark was used for tanning leather and wild boar and deer were hunted. Coppicing of the hornbeams is known to have occurred for over five

LCA FI RUISLIP WOODED VALLEY

centuries until the 1930s with wood used for firewood, furniture, tools, bean poles and pea sticks. Many local people were employed in this wood industry until wood was replaced by modern materials for building and coal for fire. Management of the woods declined from the 1930s until the late 1970s when public concern about the neglect of the woods was raised. A long term management plan was published in 1982 and hornbeam coppicing reintroduced, the woods continue to be actively managed.

Ruislip Lido was formerly Ruislip Reservoir which opened in 1811. The reservoir was built by the Grand Junction Canal Company who purchased part of Park Wood to dam and flood the valley. The hamlet of Park Herne was also demolished to make way for the reservoir. The purpose of the reservoir was to feed the Grand Junction Canal (now the Grand Union Canal). The canal is some distance from Ruislip so this required a channel (some 7 miles long) to be constructed to feed the water from the reservoir to where it was to enter the canal at Hayes. The link to the canal did not fulfill its intended purpose, since the water became polluted by the land and was eventually stopped as a feeder in 1851. The full length of the feeder no longer exists and parts of it were built on in the 1970's,

The reservoir was developed as a lido (150 acres) in 1933 with an art deco style building (locally listed) and area reserved for swimming. The Ruislip Lido Railway (miniature railway) was opened in 1945.

In 1804 Poor's Field between the Lido and Copse Wood was designated for common grazing use by cottagers and during the month of May was subject to a right of way for the purposes of carrying gravel from pits at Northwood and banks and sunken tracks are still visible in places. An earthwork which runs through Park wood is an archaeological priority area.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: The character area has a strong ecological, recreational and historic character with a diversity of habitats and leisure opportunities. The enclosure provided by the large extents of ancient woodland contrasts with the open expanse of water in the valley bottom. Views are often contained within woodland with long views afforded across the open water of the lido to a wooded backdrop. The high levels of the woods (up to 90m AOD) make them prominent in views within the wider locality, providing a distinctive reference point.

The smooth, flat expanse of water in the lido contrasts with the textures found within woodland and grassland. The constructed edges of the lido are softened by 'beaches', grassland and woodland which comes up to the water's edge. This is a popular and well-used recreational area for local residents with car parking facilities, model railway and pub.

Within woodland there is a rural character with a sense of tranquillity and intimacy. There is little awareness of adjacent built settlement edges from within this landscape.

LCA FI RUISLIP WOODED VALLEY

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Archaeological Priority Area: Earthwork in Park Wood
- Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland: Copse Wood and Park Wood
- Listed Buildings: Lido buildings
- National Nature Reserve: Ruislip Woods (Copse Wood and Park Wood)
- SSSI: Ruislip Woods (Copse Wood and Park Wood)
- Site of Metropolitan Importance: Ruislip Woods (Copse Wood and Park Wood)
- TPOs: Land at Copse Wood

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Ancient woodland with its mix of oaks (pedunculate and sessile) and hornbeam coppice which is of ecological and historical value and requires specific management.
- Areas of neutral and acid grassland supporting a range of species and requiring management to perpetuate the habitat.
- Small streams within woodland which provide wetland habitats.
- Woodland on (e.g. Copse Wood) which provides a reference point in the wider locality and a setting to adjacent settlement.
- The wide diversity of habitats found and the perpetuation through appropriate management.
- Open views across water and grassland to wooded backdrops within an otherwise enclosed landscape.
- Recreational use of the landscape and achieving a balance with nature conservation.
- Remnants of archaeologically (earthworks and trackways) which provide time depth and interest.
- Features associated with the lido (railway and buildings) and the need for on-going maintenance.
- Tranquil and secluded character within woodland in close proximity to built up areas.



Park Wood and Copse Wood are extensive areas of ancient woodland



Small tributary streams flow through woodland



Poor's field includes areas of acid and neutral grassland grazed by cattle



Areas of acid neutral grassland provide biodiversity value



The valley was originally flooded to form a reservoir, designed to feed the Grand Union canal. It has been Ruislip Lido since 1933



Numerous tracks through woodland

LCA FI Ruislip Wooded Valley

Constituent LCAs

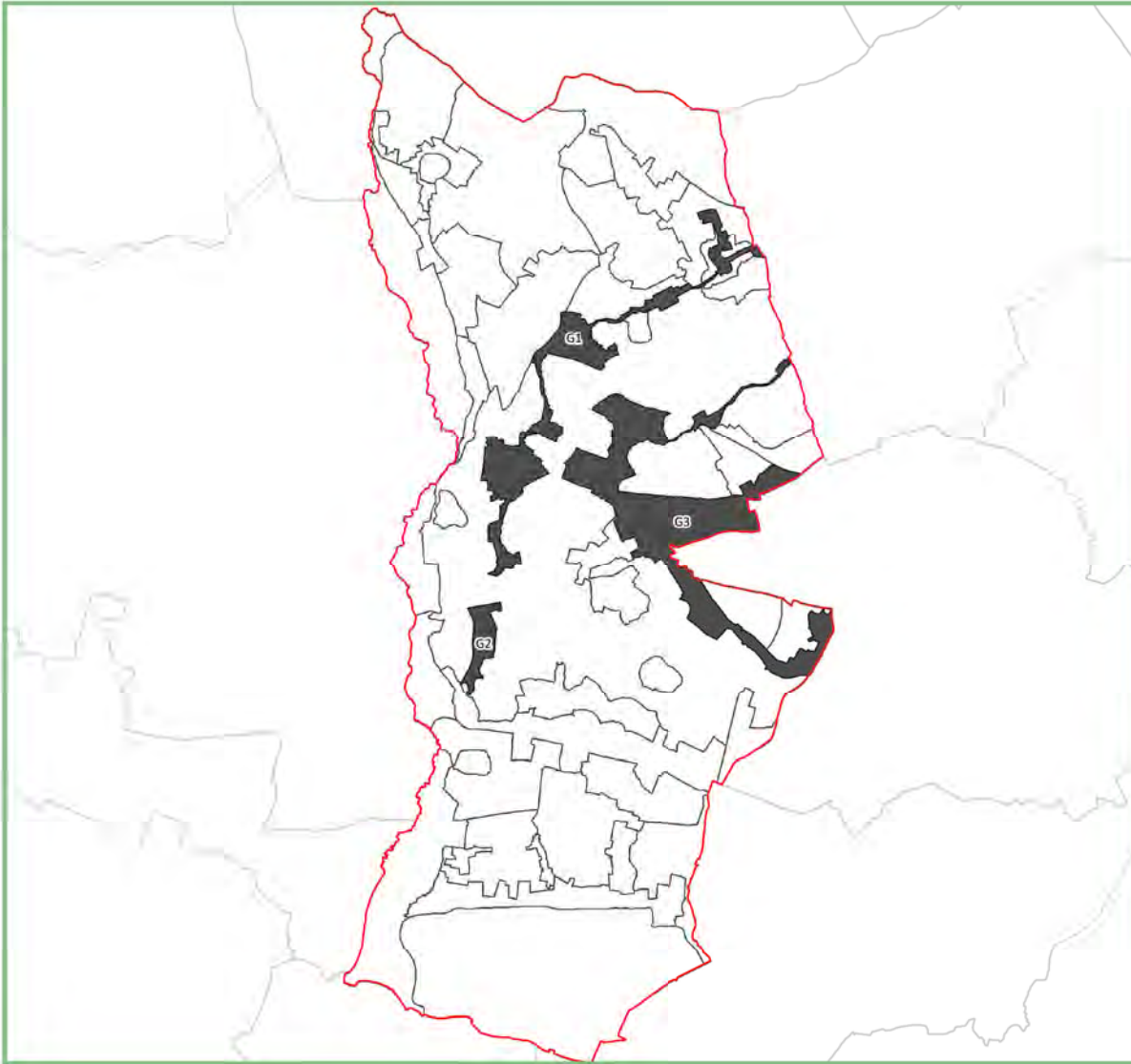
- FI – Ruislip Wooded Valley

Strategy/Vision: Conserve and manage the character as a wooded valley, with its numerous water bodies, strong sense of enclosure due to dense woodland cover, and strong ecological, historical and recreational character. The aim is to maintain a strong rural character and sense of tranquillity, in proximity to large areas of settlement.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve the areas of woodland which provide enclosure and create a strong wooded character in the area, providing invaluable biodiversity benefit and a recreational resource.
- Conserve the intact and peaceful character which is formed by the woodland cover.
- Conserve and manage tree and woodland cover, particularly ancient woodland, to ensure a diverse species, and maintain ecological and historical significance.
- Promote appropriate management of different habitats such as grassland, woodland, and wetland to help generate a wildlife rich habitat, and visually attractive landscape.
- Conserve and manage the water bodies and associate ecological and recreational opportunities.
- Conserve and manage the balance of ecological and recreational use of the landscape.
- Conserve open views across water bodies, often framed by a wooded backdrop
- Ensure that new buildings and development is sensitively integrated into the landscape through careful siting.
- Conserve historic elements, such as archaeological remains, which provide evidence of past use of the land.
- Restrict development which would alter the intimate character of landscape, and avoid development which could potentially impact on tranquillity or is out of keeping with the existing landscape scale.

LCT G RIVER CORRIDOR



LCT G RIVER CORRIDOR

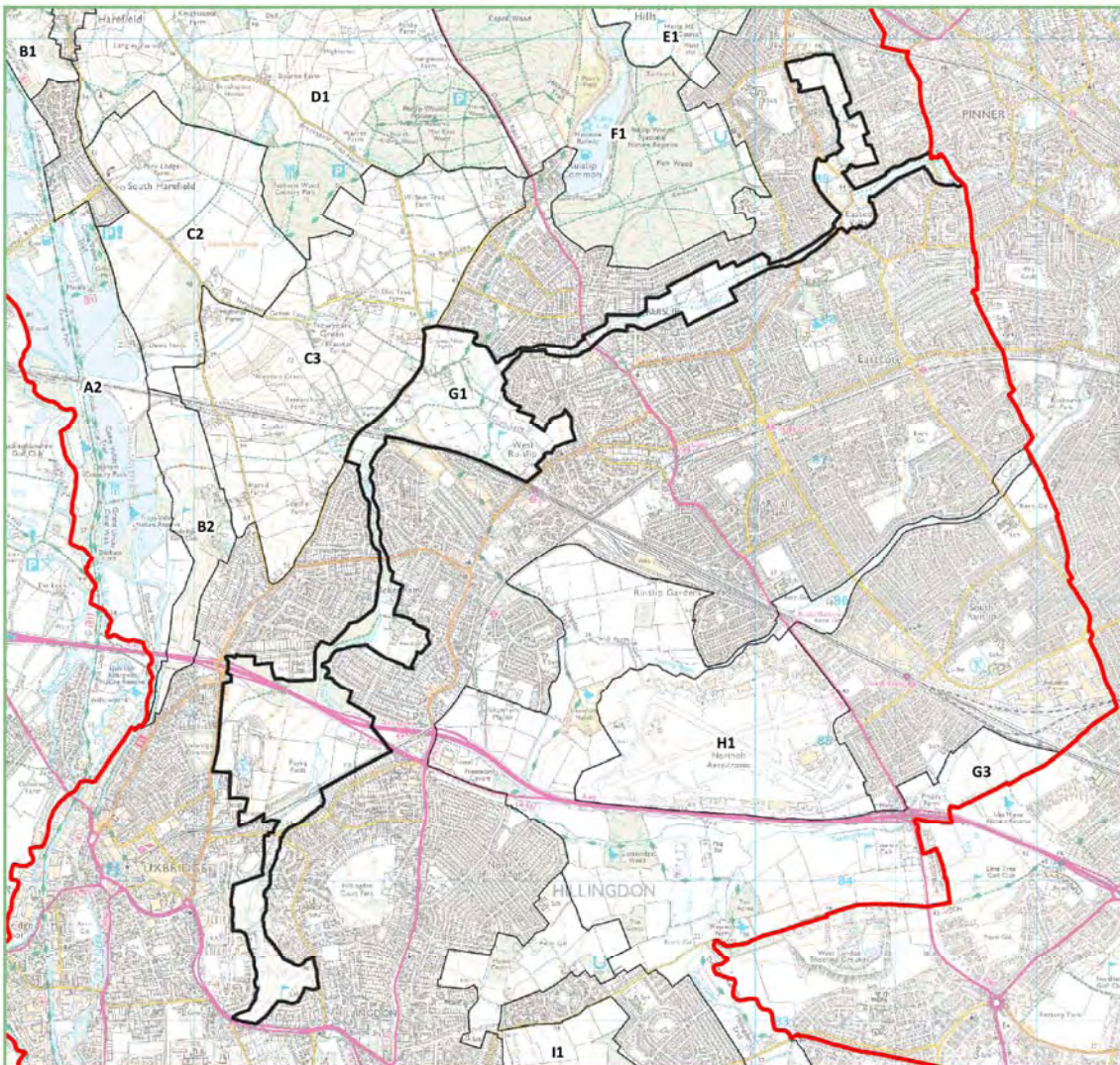
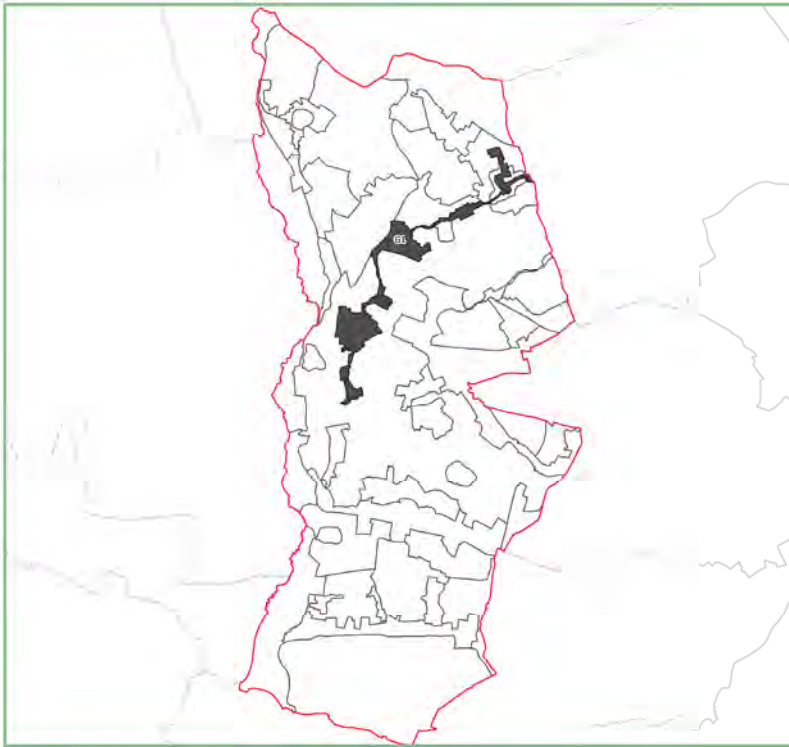
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying, flat floodplain with very little topographic variation, predominately underlain by London Clay or by Langley Silt Formation.
- Small meandering tributary rivers pass are largely hidden within the wider landscape by dense tree cover.
- A mix of woodland, scrub, meadow, and grassland (including amenity recreation grounds). Often a significant number of locally designated areas of conservation and wildlife importance.
- A low density of settlement within the area itself, although settlement surrounds and contains the landscape. Abrupt edges in places, often softened and integrated by tree cover.
- A number of local informal footpaths and some promoted routes, which follow the course of the river or cut across open fields and woodland areas.
- Varying degree of enclosure. Open meadow and grassland with views to a wooded horizon, which contrast with pockets of dense woodland cover and channelled river corridors and a strong sense of containment elsewhere.
- A tranquil and intimate character, despite the close proximity to dense urban development.

Constituent LCAs

- G1 – Upper Pinn River Corridor
- G2 – Lower Pinn River Corridor
- G3 – Yeading Brook River Corridor

LCA G1 UPPER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR



LCA GI UPPER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying, flat floodplain underlain predominantly by London Clay, with deposits of Alluvium following the course of the river.
- The River Pinn meanders through the landscape from north east to west of the borough, largely hidden within the wider landscape by a dense tree coverage. Small feeding streams and ponds are scattered throughout.
- A largely recreational landscape of amenity grassland, including sports grounds, playing fields and golf courses.
- A low density of settlement within the area itself, although settlement surrounds and contains the landscape. The river course is narrowly channelled through settlement, such as Ruislip, Ickenham and Eastcote Village, expanding occasionally into open grassland.
- An interspersed mosaic of habitats, including woodland, scrub, meadow, grassland and ponds are scattered throughout the landscape, with a significant number of locally designated areas of conservation and wildlife importance, such as Ickenham Common, Common Plantation and Park Wood, and Mad Field Covert and Railway Mead.
- A largely contained and enclosed landscape with views typically channelled along river corridors and between settlements. Open fields and grassland allows for longer views.
- A sense of tranquillity is experienced in places along the River Pinn and within woodland areas, however a strong urban character prevails, due to the close proximity to settlement edge.

LCA GI UPPER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area runs from the north east to the west of the character area within Hillingdon Borough, situated almost entirely within *Ruislip Plateau* Natural Landscape Area, as identified within London's Natural Signatures, with a small part of the most southern extent featuring within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Character Area. The character area is distinguished from adjacent landscapes due to its floodplain topography and character. The boundaries are almost continuously formed by the settlement edges of Eastcote, Ruislip, Ickenham, Uxbridge and Hillingdon.

Landscape Character: A low lying flat floodplain landscape, confined and often channelled through settlement areas such as Ruislip and Ickenham, occasionally broadening out into larger scale, open grassland. The River Pinn meanders through the character area from the north east to west, passing largely through a recreational landscape of amenity grassland, including playing fields, sports grounds and golf courses. Pockets of woodland, scrub, meadow and grassland are interspersed, with a number of designation sites for conservation, such as Ickenham Common, Common Plantation and Park Wood, and Mad Field Covert and Railway Mead. A sense of containment and tranquillity is experienced along the river course, in between settlement and within densely wooded areas, with channelled views. This is contrasted with open large scale grassland areas, allowing for longer views. A sense of tranquillity exists within woodland and along sections of the River Pinn, however settlement edge and urban character prevails throughout.

Geology: The character area is largely underlain with Lambeth Group in the north, with London Clay Formation predominating in the south. Alluvium deposits typically follow the course of the River Pinn.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying flat topography, comprising the floodplain of the River Pinn, with slight topographic variation. The course of the river typically flows from approximately 40m AOD in the north to 35m AOD in the south, with slight inclines in topography along the east and western edges, adjacent to the river, up to approximately 50m AOD in places.

Hydrology: The River Pinn, an ancient rivulet, which forms a tributary of the Colne, rises near Eastcote in the north east and then into Ruislip, through the golf course at Ickenham and on into Uxbridge. It then flows on through the RAF base of Uxbridge, where it leaves the character area and carries on towards the River Colne. The course of the river and much of the adjacent floodplain is classed as Environment Agency flood zones 2 and 3. A number of smaller streams feed into the river, and several ponds are scattered throughout the character area.

Land Use and Settlement: A largely recreational landscape with significant open areas of amenity grassland, such as Ruislip and Hillingdon Golf Courses; sports grounds, for example Eastcote Hockey Club and Uxbridge Cricket Club; playing grounds; and Uxbridge Common (a village common on the west of the character area, and North of Uxbridge town centre, with a grassed area, a pond and

LCA GI UPPER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

surrounding tree planting). Blocks and linear stretches of dense tree cover intersperse open grassland, particularly along the river course, fairways, along settlement edges and screening along the A40.

A number of local footpaths cut through the area, often following the River Pinn, and providing access to public amenity spaces. Ease of access between the character area and surrounding urban areas. The Hillingdon Trail, long distance footpath passes through the centre of the character area, through Ruislip Golf Course. The A437 cuts through the centre of the area, with a number of other A roads and minor roads cutting across the landscape and connecting areas of settlement. The Metropolitan overland tube line also passes through this area.

Settlement density is low within the character area, with a small cluster of houses in the north close to Ruislip along Tile Kiln Lane and the Old Priory, which are set around a small green, and a number of scattered properties along Breakspear Road. The character area is however densely surrounded by settlement along most boundaries, with Eastcote and Ruislip surrounding the northern part, Ickenham containing the central area and Uxbridge and Hillingdon located to the south. Settlement edge is typically modern in character, often enclosed along the edges by tree cover, which provide a subtle integration with the character area, however occasional open and well defined edges exist.

Biodiversity: Extensive areas of amenity grassland, which limits biodiversity. However, a variety of habitats are dispersed along the river course, such as woodland, meadows, grassland. There are a number of local designations of conservation and wildlife importance such as Ickenham Common (Site of Borough Grade I Importance), which lies adjacent to Ruislip Golf Course, and comprises meadows, hedgerows, a pond and the River Pinn. The pond has a range of wetland species, and surrounded by scrub and grassland, and habitat to Great Crested Newts. Tall hedgerows of hawthorn, elder, ash and rose surround the fields. The banks of the River Pinn through this section have a rich flora and fauna, such as cow parsley, nettles and other tall grassland and herb species.

Several Sites of Borough Grade II Importance are located throughout the character area, such as Common Plantation and Park Wood, which is bisected by the A40 and the River Pinn and surrounded by playing fields. Park Wood in the east of the site is believed to be ancient woodland, with old coppiced ash trees and occasional oak. Mature alder are present here, due to the waterlogged clay soils. Bluebells cover the woodland floor in the spring. Common Plantation is located in the north and south, with oak being the dominant tree species. Other species include birch, alder, and sycamore, with a scrub understorey. The River Pinn flows through the woodlands, with crack willow and common alder along the banks. Mad Field Covert, Railway Mead and River Pinn is a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation, a herb-rich grassland, with an abundance of native trees such as oak, beech and ash, wet woodland and riparian flora and fauna.

Uxbridge Common in the west character area is comprised of nutrient poor acid grassland which is a habitat for many invertebrates, which also attracts a variety of

LCA GI UPPER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

bird species. An area of gorse and other heathland is also located within part of the common. These habitats are again important for many invertebrates including beetles, flies, moths and butterflies. A pond within the common is home to the Great-Crested Newt, a UK BAP priority species.

Historic Environment: Manor Farm Moat at Ickenham is a scheduled ancient monument, a large medieval moat surrounding the Manor House at Long Lane.

Three conservation areas cross into the character area from the surrounding settlement areas, Ickenham Village, Eastcote Village, and Ruislip Village Conservation Areas and a number of Grade II listed buildings are scattered throughout the area. Eastcote Village is a hamlet which in the past was home to large country houses with expansive grounds, such as Haydon Hall, which dates back to the 17th Century. Haydon Lodge and associated remains are located within the character area. Other listed buildings situated within the character area include the Grade II listed Old Coach House, and its remains, such as garden walls; Old Clock Farmhouse and the barn to the west of this; and Woodbine Cottage. These villages are covered separately within the townscape classification.

Uxbridge Common is a fragment of remnant heath, and became part of Uxbridge District Council in 1898, after being transferred in ownership by Ralf Oswald Leycester and his wife Minna Edith Elizabeth Leycester. It was the intention that the land remains open unenclosed and used as public open space for residents.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A flat landscape, which is narrowly channelled through areas of settlement such as Ruislip and Ickenham, occasionally widening out into large expansive open playing fields and golf courses. A sense of containment is therefore experienced along the river course, in between settlement and within densely wooded areas, which is contrasted with open large scale grassland areas. Although a sense of tranquillity is experienced in places, particularly within wooded areas and along the River corridor, a strong urban character prevails with much of the landscape used for recreation and a strong awareness of settlement edge. However, trees do provide screening to these features along many boundary edges along busy road corridors. Views are often linearly channelled along the river and through settlement, although some more expansive open views are afforded across grassland and within golf courses.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Local Interest: River Pinn near Eastcote; River Pinn between St Martins
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation: Haydon Hall Meadows; Uxbridge Common Meadows; Pond, Breakspear Road South; Mad Field Covert, Railway Mead and River Pinn
- Site of Borough Grade I Importance: Ickenham Common
- Site of Borough Grade II Importance: Common Plantation and Park Wood

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- TPOs: TPO 20, land bounded by River Pinn; TPO 105a, Finden, Southill Lane; TPO 565, The Wild Part, Cheney Street
- Conservation Areas: Ickenham Village; Eastcote Village; Ruislip Village
- Scheduled Ancient Monument: Manor Farm Moat at Ickenham

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The hidden and meandering River Pinn with a sense of containment, and associated habitat and wildlife value.
- The pockets of habitats including grassland, meadows, woodland, scrub, hedgerows, water courses, ponds and ditches, and the associated biodiversity value within a landscape dominated by amenity grassland.
- Openings between woodland, with occasional long views across grassland, meadow and golf courses.
- The low density of settlement within the character area and limited roads, which despite the proximity of surrounding settlement, contribute to a tranquil character.
- The close proximity to a dense urban edge and sense of contrast with this secluded natural landscape (further development could impact on this landscape character).
- The pockets of woodland, and specifically areas of possible ancient woodland, which hold important biodiversity value and sense of enclosure.
- Uxbridge Common, remnant heathland which demonstrates the historic past land use of the area, and hold significant biodiversity value.
- Ease of access to the landscape from the urban edge.



Meandering River Pinn, flowing between settlement.



Open golf course, with amenity grassland and trees delineating fairways

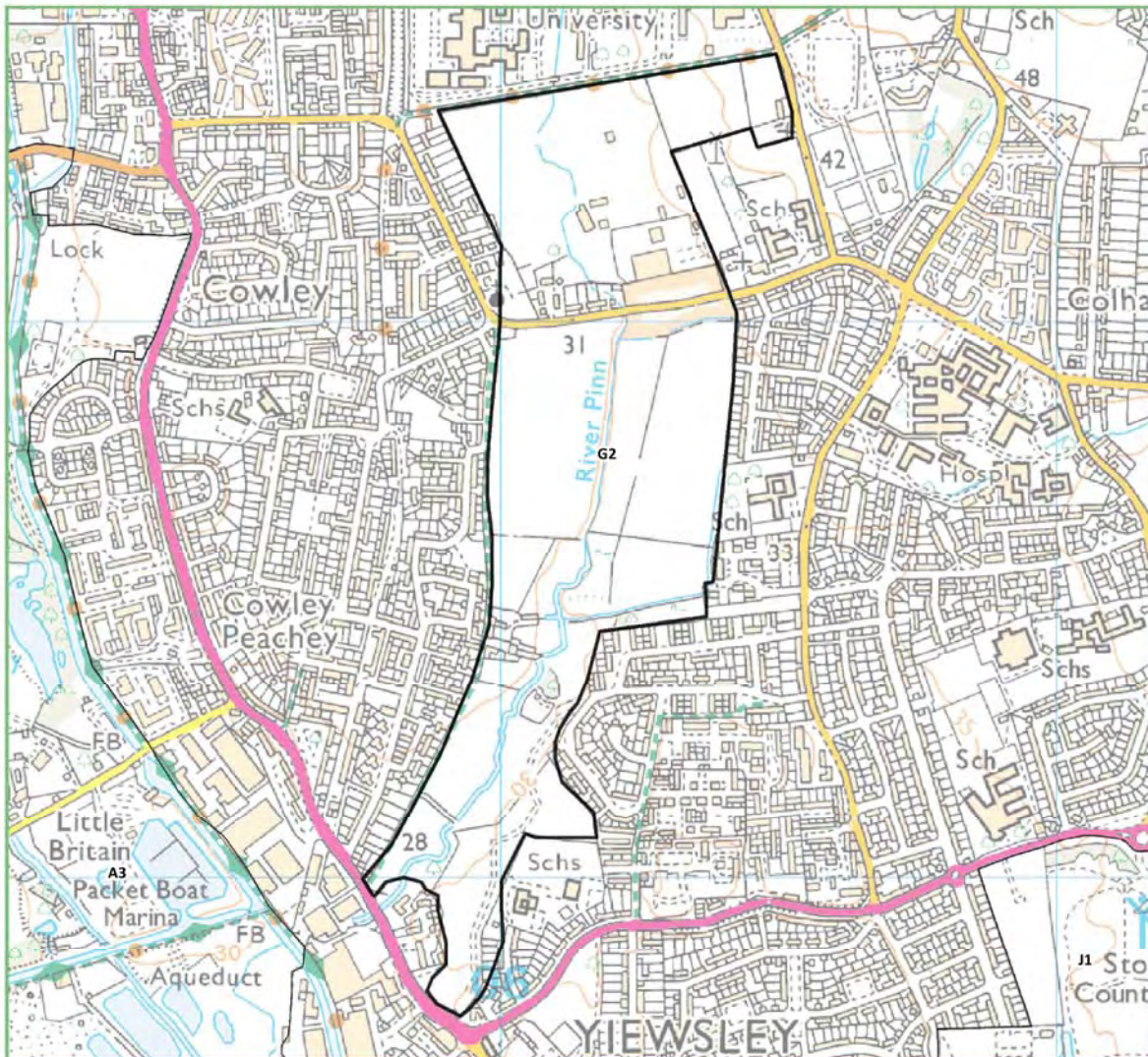


Long views across amenity grass playing fields to wooded boundaries



Pockets of tranquillity, with the winding River Pinn, and densely vegetated areas

LCA G2 LOWER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR



LCA G2 LOWER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low and flat floodplain with very little topographic variation, predominately underlain by Langley Silt Formation.
- The floodplain contains the small meandering River Pinn, a tributary of the River Colne, within steep banks and enclosed by dense tree cover. The river is largely hidden within the wider landscape.
- Scrubby grassland interspersed with trees occupies the area to the north of Church Road, with grazed pasture and meadow grassland to the south.
- A low density of settlement within the area itself, although settlement surrounds and contains the landscape. Abrupt edges in places often softened and integrated by tree cover.
- Local footpaths cut across fields and provide informal access to the landscape.
- Varying degree of enclosure, with open views across fields, contrasting with dense areas of woodland and a strong sense of containment. Views to the edge of Colham Green, and the high rise hospital building.
- A tranquil and intimate character, despite the close proximity to dense urban development.

