

Appendix 1: Historic Landscape Character Broad Type Descriptions

The following section details the 14 Historic Landscape Broad Character Types used in the Wiltshire and Swindon project.

These descriptions are intended to help readers understand and identify these basic categories of historic landscape character. The details here help to contextualise the discussions, analysis and application of data at the Broad Type level. It is hoped that these descriptions, style guides and narratives will allow the reader to identify and understand areas with these historic landscape character types.

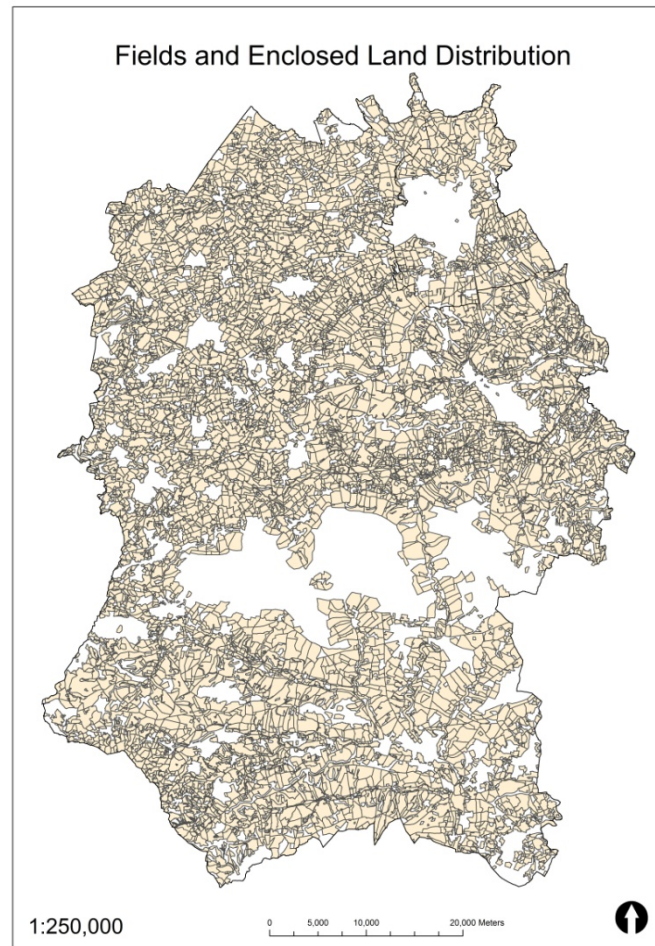
These Broad Types are recorded for each and every polygon in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset, and are the default display category for these polygons in the GIS component of the project. The individual HLC records in the database also reflect elements of the information presented for the 14 types in this section.

Each of the 14 Broad Types is discussed in turn using a consistent format with plain language in order to maximise their accessibility. Each Broad Type Description has the following information:

- *Type Distribution*
 - o A map showing where the Broad HLC type exists in the present day
- *Introduction*
 - o A brief description and definition of what the Broad HLC type is and salient background information relating to the type
- *Distribution*
 - o A discussion of where this Broad HLC type can be found presently and where it is absent, along with any associated reasons
- *Images*
 - o Iconic images of Wiltshire and Swindon to demonstrate the Broad HLC Type
- *Principal Historical Processes*
 - o Detailed discussion of the origins of the Broad Type with a focus on the any processes or influences that have had an impact on its distribution and frequency
- *Components*
 - o Brief discussion of features that are commonly associated with or included within areas of the Broad Type – often these help with identification
- *Rarity*
 - o How rare or common the Broad HLC type is relative to other Broad HLC types
- *Survival and Coherence*
 - o Discussion of how robust/fragile the Broad HLC type is and what has affected this, as well as information on how easy it is to identify
- *Time Depth*
 - o Brief discussion of how well previous HLC character types survive within this type and what previous HLC character types are typical
- *Statistics*
 - o Information from the HLC polygons mapped in the GIS detailing coverage of the Broad HLC Type

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Fields and Enclosed Land

Type Distribution



Introduction

This type primarily comprises field parcels of one form or another, used for agricultural activity (grazing, arable, stock keeping and water management). The creation of fields has origins in the later prehistoric era and examples of fields from all time periods remain legible in different parts of the county.

Distribution

This type is the major current character type of the county and is very widely distributed. The notable exceptions occur around large areas of forest (e.g. Savernake), swathes of surviving downland (e.g. Salisbury Plain), areas dominated by parkland (e.g. Bowood) and around the larger urban settlements (e.g. Swindon).