LCA G2 LOWER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the west of Hillingdon Borough, within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Landscape Area, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. The boundaries are formed by the continuous settlement edges of Yiewsley to the south and east, Cowley to the west and the University of Brunel to the north.

Landscape Character: Part of the low lying floodplain landscape of the River Pinn, contained by settlement on all sides. Scrubby grassland, interspersed with trees comprises the area to the north of Church Road, with grazed pasture and meadow grassland to the south. The River Pinn cuts through the landscape subtly, hidden in places and lined trees. Varying degrees of enclosure, with dense tree cover contrasting with open views across fields. An intimate and tranquil character with little audible and visual intrusion, despite the close proximity to settlement. Few individual properties within the area itself, and few roads. Informal footpaths cut through grassland to provide access and recreational opportunities

Geology: The character area is underlain by Langley Silt Formation, with a narrow strip of Alluvium centrally, following the course of the River Pinn. Small areas of underlying London Clay Formation are exposed in the north east.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying flat topography, comprising the floodplain of the River Pinn, with very little topographic variation. Extremely slight rise in topography in westerly and easterly directions, either side of the River Pinn.

Hydrology: Small meandering River Pinn, an ancient rivulet (a small brook or stream) and tributary of the River Colne which winds through the area, from north to south, widening slightly in the south. A large section of the area is located within the Environment Agency Floodzones 2 and 3, and the River Pinn has experienced localised flooding in recent years (although not necessarily within this character area).

Land Use and Settlement: A floodplain landscape, comprised of a mix of scrubby grassland and trees to the north of Church Road, and grazed pasture and meadow grassland to the south. The River Pinn cuts through the landscape, and is relatively well hidden, sunken in places, with steep banks and enclosed by dense tree cover. Some small fields are grazed by horses in the south. The landscape has several informal footpaths, which cut across fields.

The area is surrounded by settlement of Yiewsley, Cowley, with Brunel University situated to the north. Settlement edge is prominent in places and imparts a strong urban character. However, typically, edges of settlement are softened and hidden by tree cover or hedgerows. Settlement density within the character area itself is relatively low, with occasional scattered properties along Church Road, the only road to pass through the area.

LCA G2 LOWER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

Biodiversity: The River Pinn provides a range of waterside habitats, and dense tree cover lines the course of the river. A significant proportion of the area is a Site of Borough Grade II Importance; namely, the River Pinn and Manor Farm Pastures. The north of the area is predominantly unmanaged scrubby grassland, with a mix of herbs and grasses and interspersed with patches of trees. Some damp areas of sedges and rushes provide an alternative habitat. The south is largely comprised of grazed pastures and meadow grassland, which provide a rich diversity. Hedgerows present valuable wildlife corridors, connecting fragmented habitats.

Historic Environment Cowley Church (St Laurence) conservation area covers the central west of the character area. A number of listed buildings sit on the west edge of the character area, including two manor lodges; the Bell House (Grade II listed); and the Church of St Laurence.

The River Pinn was once a good fishing stream and in 1804, there was a right of way three feet wide along the banks of the Pinn for the lord of the manor and his lessees and servants to enjoy fishing³.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A flat landscape with varying degrees of enclosure. Expanses of open grassland are contained by trees and settlement creates a secluded character. The River Pinn, tree cover, meadow pasture and scrubby grassland creates a natural character, and despite being in close proximity to settlement. Noise levels are low and the landscape is tranquil. Open views are afforded across grassland, occasionally restricted by tree cover. A wooded or a settled skyline forms the backdrop to many views. Housing development is at times prominent along the edges e.g. Cowley, and glimpses to distant tall buildings such as Hillingdon Hospital are possible. Local informal footpaths cut across fields and open spaces, providing recreational opportunities, particularly for dog walking.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Site of Borough Grade II Importance: River Pinn and Manor Farm Pastures, Yiewsley
- Conservation Areas: Cowley Church (St Laurence)
- TPOs: Land at and rear of Yiewsley Grange, High Street; Pied Heath Nurseries and 5-212 Church Road, Cowley

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The hidden and meandering River Pinn, and associated habitat and wildlife value.

³ Hillingdon Borough – Local History: <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=8986>

LCA G2 LOWER PINN RIVER CORRIDOR

- The mosaic of habitats including scrub grassland, woodland, grazed pasture and grassland meadow, wetland and the associated biodiversity value.
- Open views across fields, often towards a wooded or settled backdrop, which provide a sense of place and context.
- The low density of settlement within the character area and limited roads, which despite the proximity of surrounding settlement, contribute to a peaceful and tranquil character.
- The containment and enclosure provided by tree cover which contains the character area in places and restricts views out to urban development.
- Informal recreational opportunities and spaces for local residents.
- The close proximity to a dense urban edge and sense of contrast with this secluded natural landscape (further development could impact on this landscape character).
- The semi natural character, which is sensitively managed to retain this character.



Fields of meadow grassland, with long views towards a wooded/ treed backdrop



Informal mown footpaths cut across open meadow grassland



Settlement edges are prominent in places



Long views across open grassland, with glimpses of surrounding urban development, such as Hillingdon Hospital to the east

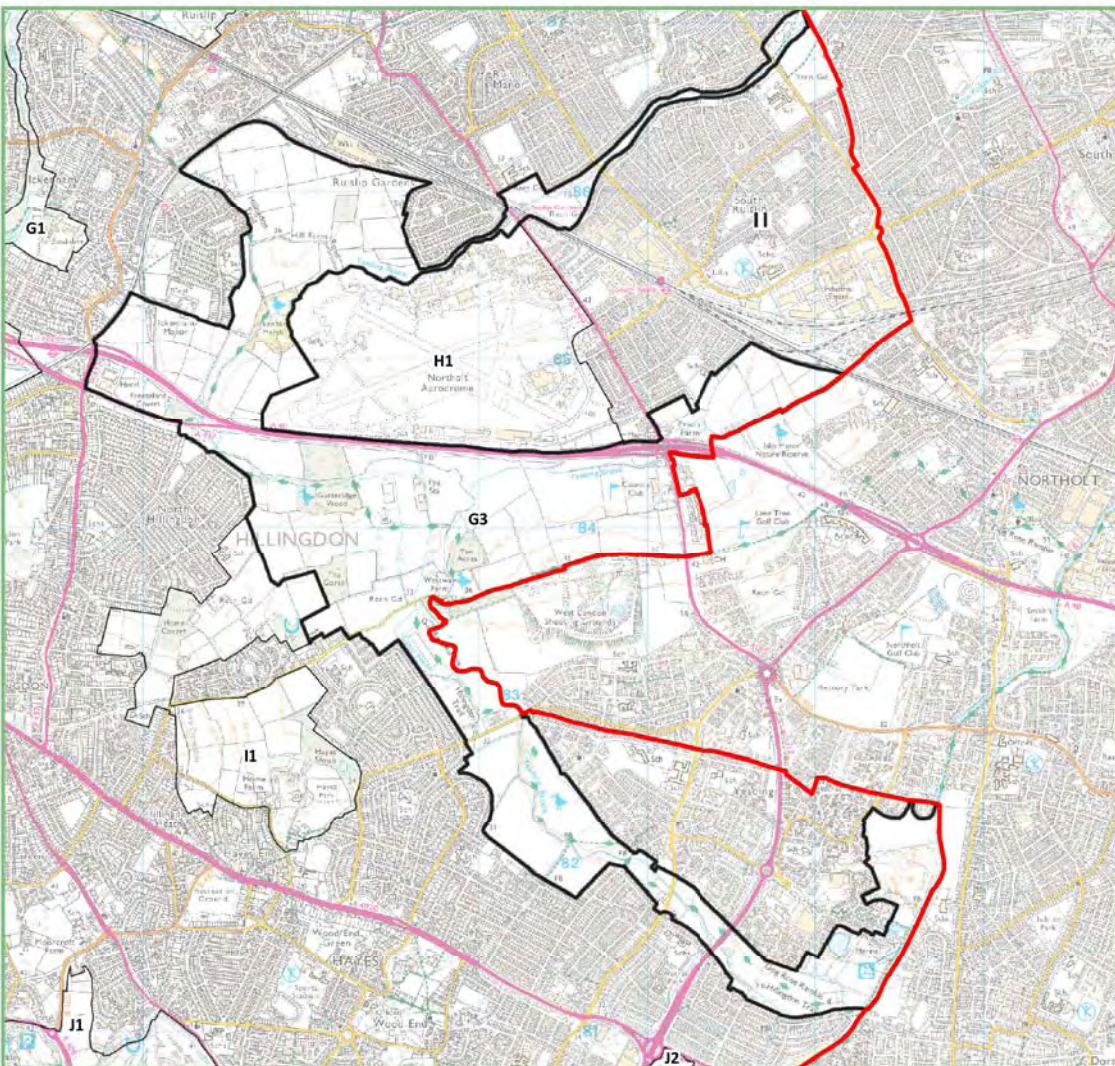
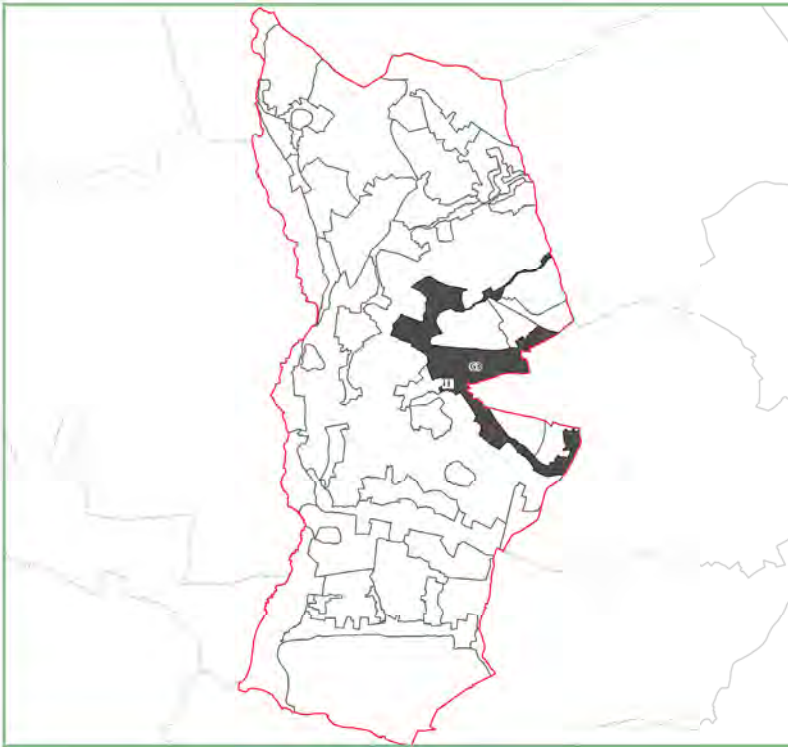


Small meandering River Pinn, with steep banks and enclosed by densely wooded vegetation



Church of St Laurence listed building. A strong historic character

LCA G3 YEADING BROOK RIVER CORRIDOR



LCA G3 YEADING BROOK RIVER CORRIDOR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A low lying, flat floodplain underlain predominantly by London Clay, which results in much surface water and areas of marshland.
- Small meandering Yeading Brook, a tributary of the River Crane winds through the landscape from north east to south east, largely hidden within the wider landscape by a dense tree coverage. Small feeding streams and ponds are scattered throughout.
- Comprised largely of meadow and grassland, defined by dense mature hedgerows with trees, and interspersed with woodland blocks, including a number of local nature reserves, namely Gutteridge Wood, Ten Acre Wood and Ickenham Marsh.
- A low density of settlement within the area itself, although settlement surrounds and contains the landscape. Abrupt edges in places, often softened and integrated by tree cover.
- Pockets of amenity grassland, commonly in the north and east, including a golf course, country club, shooting ground, playing fields and sports grounds.
- The Hillingdon Trail passes through the character area, running mostly alongside the Yeading Brook, and passing through nature reserves and pockets of woodland, such as Gutteridge Wood, Ten Acre Wood and Ickenham Marsh.
- Varying degree of enclosure. Open meadow and grassland with views to a wooded horizon, which contrast with pockets of dense woodland cover and river corridor and a strong sense of containment elsewhere. Some long views north towards Ickenham and Ruislip.
- A textured landscape, with the strong vertical form of trees contrasting with soft low lying meadow grassland.
- A tranquil and intimate character, despite the close proximity to dense urban edges.

LCA G3 YEADING BROOK RIVER CORRIDOR

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies to the east and centrally within Hillingdon Borough, situated predominately within the *Barnet Plaetau* Natural Landscape Area, as identified within London's Natural Signatures. A small area in the north is located within the *Ruislip Plateau* and to the south partly situated within the *Hayes Gravels* Natural Landscape Areas. The character area is distinguished from adjacent landscapes due to its floodplain topography and character. The boundaries are formed by the continuous settlement edges of Ruislip Manor, South Ruislip, Ickenham, North Hillingdon, Hayes and Yeading. Northolt RAF Aerodrome and the Borough boundary form much of the eastern edge.

Landscape Character: The low lying floodplain of the Yeading Brook, composed of fields of grassland and meadow, contained by mature hedgerows and mature trees. Woodland blocks are interspersed between fields and dense tree cover lines the course of the brook. A mosaic of habitats such as meadow, scrub, woodland, streams, ponds and areas of marshland, with a number of local nature reserves, such as Gutteridge Wood, Ten Acre Wood and Ickenham Marsh. The Yeading Brook meanders through the landscape, flowing through areas of meadow and woodland, with the Hillingdon Trail following the course of the river. Areas of amenity grassland are dispersed throughout the area, particularly in the north, consisting of a golf course, country club, shooting ground playing fields. A strong sense of containment due to the dense and mature tree cover, although open views are afforded across grassland and meadow, with long views north towards the built edges of Ruislip and Ickenham. A variety of texture is experienced with swathes of meadow, punctuated by tall vertical trees. An intimate and tranquil character prevails along the watercourse.

Geology: The character area is almost entirely underlain with London Clay Formation, with Lambeth Group underlying a strip in the north and a small area of Langley Silt Formation in the far south.

Topography/ Landform: Low lying flat topography, comprising the floodplain of the Yeading Brook, with very little topographic variation. A gradual rise in landform in areas to the east and west of the character area.

Hydrology: Small meandering Yeading Brook, a tributary to the River Crane, runs through the character area, from north east to south east. Several smaller tributary streams feed into the brook along its course and a number of small ponds are scattered throughout the area. A number of Canal Feeders are situated in the west, culverted along field boundaries. Areas of marsh and ponds are situated within Ickenham Marsh and Ten Acre Wood. The Grand Union Canal runs along the south east boundary, corresponding to the borough boundary, with Willowtree Marina located immediately west, connected to the canal.

The Yeading Brook and a large proportion of the wider surrounding parts of the character area situated with Flood Zones 2 or 3.

LCA G3 YEADING BROOK RIVER CORRIDOR

Land Use and Settlement: A floodplain landscape, comprised of meadow grassland fields, defined by dense mature hedgerows with trees. Fields are relatively large scale with occasional woodland blocks interspersed, including a number of nature reserves, namely Ickenham Marsh, Gutteridge Wood and Ten Acre Wood. The Yeading Brook runs continuously through the character area, and is largely enclosed by dense tree cover. A golf course, country club and shooting ground is situated in the east, and playing fields and sports grounds are spread throughout, often in the north and close to settlement edge. Willowtree Marina is located in the south east, connected to the Grand Union Canal, which offers recreational opportunities associated with the canal.

The Hillingdon Trail long distance footpath runs along a large section of the Yeading Brook, with a number of informal footpaths elsewhere, often concentrated along the water course, often enclosed and hidden within dense tree cover. The A40 cuts through the area centrally and a number of other A roads and minor roads cut laterally across the floodplain, connecting settlement. A railway line also cuts through a small part of the north.

Settlement density is low within the character area, with a small cluster of houses in the south along Kingshill Avenue. The character area is however densely surrounded by settlement along most boundaries, with the exception of Northholt RAF Aerodrome which is situated more centrally in the east. The borough boundary along the east also has a less settled character. Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip in the north, Ickenham and North Hillingdon in the west and Hayes and Yeading in the south bound the character area. Settlement edge is typically modern in character, often enclosed along the edges by tree cover, which provide a subtle integration with the character area, however occasional open and well defined edges exist.

Biodiversity: A large Site of Metropolitan Importance, Yeading Brook Fields, covers a significant part of the character area to the south of Northolt Aerodrome, consisting largely of grassland, with pockets of woodland, scrub, mature hedgerows, Yeading Brook, ponds and ditches. The southern part is largely haymeadows, with rich flora and fauna, typical of undisturbed grasslands. The banks of the Yeading Brook, also provide important biodiversity value, with areas of meadow and wet grassland interspersed throughout. In the north of site, several relatively large areas of woodland are located, specifically Gutteridge Wood and Ten Acre Wood, both local nature reserves. Gutteridge Wood is ancient oak-hazel coppice woodland, with a rich understory. This woodland is surrounded by Yeading Brook Meadows, again a local nature reserve, comprised of grassland and wildflowers, which attracts a variety of insects..

To the south east of Gutteridge Wood is Ten Acre Wood, a mix of woodland and meadow, both wet and dry, marshy areas and ponds. Woodland is typically oak, with a hawthorn a hazel understory. Coppicing has been reintroduced to restore the hazel understorey. A rich fauna is also associated with these habitats, including black and white woodpeckers, Roesel's bush-cricket and Gatekeeper butterflies.

LCA G3 YEADING BROOK RIVER CORRIDOR

Ickenham Marsh is a large Site of Borough Grade I Importance, and a local nature reserve, which is typically a tall herb community. Small areas of ash woodland occur in the south east.

The Yeading Brook runs through the character area from north east to south east, providing important ecological value, particularly through narrow stretches close to settlement, such as in the north. Although some parts of the river are channelled and artificial, natural river banks, scrub, woodland and grassland provide diverse habitats.

Historic Environment St Edmunds Church listed building is situated on the edge of Hayes in the south, a 1961 brick building with stained glass, and an open cage bell tower, designed by Anthony Lewis.

Gutteridge Wood is an area of Ancient semi natural woodland.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A flat landscape with varying degrees of enclosure and texture. Expanses of soft open meadow and grassland are contrasted with by dense mature trees, hedgerows, and woodland blocks, which create a sense of containment and a strong vertical form. The Yeading Brook is lined by dense tree cover along the water course and field boundaries, meadow grassland and woodland clumps create a natural character. Despite being in close proximity to settlement, noise levels are low and the landscape has a tranquil and intimate character. Open views are afforded across meadow grassland, often towards a wooded skyline, however a strong sense of containment prevails due to tree cover. Long views are afforded north towards the built edges of Ickenham and Ruislip.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Countryside Conservation Areas: North Yeading Countryside Conservation Area; South Yeading Countryside Conservation Area
- Local Nature Reserve: Yeading Woods; Yeading Meadows
- Site of Metropolitan Importance: Yeading Brook Fields
- Site of Borough Grade I Importance: Ickenham Marsh, Austins Lane; Yeading Brook
- Site of Borough Grade II Importance: Yeading Brook between Roxbourne; Victoria Road railway banks; Willowtree Park to Bull's Bridge
- TPOs: TPO 6, the Golden Lion Hotel, Long Lane, Ickenham

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The hidden and meandering Yeading Brook, with a strong sense of containment, and its habitat and wildlife value.
- The mosaic of habitats including grassland, wet and dry meadows, woodland, scrub, mature hedgerows, water courses, ponds and ditches, and the associated biodiversity value.
- Strong sense of containment by dense mature tree cover, which contrasts with open fields of grassland and meadow.
- The low density of settlement within the character area and limited roads, which despite the proximity of surrounding settlement, contribute to a peaceful and tranquil character.
- The close proximity to a dense urban edge and sense of contrast with this secluded natural landscape (further development could impact on this landscape character).
- The semi natural character and associated management regimes which retain this character.
- Proximity of the industrial development and roads to the Yeading Brook and other habitats which may be potentially vulnerable from pollutants leaching into soil.



Open grassland meadows with long views across fields to a wooded backdrop



Soft textured meadow grassland, punctuated with hedgerows and mature trees



Pockets of wildflower meadows



Ten Acre Wood, tree cover provides greater sense of enclosure



Small winding River Pinn, largely enclosed by dense riverside vegetation



Rural roads lined with dense hedgerows, trees and grassy verges. A strong rural character

LCA G3 Yeading Brook River Corridor

Constituent LCAs

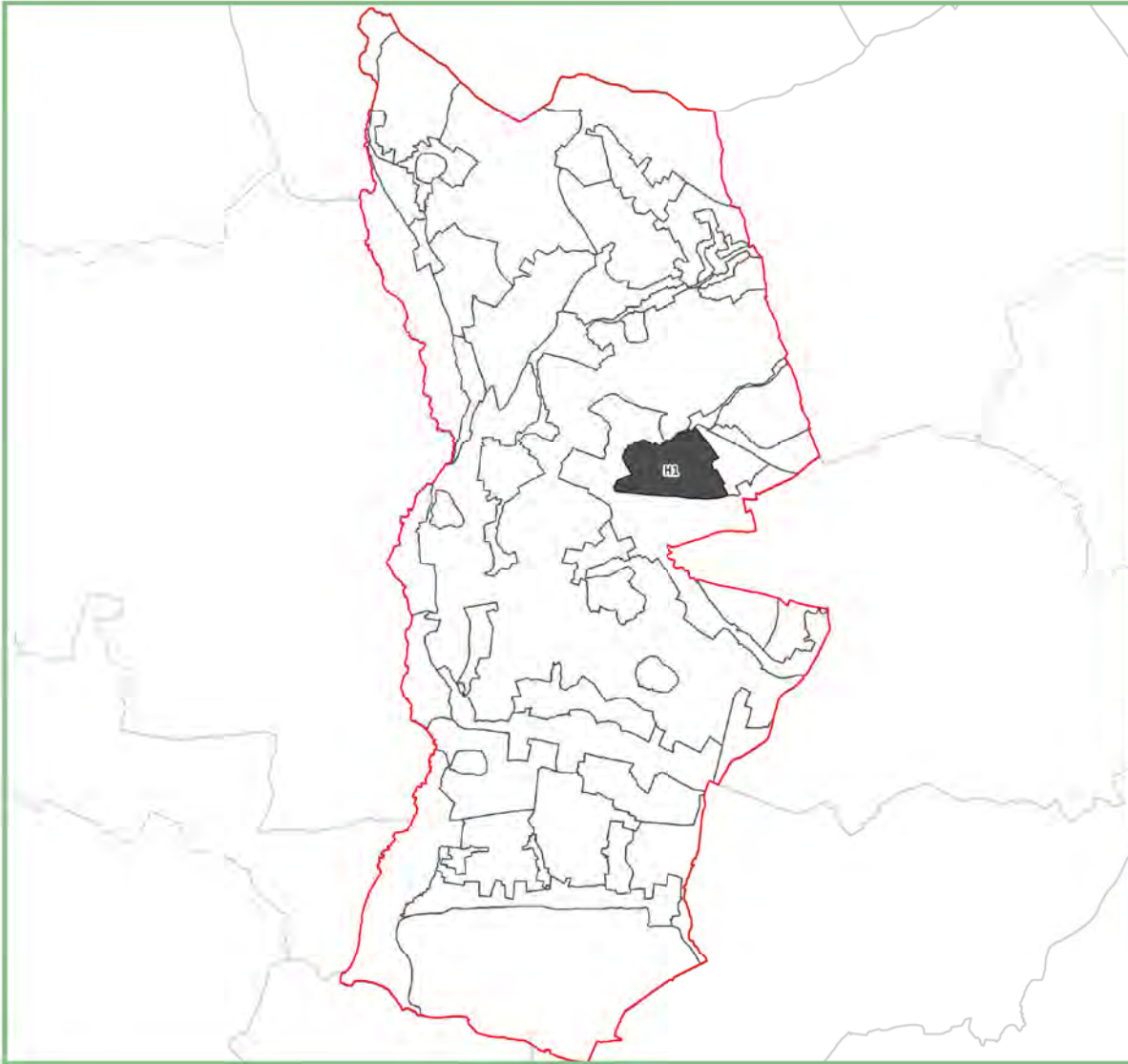
- G1 – Upper Pinn River Corridor
- G2 – Lower Pinn River Corridor
- G3 – Yeading Brook River Corridor

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and manage the tranquil and intimate character of the river corridor, and the mosaic of habitats, such as woodland, scrub, meadow and grassland.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and enhance woodland, scrub, meadow, and grassland habitats to achieve a landscape scale mosaic of habitats and associated features.
- Conserve and protect the open character of farmland and meadows, with long open views.
- Conserve and manage woodland, especially ancient woodland and plan for long term woodland regeneration.
- Encourage management and protection of water bodies, and seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity interest. Conserve the intimate character of rivers.
- Conserve and manage the network of dense hedgerows, and hedgerow trees, which act as important linear corridors. Consider replanting hedgerows which have been lost.
- Conserve the landscape setting of settlements and control development along roads, ensuring that new buildings and development are sensitively integrated into the landscape. Encourage integration of settlement edges and softening of edges.
- Protect and ensure good management of public rights of way and improve the role of the river corridor as key green infrastructure asset.
- Restrict incremental development along the river corridor, particularly vertical development, which will impact greatly on the low lying, open character.
- Maintain the semi natural character and the associated management regimes which retain this character.
- Maintain the containment and enclosure along the river corridor, which results in a tranquil and peaceful landscape, regardless of its close proximity to urban settlement.

LCT H CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME



LCT H CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Flat landform with little topographic variation, underlain by London Clay with superficial gravel deposits and occupied by built infrastructure.
- Dominated by expanses of mown amenity grassland, concrete hard standing, and associated buildings and infrastructure.
- Little ecological interest with sparse tree planting, typically occurring on boundaries.
- Visually contained in views by trees and infrastructure.
- A man made environment, with visually prominent fencing and lighting around the boundary, and associated traffic creates an audible and visual impact.

Constituent LCAs

- HI – Northolt Clay Plateau Aerodrome

LCA HI NORTHOLT CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Flat landform with little topographic variation, underlain by London Clay with superficial gravel deposits (Taplow Gravel Formation) and occupied by Northolt Aerodrome RAF Station.
- Dominated by expanses of mown grassland crossed by a runway and access roads. Buildings and associated infrastructure concentrated in the north and south east.
- Little ecological interest. Bordered by trees associated with the Yeading Brook to the north and west with sparse tree planting along the southern boundary.
- Established in 1915 and key to the defence of London through the First and Second World Wars. Today the RAF Station also handles private civilian flights. The site contains several listed buildings from the 1920's and 30's.
- Visually contained in views from the north and west by trees associated with the Yeading Brook and Ickenham Marsh.
- Boundary fencing and lighting is visually prominent from the A40 and views into the aerodrome are afforded from properties on the edge of South Ruislip.

LCA HI NORTHOLT CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the centre of Hillingdon Borough within the *Barnet Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The boundaries of the character area are defined by the extent of the aerodrome, bordered by the landscape of the Yeading Brook to the north and west, the A40 to the south and South Ruislip to the east.

Landscape Character: A flat landform with little topographic variation, underlain by London Clay and dominated by Northolt Aerodrome RAF station. An expanse of mown grassland crossed by a runway and access roads with buildings and associated infrastructure concentrated in the north and south east. Contained by trees associated with Ickenham Marsh and Yeading Brook to the north and west, vegetation within the aerodrome is sparse, limited to some tree planting along the A40 southern boundary. Established in 1915, the airfield was key to the defence of London through the First and Second World Wars. Boundary fencing and lighting is visually prominent along the A40 with views into the aerodrome from South Ruislip.

Geology: Entirely underlain by London Clay.

Topography/ Landform: Flat landform with little topographic variation - 35m AOD rising to 40m AOD in places.

Hydrology: No significant water bodies within this area. The Yeading Brook flows adjacent to the northern and southern boundaries.

Land Use and Settlement: Dominated entirely by Northolt Aerodrome comprising grassland crossed by a runway and roads. Buildings and associated infrastructure are concentrated along the northern and south eastern edges of the aerodrome. Trees along the course of the Yeading Brook and woodland at Ickenham Marsh soften the northern and western boundaries. The southern boundary visible from the A40 is delineated by security fencing with occasional trees (some newly planted). The built edge of South Ruislip contains the aerodrome on the eastern edge. The aerodrome is a Royal Airforce Station and also handles a large number of private civilian flights.