Images



Plate 14

Principal Historical Processes

The history of this type has very early origins, with examples from the later prehistoric period surviving and remaining legible in certain areas. In addition, remnants of fossilised medieval fields (open fields comprised of strips or furlongs) are still legible in certain areas of the landscape. The process of formalised enclosure has early post medieval origins, and accelerated in the latter part of this period – particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries when enclosure by Parliamentary Act became prevalent in certain parts of the county. More recently, there have been substantial changes to the fieldscapes of Wiltshire and Swindon with re-shaping and boundary change being commonplace.

Components

The fields in the county vary hugely, both in terms of size, morphology and boundary type. These features help to identify the particular field type (e.g. assart, planned field etc.) and can often be characteristic of particular formation processes that led to the creation of the field or enclosure.

Rarity

Fields are abundant and comprise the most dominant current landscape character for Wiltshire and Swindon.

Survival and Coherence

Field boundaries have been both gained (through subdivision of existing field parcels), and lost (through combination/amalgamation), in the county. The general trend is that boundaries have been lost in the north, where smaller fields have been combined to make large holdings more suitable for modern agriculture. However, in the south, many field boundaries have been instated to divide up former open land (most typically downland) as there has been a desire to exploit more marginal land for arable agriculture.

Fields are easily recognisable, but the nuances in their individual morphologies and history are less easily accessible.

Time Depth

A large proportion of the fields identified in the county demonstrate evidence for a previous landscape character. In many instances, this former character relates to other earlier enclosure episodes, but sometimes to the actual enclosure of an open area or landscape that had ornamental or recreational purposes.

Statistics

Area

The Fields and Enclosed Land type covers 243,602 ha, which constitutes 69.87% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 7580 polygons which equates to 52.47% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Average Polygon size

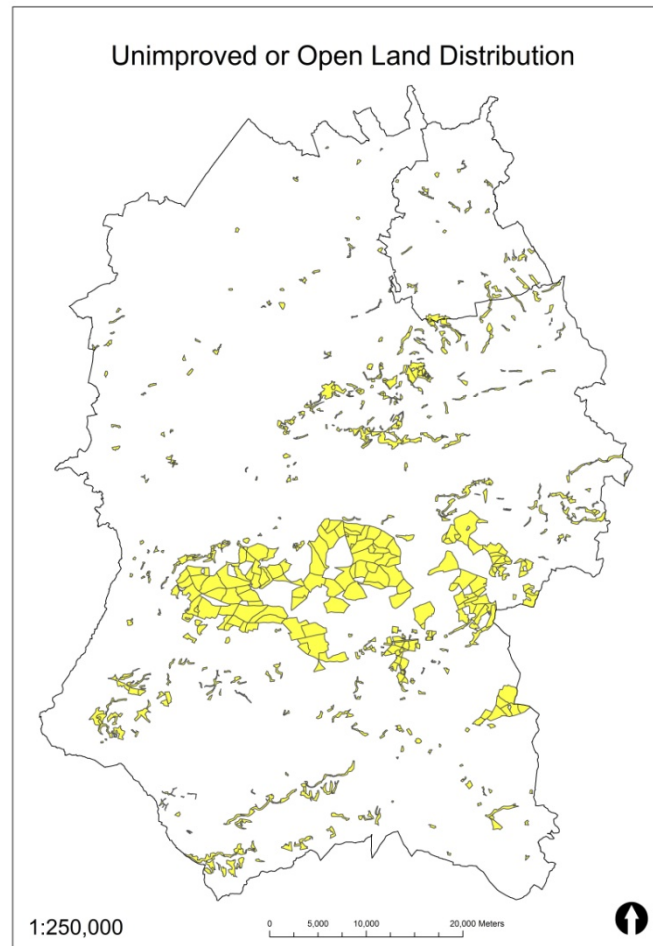
Each polygon averages 32.14 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

6294 polygons (43.57% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Fields and Enclosed Land category. These polygons comprise an area of 175953.90 ha (50.47% of the whole county area)

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Unimproved or Open Land

Type Distribution



Introduction

Some areas of Unimproved or Open Land survive within Wiltshire and Swindon, in spite of the recent exploitation of these areas for agricultural, residential, military or recreational use. These include patches of downland, greens, heathland, marsh and bog. The amount of surviving open and unimproved land is far smaller than was present in the past. The biggest impact on this has been the intensification of agriculture, residential development and creating recreational facilities.

Distribution

The Unimproved or Open Land category has a very distinctive distribution, and links very closely with the geology and topography of the land. The two principal foci are Salisbury Plain in the centre and south and the Marlborough Downs in the northeast. Much of the rest of the land that has been classified as Unimproved or Open lies within the River valleys that

Images



Plate 15

Principal Historical Processes

The open chalk downland that survives represents traces of a much larger downland landscape that was integral to the sheep and corn system of farming that was widely used in Wiltshire. While some of this land has been transformed into fields, some has survived due to its ownership by the military – whose activities have not fundamentally altered the character of large areas of downland.

The other type of open or unimproved land relates to areas of liminal or marginal land which lie at the edge of settlements or field systems that were not favourable or suitable for agriculture – such as heath or marsh land. However, it is worth noting that some of these areas were subject to common rights and would have had value to the local community for grazing and foraging purposes. However, from the later 18th and 19th centuries these were encroached upon by private land owners and this process has continued into the 20th and 21st centuries.

Components

The areas of unimproved land vary somewhat in size, with some downland areas being very extensive and other areas proving to be small parcels. In many cases this landscape character type has associated ground cover (scrub, furze, bushes etc.) or woodland and is irregular in form, with little partitioning or division of the landscape. Some areas are now in military use, particularly for training, but this does not always form the dominant character of the landscape (even if the usage has changed in more recent times).

Rarity

This Broad Character Type is not common, but is typical for certain parts of the county – such as the central/southern region around Devizes, Pewsey and Salisbury.

Survival and Coherence

While only a fraction of the former open or unimproved land survives in Wiltshire, where it does still exist, it retains much of its historic character and the defining characteristics that identify it. However, where it has been altered there are often traces of its character fossilised in the present day. It also retains much of the very early character that can be readily identified in the county, with the marginal upland locations helping to preserve features that would doubtlessly be lost in lowland locations. It could be argued that only in the areas of former ancient forest (e.g. Savernake, Chute and Braydon etc.) would this type of landscape been totally absent.

Where this character type is present it is very distinctive and easily recognisable. This is particularly the case with the swathes of downland that are present in the central and southern portions of the county. Some of the more marginal land is harder to identify as it lies at the periphery of more dominant landscape character types.

Time Depth

Out of all of the broad character types studied as part of the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project, the time depth of this category is the most impressive. As the land in question has been exploited less and subject to less change, there is excellent survival of prehistoric, Roman and medieval field systems (and on occasion settlement sites).

Statistics

Area

The Unimproved and Open Land type covers 28,640 ha, which constitutes 8.22% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 636 polygons which equates to 4.4% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Average Polygon size

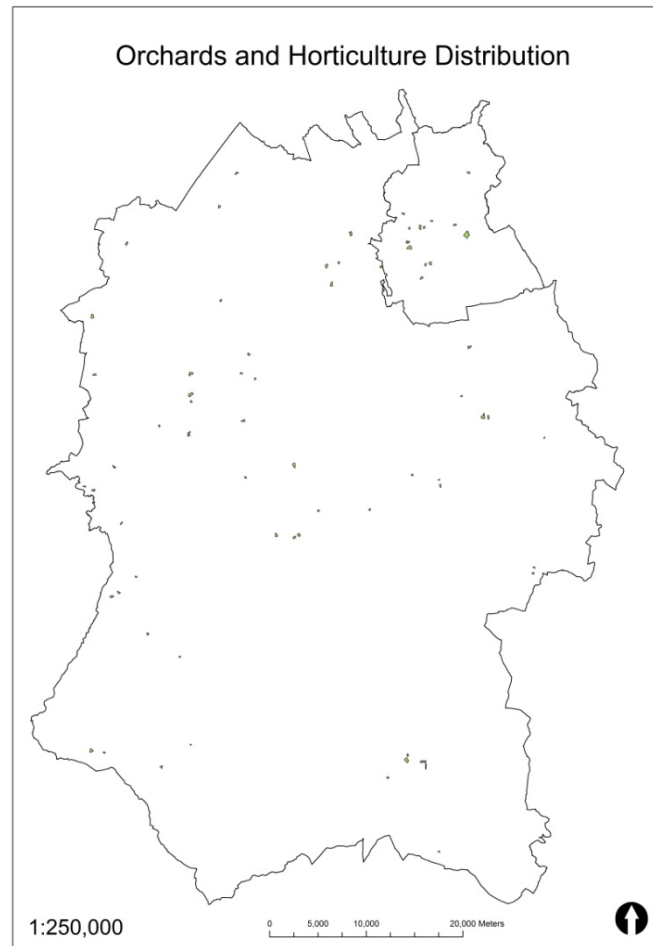
Each polygon averages 45.03 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