Biodiversity: The aerodrome is dominated by mown grassland with little other vegetation except for tree planting on its southern edge. The Ickenham Marsh Site of Borough Grade I importance, through which the Yeading Brook flows, abuts the northern and western boundaries of the aerodrome.

Historic Environment: The airfield at RAF Northolt was established in 1915 and flew defensive patrols in raids over London. The site contains several listed buildings from the 1920's and 30's, the Officers' Mess, built around 1920, is still operational (grade II listed), as is one hangars and several barrack blocks dating from the mid 1920s to the 1930s. During the Second World War Northolt was again one of the key airfields in the defence of London. In 1946 the airfield was loaned for civil use

LCA HI NORTHOLT CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME

whilst Heathrow Airport was under construction. In 2008 a purpose built facility to house the British Forces Post Office was opened at RAF Northolt. Further major development and refurbishment of the site facilities has been implemented under the MoD Estate London (MoDEL) project designed to consolidate several RAF units from neighbouring RAF sites.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: An aerodrome landscape comprising flat, expansive areas of grassland crossed by hardstanding. The aerodrome is relatively contained to the north and west by trees associated with the Yeading Brook and Ickenham Marsh. Boundary fencing and lighting is visually prominent from the A40 and views into the aerodrome are afforded from properties on the edge of South Ruislip.

Designations:

- Listed buildings.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Proximity of the aerodrome to the Yeading Brook and Ickenham Marsh potentially vulnerable from pollutants leaching into soil.
- Potential further development at the aerodrome and associated landscape, visual and audible impacts.



Aerodrome boundary fencing and sparse tree planting along the southern boundary with the A40



View towards large buildings within Northolt aerodrome. Some tree screening along the boundary
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Redeveloped Northolt RAF entrance
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LCT H CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

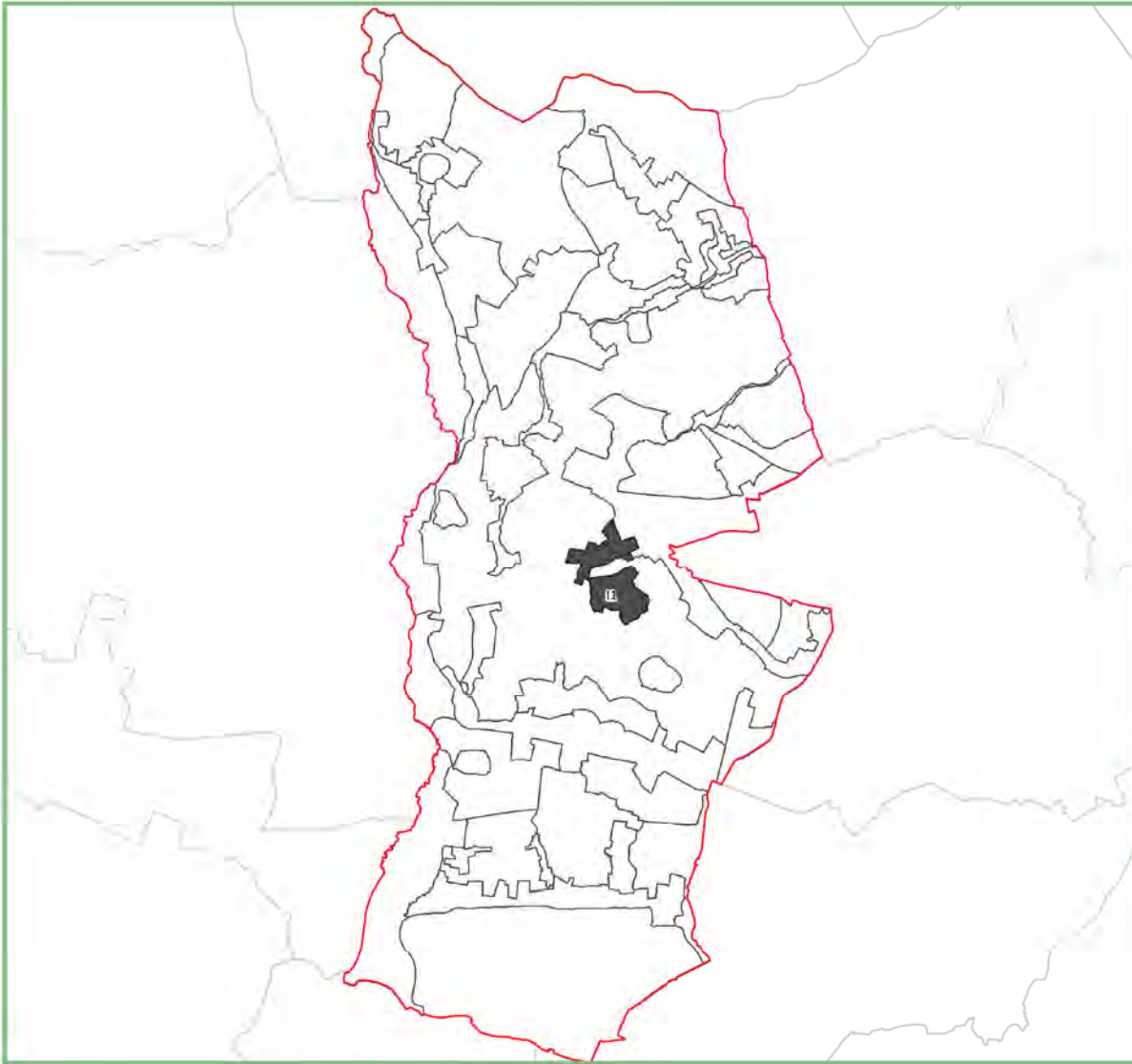
- HI – Northolt Clay Plateau Aerodrome

Strategy/ Vision: To enhance the character of the landscape through visual and ecological improvements. To seek to integrate the aerodrome further with the surrounding landscape.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and manage trees and vegetation, which provide ecological interest and screening. Seek to increase boundary planting.
- Manage run off from aerodrome to ensure pollutants do not reach the Yeading Brook and Ickenham Marsh.
- Landscape and management of site should aim to discourage bird attractants and risk of bird strike.

LCT I ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND



LCT I ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND

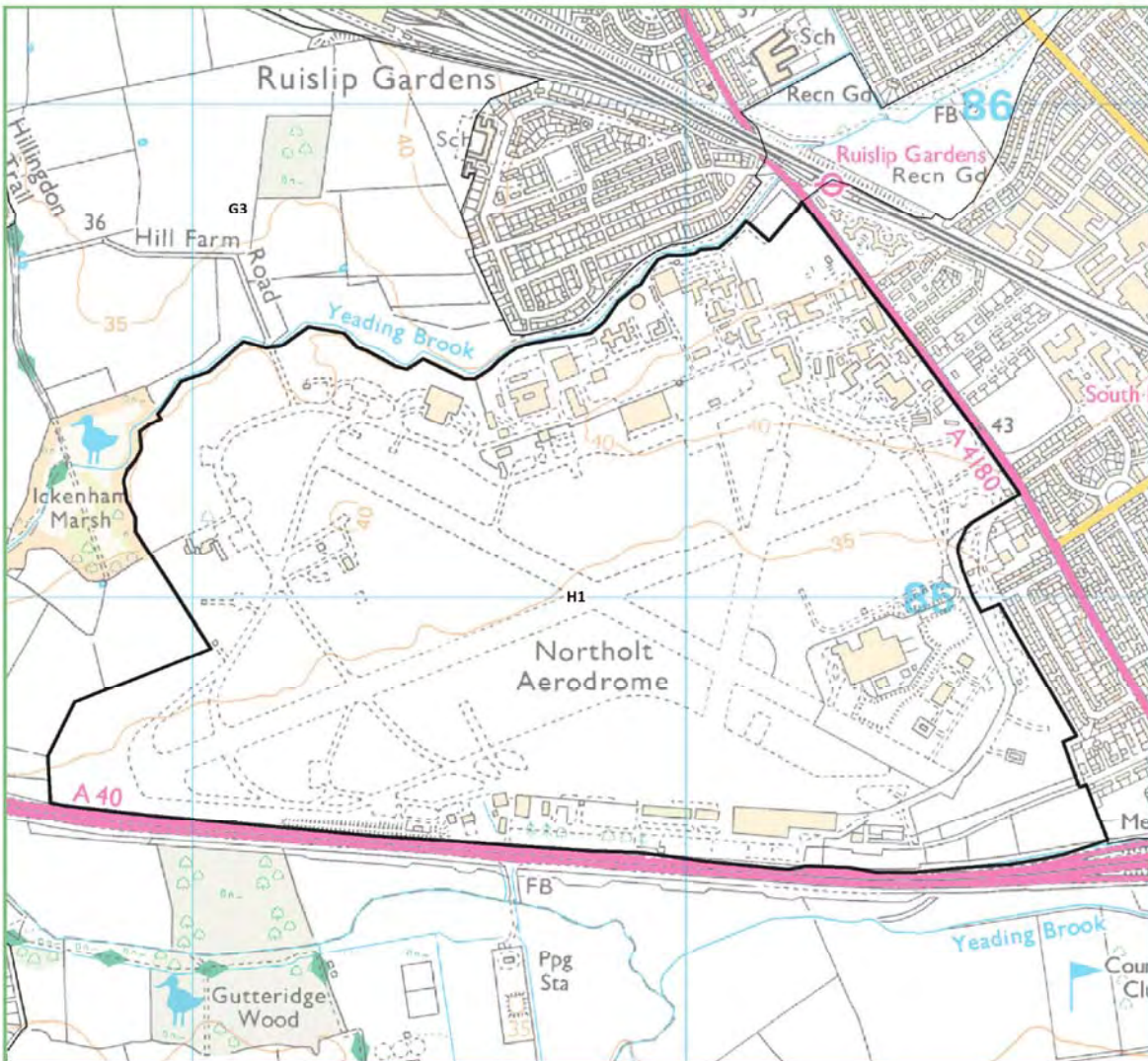
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A gently sloping landform underlain by London Clay, comprising fields of pasture/rough grazing, with some recreational playing fields, and bounded by hedgerows with some small interspersed woodland.
- Areas of parkland, such as Hayes Park which has been restored and is actively managed. Areas of woodland, pasture, meadows and amenity grassland.
- Typically contained by the modern built settlement edges, which appear abrupt in places or are softened by tall hedgerows.
- Few roads, often hedged on either side and enclosed, with a rural character.
- Views are varied, with open views across farmland or recreational fields to wooded backdrops, or contained within woodland.
- Tracks and footpaths through woodland and across recreational playing fields provide easy access by foot.
- Presence of playing fields and associated fencing along abrupt modern built edges contribute a municipal character, which contrasts with the sense of enclosure and peaceful character associated with areas of woodland.

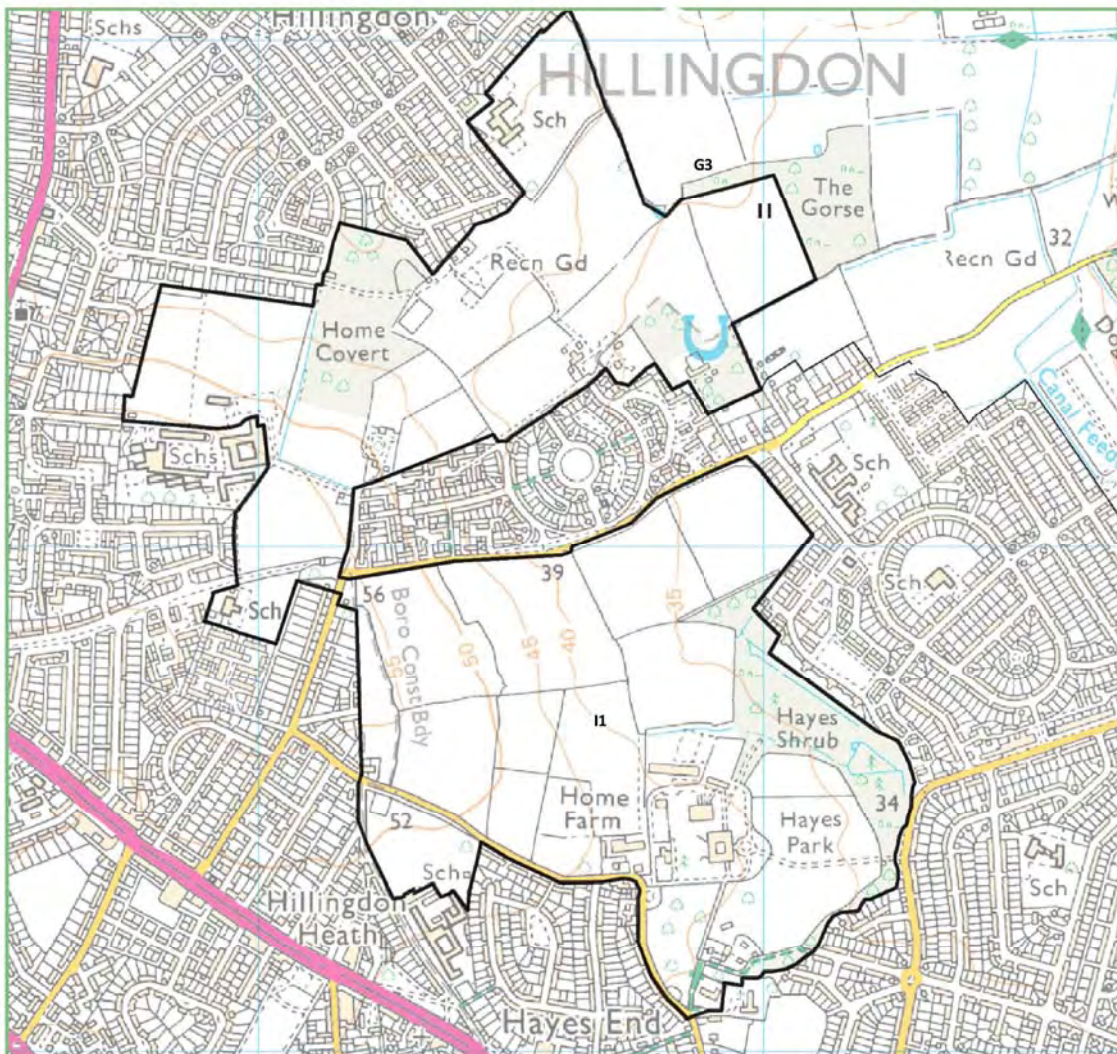
Constituent LCAs

- I1 – Hayes Park Encapsulated Farmland

LCA HI NORTHOLT CLAY PLATEAU AERODROME



LCA I1 HAYES PARK ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND



LCA I1 HAYES PARK ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A gently sloping landform underlain by London Clay rising westwards from the Yeading Brook (30m AOD) to the settlement of Hillingdon on higher ground (55m AOD).
- Fields of pasture/rough grazing and some recreational playing fields are delineated by hedgerows with some small woodlands interspersed (e.g. Home Covert).
- Home Covert and Hayes Scrub are nature conservation sites (Borough Grade II importance) comprising mixed woodland (including oak, ash and hazel), scrub and neutral grassland. Hedgerows, scattered ponds and ditches also provide biodiversity interest.
- Coppice hazel and planted parkland trees in woodland provide reference to historic land uses.
- Hayes Park located in the south east, has been restored and is actively managed. It consists of woodland, pasture, meadows and amenity grassland. Hayes Business Park with its listed 1960s office buildings is located on the former site of Hayes Park mansion.
- Contained by the modern built edges of Hillingdon and Hayes except to the east where the landscape is transitional with the meadows of the Yeading Brook. Built edges appear abrupt in place or are softened by tall hedgerows.
- A small section of road crosses the landscape, hedged either side with a rural character.
- Views are varied - across farmland or recreational fields to wooded backdrops or contained within woodland. From higher ground long views are afforded westwards towards Ruislip and the wooded horizon of Ruislip Woods.
- Tracks through woodland and a path across recreational playing fields provide access by foot.
- Presence of playing fields and associated fencing along abrupt modern built edges contribute a municipal character. However in woodland, where fields are grazed and tall hedgerows provide enclosure there is a more peaceful and rural character.

LCA I1 HAYES PARK ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the central part of Hillingdon Borough, its northern extent within the *Barnet Plateau Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures) and southern extent in *Hayes Gravels Natural Landscape Area*. The settlement edges of Hillingdon and Hayes form the north western, western, southern and south eastern edges. The northern and eastern edge of the character area is transitional with the Yeading Brook distinguished from this flatter, meadow river landscape by rising landform and recreational and farmland fields

Landscape Character: A gently sloping landform, underlain by London Clay, rising from the Yeading Brook westwards towards Hillingdon. Geometric fields of grazed rough grassland and recreational playing fields are bounded by hedgerows and with small woodlands interspersed (Home Covert and Hayes Scrub). The area is contained by the modern settlement edges of North Hillingdon and Hayes End which appear abrupt in places or are screened by high hedgerows. The woodlands provide valuable wildlife habitats and areas of coppiced hazel and planted parkland trees provide historic reference. Hayes Park, the site of the former Heinz headquarters, has been restored and consists of woodland, grassland, meadows, pasture and paddocks, which surround Hayes Business. Only a small stretch of road crosses this landscape area, bound by tall hedgerow and rural in character. Tracks provide access from the settlement edge into woodland at Home Covert and made paths cross playing fields between Hayes and North Hillingdon. Away from the playing fields, associated fencing and abrupt built edge, where grazed fields and woodland dominate there is a more rural, farmland character. Some long views from higher ground out westwards to Ruislip and Ruislip woods provide context and sense of place.

Geology: Entirely underlain by London Clay formation. Black Park Gravel Formation deposits on higher ground on the western edge and Boyn Hill Gravel Formation extending into the southern edge (at Hayes Park).

Topography/ Landform: A gently sloping landform rising westwards from the Yeading Brook (30m AOD) to the settlement of Hillingdon on higher ground (55m AOD).

Hydrology: Occasional scattered ponds occur in fields and woodland and ditches occur along some field boundaries.

Land Use and Settlement: A patchwork of small-medium sized geometric fields delineated by mature hedgerows and woodland (species include oak and hawthorn). Predominantly rough grassland and improved pasture with some horse grazing. Recreational playing fields occur between Hayes and North Hillingdon, also enclosed within hedgerow boundaries. A number of small areas of woodland (The Gorse, Home Covert and Hayes Shrub) occur interspersed with fields and on the edge of settlement.

Hayes Park occupies the south east part of the character area, once the site of the former Heinz office headquarters, this area covers approximately 70 hectares and is

LCA I1 HAYES PARK ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND

today actively managed. The long term management of Hayes Park has been secured through a management agreement with the land owner. Central to the park is a developed area which consists of Hayes Business Park, with a parkland character of grassland and scattered trees. This was originally an estate with a large mansion house and parkland. In addition, the park consists of woodland, two relatively large meadows, pasture, and an area of paddock. The approach to Hayes Business Park in the south has a strong parkland character with estate rail and specimen trees (some relatively newly planted) set within grassland.

The area is encapsulated by the settlements of Hayes and Hillingdon. The modern settlement edges appear abrupt in places (e.g. southern edge of North Hillingdon) or are contained and screened by high hedgerows on field boundaries or garden vegetation. Red brick is a common building material.

Mellow Lane and Charville Lane, relatively quiet residential roads, border the south of the area. A small stretch of Mellow Land crosses the area enclosed by tall hedgerows with hedgerow trees and has a rural country lane character.

There are no public rights of way within the area but a path through the recreational fields connects the edge of North Hillingdon with Gainsborough Road to the south. There is open access through all parts of Home Covert woodland on foot. Hayes Shrub is within a security fence surrounding Hayes Business Park and is inaccessible to the public.

Biodiversity: Hayes Scrub and Home Covert and Lowdham Field are Sites of Borough Grade II importance

Hayes Scrub is an area of woodland extending along the edge of Hayes End within Hayes Business Park. It comprises mature and regenerating pedunculate oak with ash, holly and hornbeam and a ground flora including cow parsley, wood avens and wood poa. Hazel within the woods shows evidence of coppicing. Some of the woodland is 'planted' with parkland trees of various species including cypresses. Rushes and yellow flag grow in the vicinity of a pond in the centre of the woodland. Areas of grassland and meadows are also located in Hayes park, consisting of native and non-native species, and bound by semi-mature woodland.

Home Covert and Lowdham Field consists of woodland and rough grassland. The northern part of the woodland contains oak trees with cocks foot and rye grass understorey. The southern section is blackthorn and hawthorn scrub and brambles interspersed with unmanaged hazel coppice with a canopy of ash and alder. There are a number of 'planted' scots pines. Midland hawthorn is notable, a typical old-woodland shrub found on heavy clay. The woodland provides a good nesting habitat for common birds and deer are present.

Lowdham Field comprises damp, rough grassland with red fescue, Yorkshire fog and sheeps sorrel, cock's foot and tufted hair-grass. Common butterfly and moth species are attracted by field woodrush, birds-foot trefoil, meadow vetchling and buttercups (bulbous and creeping).

LCA I1 HAYES PARK ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND

The hedges along field boundaries provide connecting wildlife corridors and ditches along field boundaries add biodiversity value.

Historic Environment: In 1959 H. J. Heinz Ltd. purchased Hayes Park and two parcels of land, (160 acres) for use as a research centre and offices. Three years later the mansion on the site (formerly owned by Robert Willis Blencowe subsequently a nursing home) was demolished and new offices built on the site. The administrative buildings and research laboratories at the Heinz UK Headquarters at Hayes Park are listed. The headquarters is the only example of the work of Gordon Bunshaft (the American office designer) in Britain and one of only two buildings of his in Western Europe. It is also an important early example of an office building on a green-field site in Britain

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: This is a small scale landscape of hedged fields and small woodlands enclosed by settlement. Views are across rough grassland and amenity grassland to wooded and settled edges. From higher ground long views area afforded across to Ruislip and to wooded horizons (Ruislip Woods).

The presence of playing fields and associated fencing along abrupt modern built edges (e.g. the edge of North Hillingdon) contribute a municipal character. However in woodland and in the south of the area where fields are grazed and tall hedgerows provide enclosure there is a more peaceful and rural character.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Sites of Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation: Hayes Scrub and Home Covert and Lowdham Field
- TPOs: West Hayes
- Countryside Conservation Area: South Yeading extends into this area

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The patchwork of small pastures enclosed by hedgerows in close proximity to the settlement edges of Hillingdon and Hayes.
- The hedgerow network, which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor.
- Woodland which contains a diversity of tree species and provide wildlife habitats and recreational access.
- Areas of hazel coppice woodland once actively managed.
- References to a former parkland landscape which provide historic time depth.

LCA I1 HAYES PARK ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND

- Proximity of the landscape to settlement edge and associated pressures (e.g. public use of woodland), vulnerability to further development.
- Ponds within grassland and woodland and ditches along field boundaries which require appropriate sensitive management to enhance biodiversity value.
- Views across open grazed farmland to hedgerow and wooded boundaries.
- Long views to Ruislip and the wooded backdrop of Ruislip Woods which provide a wooded backdrop, point of reference and sense of place.
- Unmarked, hedged section of roads which retain a rural character.



Geometric fields of rough grassland grazed by horses



Section of road crossing the area has a rural character, unmarked and enclosed by hedgerows and trees



The settlement edge appears abrupt in places, here overlooking playing fields



Recreational playing fields contained by mature hedgerows and fencing



Long views towards Ruislip and Ruislip Woods from higher ground



Parkland character on the approach to Hayes Business Park

LCA I1 Hayes Park Encapsulated Farmland

LCT I ENCAPSULATED FARMLAND – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

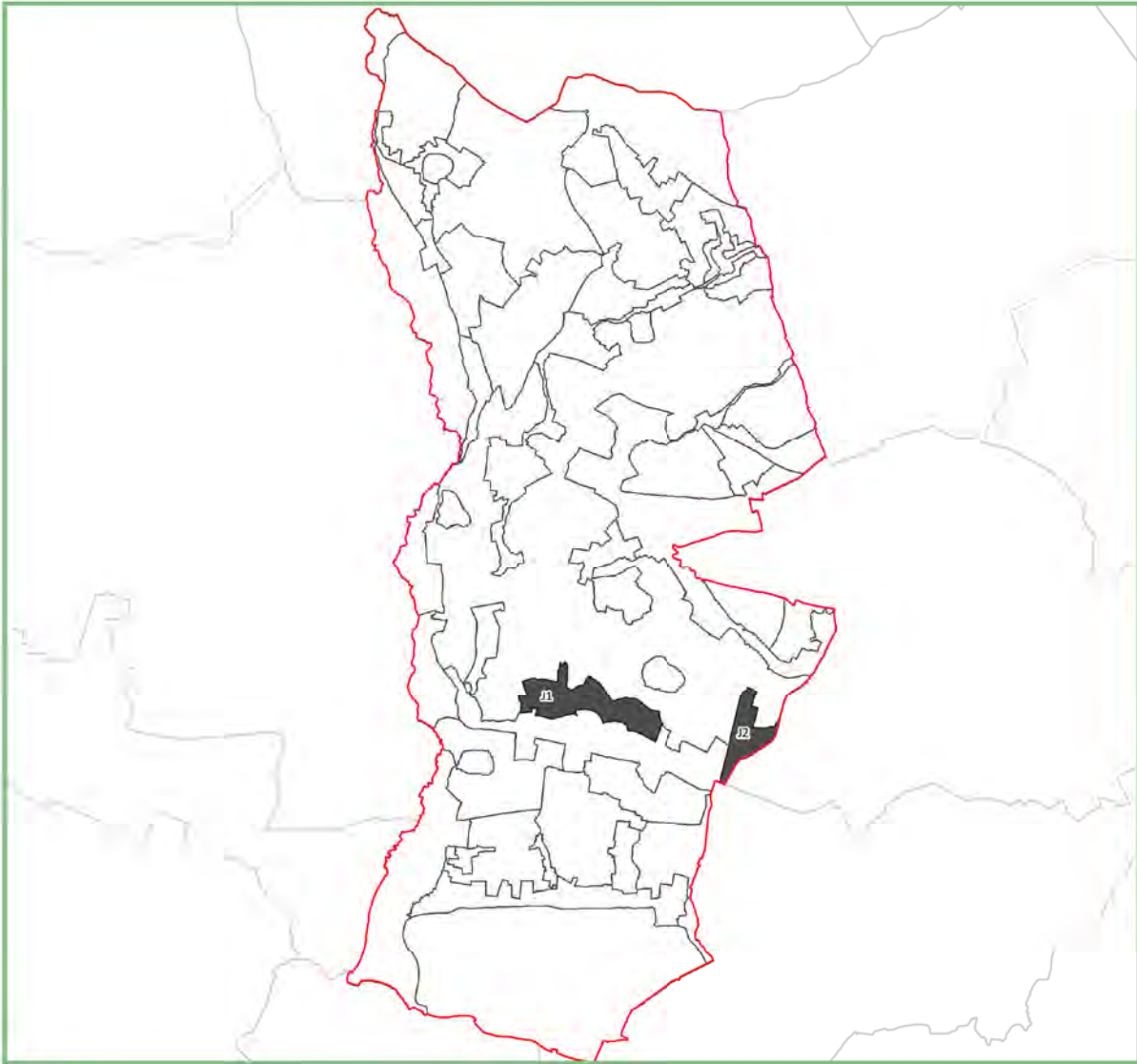
- I1 – Hayes Park Encapsulated Farmland

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and manage the patchwork of small pastures, woodland and parkland, and maintain the recreational and historical value of the landscape.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Promote appropriate management of farmland, to help generate a wildlife rich habitat, and visually attractive landscape.
- Conserve and manage hedgerow boundaries, which provide visual unity and intactness, and biodiversity value.
- Conserve and manage pockets of woodland which provide enclosure in the landscape and form an important landscape pattern and feature, with biodiversity benefit.
- Consider opportunities for further tree and woodland planting to contain and reduce visual and audible impact of modern development, such as settlement and roads.
- Conserve and ensure the long term management of Hayes Park, its historical value and landscape setting, and its ecological value. Consider bringing coppice woodland into active management.
- Manage and integrate settlement edges, by use of vegetation to soften, screen and integrate abrupt edges.
- Maintain open views across fields, and monitor the introduction of vertical infrastructure, which could adversely affect views within the landscape.
- Conserve the relatively low density of settlement within the landscape, and avoid infilling from surrounding settlement.
- Ensure that recreational facilities and associated infrastructure are sympathetic to landscape character, and use sensitive planting to integrate.
- Maintain rural character of roads, avoid widening and introduction of suburban features.