2484 polygons (17.19% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Unimproved and Open Land category. These polygons comprise an area of 97238.58 ha (27.89% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Orchards and Horticulture

Type Distribution



Introduction

This landscape type relates principally to orchards, allotments, market gardens and plant nurseries/garden centres. Many of these are a fairly recent phenomenon, and no obvious examples dating to the pre-post medieval period can be easily identified.

Distribution

This type of landscape character is quite rare in the present day and is mainly linked to major urban centres, where green space for the inhabitants takes the form of allotments or market gardens. While some villages retain small orchards, the majority of these have been lost in the last 200 years to residential development. Those that do remain tend to exist for a commercial purpose. During the post medieval period it would have been far more common to have orchard and fruit trees in small plots in and around villages and hamlets. The rise of large-scale agricultural production and land ownership would have made these orchards more marginal. Obviously, the advent of plant nurseries and garden centres is a modern phenomenon linked to increased recreational and hobby time for individuals, although some designed parkland landscapes do have nurseries for young plants.

Principal Historical Processes

The majority of the features that fall within this landscape category date to the 19th century or later. While there are clear historical references to orchards in the medieval period, it is unlikely that many of these survive into modernity. It is also worth noting that the historic orchards would have been planted at a much lower density than they are today so this will impact on their survival. In addition to this, the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project aimed to record the majority of landscape character types when they were 2ha or more in size, and this would preclude a large number of the historic orchards which, as previously stated, were very small in size.

Components

Orchards tend to be small enclosed land parcels dominated by fruit trees, with vineyards being similar with the use of rows of vines for the production of grapes.

The more modern landscape types in this category are very distinctive. Allotments and market gardens tend to be set within towns and villages and set out in a series of linear strips, each of which is individually owned and managed. Plant nurseries and garden centres tend to be large facilities at the edge of settlements, with growing areas, car parking and retail buildings. This makes them very easy to identify on any map source or photograph.

Rarity

This landscape character type is rare, but this is due to the small size of the features often meaning they were not suitable for individual digitisation. Nevertheless, the tradition of horticulture and orchards is not as strong in Wiltshire as it is in neighbouring counties like Dorset and Somerset.

Survival and Coherence

Orchards and vineyards are a fairly fragile type and have disappeared rapidly over time. Small pockets of fruit trees do survive in some of the rural settlements but they do not form a coherent character. Allotments and market gardens survive better, but some areas of these which were present in the early C20 have now been given over to residential development.

Time Depth

This landscape character type is small in scale and rarely offers an insight into previous land use. This is especially the case with some of the larger commercial garden centres and nurseries which have developed in a way that has removed all traces of prior character.

Statistics

Area

The Orchards and Horticulture type covers 316ha, which constitutes 0.09% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 71 polygons which equates to 0.49% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

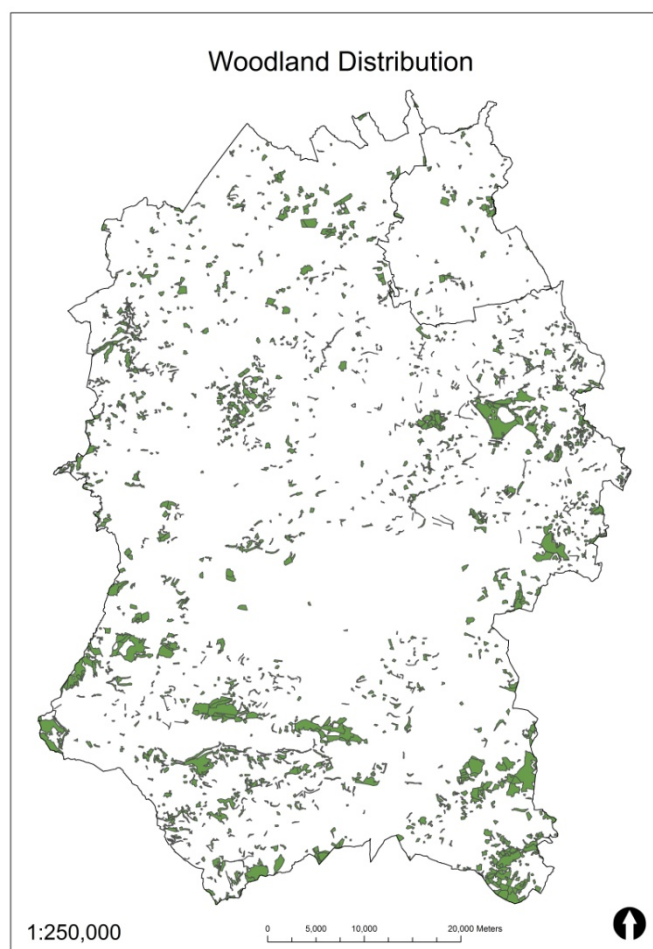
Each polygon averages 4.45 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

265 polygons (1.8% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Orchards and Horticulture category. These polygons comprise an area of 1733.43 ha (0.50% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Woodland

Type Distribution



Introduction

This type comprises woodland of all types and forms. This varies from the ancient woodland (semi-natural and re-planted) relating to the former forests and extensive woodland which characterised particular areas of the county, to modern plantations and coppices planted for agricultural or ornamental purposes. Some of the wood likely has medieval origins, with associations with royal estates, manors and hunting activities. Some later woodlands were planted to create a source of timber, to shelter fields and holdings or to enhance the landscape. Significant blocks of woodland survive in the eastern portion of the county as well as in the south on the borders with Hampshire (in the east) and Somerset (in the west).

Distribution

Woodland is fairly common across the county, with the only notable gaps occurring around major settlements, or the chalk downlands in the Salisbury Plain area. However, large blocks of surviving woodland are relatively uncommon, which makes the large swathes of woodland associated with Savernake, Chute Forest, Braydon Forest, Longleat and Grovely Wood striking and locally distinctive. However, the general pattern across the county is of dispersed woodland that has survived in amongst the fields and settlements, or been planted to supplement them.

Images



Plate 16

Principal Historical Processes

The woodland that exists within Wiltshire is diverse in both its character and extent. The largest examples tend to have early origins and are woodland that is marked as 'ancient' by the Natural England Woodland Inventory (that is to say woodland with an origin of pre 1650). Many of these large woods have earlier origins dating back to at least the medieval era, as established forests. While these areas account for a large hectarage of woodland in the county, the majority of woodland blocks are far smaller in scope and relate to processes of plantation, coppicing and pasturing. In the post medieval period these wooded areas would have been exploited for the timber resource they provided, whereas in more recent times they have been more frequently created for agricultural purposes.

Components

The woodland in the county can be described as either broadleaf, coniferous, or a mixture of the two. Generally the more established woodland blocks comprise broadleaf trees, with the more recent woodland tending to have a higher proportion of coniferous ones. Of course the tree type and form of the woodland relates closely to its purpose and origin, and these factors have been used to identify the different Narrow Types that are present in the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC dataset.

Rarity

Woodland is fairly typical and is the third most common current landscape character type present in the county. While the larger blocks of wood are few and far between, most parishes and landscapes include some elements of woodland. The only obvious exceptions are urban areas and on the chalk downlands.

Survival and Coherence

The overall trend for Wiltshire is that of woodland loss, although the rate of felling has declined in the modern era. Clearance of woodland for agriculture was widespread in the medieval and post medieval period and has greatly diminished the extent of the woodland in the county. While there have been recent episodes of planting for timber production, and regeneration of ancient woodland for leisure, habitat and commercial purposes the overall proportion of woodland has not increased greatly.

Woodland is easy to identify and its name, location, form and composition often give a strong indication of its purpose and character.

Time Depth

Woodland, by its nature does not allow easy identification of earlier character. This is particularly the case when considering it from a desktop study with only maps and aerial photography to study. Some later woodland planted in more recent times (later post medieval and modern) retains some indication of the former land use, which is typically open land or former fields. In addition, occasionally earthworks of much earlier activity can be identified as surviving in the woodland or dictating its form. However, in many cases it is difficult to identify the exact age of the woodland and what the character of the landscape would have been prior to its existence.