LCT J GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION



LCT J GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

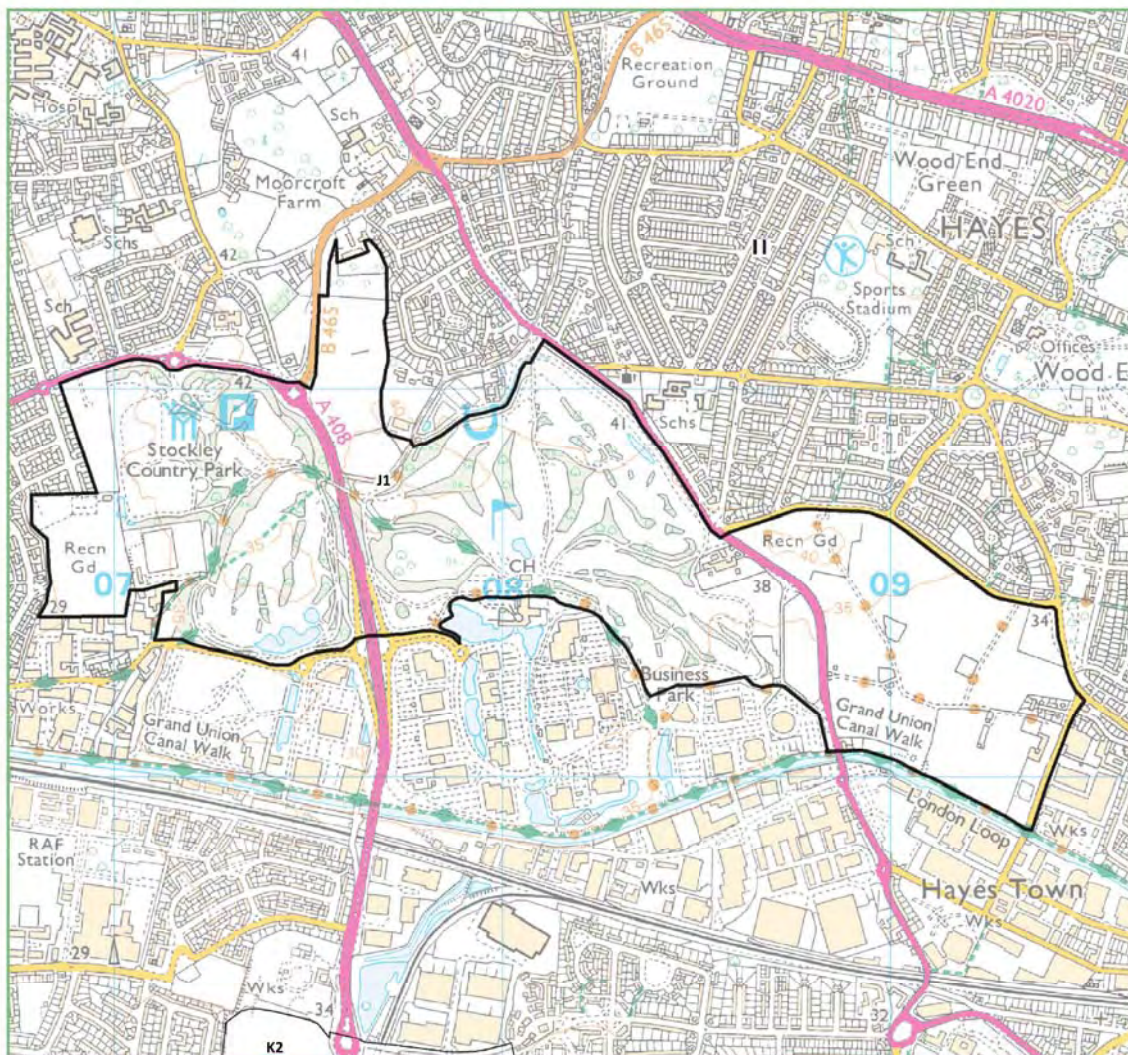
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Varying geology, with much of the landform manipulated and altered, comprising infilled and made ground.
- A landscape designed for recreation, primarily comprising Country Parks, with both formal parkland landscape of amenity grassland, wooded copses and scattered trees, and a more naturalistic character of grassland meadows, woodland, scrub, open fields, and children's play areas.
- Water bodies are a feature within the landscape, such as designed lakes and ponds which are prominent features in Stockley Country Park. The Yeading Brook flows through Minet Country Park, and several small scattered ponds and streams.
- Mosaic of habitats, such as trees, scrub, grassland, meadow and water side habitats, which provide valuable habitat and biodiversity within a designed landscape.
- Contained by development, such as busy roads, modern edge settlement and industrial development, which have a visually and audibly prominent impact on the landscape.
- A recreational and designed landscape, which provides peaceful green space contrasting with the urban surroundings. Pockets of tranquillity exist, within woodland, undisturbed grassland and close to water bodies.

Constituent LCAs

- J1 – Stockley Gravel Terrace Recreation
- J2 – Minet Gravel Terrace Recreation

LCA J1 STOCKLEY GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION



LCA J1 STOCKLEY GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gently sloping, slightly undulating open slopes. Lynch Hill Gravel Formation, Boyn Hill Gravel Formation, and a small pocket of Langley Silt Formation in the east overlay London Clay bedrock. Largely infilled ground, with made ground in the west.
- A landscape primarily designed for recreation, comprising Stockley Country Park and Golf Course, and Lake Farm Country Park.
- Stockley Country Park has a formal character, with open amenity grassland, pockets of woodland and tree lined avenues. The golf course is a prominent feature in the landscape with a patchwork of amenity grassland, small wooded copses and lines of trees which delineate fairways.
- Lake Farm Country Park has a naturalistic character, with grassland meadows, scrub and pockets of trees. Numerous informal footpaths cut across the open space.
- Several designed lakes and ponds are prominent features in Stockley Country Park.
- Pockets of trees, scrub, grassland, meadow and water side habitats provide valuable habitat and biodiversity within a designed landscape.
- Distinct modern edge settlement surrounds the character area and Stockley Business Park is closely related to this landscape, forming a large development in the south.
- The busy A408 and A437 cuts through the character area creating notable audible and visual impacts.
- An extensive network of footpaths provides easy access to this landscape, with a number of cycle routes and bridleways. The London Loop long distance footpath passes through the south.
- Open, long views south across built development, such as West Drayton and Heathrow, and towards a wooded horizon outside the borough.
- A designed landscape retaining pockets of tranquillity, particularly within the Country Parks.

LCA J1 STOCKLEY GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies centrally within Hillingdon Borough within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Landscape Area (London's Natural Signatures). The character area is bounded by settlement and urban development, with Stockley Business Park and Hayes Town to the south. Hayes is located to the north and Yiewsley bounds the eastern edge.

Landscape Character: A gently sloping, slightly undulating landscape primarily designed for recreational use, comprising Stockley Country Park and Golf Course and Lake Farm Country Park. The more formal landscape of Stockley Country Park, with open amenity grassland, woodland clumps and tree lined avenues, contrasts with Lake Farm Country Park which maintains a more natural character of grassland meadows, scrub and pockets of trees. A number of designed lakes and ponds are prominent features in Stockley Country Park. A network of public rights of way passes through the character area, providing good access by foot. Modern edge settlement surrounds the character area, and Stockley Business Park is located south of the area. A number of busy roads cut through the landscape, creating notable audible and visual impacts. However, pockets of tranquillity exist within Country Parks despite close proximity to dense urban development. Long views are afforded south to wooded horizons.

Geology: Underlain by London Clay bedrock with superficial Lynch Hill Gravel Formation over the majority of the character area, with some Boyn Hill Gravel Formation in the north and a small pocket of Langley Silt Formation in the east. The majority of this landscape is comprised of infilled made ground.

Topography/ Landform: Gentle transitional slopes rising gradually to the north, from approximately 35m to 40m. A manipulated and designed landscape, with a gently undulating landform, largely in association with Stockley Country Park and Golf Course.

Hydrology: Several designed lakes and ponds of varying scale are scattered throughout the area, which are primarily related to Stockley Golf Course and Country Park.

Land Use and Settlement: Recreational land use is the primary function of this landscape, largely comprising Country Parks and a golf course. The designed landscape of Stockley Country Park and golf course dominate this landscape. A patchwork of amenity grassland, small wooded copses and lines of trees which delineate fairways are the principal land cover. The Country Park is located in the west, however the two landscapes are well integrated, with connecting footpaths and bridleways. Stockley Country Park has a more formal character, with open amenity grassland, tree lined avenues and pockets of woodland and shrubs. Several designed lakes and ponds are integrated within these landscapes. Stockley Country Park and golf course are closely linked to Stockley Business Park which lies to the south of the character area. Stockley Business Park, masterplanned in the 1980s includes

LCA J1 STOCKLEY GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

buildings by a number of leading British architects set within a large scale designed landscape including a lake and lime avenues.

Lake Farm Country Park is located in the east of the area, and maintains a more natural character, with large areas of scrub, meadow and pocket of trees. It is managed principally for nature conservation, but also provides amenity uses. A large number of informal footpaths cut across the park. Two formal areas of amenity grassland and children's play areas are located in the north east and north west of the park, and a BMX track is located on the western edge. The Grand Union Canal borders the park in the south.

Settlement is negligible within the area itself, with occasional buildings associated with Stockley Country Park and golf course. The modern settlement edges of Hayes and Yiewsley are however prominent along the north and eastern boundary, and more industrial and business related infrastructure forms a strong built character to the southern boundary.

Several well used roads run along much of the character area boundary, and the busy A408 and A437 cut through the character area, creating notable visual and audible impacts. Numerous local footpaths, cycle routes and some bridleways are associated with the Country Parks and golf course, and the London Loop long distance footpath also passes through the area.

Biodiversity: A largely designed landscape with extensive amenity grassland, which limits biodiversity value. However, tree cover is dispersed throughout providing habitats and biodiversity value. The numerous lakes provide an alternative habitat attracting a range of birds and insects. Lake Farm Country Park provides a variety of habitats, with a mosaic of scrub, grassland, meadow, tall herbs and trees. Grassland and scrub, such as hawthorn, elder and willow provide habitats for birds, such as skylarks and warblers. Numerous butterflies and other insects are attracted to flowering grassland meadow and the large numbers of flowers. Rotational grass-cutting helps to encourage grassland diversity and habitat continuity. Stockley Country Park comprises grassland, tall herbs, some scrub and trees, and it attracts a variety of invertebrates, including Roesel's bush-cricket.

Historic Environment⁴: Stockley Park was originally used for arable agriculture in the middle ages and later converted to pasture in the 1500. In the mid 17th century it was transformed into a Country Park, with deer and planted trees. The construction of the Grand Union Canal in 1805, led to a dramatic change in land use, and extensive brick earth was excavated. This then exposed underlying gravels which were themselves extracted leaving holes in the landscape. The land was used for refuse and became a waste site until redevelopment of the Stockley Business Park in the 1980s.

⁴ Historical context taken from:

<http://www.stockleypark.co.uk/documents/Stockley%20Park%20Information%20Booklet.pdf>
and

LCA J1 STOCKLEY GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

Lake Farm Country Park was once common land used for grazing. It was subsequently divided into separately owned tenant strips of land in the early 19th century, much of which was the owned by John Baptist Shackles, who later used the land for extraction of gravel and brick earth. During World War II, the site was backfilled and used for radar equipment testing and research.

Dawley Wall is a listed building located centrally, an 18th – early 19th century tall red brick wall, marking the estate boundary of Dawley Estate. The wall has been restored, and now forms part of Stockley Park boundary.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A largely designed landscape, with a simple land cover of predominantly grassed amenity and woodland clumps. The Country Park landscapes provide more diversity, particularly at Lake Farm Country Park. Open slopes allow for panoramic views to the south, over urban development of west Drayton and Heathrow and to distant wooded horizons outside of the borough. Undulating topography and the patchwork of tree cover limits view within the character area itself. The dominant recreational use of the landscape however, results in a relatively high diffusion of people. Close proximity to settlement and Stockley Business Park, and the busy roads create localised audible and visual impacts, and an urban fringe character in places. However, pockets of tranquillity occur away from these features, within the Country Parks.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation: Stockley Park Country Park.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Long views to the south to wooded horizons, could be interrupted by development.
- Country Park landscape at, Stockley Country Park and Lake Farm Country Park, which provides important open space and recreational opportunities.
- Small woodland and copses, which provide valuable habitats and biodiversity value in a designed landscape.
- Designed ponds/lakes, which add to the diversity of habitats in the landscape
- Meadow, scrub, grassland, at Lake Farm Country Park which provides valuable habitats and biodiversity.
- The tranquil pockets away from modern settlement edges on the boundaries, and roads, which would be vulnerable to further expansion and over development.

LCA J1 STOCKLEY GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

- Extensive footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways, which provide easy public access throughout the landscape.
- Dawley Wall listed building, which is the only remains of Dawley Estate.



Stockley Country Park with mown amenity grassland and wooded edges



Stockley golf course. Open character of amenity grassland with trees delineating fairways



Tree lined avenues at Stockley Country Park



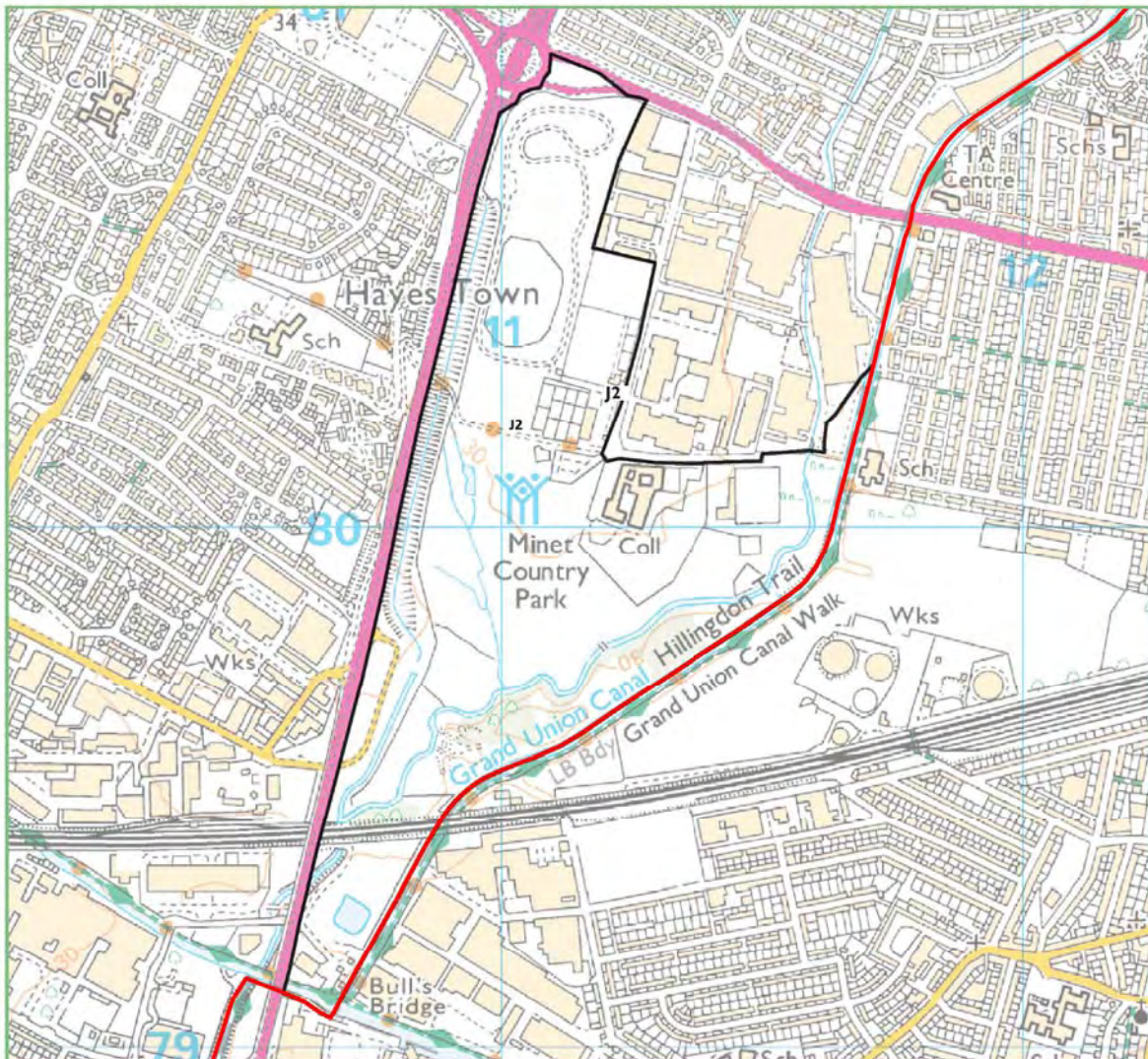
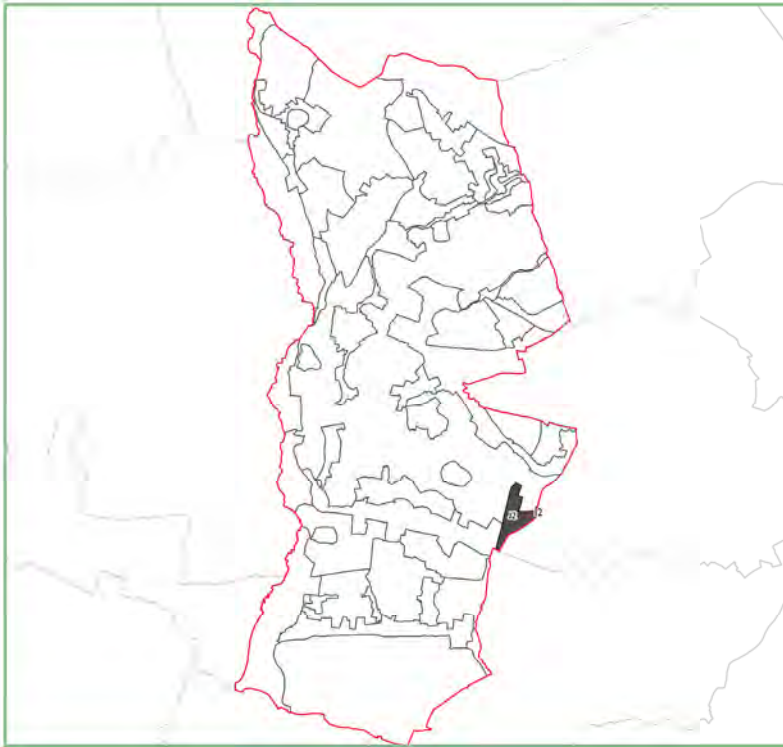
Semi natural character of Lake Farm Country Park, with meadow, scrub, and wooded fringes. Settlement edge overlooks the park



Views south over settlement and to distant wooded horizons

LCA J1 Stockley Gravel Terrace Recreation

LCA J2 MINET GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION



LCA J2 MINET GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A relatively flat landform manipulated in places to form gentle undulations. Underlain by London Clay and superficial gravels, with much of the area now altered by extraction of brick earth and infill of imported material.
- Dominated by the Minet Country Park, which is separated into two parts. Hillingdon cycle circuit in the North, and open fields, children's play area, wildflower meadows, woodland and ponds in the south.
- The Yeading Brook flows through the south east, and is densely enclosed by woodland. A number of streams feed into the brook, and several ponds are scattered throughout the area. The Grand Union Canal runs along the south and east boundary.
- Most of the character area forms part of the Yeading Brook and Minet Country Park Site of Borough Grade I Importance. A mosaic of habitats, including grassland, woodland, and meadows connected by a corridors, such as hedgerows, water courses, grassland and ditches.
- Contained and surrounded by busy roads, the A312 and A4020 along the west and north boundaries, and industrial development in the east. Prominent features, visually and audibly.
- Limited access to the Country Park by foot.
- A recreational space, which provides a peaceful retreat from the urban surroundings. Pockets of tranquillity, within woodland, undisturbed grassland and close to the Yeading Brook.

LCA J2 MINET GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the east of Hillingdon Borough within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Landscape Area (London's Natural Signatures). The boundaries of the character area are defined by Uxbridge Road A4020 to the north and Hayes Bypass A312 to the west. To the north east an industrial estate and Guru Nanak Sikh School forms the boundary and the south east is bounded by the borough administrative boundary. The character area is largely defined from adjacent landscapes, by the extent of Minet Country Park, which dominates this area.

Landscape Character: A relatively flat recreational landscape, dominated by Minet Country Park which has a wilder, unmanaged character in the south. Much of the landscape has been reworked, by extraction of brick earth and infill of imported material. The Hillingdon cycle circuit is located in the north of the area, and open grassland, meadows, woodland and number of ponds and streams make up the southern part. The Yeading Brook flows through the south east, enclosed by dense tree cover. Most of the area forms part of a Site of Borough Grade I Importance. The area is largely contained by busy roads to the north and west, and industrial development in the east, however, the character area acts as a peaceful retreat within the urban surroundings. Pockets of tranquillity are found more so in the south, within woodland, long water bodies, such as the Yeading Brook and within grassland and meadow.

Geology: The underlying geology of the area is London Clay Formation, which is overlain by a mix of Langley Hill Silt Formation, Lynch Gravel Formation, and a small strip of Alluvium and Black Park Gravel Formation, deposited by the Yeading Brook in the south east. Much of the area is in fact now altered by extraction of brick earth and infill of imported material.

Topography/ Landform: A relatively flat landscape, particularly in the south which forms the floodplain of the Yeading Brook, gradually sloping upwards to the north. A largely designed landscape with a landform manipulated in places to form several hills, banks and undulations.

Hydrology: The Yeading Brook flows through the south east, joining the River Crane in the south of the character area. The Grand Union Canal flows along the eastern boundary and engineered flood relief channel forms the western edge, with a number of streams draining into the Yeading Brook.

Land Use and Settlement: The character area is dominated by the Minet Country Park. The Country Park is separated into two parts, with Hillingdon cycle circuit in the North. The south is comprised of open fields, children's play area, wildflower meadows, and ponds. Areas of woodland and scattered trees are situated in the south, particularly along watercourses. Access to the Country Park by foot is limited with no direct access from the Hillingdon trail and Grand Union Canal Walk.

LCA J2 MINET GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

Outside of the Country Park to the south and south east, dense tree cover lines the course of the Yeading Brook. A railway line cuts through the landscape in the south leaving a small area of rough grassland isolated from the rest of the character area.

The A312 and A4020 pass along the west and north boundaries, respectively and an industrial site and school lies to the north east, creating a busy surrounding built character.

Biodiversity: A mosaic of habitats is found within the character area, with grassland woodland, and meadows connected by linear features such as hedgerows, water courses and ditches. There is also a considerable amount of species poor amenity grassland, located more centrally and in the north.

The majority of the character area is part of the Yeading Brook and Minet Country Park Site of Borough Grade I Importance. The main habitats which contribute to this designation are grassland, woodland, scrub, and water bodies. An area of wet meadow in the south has a diverse range of wildflower species, including Meadow sweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*). In areas of grassland which are relatively undisturbed, ground nesting bird species such as Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), can be found. Butterflies, moths and grasshoppers are also found within areas of grassland.

Numerous ponds, streams and the Yeading Brook provide habitats to a range of flora and fauna, including water beetles, dragonflies, fish, newts and birds such as Heron and Kingfisher. Woodland, hedgerows and scrub provide important nesting and feeding sites for many bird species and mammals. Oak is common within woodland area.

Historic Environment⁵: Minet Country Park was previously part of the Coldharbour Estate, owned by the Minet family from 1766 to the mid 20th century. Originally farmland, with arable in the north and rough pasture nearer to the Yeading Brook. During the 19th and early 20th century, the north was excavated for brick earth and then subsequently used as a works compound during the construction of the A312 in the early 1990s. Earth excavated from construction of the road was then used here to landscape the area. Flood relief channels for the Yeading were created in the 1980s. The area became a waste site and area for fly tipping, and in 2002 the creation of Minet Country Park began, including manipulation of landform, creation of ponds, footpaths and a children's playground.

The Grade II listed Bull's Bridge over the Grand Union Canal is located in the south of the character area on the Hillingdon Borough boundary. A late 18th century/ early 19th century painted brick canal bridge.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: Surrounded by busy roads and industrial activity, the character area provides a peaceful retreat from these surroundings. Tranquil areas are found largely within woodland, areas of largely undisturbed grassland and meadows, and close to the Yeading Brook and water bodies. In the

⁵ Historical context taken from the Minet Country Park Management Plan

LCA J2 MINET GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION

south a remote and isolated character prevails. However, roads and industrial activity are prominent audibly and visually from within the character area. The character area itself is also visible from the Hayes Bypass in the west. Formal areas of grassland, used largely for recreation, contrast with areas of semi natural grassland and woodland, and network of footpaths wind through the mosaic of habitats and recreation spaces.

Designations:

- Green Belt
- Site of Borough Grade I Importance: Yeading Brook and Minet Country Park

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The mosaic of habitats throughout the area, such as grassland, woodland and scrub.
- Area of peacefulness and retreat in close proximity to built up areas of industry and roads, and particularly the wilder and isolated character of the south.
- Recreational use of the landscape and achieving a balance with nature conservation and providing an important green space for local population.
- Yeading Brook and other wetland habitats which provide important habitat diversity.
- The hedgerows, water ways and grass ditches, which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor, connecting habitats.
- The limited access into the character area by foot and opportunity to improve access and connections to the Hillingdon Trail/ Grand Union Canal Walk.
- Close proximity to industry, busy roads and railway line. Widening or expansion of these would impact on the character of the landscape.
- Areas of relative remoteness and isolation that persist in the south – a rare quality within an urban area.



Large pond and manipulated landform at Minet Country Park

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Childrens play area in Minet Country Park. Surrounding industrial development prominent in views.

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LCT J GRAVEL TERRACE RECREATION – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

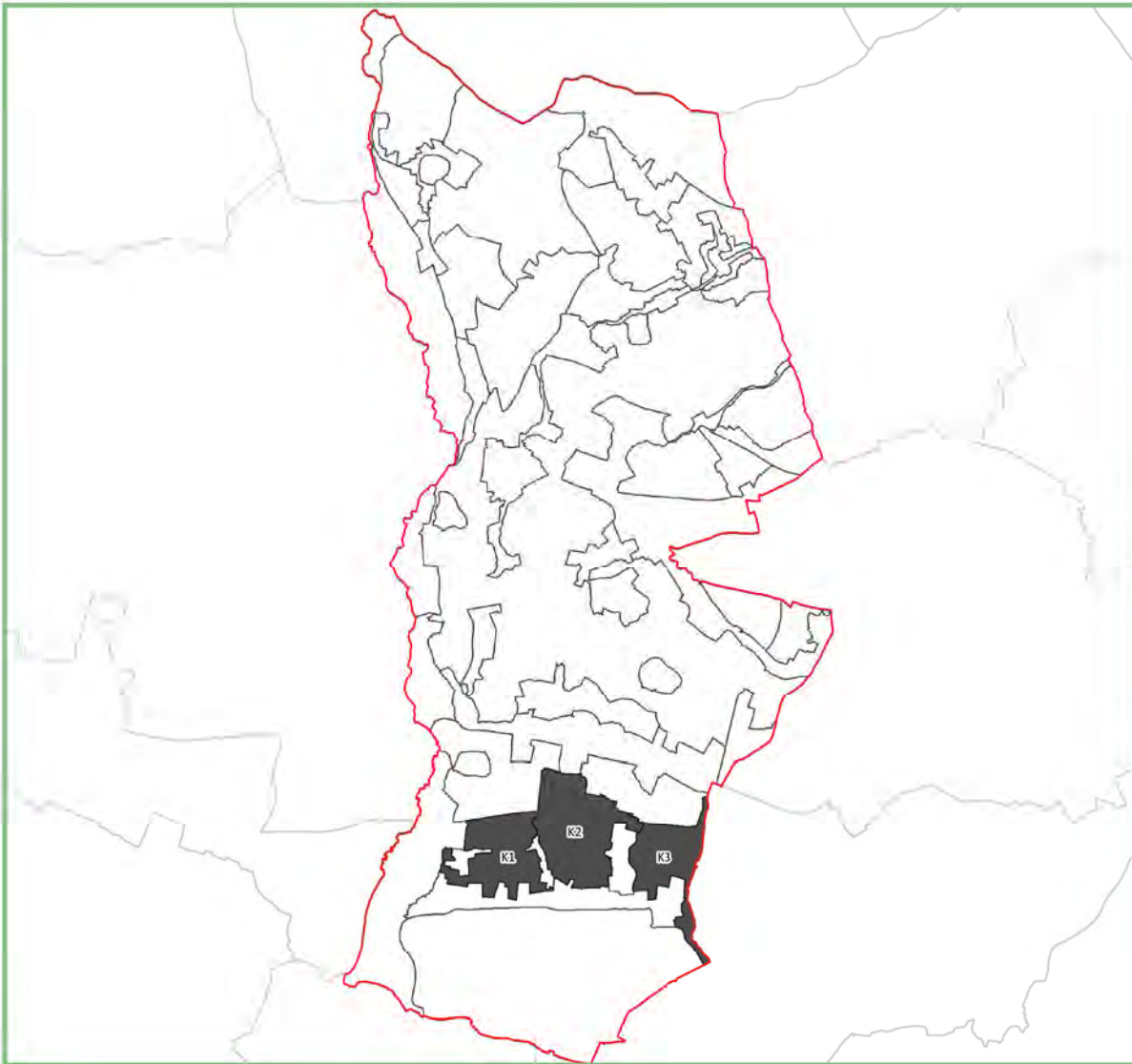
- J1 – Stockley Gravel Terrace Recreation
- J2 – Minet Gravel Terrace Recreation

Strategy/ Vision: To conserve and manage the Country Park landscapes, which are of recreational and ecological value and provide pockets of tranquillity contrasting with the surrounding built environment.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and manage the Country Parks as important open spaces, which provide recreational opportunities for local people and a significant green space within an urban environment.
- Conserve and encourage management and restoration of the diverse habitats, such as grassland, copses, scattered trees, woodland and meadows.
- Maintain hedgerow boundaries which provide visual unity and intactness and increase biodiversity, linking various habitats
- Encourage management and protection of water bodies, and seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity interest.
- Consider opportunities for further tree and woodland planting to reduce the visual impact of urban development which surrounds the landscape.
- Conserve long views to wooded horizons.
- Protect and enhance management and development of public rights of way and access to and from adjacent landscapes
- Monitor further large scale developments surrounding the character areas, which could adversely impact on the character of the Country Parks landscapes.
- Consider opportunities to reduce traffic noise, and consider further screening/buffering of surrounding busy roads and industry through sensitive tree planting.
- Enhance areas of degraded landscape through positive restoration plans.