Statistics

Area

The Woodland type covers 25,508 ha, which constitutes 7.32% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 2069 polygons which equates to 14.32% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

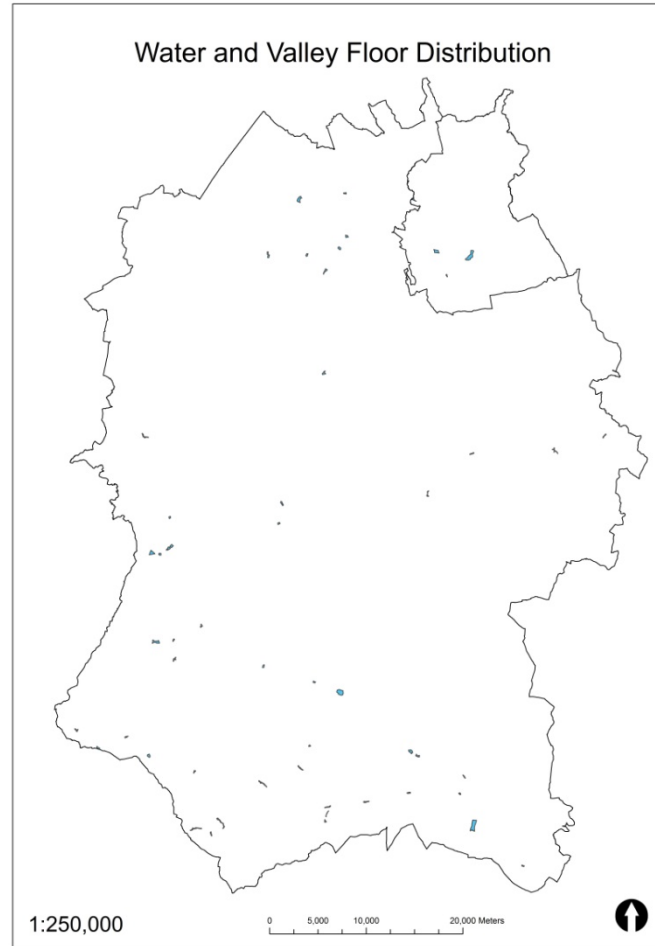
Each polygon averages 12.33 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

185 polygons (1.28%) have a previous character type from the Woodland category. These polygons comprise an area of 3033.76 ha (0.87% of the whole county).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Water and Valley Floor

Type Distribution



Introduction

Wiltshire is criss-crossed by several important rivers (see earlier hydrology map) which have created distinctive landscape character in the associated river valleys. These principally comprise the Avon and Kennet in the northern and central part of the county and the Borne, Wylfe and Nadder in the south of the county. The creation of features using this water, such as fishponds and osier beds, has added aesthetic and economic value. While quite rare and fragile, some do survive in association with later post medieval landscape parks and the water meadow systems that provided the life blood of the river valley settlements in the past.

Distribution

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the features that fall within this broad category are associated with rivers and lie within river valley locations, close to the waterways that support them. They cluster particularly around Salisbury and make use of the Avon and Wylfe. Those that lie further away from the major river courses have associations with medieval and post medieval manors and foundations; with this being particularly the case with fishponds. Some of the more modern fish ponds/lakes are associated with recreational areas or parkland, but the modern fish farms still occupy traditional riverside locations as one would expect.

Images



Plate 17

Principal Historical Processes

The evidence illustrates that exploitation of rivers and streams for economic benefit has medieval origins. While some medieval fishponds do survive, the majority of the features in this category have a later post medieval date. During these periods, the transport links across, and out of, the county would have aided the trade in fresh river produce to other towns and cities.

Components

These features as a rule follow natural topography and the routes of watercourses, and are as such sinuous and irregular in shape. Some of the later features like the watercress beds and fish farms were carefully planned affairs and tend to be of a more regular shape. Nevertheless, all of these features require some degree of engineering and their appearance is manmade even though natural features are utilised to some extent.

Rarity

These features are rare and are distinct to the river valleys in the south of the county, although some do exist in other parts. Those of post medieval origin represent a unique period of exploitation of riverine resources that occurred in the latter half of the C19.

Survival and Coherence

Many of the larger features, and those of more recent origin, survive reasonably well into modernity. However, some of the small features like osier beds and early fishponds are easily damaged, have fallen from use and so have diminished in number and quality.

Time Depth

This landscape character type is small in scale and rarely offers an insight into previous land use. Often the construction and implementation of such features has impacted on and removed the obvious traces of previous landscape character.