LCT K OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE



LCT K OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

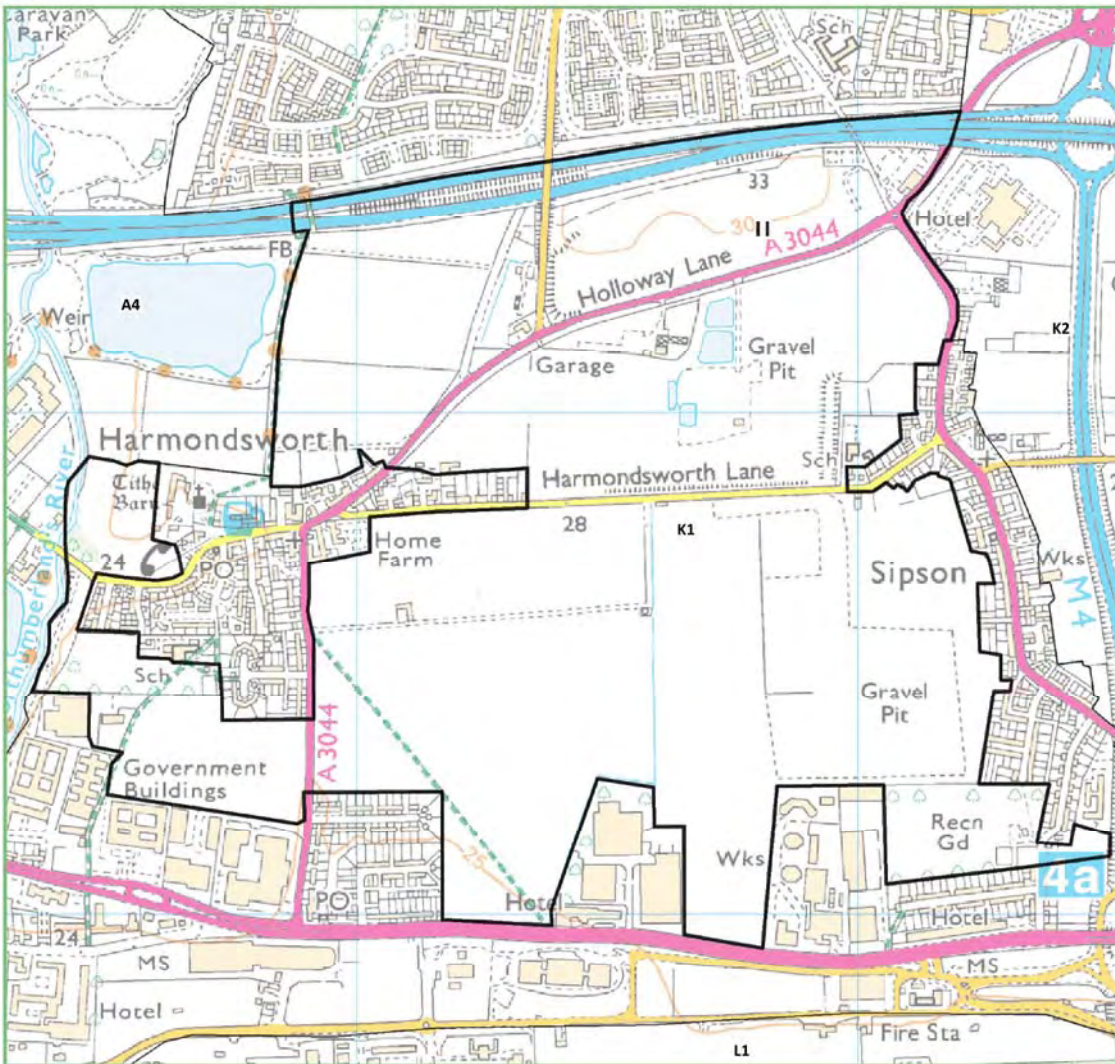
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A flat, open landscape, typically underlain with Langley Silt Formation and Taplow Gravel Formation. The gravel deposits have frequently been worked and infilled.
- Predominately large scale fields of arable farmland, with smaller interspersed fields of paddock along settlement edges. Some large area of gravel and sand extraction, recreation sports grounds and playing fields, plus the historic parkland of Cranford Countryside Park.
- Some scattered hydrological features, with a number of ponds occupying former gravel pits. The River Crane flows along the east.
- Limited tree cover, with the exception of some relatively large area of scrub and trees, such as at Cranford Countryside Park. Hedgerows and scrubby grassed boundaries provide an important linear corridor connecting fragmented habitats throughout the character area.
- Modern edge settlement filters into the landscape, along the boundaries, however settlement is limited elsewhere. Heathrow Airport and associated infrastructure feature prominently along the southern boundary.
- The M4 runs through the north, and a number of other roads connect settlement, however elsewhere roads are limited.
- Few public rights of way, with a number of footpaths associated with Cranford Countryside Park.
- Open, long views south across farmland and with buildings and infrastructure of Heathrow Airport noticeable in many vistas.
- A simple and uniform character, as a result of limited land cover, land use, and the flat topography.
- Retains a largely farmland character, despite being surrounded by settlement and urban development.
- Presence of a waste landfill site, area of gravel extraction and several clusters of industrial and commercial buildings, occasionally interrupt the landscape.

Constituent LCAs

- K1 – Harmondsworth Open Gravel Terrace
- K2 – Harlington Open Gravel Terrace
- K3 - Cranford Open Gravel Terrace

LCA KI HARMONDSWORTH OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE



LCA KI HARMONDSWORTH OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Flat open landscape, predominately underlain by Langley Silt Formation with pockets of Taplow Gravel Formation. Areas of worked and infilled ground evident.
- Predominately large scale fields of arable farmland, with smaller interspersed fields of paddock along settlement edges.
- A network of hedgerows and hedgerows trees primarily delineate field boundaries, and scrubby and grass verges and ditches provide wildlife corridors within the arable landscape.
- Presence of a waste landfill site, area of gravel extraction and several clusters of industrial and commercial buildings.
- Several ponds are located in the north, occupying former gravel pits.
- Small blocks of trees add biodiversity interest, and additionally screen industrial and commercial activity in places.
- Modern edge settlement filters in from Harmondsworth and Sipson, however settlement is limited elsewhere. Heathrow Airport and associated infrastructure feature prominently along the southern boundary.
- The M4 and A4 run along the north and south boundaries, and several other main roads cut through the character area.
- Open, long views south across farmland and with buildings and infrastructure of Heathrow Airport noticeable in many vistas.
- A simple and uniform character, as a result of limited land cover, land use, and the flat topography.
- Retains a farmland landscape character, despite being surrounded by settlement and urban development.

LCA KI HARMONDSWORTH OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the south of Hillingdon Borough within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Landscape Area (London's Natural Signatures). The boundaries of the character area are largely defined by settlement edge and roads, with the M4 north, Sipson and the A408 delineating the eastern edge, and commercial infrastructure associated with Heathrow Airport bounding the south. The west is contained by the settlement of Harmondsworth and the A3044, and defined by the Colne Valley floodplain.

Landscape Character: A flat and open landscape dominated by large scale arable farmland, with fields delineated by a strong network of hedgerows with scattered trees. These together with scrubby and grassed road side verges provide important visual unity and wildlife corridors within the arable landscape. Small blocks of trees and tree belts provide occasional screening to industrial activity and commercial buildings. A number of ponds occupy former gravel pits in the north. The arable land cover, land use, and flat topography, generate a simple and uniform character. Open, long views are afforded, particularly south across farmland, with buildings and infrastructure associated with Heathrow Airport prominent in many vistas.

Geology: Predominately Langley Silt Formation with pockets of Taplow Gravel Formation. Some areas of worked or infilled ground in the north and east, which correspond to gravel extraction and landfill.

Topography/ Landform: Flat landform, with a very slight rise in topography northwards. Topography generally lies between 25-30m.

Hydrology: There are some ponds associated with former gravel works in the north. However, elsewhere there are no other discernible watercourses or water bodies.

Land Use and Settlement: Arable farmland predominates, occupying large scale fields, with a mix of wooden post fencing and hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees. Occasional smaller scale fields of paddock are interspersed along the edge of Harmondsworth. A waste landfill site and area of gravel extraction occur in the north and south of the character area, respectively, with access from Holloway Lane and Harmondsworth Lane.

Settlement is sparse within the character area itself. The modern settlement edge of Harmondsworth and Sipson filter into the west and east of the character area, respectively, along Harmondsworth Lane, with typical building materials including red brick and white render. Some clusters of large scale modern industrial and commercial buildings are located throughout the area, occasionally screened by trees. Heathrow Airport is located immediately south of the character area, and associated infrastructure featuring prominently along the southern boundary.

LCA KI HARMONDSWORTH OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

Several well used roads pass through or border the character area. The M4 runs along the northern boundary, and the A4 passes intermittently along the southern edge. Several other busy roads cut through the character area itself, with Harmondsworth Lane cutting west to east, connecting settlement areas. There are few local footpaths, often radiating from Harmondsworth, however overall there is little access by foot to the character area.

Biodiversity: A largely agricultural and industrial influenced landscape, which holds little biodiversity value. Hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees, and occasional scrubby grassed verges and ditches along road sides provide local wildlife habitats and corridors. Ponds in the north offer wetland and waterside habitats. Some pockets of trees and scrub, located close to industrial and commercial areas, provide further wildlife habitats.

Historic Environment: Harmondsworth Lane, which continues east towards Sipson and Harlington, is an ancient track, the only one to run across this area between open fields. The landscape has a long history of agricultural land use, of arable cultivation. Harmondsworth Lane was transformed along the old track during the 19th century. Harmondsworth is a small village located on the western side of the character area, with a strong historic core, including St Mary's Church, and the 14th century Grade I listed Great Barn. This village is however covered broadly within the townscape classification.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A large scale, flat and open landscape, with expansive views across the character area and south towards Heathrow Airport. Limited land cover and land use, the regular topography and openness, generate a simple and uniform landscape. However, industrial activity, busy roads and the close proximity to Heathrow Airport, create audible and visual impact and reduce intactness of this landscape.

Designations:

- Greenbelt

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Long views across farmland which could be interrupted by further development.
- Simple and uniform character, which could be interrupted by further development.
- The flat landform, in which development often appears prominent and highly visible.

LCA KI HARMONDSWORTH OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

- Hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees, road side ditches and grass verges, provide valuable wildlife corridors connecting patches of trees and other fragmented habitats, and providing visual continuity.
- Open agricultural landscape which has been retained within largely settled and urban surroundings.



Large scale arable fields. Open and flat landform, with long views south. Heathrow visible on the horizon

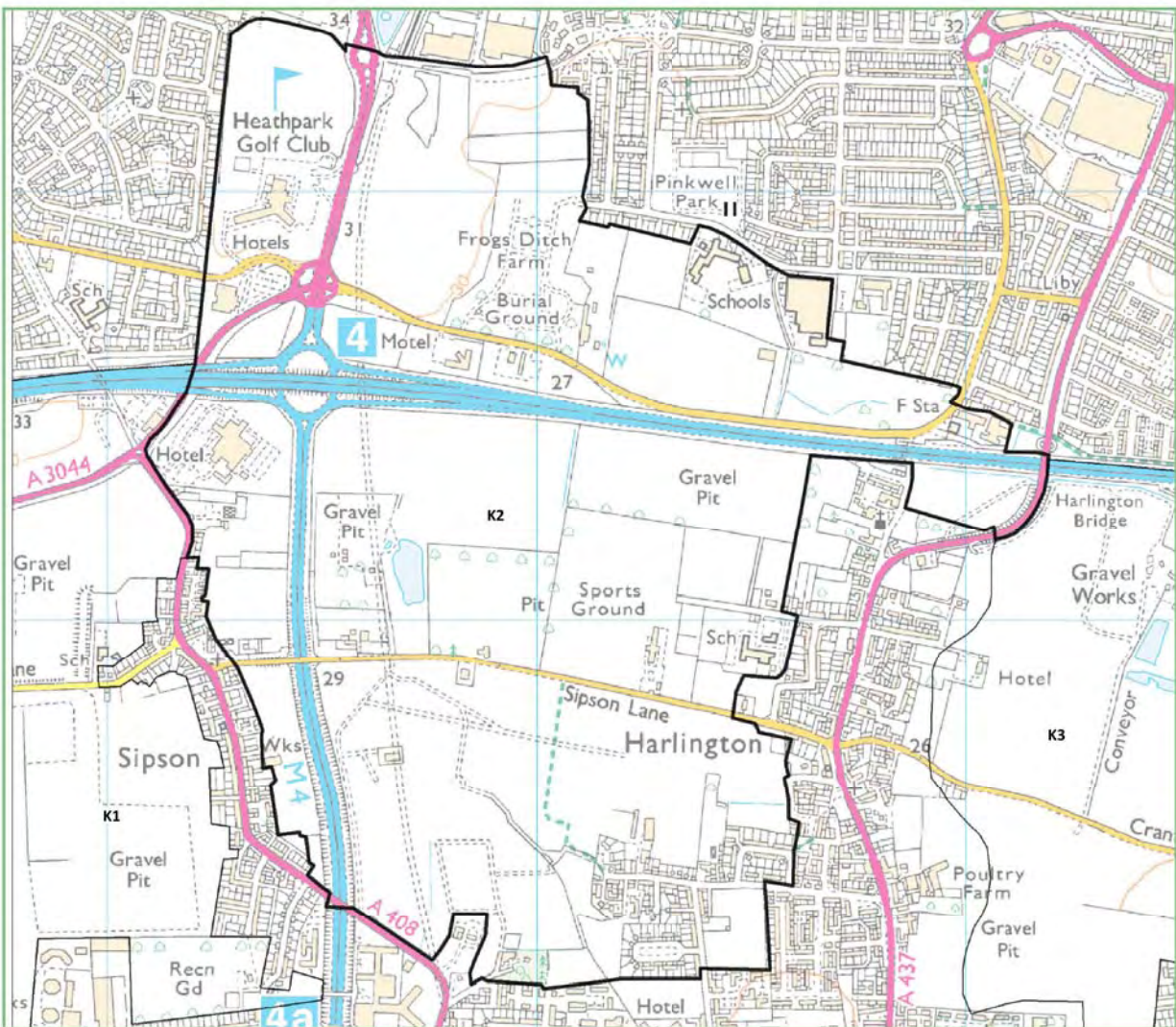


Occasional paddocks. A mix of hedgerows and wooden post and wire fencing delineate field boundaries.



Harmondsworth Lane cuts west to east, connecting settlement areas. Road side lined with grassed verges, ditches and hedgerows

LCA K2 HARLINGTON OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE



LCA K2 HARLINGTON OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A flat, open landscape, underlain with London Clay Formation, and pockets of superficial Taplow Gravel Formation and Lynch Hill Gravel Formation. The gravel deposits have frequently been worked and ground infilled.
- A mixed landscape, predominantly arable farmland occupying large scale fields, with a large area of gravel and sand extraction, recreation sports grounds and playing fields, plus Heathpark golf course and a large burial ground.
- Limited tree cover, with the exception of relatively large area of scrub and trees in the west. Hedgerows and scrubby grassed boundaries provide an important linear corridor connecting fragmented habitats throughout the character area.
- Modern edge settlement surrounds the character area, although there is limited settlement within the character area itself. Heathrow Airport and associated infrastructure feature prominently along the southern boundary.
- A number of main roads pass through the character area, with the M4 in the north and west, and several other A and b roads.
- Few public footpaths with limited access.
- Open, long views south across farmland and with Heathrow notable in many vistas.
- A strong horizontal and geometric form, with straight field boundaries and roads, and the flat landform.

LCA K2 HARLINGTON OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the south of Hillingdon Borough within the *Hayes Gravel* Natural Landscape Area (London's Natural Signatures). The boundaries of the character area are largely defined by settlement and roads, with Hayes Town bordering the northern boundary, Harlington located to the east, and the A408 and edge of Sipson defining the west. Commercial infrastructure associated with Heathrow airport delineates the southern extent of the character area.

Landscape Character: A flat and open landscape, with a mix of land uses. Large fields of arable cultivation predominate, interspersed with amenity grass playing fields, Heathpark golf course, a large cemetery and industrial sand and gravel works. Limited tree cover emphasises the openness of the character area, with long views across the landscape, particularly south, towards Heathrow Airport, which features prominently in many views. A network of hedgerows provides some visual unity and wildlife corridors within this landscape, and generate a strong geometric form.

Geology: Underlain with London Clay Formation, with pockets of overlying Taplow Gravel Formation and Lynch Hill Gravel Formation. Much of the gravel has been worked and infilled, sometimes with recreational after uses such as Heathpark Golf Course.

Topography/ Landform: Flat landform, with a very slight rise in topography northwards. Topography generally between 25m and 30m.

Hydrology: One large pond associated with former gravel works is located centrally. Elsewhere, there are no notable water bodies or courses.

Land Use and Settlement: Arable farmland predominates, occupying large scale fields, delineated by hedgerows with occasional scattered hedgerow trees, or low scrubby boundaries. Harlington Sports Ground and playing fields are located centrally, immediately north of Sipson Lane, comprising amenity grassland and scattered trees. A large industrial site for sand and gravel extraction covers a significant proportion of the character area, and surrounds the playing field, to the north and west, and is a prominent land use within the character area. In the north, Heathpark Golf Course and Harlington burial ground are key features. Tree cover is sparse throughout the character area, comprising scattered hedgerow trees and small infrequent clumps of trees. The exception is in the west, along the settlement edge of Sipson, where scrub and woodland occur.

Settlement largely surrounds the character area, typically modern red brick housing, with Sipson and West Drayton bordering the western edge and Harlington lying to the east. Hayes edges the north and Heathrow Airport is located immediately south of the character area. Associated infrastructure features prominently along the southern boundary.

LCA K2 HARLINGTON OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

A number of busy roads pass through the area, particularly in the north and west, which is cut by the M4. A number of A roads and minor roads pass through the landscape, with Sipson Lane cutting centrally and connecting settlements of Sipson and Harlington. There are few public rights of way which provide limited access by foot.

Biodiversity: Large sections of the character area are agricultural, recreational or industrial, with little biodiversity value. Remnant hedgerows and scrubby grass field boundaries provide important habitats and wildlife corridors connecting fragmented habitats including areas of scrub and woodland such as along the eastern edge of Sipson. A relatively large Site of Borough Grade I Importance: Walled Garden Farm and sand heap, is located immediately south of the M4, and two Sites of Borough Grade II Importance; Stockley Road rough and Field Close open space roughs are situated within the character area.

Historic Environment: Sipson Lane, and ancient track runs east and west towards Harmondsworth and Harlington, respectively, at one time forming the only road access through this area, across open fields. Sipson Lane was transformed along this old track during the 19th century. The landscape has a long history of agricultural land use, specifically arable cultivation.

A Grade II listed war memorial is located at Cherry Lane cemetery.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A large scale, open and flat landscape, with expansive views across the character area and south towards Heathrow Airport. A mixed landscape, with areas of industrial activity, busy roads and unmanaged field boundaries, all of which reduce intactness and create audible or visual impacts. Straight field boundaries, roads and the strong horizontal landform, generate a geometric and simple landscape. Pockets of stillness exist away from busy industrial activity and roads.

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- TPOs: Heathrow north service station, Shepiston Land, Hayes; Cottage Hospital, Sipson Lane, Harlington

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Openness and long views, particularly to the south, could be interrupted by further development.
- Network of hedgerows, which provide wildlife corridors and visual continuity.

LCA K2 HARLINGTON OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

- Areas of stillness and limited overt human impact, away from the busy M4 and other development, such as Heathrow Airport.
- Areas of scrub, woodland and Sites of Borough Grade I and II provide pockets of biodiversity.
- Open agricultural landscape which has been retained within largely settled and urban surroundings.



A flat, open landscape, with long views south towards Heathrow Airport and associated infrastructure

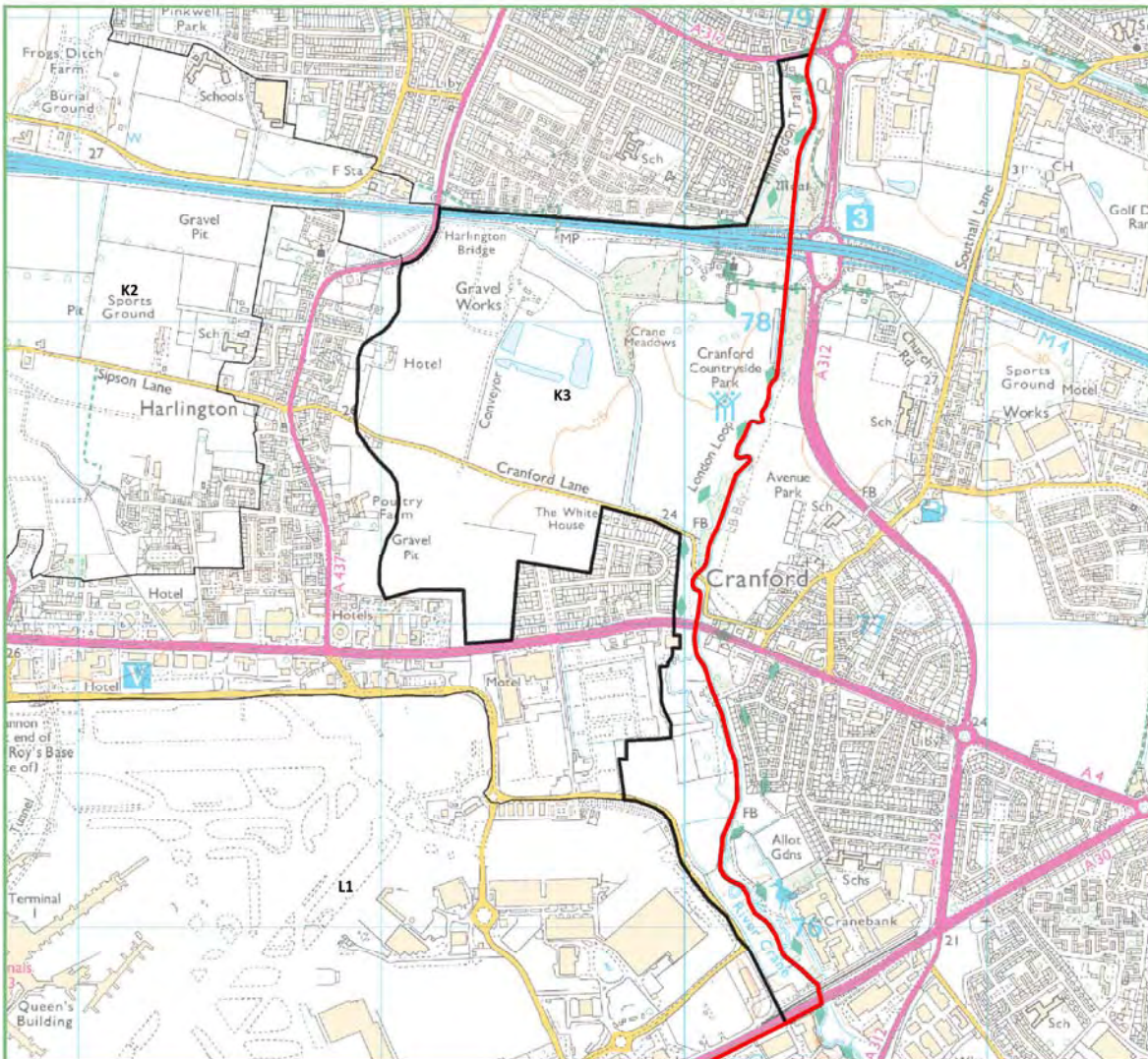


Large areas of gravel and sand extraction. Hedgerows, scrubby grassed boundaries and fencing delineate field boundaries and road side edges



Some fields of paddock interspersed within arable farmland, situated close to settlement edge

LCA K3 CRANFORD OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE



LCA K3 CRANFORD OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A flat landscape, predominately underlain by Taplow Gravel Formation, with a small area of Langley Silt Formation in the north. A large area of infilled ground in the west of the character area.
- Arable farmland predominates in the west of the area, occupying large scale fields, with smaller scale fields of paddock interspersed close to Harlington.
- The historic parkland of Cranford Country Park is in the east of the area, with a number of Grade II listed structures, representing the remains of Cranford House.
- Hydrological features are largely associated with Cranford Country Park, with the exception of a large pond in the north, which occupies former gravel works. The River Crane flows along the eastern boundary, with Frogs Ditch passing across the north and west, and a number of ponds scattered throughout.
- An operational sand and gravel extraction occurs in the north adjacent to Cranford Country Park.
- Significant biodiversity value and wildlife habitats associated with Cranford Country Park, recognised as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, and comprising woodland, scrub, meadow and wetlands.
- Hedgerows provide an important linear corridor connecting fragmented habitats throughout the character area, particularly within farmland.
- Modern edge settlement filters in from Harlington, however settlement is limited elsewhere. Heathrow Airport and associated infrastructure feature prominently along the southern boundary.
- The M4 runs along the north boundary, however elsewhere roads are limited to Cranford Lane, and a small section of the A4.
- A network of footpaths, bridleways and numerous informal footpaths cut through Cranford Country Park, however public rights of way are limited elsewhere.
- Open, long views south across farmland and with Heathrow notable in many vistas.
- Varying degrees of enclosure, with open farmland contrasting with dense woodland enclosure at Cranford Country Park.
- Pockets of tranquillity, particularly within Cranford Country Park, which has a strong semi-natural character.

LCA K3 CRANFORD OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the south of Hillingdon Borough within the *Hounslow Gravel* Natural Landscape Area (London's Natural Signatures). The borough administrative boundary defines the eastern edge of the character area, with the landscape extending into Hounslow Borough. The settlement edge of Hayes Town and the M25 delineate the northern margin. Harlington is located to the west, and Heathrow Airport and associated commercial infrastructure delineate the southern edge.

Landscape Character: A low lying flat landscape on the gravel terrace with large scale arable cultivation, and the historic parkland of Cranford Country Park in the east of the area. Varying degrees of enclosure are experienced with greater tree cover at Cranford Country Park, creating an intimate and enclosed landscape, contrasting with the greater sense of openness within farmland. A range of habitats are associated largely with Cranford Country Park, including woodland, scrub, meadow and wetlands. The River Crane and Frog's Ditch pass through the park and a number of manmade ponds provide recreational and biodiversity opportunities. An area of sand and gravel extraction is present, and busy surrounding roads impart local and visual intrusions, however, pockets of tranquillity exist throughout, particularly within Cranford Country Park.

Geology: Predominately Taplow Gravel Formation, with a small area of Langley Silt Formation in the north. A large area of infilled ground makes up the west of the character area, which comprises farmland and gravel works.

Topography/ Landform: Flat landform, with a very slight rise in topography northwards. Topography generally lies around 25m.

Hydrology: One large pond associated with former gravel works is located in the north. The River Crane flows along the eastern boundary and the edge of the borough, and Frogs Ditch runs across the north and west of the area, along the edge of Cranford Countryside Park, before joining the River Crane in south. A number of artificial ponds are scattered within Cranford Countryside Park.

Land Use and Settlement: Arable farmland predominates, occupying large scale fields, delineated primarily by hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees. Occasional smaller scale fields of paddock are interspersed close to Harlington. A site of sand and gravel extraction occurs in the north of the character area, adjacent to Cranford Countryside Park.

Cranford Countryside Park is a historic parkland landscape, and recognised as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. It comprises woodland in the north and west and amenity grasslands and meadow elsewhere. A network of footpaths and bridleways pass through the park, including nature trails, with a number of additional informal footpaths/tracks. The London Loop long distance footpath passes along the eastern edge.

LCA K3 CRANFORD OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

Settlement is sparse within the character area itself. The modern settlement edge of Harlington filters into the west of the character area, with typical building materials including brick and pebble dash. Heathrow Airport is located immediately south of the character area, and associated infrastructure features prominently along the southern boundary.

Cranford Lane is the primary road which crosses the character area, which is largely enclosed by high, dense hedgerows. The M4 runs along the northern boundary, and the A4 cuts across intermittently in the south. With the exception of Cranford Country Park, limited local footpaths provide access to the rest of the character area.

Biodiversity⁶: Agricultural and industrial areas are enriched by hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees, small patches of woodland and a large pond with associated waterside vegetation, which provide valuable wildlife habitats and corridors.

Cranford Countryside Park holds significant biodiversity value and supports a range of wildlife habitats. A large area of woodland extends along the north west boundary and the eastern part of the park, with many mature trees, indicating possible ancient woodland. Specifically, Cranford Wood in the north west has wide variety of native and exotic deciduous and coniferous trees, including hornbeam, sycamore, beech, oak, larch, sweet chestnut and ash. Elsewhere a mosaic of woodland, hedgerows and scrub provide important habitats for bird nesting and feeding, and for mammals such as bank voles, wood mice and foxes. In the south large areas of meadow, demonstrate a diversity of flora, attracting many butterflies, and other insects. The River Crane flows north to south, and here wetlands (river, ditch, pond, wet margins and marsh), provide additional habitats within the park.

Historic Environment: Cranford Park, formally the country estate of the Berkeley family, comprises the original grounds of Cranford House, which was demolished in 1945. Several Grade II listed structures, which form the remains of Cranford House, are located in the north east of the character area, namely, Cranford House stable block, garden walls of Cranford House stables, curved wall (crinkle crankle wall), cellars of Cranford House, and Ha-Ha wall. Other Grade II listed features are located in the west of the character area, a bridge over the river Crane, and Cranford Park Bridge.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A large scale, flat landscape, with expansive views across the character area and south towards Heathrow Airport. Varying degrees of enclosure, with open farmland contrasting with dense woodland enclosure associated with Cranford Country Park in the east. Industrial activity, the close proximity to Heathrow Airport in the south, and urban fringe development in the west create audible and visual impacts and reduce intactness of this landscape. Pockets of tranquillity are found within Cranford Country Park, which has a strong natural character and historic interest.

⁶ Biodiversity information taken from Cranford Countryside Park Management Plan. Source: <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media/pdf/e/n/CranfordGFMP2010.pdf>

LCA K3 CRANFORD OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE

Designations:

- Greenbelt
- Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation: Cranford Countryside Park and Open Space; the Crane Corridor
- Sites of Borough Grade II Importance: Cranford Lane Gravel Workings
- Conservation Areas: Cranford Park
- TPOs: Dunstons Churchyard, Cranford Park; High Street, Harlington

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- Openness and long views, particularly to the south, could be interrupted by further development.
- Cranford Countryside Park, an historic parkland landscape and a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, which is distinctive within an agricultural landscape.
- Mosaic of woodland, grassland, meadows and wetland which provide valuable wildlife and biodiversity value, particularly within Cranford Countryside Park.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees, which provide valuable wildlife corridors and visual unity, particularly within the agricultural landscape.
- Areas of tranquillity and limited overt human impact, away from M4 and A4 and Heathrow Airport.
- Listed buildings and structures associated with Cranford House and Parkland, which reveal its history.
- The course of the River Crane and Frogs Ditch, and the intimate and tranquil nature, and wildlife value associated with these watercourses.



Flat, open fields, with wooded boundaries forming a backdrop to some views



Historic parkland of Cranford Countryside Park, comprising grassland, meadow and woodland



Open, smaller paddocks located close to settlement edges



High dense hedgerows run along roadsides, with occasional glimpses to adjacent farmland



Modern settlement edge filters into the landscape

LCA K3 Cranford Open Gravel Terrace

LCT K OPEN GRAVEL TERRACE – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

- K1 – Harmondsworth Open Gravel Terrace
- K2 – Harlington Open Gravel Terrace
- K3 - Cranford Open Gravel Terrace

Strategy/ Vision: Conserve and enhance the mosaic character of open farmland, recreational open space, pockets of woodland and parkland, and maintain areas of peacefulness away from built development.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Promote management of arable farmland, and smaller areas of paddock, to help generate a wildlife rich habitat, and visually attractive landscape.
- Conserve and manage hedgerow boundaries, providing visual unity, intactness and increased biodiversity, which are particularly important in an agricultural landscape.
- Consider opportunities for further tree and woodland planting to contain and reduce visual and audible impact of modern development, such as busy roads, and sand and gravel extraction.
- Maintain open views across fields, and monitor the introduction of vertical infrastructure, which would adversely affect views within the landscape.
- Maintain the undeveloped landscape, which acts as a 'buffer' between landscape to the north and Heathrow Airport.
- Conserve the low density of dispersed settlement.
- Monitor the further development of busy transport corridors.
- Potential enhancement and restoration of mineral extraction sites and other industrial areas.
- Ensure that recreational facilities and associated infrastructure are sympathetic to, and well integrated with the landscape.
- Manage and reinforce tree cover along transport corridors and industrial workings to ensure screening and integration is perpetuated.
- Conserve and enhance the areas of historic parkland, including historic built features, and the associated ecological and recreational value.

LCT L GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE



LCT L GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE

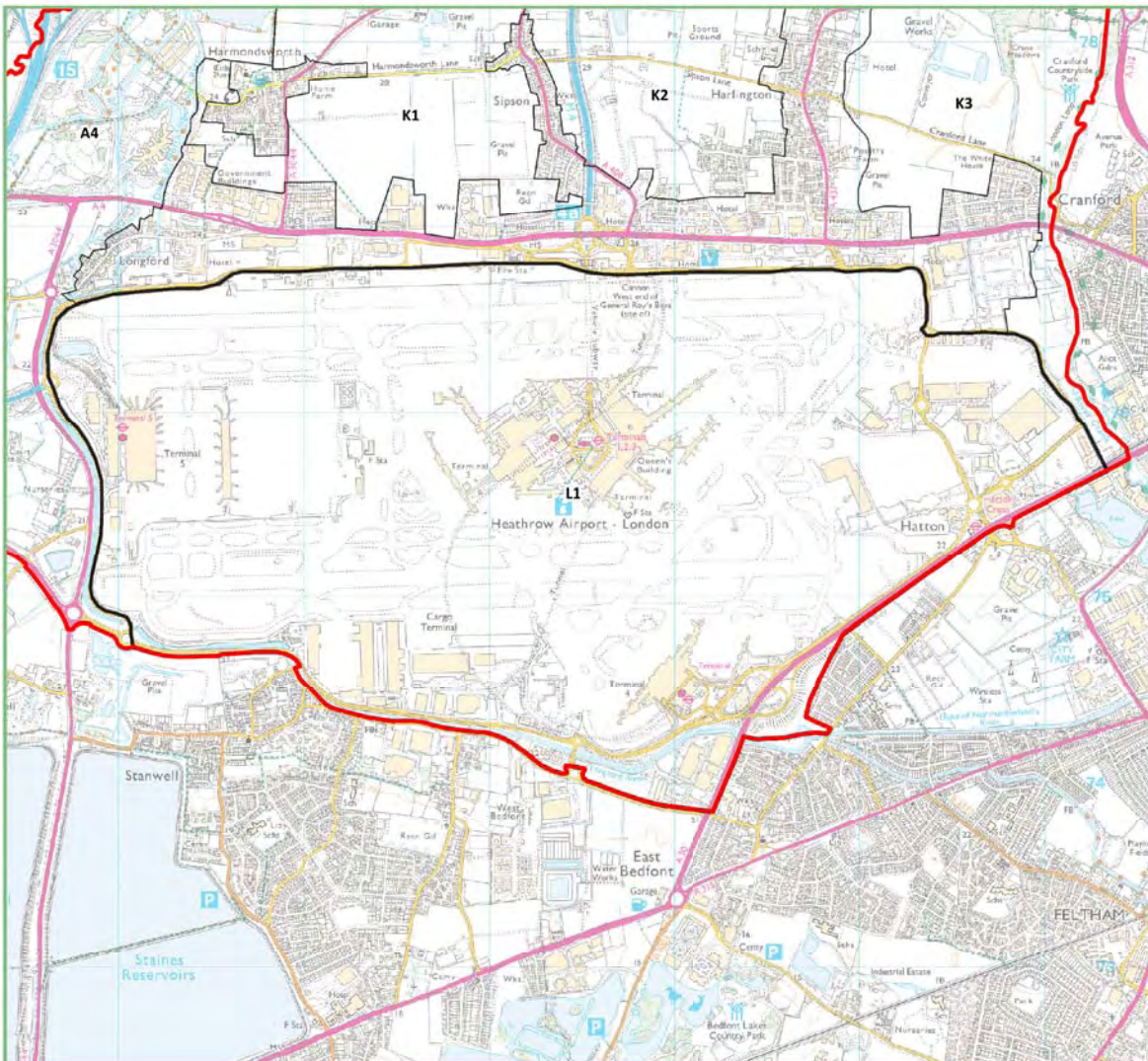
KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Flat landform, typically underlain by London Clay with some superficial gravel deposits and occupied by large scale infrastructure of Heathrow Airport.
- Dominated by hardstanding, buildings and other associated infrastructure. Vegetation is limited.
- Surrounded on all sides by perimeter roads, security fencing and blast walls.
- Prominent visual and audible impacts on surrounding landscapes - including traffic, lighting and fencing.

Constituent LCAs

- LI – Heathrow Gravel Terrace Infrastructure

LCA LI HEATHROW GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE



LCA LI HEATHROW GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Flat landform, underlain by London Clay with superficial gravel deposits (Taplow Gravel Formation) and occupied by Heathrow Airport.
- Dominated by hardstanding (runways and access roads), buildings and other airport infrastructure. Vegetation is limited to open grass areas, and shrub/climber planting around perimeter walls and fences.
- The artificial watercourses of the Longford and Duke of Northumberland occur along the western and southern boundaries of the airport, diverted a number of times most recently to accommodate Terminal 5.
- There is little ecological interest in this built landscape.
- Formerly heath and moorland then an agricultural landscape. The Fairey's Great West Aerodrome, a private aerodrome with a single runway was built here in the 1930s.
- Expansion of the airport has occurred with increasing demand for air travel. Terminal 5 was completed in 2008.
- Surrounded on all sides by perimeter roads, security fencing and blast walls.
- The airport extends more than 12km² across the south of the borough with prominent visual and audible impacts - including road and air traffic, lighting and security fencing. There is a strong sense of movement, both on the ground and in the air.

LCA LI HEATHROW GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: The character area lies in the south of Hillingdon Borough within the *Hounslow Gravels Natural Landscape Area* (London's Natural Signatures). The boundaries of the character area are largely defined by the extent of Heathrow Airport with the borough administrative boundary and the perimeter roads defining its edges.

Landscape Character: A flat landform, underlain by London Clay with superficial gravel deposits (Taplow Gravel Formation), dominated by Heathrow Airport. Large extents of hardstanding (runways, access roads etc), buildings and associated infrastructure. There is little vegetation, limited to strips of grass alongside runways and shrub/climber planting on the exterior of perimeter walls and fencing. However the Airport Reservoir and Burrows a Site of Grade II Borough importance. The diverted artificial watercourses of the Longford and Duke of Northumberland Rivers run along the southern and eastern edge and there is a rain water collection pond north of Terminal 5. Formerly a moorland and heath landscape then agricultural land with the village of Heath Row. A private aerodrome was built on this site in the 1930s. The airport has expanded with increasing demand for air travel and is a prominent feature in the south of the borough creating visual and audible impacts.

Geology: Entirely London Clay overlain with superficial gravel deposits (Taplow Gravel Formation). Pockets of infilled ground, made ground and worked ground scattered across the area.

Topography/ Landform: A flat landform with no topographic variation.

Hydrology: The Longford and Duke of Northumberland River flow along the western and southern edge of the character area and the western edge is within the flood zone. The flood zone of the River Crane extends into the eastern part of the character area.

Land Use and Settlement: Dominated entirely by Heathrow Airport (12.14km²) comprising runways, roads, other associated infrastructure and buildings. Terminals 1, 2 and 3 are in the centre of the area, Terminal 4 to the south and Terminal 5 in the west.

There is very little vegetation, limited to strips of grassland alongside runways and access routes and shrub/climber planting on perimeter fencing /walls.

The Longford River and Duke of Northumberland River run alongside the western and southern boundary of the airport. They are artificial watercourses diverted south in 1944 during the airport construction and more recently during the construction of Terminal 5. There is also a rainwater collection pond north of Terminal 5.

LCA LI HEATHROW GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial and commercial buildings (e.g hotels) border the airport to the north and the village of Longford (with historic a core). Stanwell and East Bedfont (in the adjacent Spelthorne and Hounslow Boroughs) border the airport to the south. The airport is surrounded by perimeter roads, fencing and walls on all sides.

Biodiversity: The Longford and Duke of Northumberland River is canalised with mown grass banks in stretches. There is little ecological interest in this built landscape.

Historic Environment: Formerly heath and moorland then brought under agricultural landscape and an important market gardening area in 19th and early 20th centuries. In the 1930s, Richard Fairey, a British aero engineer and aircraft builder, built a private, airport on a 150 acre plot to assemble and test aircraft. During World War II the government requisitioned land in and around the ancient agricultural village of Heath Row, including Fairey's Great West Aerodrome, to build RAF Heston, a base for troop-carrying aircraft bound for the Far East. Work demolishing Heath Row and clearing land for the runways started in 1944. However, by the time the war had ended the RAF no longer needed another aerodrome and it was officially handed over to the Air Ministry as London's new civil airport on 1 January 1946.

By 1951 the number of passengers travelling through the airport had increased British architect Frederick Gibberd was appointed to design permanent buildings for the airport. The focal point of Gibberd's plan was a 122ft-high control tower. By 1961 the old terminal on the northside had closed and airlines either operated from the Europa terminal (later renamed Terminal 2) or the Oceanic terminal (now Terminal 3). As demand for air travel increased, more terminals were built Terminal 1 in 1969, Terminal 4 in 1986 and Terminal 5 in 2008. Technical Block A is Grade II listed, the Control Tower is locally listed.

The Duke of Northumberland's River was diverted in 1543 to increase the water supply to Isleworth Mill, and in the 17th century the Longford River was constructed to improve the water supply to Hampton Court. Both these rivers were diverted as part of the Terminal 5 construction project.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: A flat, expansive areas of hardstanding buildings and infrastructure comprising Heathrow Airport. Extending across the southern part of Hillingdon Borough, the airport is a very prominent and large scale feature in the landscape. Airport buildings mass together to form a distinctive backdrop to open views across farmland to the north and high security fencing and walls surround the entire perimeter. Heathrow is the UK's largest airport, approximately 650 planes depart from Heathrow each day and are frequently seen in the sky above Hillingdon they and have considerable audible and visual impact to surrounding areas. At night airport lighting is also prominent. There is a strong sense of movement, both in the air and on the ground, which impacts on the site and on adjacent landscapes.

Designations:

LCA LI HEATHROW GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Greenbelt (Terminal 5)
- Site of Borough Grade II importance: Airport Reservoir and Burrows

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities:

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The Longford and Duke of Northumberland River, a potential wildlife corridor and Airport Reservoir and Burrows which is an important site for nature conservation in an otherwise ecologically barren landscape.
- Potential to expand the airport further to include a third runway and 6th terminal with associated landscape, visual and audible impacts.



Security fencing and walls along the southern boundary of the airport



Airport infrastructure

LCT L GRAVEL TERRACE INFRASTRUCTURE – STRATEGY & GUIDELINES

Constituent LCAs

- LI – Heathrow Gravel Terrace Infrastructure

Strategy/ Vision: To manage and enhance the visual and ecological character of the landscape, and lessen impact of future development on the landscape and surrounding landscapes.

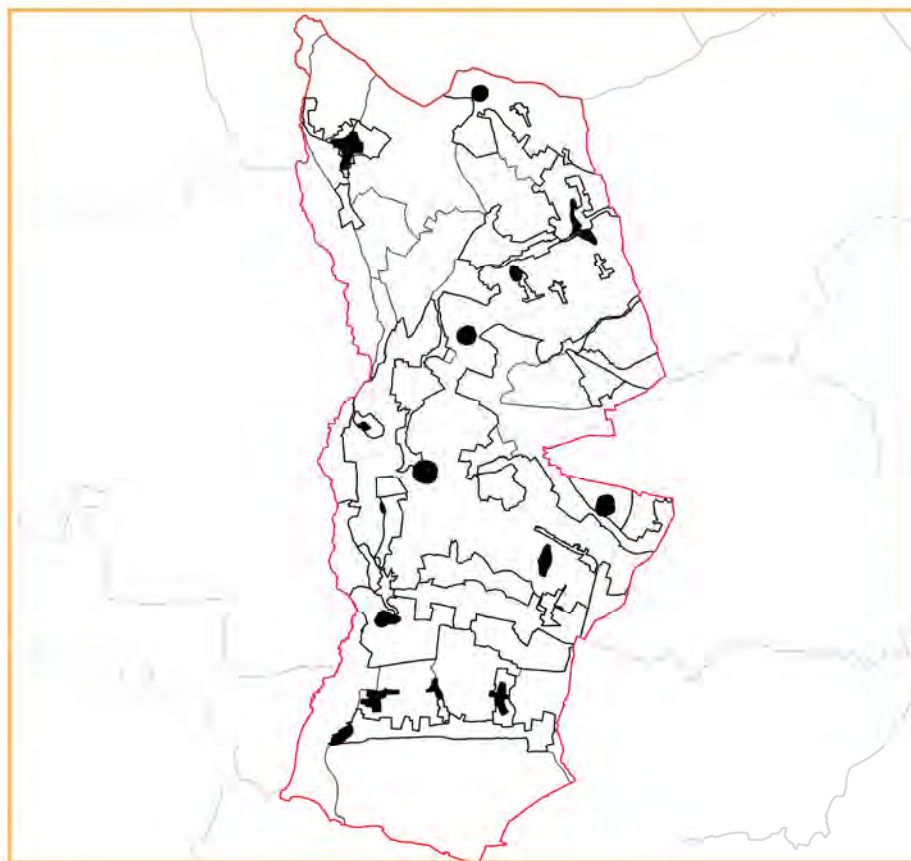
Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and manage occasional trees/vegetation and wildlife corridors, which provides ecological interest and screening. Consider additional tree planting, particularly around the periphery.
- Restrict development which would alter the positive characteristics of surrounding landscapes. In particular restrict prominent, vertical elements, which will be particularly prominent in a flat and open landscape.
- The landscape development and management of sites at, or close to, Heathrow Airport will be subject to Bird Hazard Risk Assessments by BAA with a view to discouraging bird attractants and reducing the risk of bird strike.
- Conserve and enhance the wildlife habitats associated with rivers, which are an important ecological resource in this landscape which is dominated by built features and hardstanding.

4 The Townscape Character of Hillingdon

- 4.1 The study is primarily an assessment of the landscape character of Hillingdon Borough, however townscape types have also been broadly identified. The townscape character types provide a general overview for Hillingdon Borough, which offers a broad framework for a more detailed townscape assessment to be undertaken in the future. For each townscape type, key characteristics are described, supported by a location map and photographs, and a list of component townscape character areas provided. The classifications have been developed through desk based assessments and provide general characteristics. Some of the townscape areas will overlap between types, and share similar characteristics.
- 4.2 The townscape character is distinctly different between the north and the south of the Borough, which reflects its history and development. The historic development map for London (within London's Natural Signatures), OS 1:25,000 mapping, Hillingdon Borough Unitary Development Plan (adopted 1998, Saved Policies 2007) and the OS First Edition Map for the Borough were sources used to aid development of the classification.

TCT: HISTORIC CORE



Areas within this Type:

- Northwood
- Harefield
- Eastcote
- Ruislip
- Ickenham
- Uxbridge
- Yeading
- Hillingdon
- Cowley
- Hayes
- West Drayton
- Harmondsworth
- Harlington
- Sipson
- Longford



Ickenham historic core



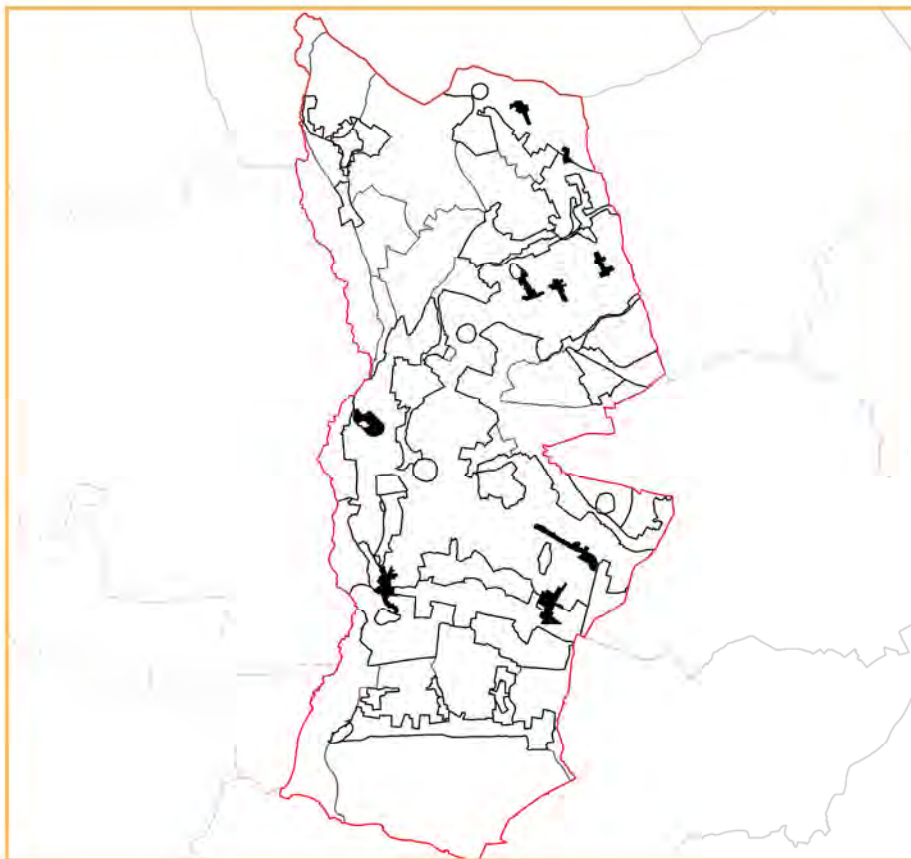
Harmondsworth village core

TCT HISTORIC CORE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- This type forms the historic core of settlement, usually associated with a church, green or common. The archaeology of these areas is particularly important.
- A considerable time depth is apparent with built development having evolved from the medieval period to the present day, often along historic routes.
- A tight urban grain is created by relatively high density development with buildings often drawn close to street frontages.
- Built vernacular is varied, including timber framed buildings, red brick with some white render. A concentration of listed buildings and 'historic assets'.
- Materials include red brick, purple brick, white render and slate roofing.
- A variety of land uses (ecclesiastical, retail, commercial and residential) creates an active and vibrant townscape.
- Greens and commons provide important open spaces providing focal points at the heart of settlement.
- Variety and rhythm created by varying building lines and roof heights, and texture created by the varied materials palette and façade detailing, contribute to a colourful and vibrant environment.
- Attractive views between buildings and around corners to reveal interesting rooflines and building angles
- Beyond the historic core 20th century residential development dominates.

TCT: RETAIL CENTRE



Areas within this Type:

- Northwood
- Northwood Hills
- Eastcote
- Ruislip
- Ruislip Manor
- Hayes
- Hayes Town
- Yiewsley/West Drayton
- Uxbridge



Uxbridge High Street

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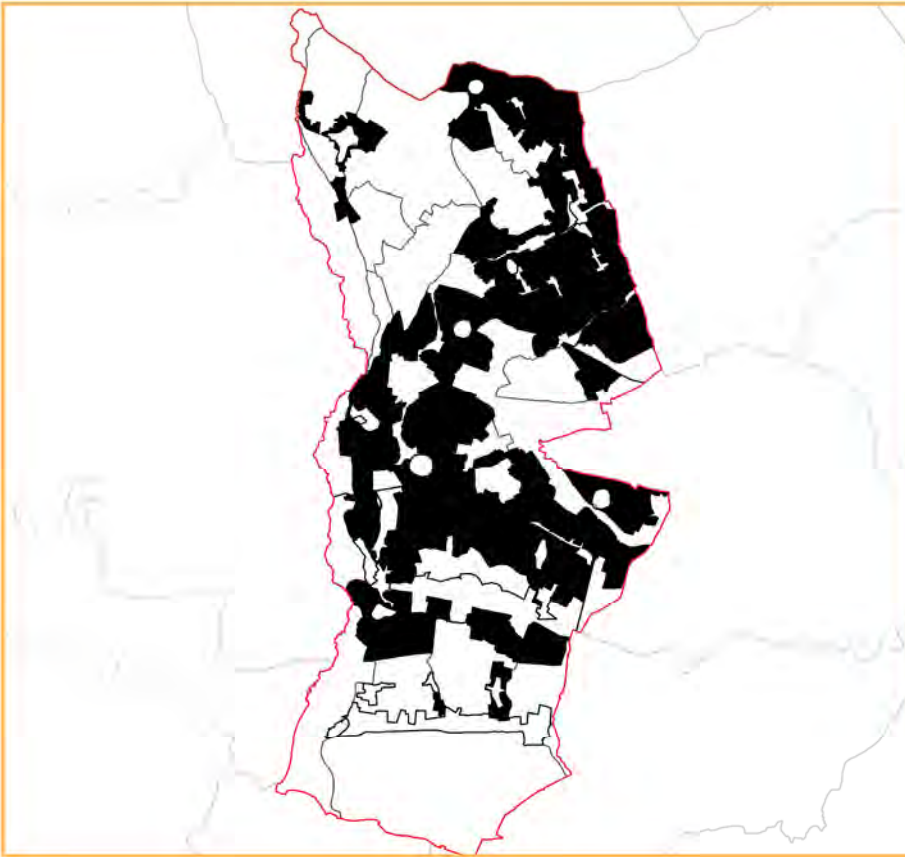
Ruislip Centre

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- This type comprises principal shopping areas, with a high density concentration of retail developments, from small shops to larger shopping centres and supermarkets.
- A focus for shopping, leisure/recreation and retail, often centred around transport nodes.
- Modern and traditional shop fronts, often with housing above. Typically front directly onto pavement.
- Interspersed within historic features, civic buildings and occasional listed buildings.
- Built character is a mix of modern and historic vernacular, often with red brick with some white render, and a large number of purpose built modern buildings.
- Good permeability for vehicles and pedestrians, which often creates a busy character with strong sense of movement.
- A mixed sense of enclosure. Dense built form is interspersed with areas of open space, typically landscaped with paving, with streetscape including street trees, benches and other street furniture.
- Beyond the town centre core residential development dominates.
- Views often linear along high streets or central pedestrian shopping areas.

TCT: INTER-WAR SUBURB/METROLAND



Areas within this Type:

- Northwood
- Harefield
- Eastcote
- Ruislip
- Ruislip Manor
- West Ruislip
- South Ruislip
- Ickenham
- Uxbridge
- Cowley
- Hillingdon
- North Hillingdon
- Hayes
- Hayes Town
- Yeading
- Yiewsley
- West Drayton



Cheney Street, Eastcote. Typical 1930's Metroland development

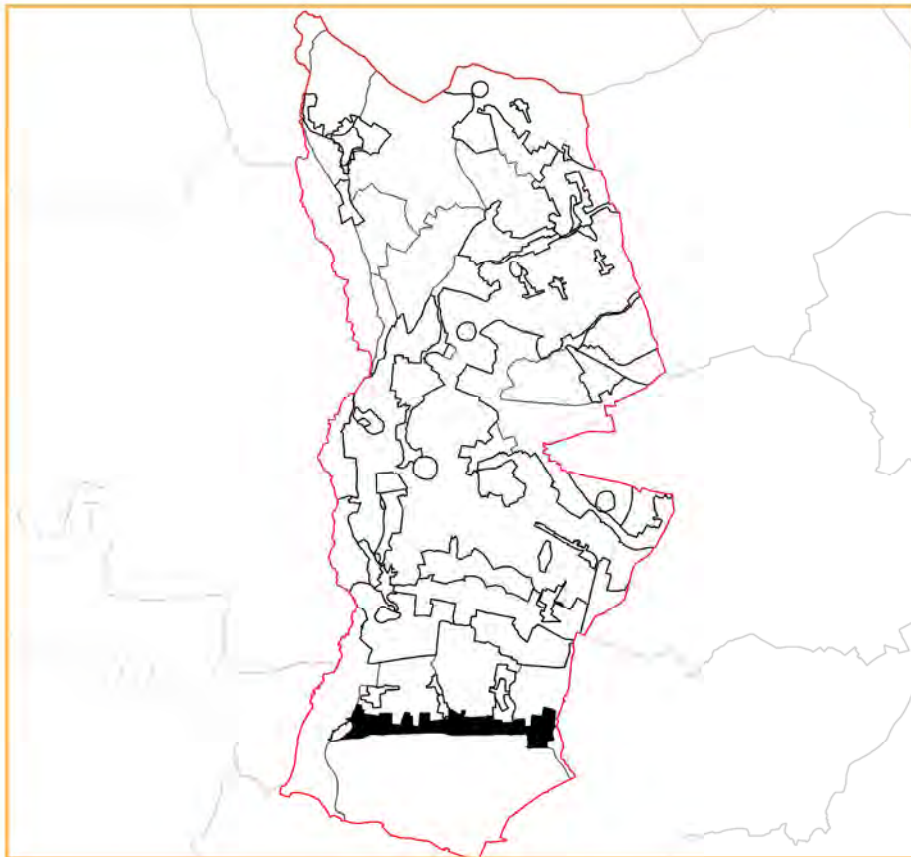


Central Avenue, Hayes. Inter-war municipal housing.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- The early use of development plans influenced by the 'garden suburb' movement had an impact on the style, layout and density of development in the north of the Borough.
- This type evolved with the extension of the Metropolitan Railway in the north of the Borough from Harrow on the Hill to Uxbridge in the early 1900s and the gradual establishment of stops along the line, becoming known as "Metroland".
- Suburbs in the south of the Borough developed along improved transport links, such as canals and the Great West Railway and reflect the growth of local industries.
- Medium density residential suburbs consisting of a distinctive network of curvilinear streets (crescents), linear streets (avenues) and 'dead ends' (closes). Pockets of late 19th century Victorian and Post War terraces and more recent housing provide variety in character within the suburbs.
- Built form is defined by suburban style semi-detached two storey houses in pebbledash or colour render. Brick is also a common building material.
- Residential streets often delineated by grass verges and small street trees.
- Large well planned Local Authority and railway estates (similar to those designed by the LCC) from the 1920's and 30's are also found in the south.
- The leafy suburban character is reinforced by well vegetated domestic front gardens with ornamental shrubs, bounded by low brick walls and clipped hedges.
- Views are channelled down streets, framed by the regular facades of houses.
- Quiet and peaceful residential suburbs with a spacious character due to the relatively wide street proportions.
- Interspersed with publicly accessible greenspaces including parks (e.g. Hillingdon Court Park) and recreation grounds and cut by accessible river corridors (River Pinn and Yeading Brook). Hillingdon Court park is a highly valued local open space surrounded by residential development.
- Accessible landscape on settlement edges includes open countryside, golf courses, Country Parks (e.g. Stockley) and nature reserves (e.g. Ruislip Woods). Often connected to the suburbs by footpaths and long distance paths.