Statistics

Area

The Water and Valley Floor type covers 350 ha, which constitutes 0.10% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 57 polygons which equates to 0.39% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

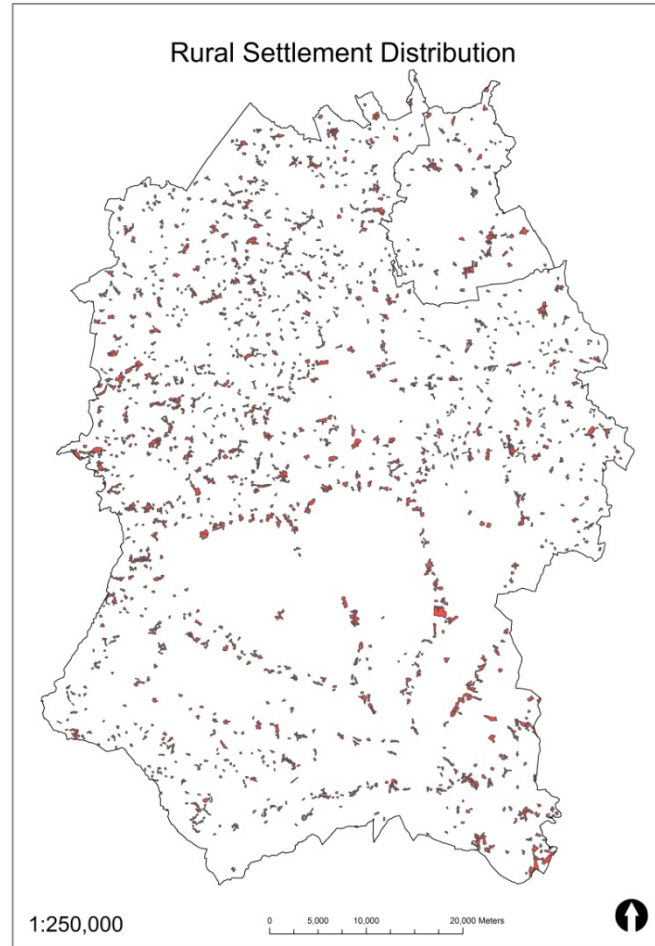
Each polygon averages 6.14 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

3 polygons (0.02% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Water and Valley Floor category. These comprise an area of 15.45 ha (0.11% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Rural Settlement

Type Distribution



Introduction

Wiltshire is full of rural settlements: be they villages, hamlets, farmsteads or grand country houses. Indeed, while there are some large towns, the character of the typical Wiltshire parish is defined by these settlements hubs that are set in amongst the varied landscape. Many settlements have Saxon or medieval origins, and the historic cores of settlements remain legible in the present day despite the frequent expansions that have occurred since the later 19th century. They relate strongly with associated field systems, designed parkland manors and blocks of woodland. Many of these settlements have highly distinctive and localised vernacular styles. In addition, the fossilised traces of some abandoned settlements of medieval and earlier date can be identified in certain locations across the county.

Distribution

Rural settlements are commonplace and are widely distributed across the county. Logically, many follow well established routeways or watercourses and this is particularly the case in the southern portion of the county. The northwest of the county has perhaps the greatest concentration of villages, farms and hamlets and these seem to surround the important market towns of Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Westbury, Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon.

In contrast there is a generally lower level of occupation in the southern half of the county (notwithstanding Salisbury). In addition, some villages have now been absorbed into the larger urban conurbations (such as is the case with Swindon).

Images



Plate 18

Principal Historical Processes

The focus to most of the rural settlements in Wiltshire is the pre 19th century plan form that can still be identified in many cases. Such layouts often have Saxon or medieval origins and place name evidence and listing in the Domesday Book make these earlier origins clear. The three major rural settlement forms are nucleated, linear and dispersed or piecemeal. The typical nucleated villages cluster around a central church, green or manor house, while the linear and dispersed settlements usually align with routeways and waterways. During the later post medieval period, settlement expanded into areas that were previously more marginal and there was also conglomeration and loss of some existing settlements. This occurred around many of the county's towns – which are discussed more fully in the urban settlement section.

Components

The form, layout and character of the features recorded in the Rural Settlement category vary enormously. For the majority of them, an historic core with a selection of pre 19th century buildings survives and remains legible, with a combination of modern infill and expansion making up the rest of the settlement. In some instances there are strong associations with manorial holdings and parkland, churches or particular industries and these dominate the settlement and heavily influence their character. The number of entirely new settlements is more limited, although there has been some encroachment since the 19th century into open or common land, and the rapid expansion of isolated dwellings into small communities.