TCT: COMMERCIAL AIRPORT



Areas within this Type:

- Heathrow



Park Inn Hotel, Bath Road

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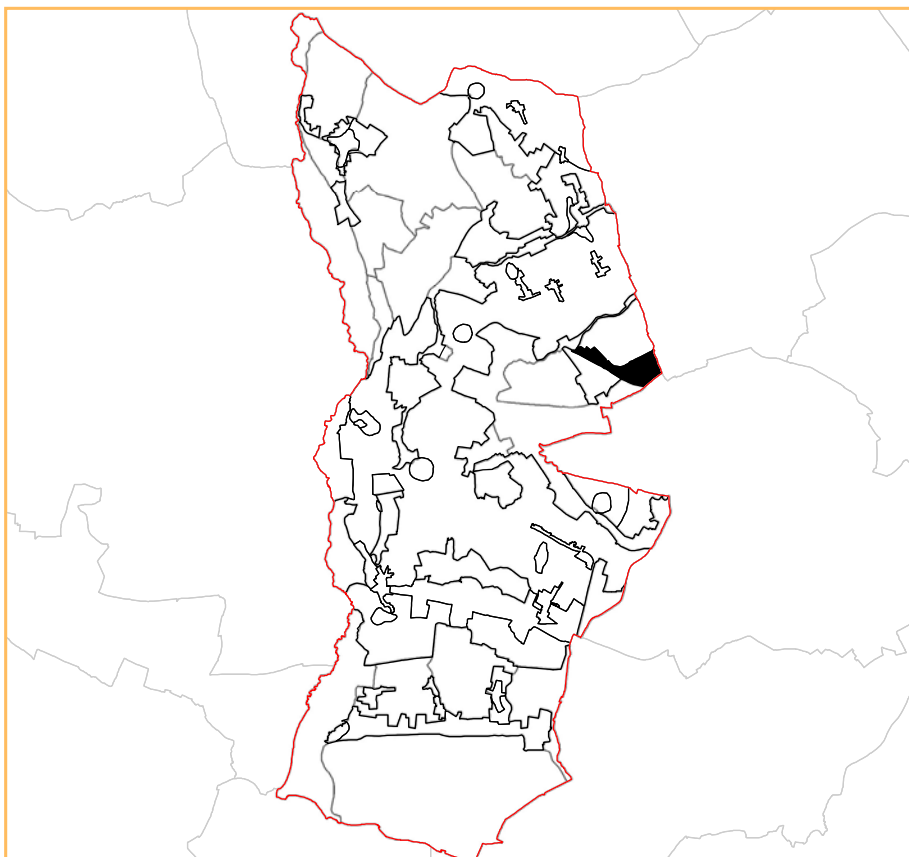


View across open fields towards commercial infrastructure north of Heathrow Airport

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

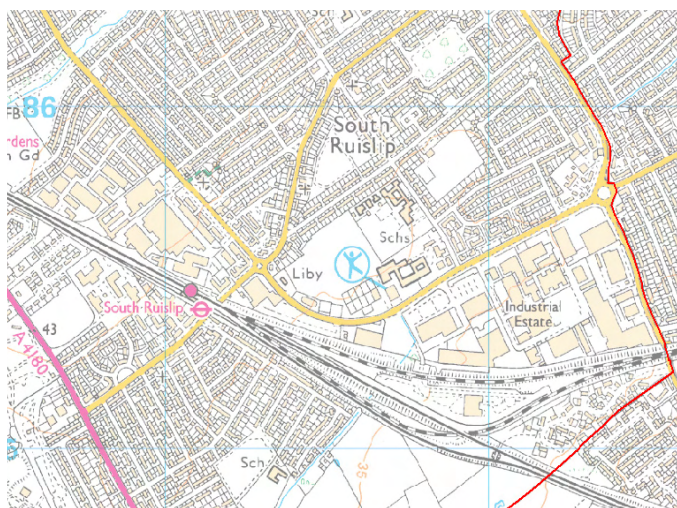
- Commercial development situated largely along a straight, tree lined main road (A4) including hotels, restaurants, business parks, offices and car parking, associated with Heathrow Airport.
- Development is within large plots, accessed by roads terminating in dead ends.
- Built form is large scale and simple, with materials often comprising plate glass and stainless/painted steel construction, concrete, and red brick.
- Buildings frontages often with ornamental planting. Other boundaries include wire fencing, low brick walls and hedgerows.
- Open space includes car parking with ornamental landscape schemes in communal areas.
- Surfaces are mainly tarmacked, with concrete kerbs. Use of 'designed' hard materials including concrete flags and block paving.
- Views are kept short by large buildings, with longer views linearly along roads. Heathrow Airport features predominantly in the backdrop to many views.
- Busy roads and airport traffic creates a busy character with strong sense of movement.

TCT: INDUSTRIAL



Areas within this Type:

- South Ruislip

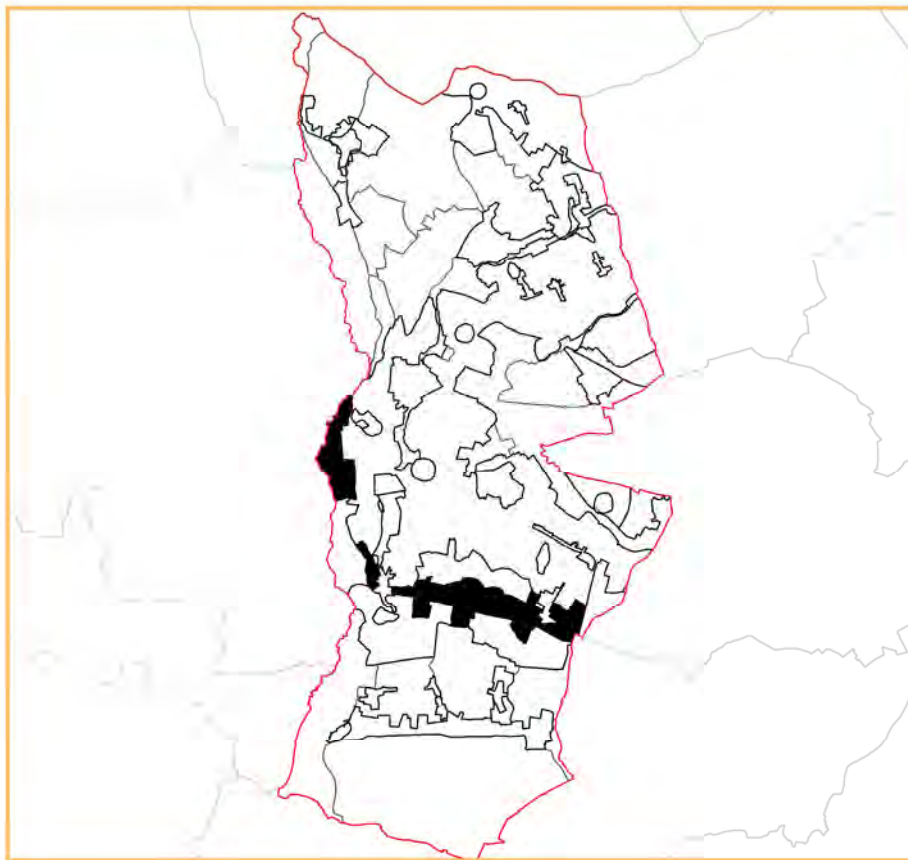


I: 25, 000 scale map extract of South Ruislip industrial area.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Low density industrial development including industrial estates and offices, often close to a railway line, canal or major road.
- Development is within large plots, accessed by roads terminating in dead ends.
- Built form is large scale and simple, often comprising rudimentary sheds together with smaller subsidiary office buildings to street frontages and at entrances.
- Open space includes car parking and occasional ornamental landscape schemes in communal areas or around entrances.
- Materials palette is simple, with sheds comprising brick and metal sheet cladding and brick office buildings.
- Surfaces are mainly tarmac or concrete, with concrete kerbs.
- Views are kept short by large buildings.

TCT: INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CANAL SIDE



Areas within this Type:

- Uxbridge
- Hayes
- Yiewsley
- Cowley
- Bulls Bridge



Nestles Factory, Hayes. View from the Grand Union Canal.

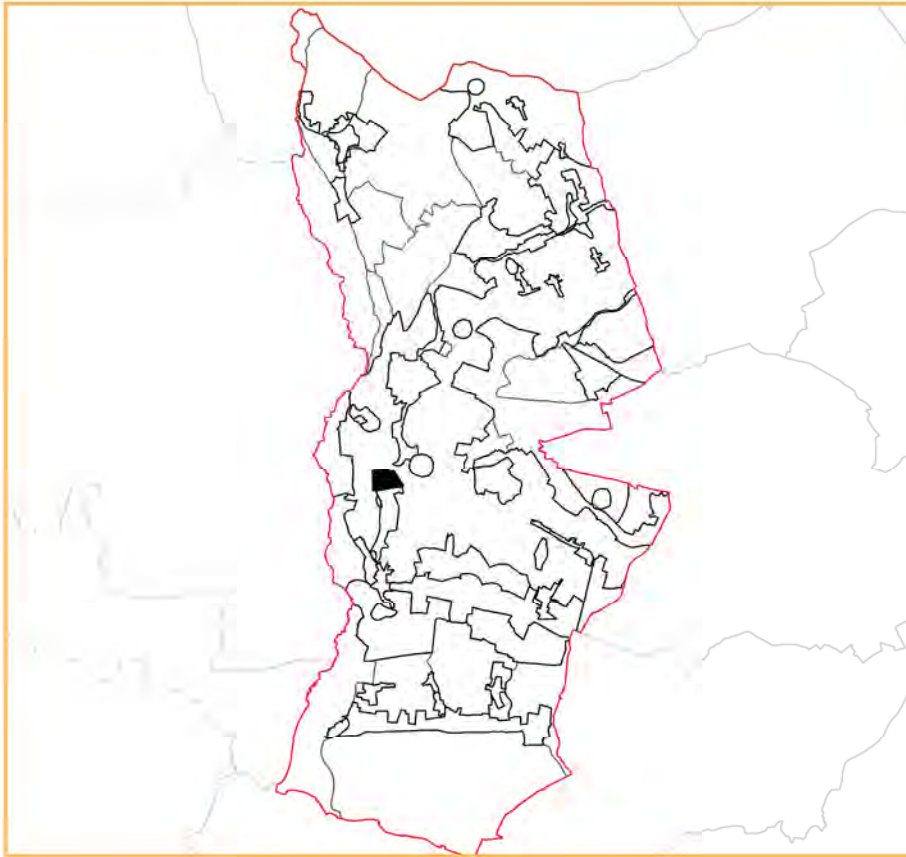


Nestles Factory, Hayes. Front elevation built in the 1930's.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Low density industrial and commercial development including industrial estates, business parks and offices.
- Cut by the Grand Union Canal, an important linear feature providing recreational and ecological interest in the built landscape.
- Development is within large plots, accessed by roads terminating in dead ends.
- Built form is generally large scale and simple, often comprising sheds buildings with smaller office buildings. In contrast Stockley Park, masterplanned in the 1980s, includes buildings by a number of leading British architects.
- Materials palette is simple, with sheds comprising brick and metal sheet cladding and brick office buildings. Glass frontages are common within Stockley Business Park.
- Open space includes car parking and ornamental landscape schemes in communal areas. Stockley Business Park has an impressive large scale designed landscape including a lakes and lime avenues.
- The Grand Union Canal is a Nature Conservation Site of Metropolitan Importance, particularly distinctive in terms of its aquatic, emergent and bankside vegetation at Stockley Bridge.
- Long distance trails (the London Loop, Grand Union Canal Walk and Hillingdon Trail) follow the towpath of the Grand Union Canal.
- Views are kept short by buildings or are channelled down the canal from towpaths and road bridges.

TCT: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Areas within this Type:

- Brunel University



Brunel University and Campus

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TCT INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- This type comprises institutional development, generally of a scale which contrasts markedly with adjacent developments, i.e. Brunel University.
- The large scale of built development is matched by that of the surrounding open space, with greenspace, courtyards, forecourts, car parks and sports grounds all present on a landscaped campus.
- Built from the mid-1960s onwards, buildings are modern, with mixed architectural styles and typically 2 to 5 storeys high. Materials comprise of brick, concrete, plate glass and clad steel framed construction.
- Streetscape is a mixed palette of hard and soft materials, with a combination of block paving with trees and grassed areas.
- Busy and active urban environments, although activity is often sporadic or seasonal e.g. term time.
- Wide spaces in between buildings means long linear views are achieved, often channelled and limited by tall buildings.
- The River Pinn green corridor flows through the development.

S:\5100\5131 Hillingdon LCA\C Project Outputs\Final V3 Issue May 2012\V3_FINAL DRAFT REPORT_Amended_15_05_12.docx

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Setting

Value

Appendix I

Baseline Data Maps

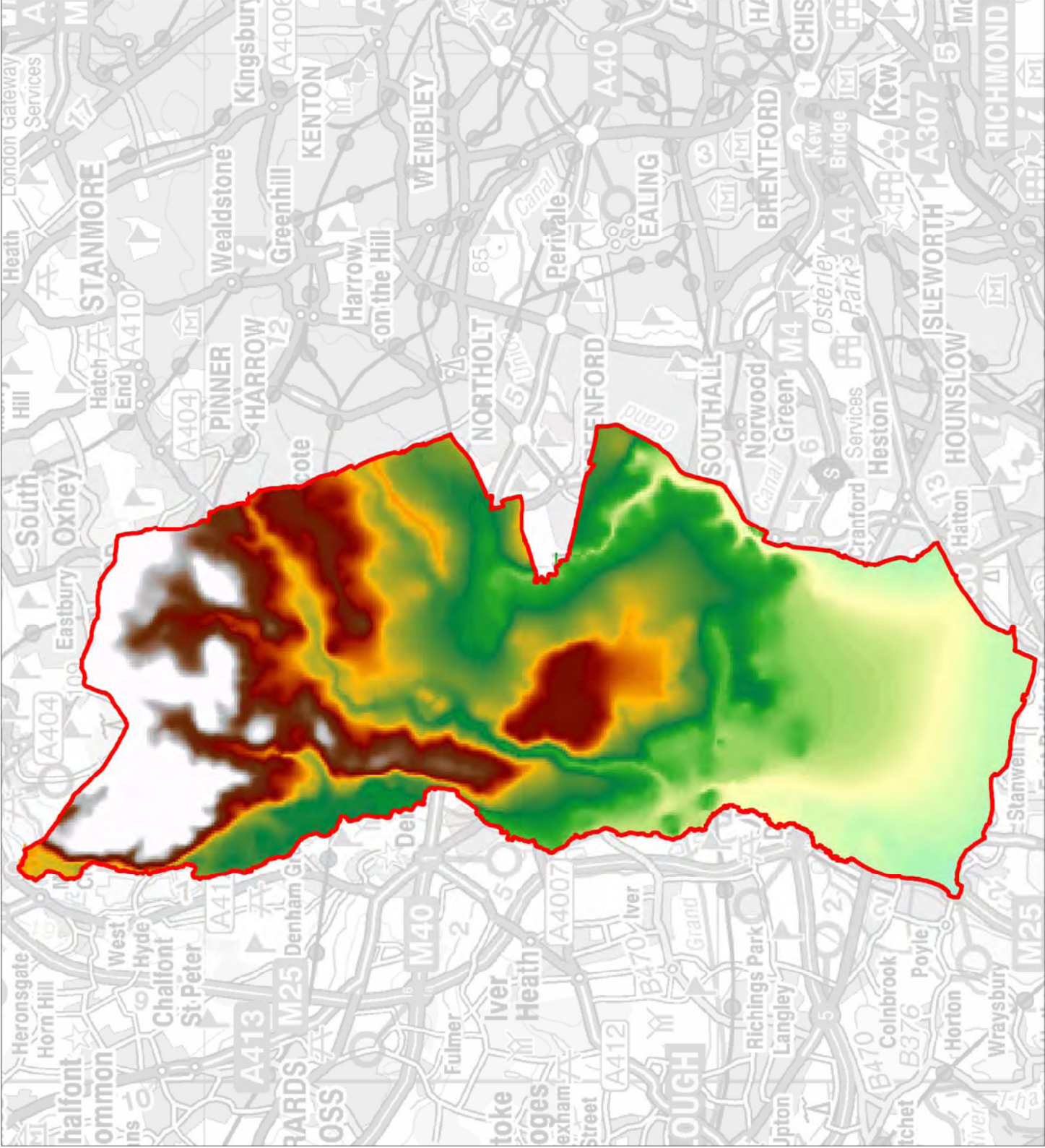


Figure a: Landform

Key



Hillingdon Boundary



High : 290

Low : -45



2 Km

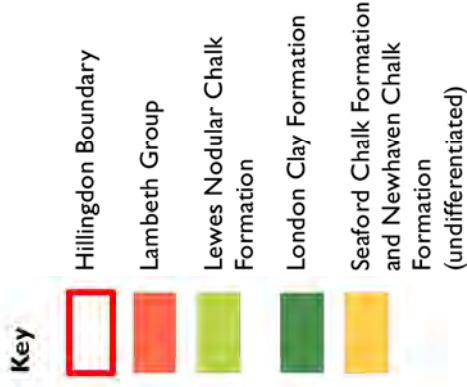
1:100,000 at A4

Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/1/2011



Figure b: Simplified Bedrock Geology



1:100,000 at A4

Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011

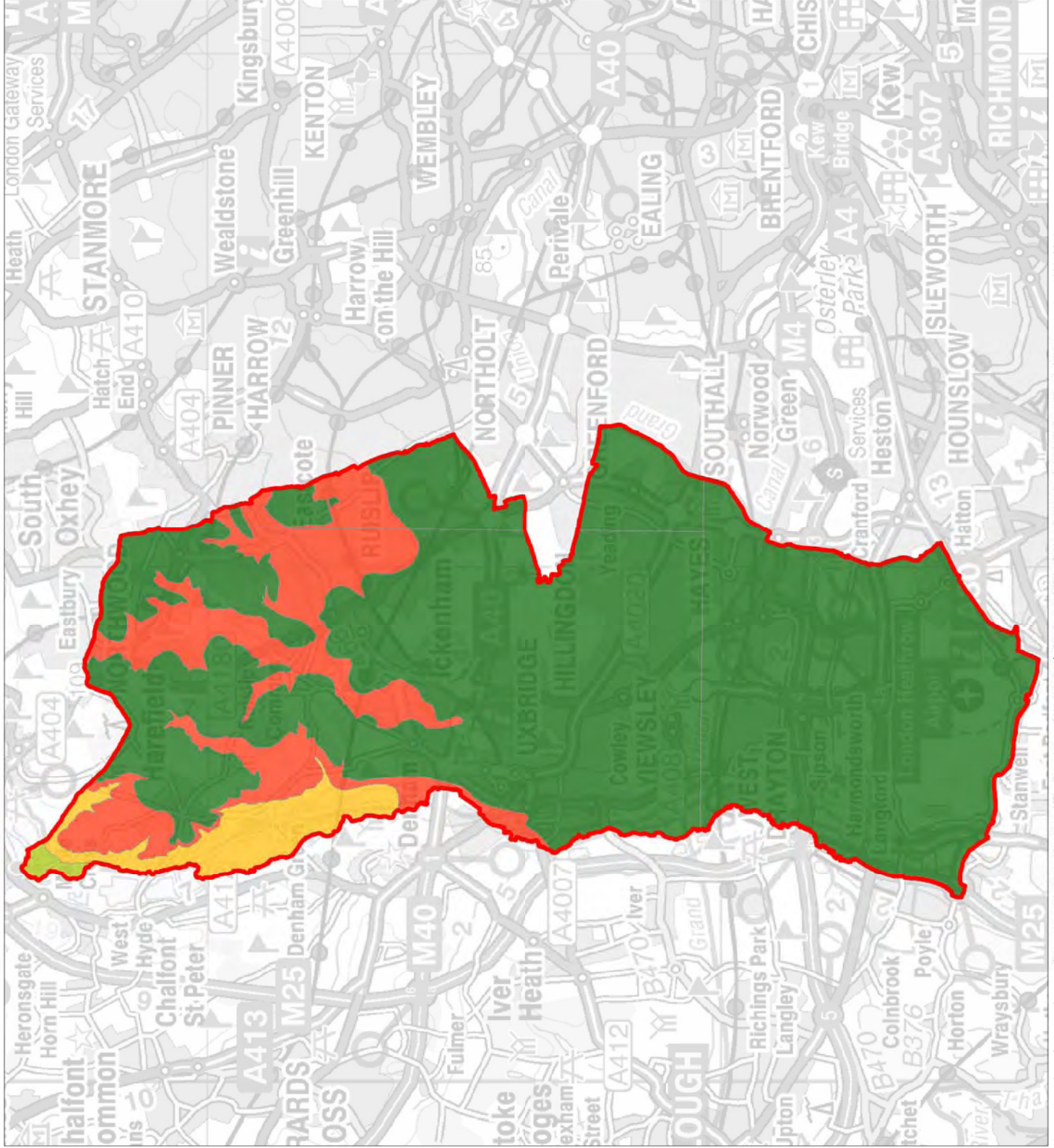
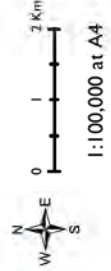
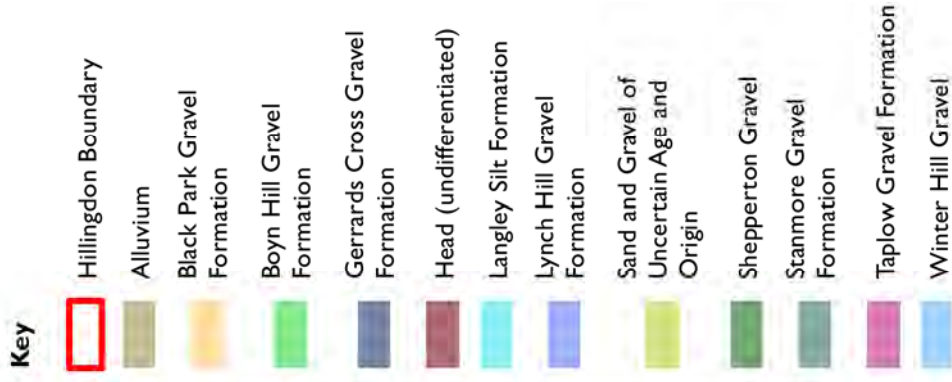


Figure c: Simplified Superficial Geology



Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/1/2011

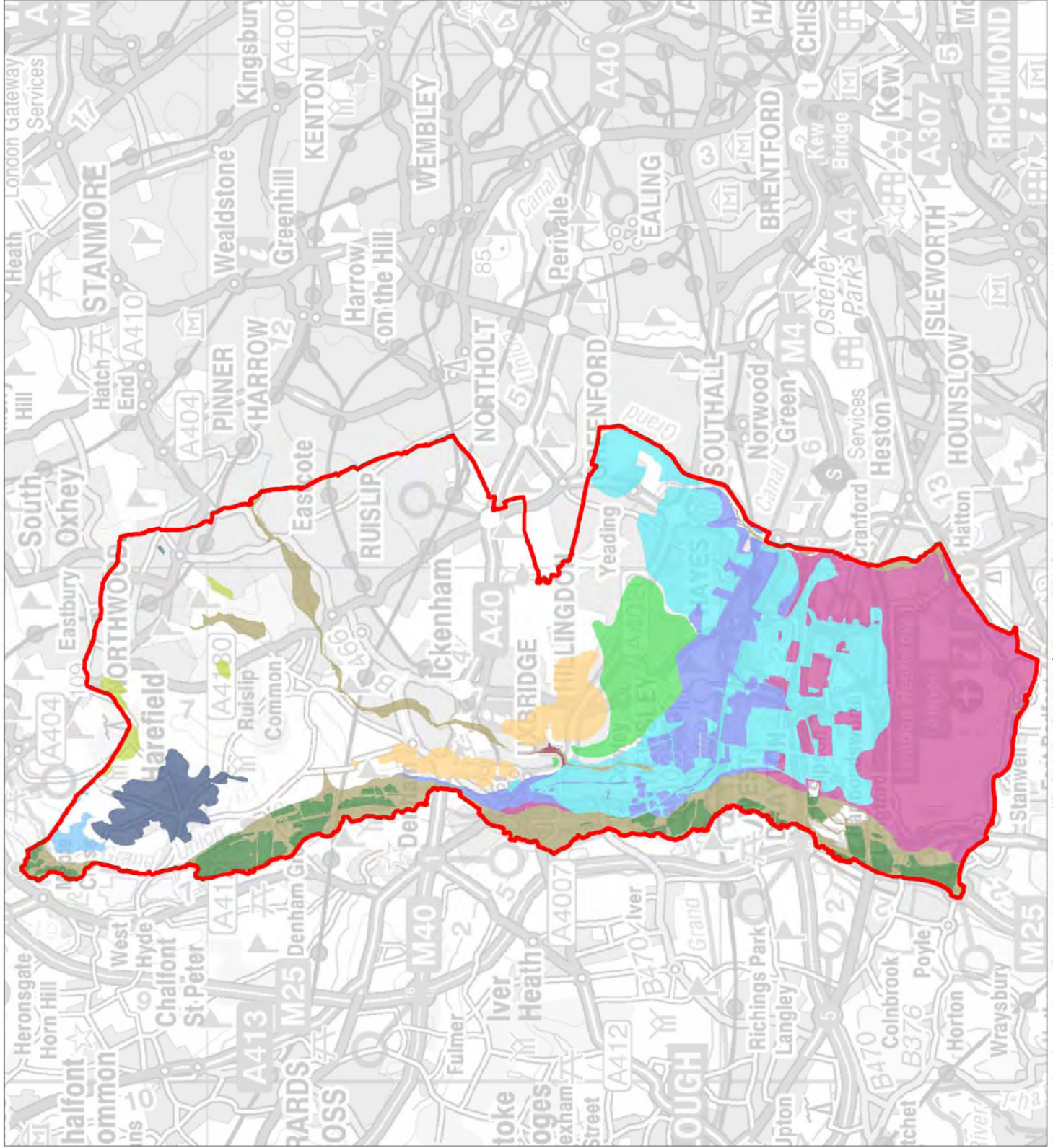
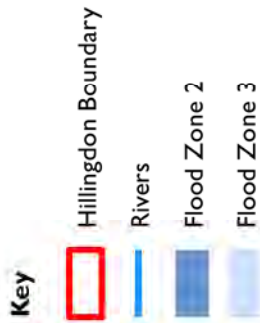


Figure d: Hydrology



Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011

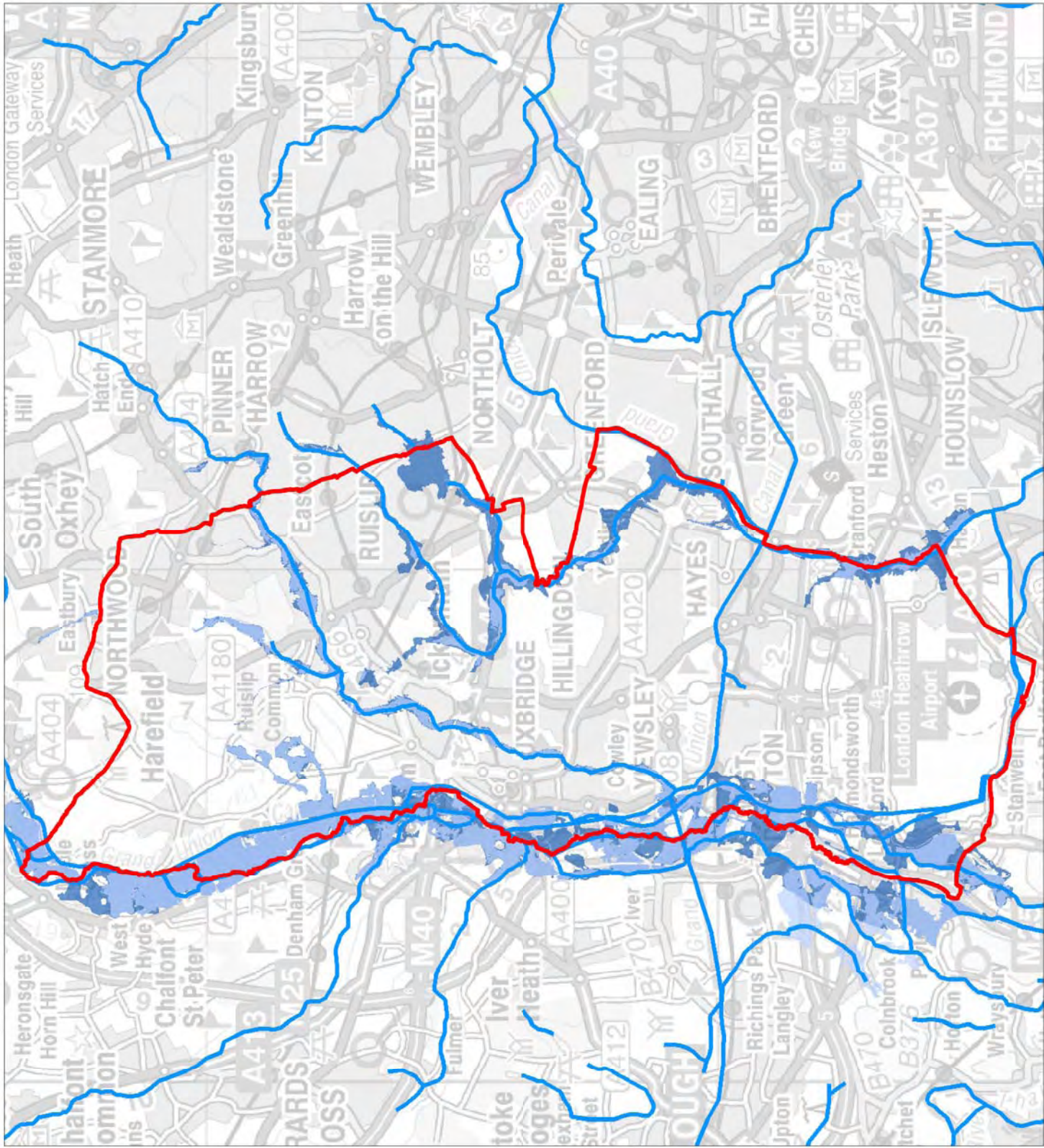















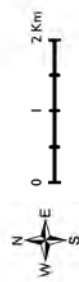


Figure e: Historic Landscape Development

- Key**
-  Hillingdon Boundary
 -  Roman and early roads
 -  Settlement Core
 -  Georgian residential (ie "RES 0")
 -  Commercial
 -  Victorian terraces (ie "RES 1")
 -  Inter-war suburbs (ie "RES 2")
 -  1945-2006 housing (ie "RES 3")
 -  'Gateways'
 -  Industry
 -  'Shed Parks'
 -  Open Countryside
 -  Public Open Space
 -  Institutional
 -  Water Bodies



0 1 2 Km
1:100,000 at A4

Source: London's Natural Signatures

Date: 24/1/2011

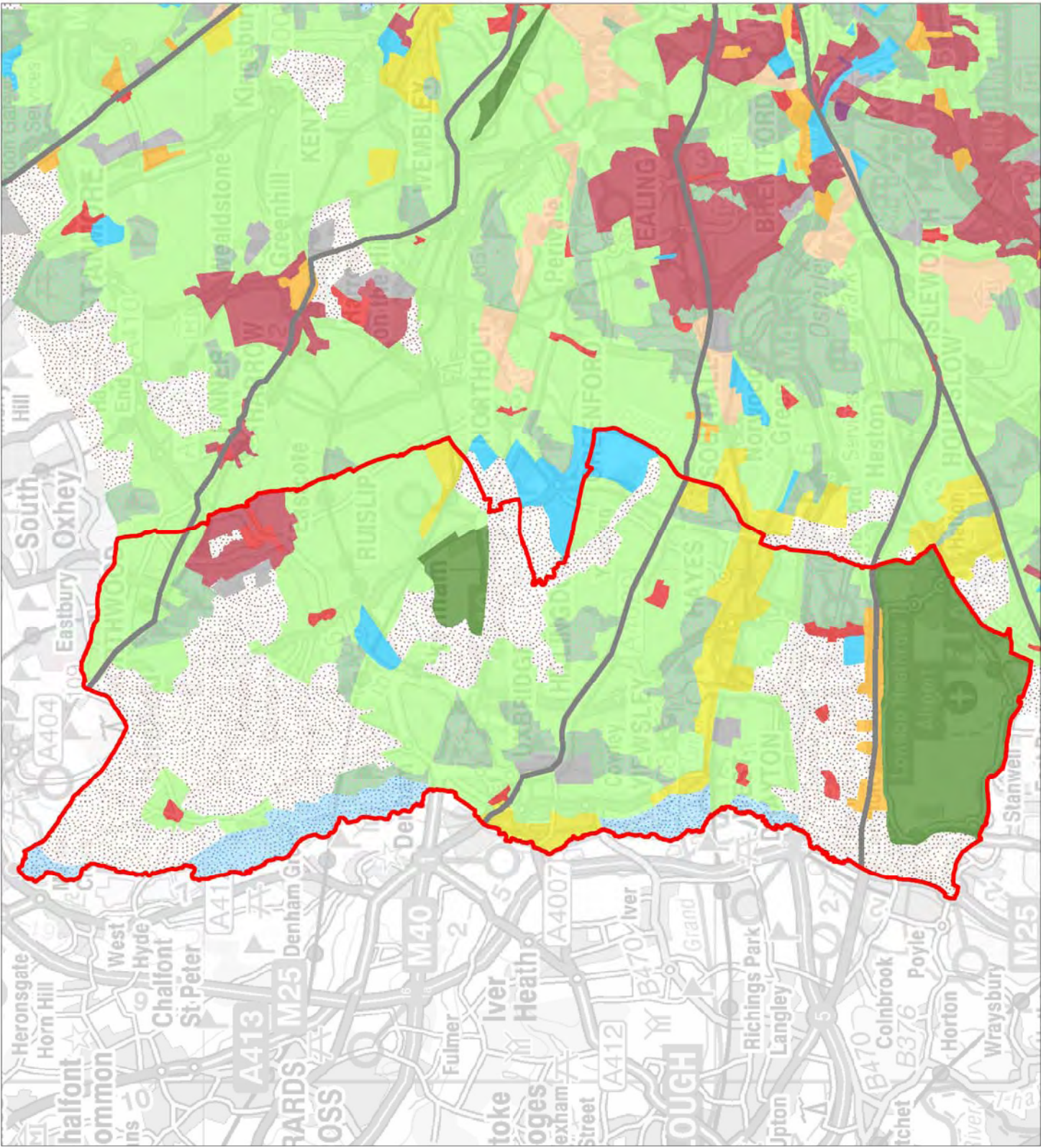
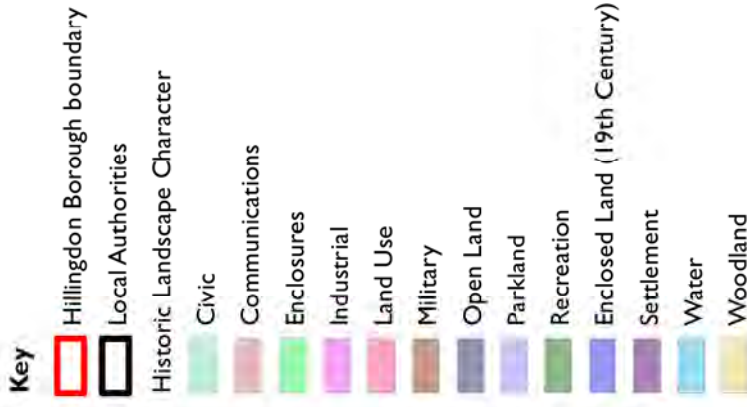


Figure f: Historic Landscape Classification (Colne Valley Regional Park)



Source: Land Use Consultants



Date: 24/11/2011

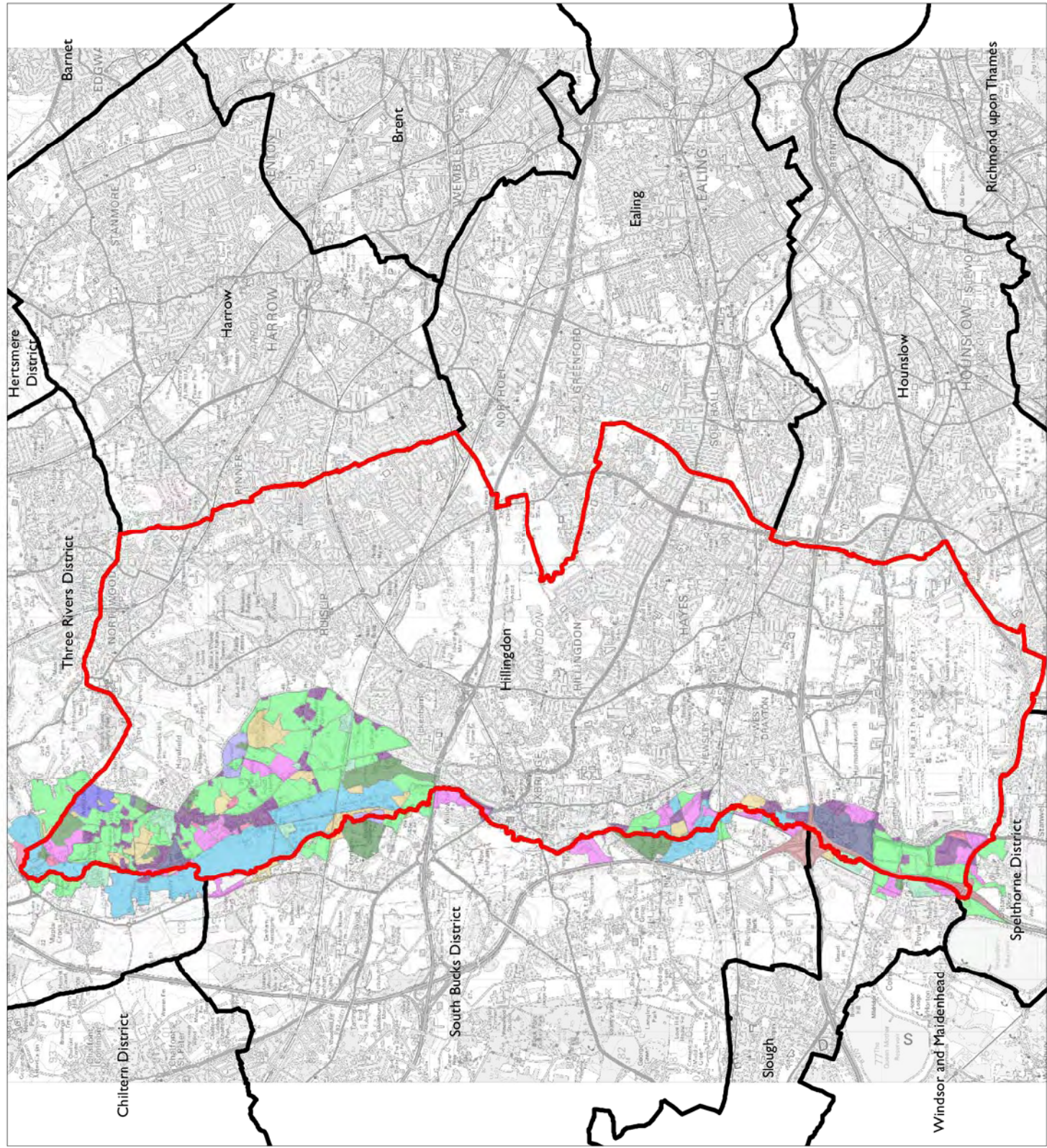
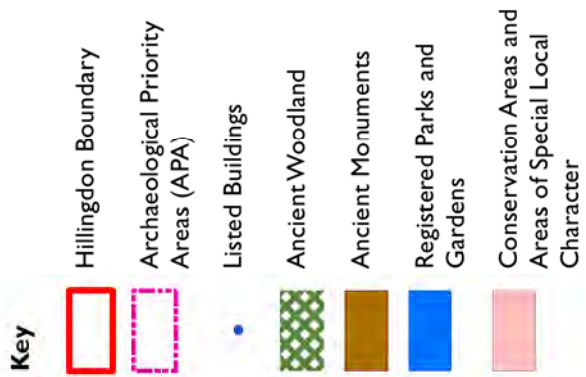


Figure g: Historic Landscape Designations



Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011

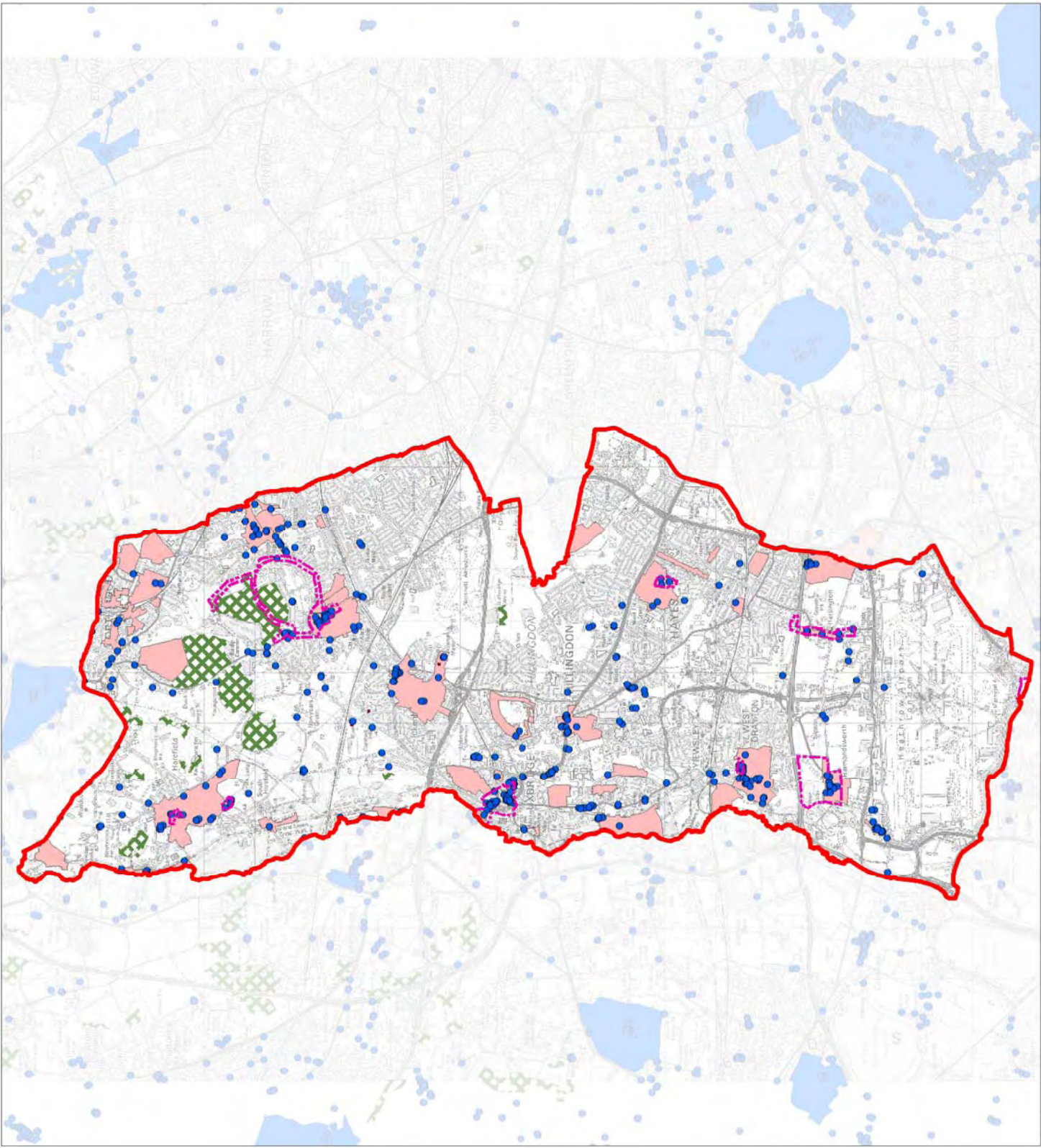


Figure h: Statutory Nature Conservation Designations

Key



Hillingdon Boundary



Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)



National Nature Reserves (NNR)



Special Protection Areas (SPA)



1:100,000 at A4

Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011

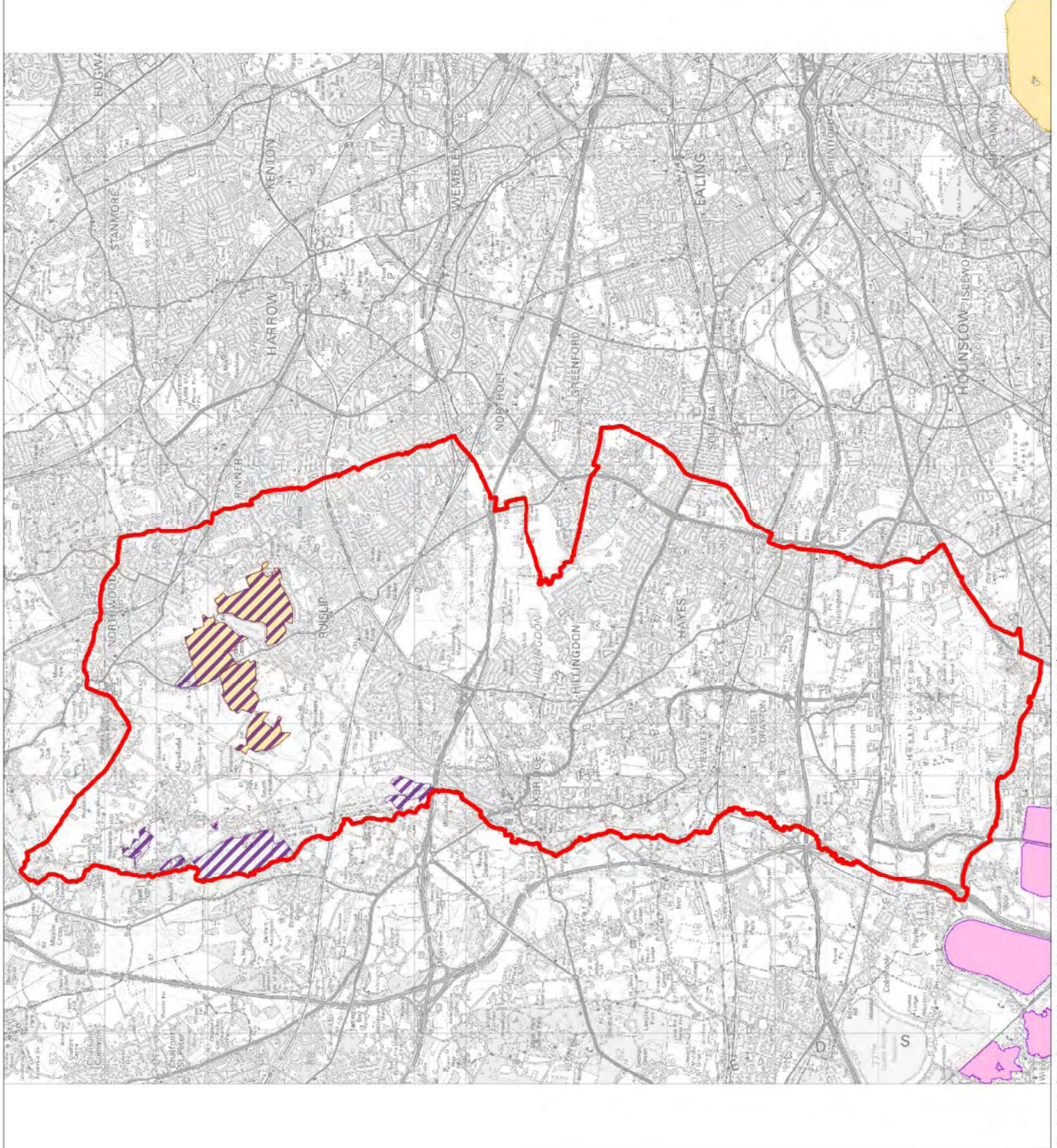
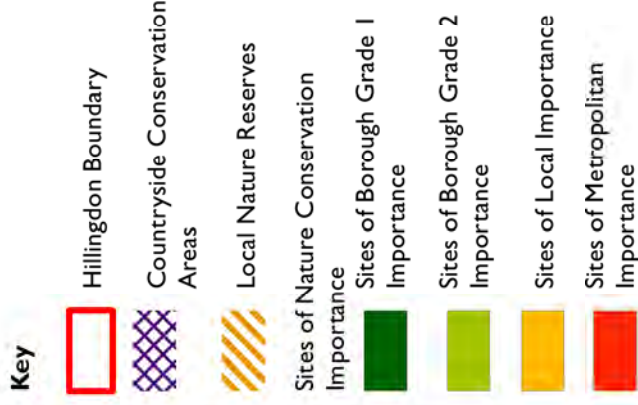


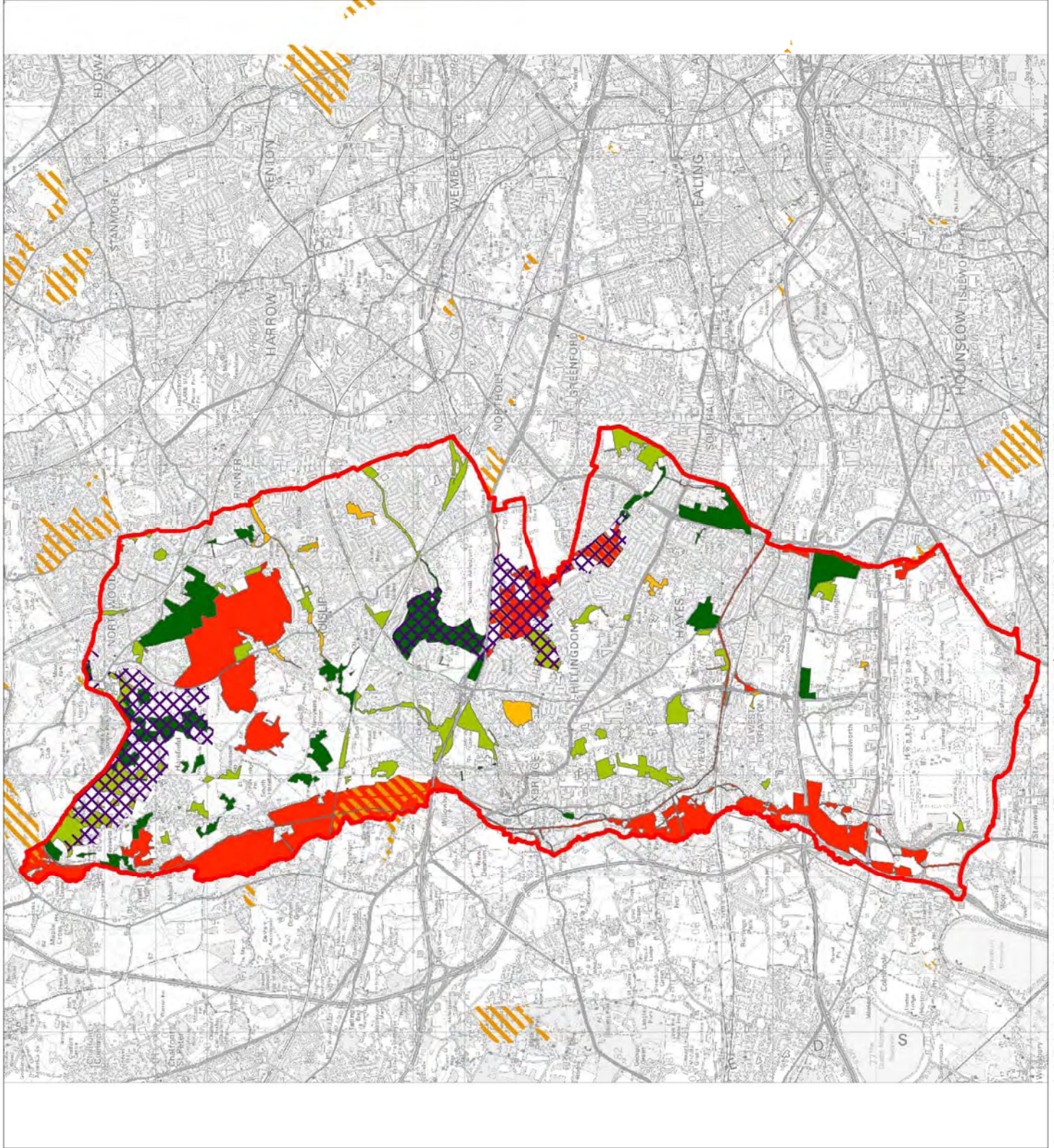
Figure i: Non-statutory Nature Conservation Designations



1:100,000 at A4

Source: Land Use Consultants

Date: 24/11/2011



Appendix 2
Field Survey Sheet

HILLINGDON LCA FIELD SURVEY FORM

| |
|---------------------------------|
| LANDSCAPE TYPE: |
| DRAFT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: |

DATE:..... TIME:..... WEATHER:.....

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS.....

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES.....
.....
.....

KEY WORDS/SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

GEOLOGY.....
.....

SOILS
.....
.....

ELEVATION

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lowland (under 50m) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional (50-200m) | <input type="checkbox"/> Upland (over 200m) |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

LANDFORM

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flat | <input type="checkbox"/> Steep slopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Escarpment | <input type="checkbox"/> Broad Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelving | <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle slopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Knoll | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling | <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain | <input type="checkbox"/> Plateau | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undulating | <input type="checkbox"/> Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Coomb Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep Valley |

HYDRROLOGY

.....
.....
Key physical characteristics (geology/topography) and their significance/ contribution to character:
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

HUMAN INFLUENCES VISIBLE FEATURES

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorway | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Earthworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Nucleated settle. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual carriageway | <input type="checkbox"/> Manor/parkland | <input type="checkbox"/> Moats | <input type="checkbox"/> Linear settle. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural road | <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark building | <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge and furrow | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersed settle. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural lanes/tracks | <input type="checkbox"/> Mills | <input type="checkbox"/> Tumuli | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial workings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunken lanes | <input type="checkbox"/> Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Hamlet | <input type="checkbox"/> Masts/Poles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridleway | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortifications | <input type="checkbox"/> Village | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecom Masts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Footpath | <input type="checkbox"/> Hill Forts | <input type="checkbox"/> Town edge | <input type="checkbox"/> Pylons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Railway | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburb | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

LAND USE

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmland | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry/Woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Parkland | <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Working | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

LAND/VEGETATION COVER

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arable | <input type="checkbox"/> Amenity grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> Small farm woods | <input type="checkbox"/> Heathland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent pasture | <input type="checkbox"/> Conif.plantation | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelterbelts | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ley/improved | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Copses/clumps | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Aquatics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddocks | <input type="checkbox"/> Decid.woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland belt | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rough grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Common |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet meadow | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland | <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Green |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk Grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> Avenues | <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set-aside | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchards | <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerows | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

FIELD PATTERNS AND BOUNDARIES

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banks | <input type="checkbox"/> Fence – rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Geometric | <input type="checkbox"/> Small |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditches | <input type="checkbox"/> Fence – urban | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinuous | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walls – rural | <input type="checkbox"/> Hedge | <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular | <input type="checkbox"/> Large |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walls – urban | <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Describe features, land use, field patterns and significance/ contribution to character:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Field boundaries:

.....
.....
.....

Tree cover:

.....
.....
.....

SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE

Pattern.....

Density.....

Style and materials.....

Relationship to the landscape.....

Settlement edge character and integration with landscape (abrupt, integrated)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

RECREATION

Evidence of recreational use/character.....

PERCEPTUAL CHARACTERISTICS [See definitions in p.35 of guidance]

Focus on how specific elements contribute to the aesthetic characteristics

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| SCALE | Intimate/ small/ large/ vast |
| ENCLOSURE | Tight/ enclosed/ open/ exposed |
| DIVERSITY | Unified/ simple/ diverse/ complex |
| TEXTURE | Smooth/ textured/ rough/ very rough |
| FORM | Vertical/ sloping/ rolling/ horizontal |
| LINE | Straight/ angular/ curved/ sinuous |
| COLOUR | Monochrome/ muted/ colourful/ garish |
| BALANCE | Harmonious/ balanced/ discordant/ chaotic |
| MOVEMENT | Dead/ still/ calm/ busy |
| PATTERN | Random/ organised regular/ formal |

Tranquillity

Noise levels:

Perceived Naturalness:

Visible overt human impact:

Density of settlement/ diffusion of people:

Overall tranquillity taking into account the above observations:

Views

Views within:

Views to:

Views from:

LANDSCAPE CONDITION/INTACTNESS

DETRACTING FEATURES

PHYSICAL STATE/CONDITION OF INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS (woodland, hedgerows)

INTACTNESS (visual, functional, ecological)

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER (extent to which key characteristics present)

POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SENSITIVITIES

Consider: Scale, Openness and Enclosure

Landform

Landscape pattern and complexity

Settlement and human influence

Time depth and historic character

Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes

Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness and tranquillity)

Habitats and Biodiversity