Rarity

Rural settlements are a common site in Wiltshire, perhaps in some ways due to the relatively limited number of very large urban centres (with only Swindon and Salisbury being of the highest order of magnitude). They occupy an approximately similar proportion of the county in hectareage to the urban settlements discussed later.

Survival and Coherence

There is generally good continuity in settlement pattern over time in Wiltshire. The existing pre 19th century settlements have only seen major change in fairly recent times. The changes in settlement seem to be more pronounced in the northern and western parts of the county, with a slightly slower pace of change in the majority of the southern and eastern parts of Wiltshire.

Settlement is obviously easy to identify, although the classification by exact Narrow Type can prove challenging in certain circumstances. As such the subtleties of settlement character and history can only be readily understood through the detailed study of maps and aerial photography.

Time Depth

Some settlements preserve traces of earlier land use – either through infilling old field parcels, retaining field boundaries, preserving ornamental features or the survival of trees that were once part of larger woodland or orchards.

Statistics

Area

The Rural Settlement type covers 12,283 ha, which constitutes 3.52% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 1995 polygons which equates to 13.81% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

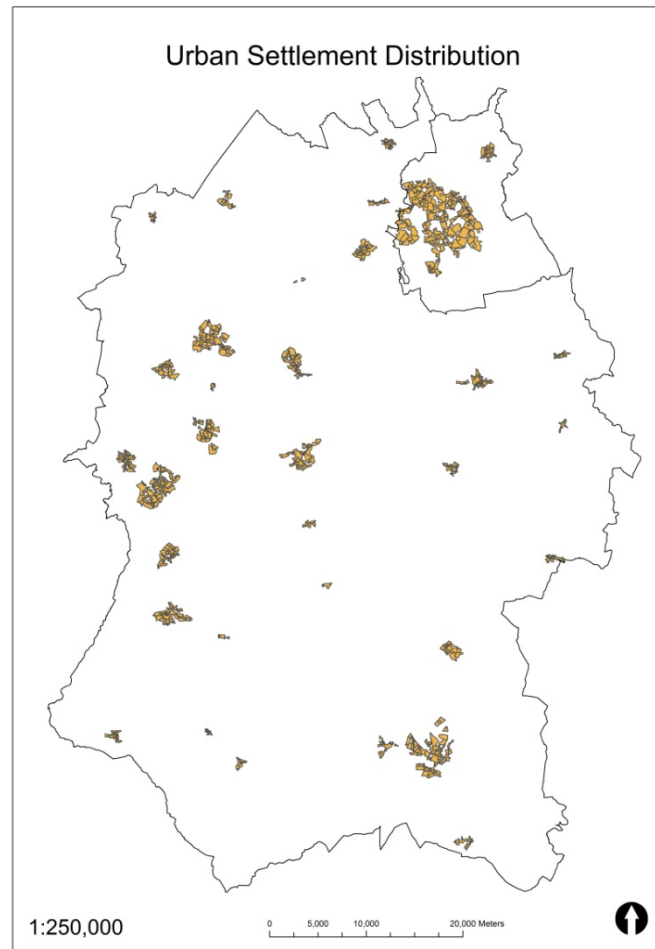
Each polygon averages 6.16 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

539 polygons (3.73% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Rural Settlement category. These polygons comprise an area of 3578.67 ha (1.03% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Urban Settlement

Type Distribution



Introduction

Wiltshire is generally not regarded as a county with a particularly urban character. While it has a number of towns, most of these are relatively modest in scale, with only really Swindon and Trowbridge being very extensive. It does have one city, Salisbury, but even this has a rural and feel to it, as there are extensive green areas, water meadows and fields in an around the settlement area. The majority of the other urban settlements are market towns and have only really grown since the later 19th and 20th centuries. Most retain historic cores, some of which have Saxon or medieval origins, and various architectural and planned elements survive to attest to their growth and evolution.

It is worth noting that for the purposes of the HLC project, a steer was taken from the Wiltshire Extensive Urban Survey (produced 2001-04) to determine which settlements were urban in character. A few other settlements demonstrated an urban rather than rural character (notably Pewsey) but the principal list of towns provided by the EUS project has not fundamentally altered since its publication. In any case, the character of these EUS settlements was re-analysed and the urban nature verified in all cases.

Distribution

As one would expect, the towns in Wiltshire are fairly evenly distributed across the county. Many form the hubs for trade, occupation and social activities so they exist in all landscape zones and occupy strategic sites. Nevertheless, there is a preponderance of towns in the central portion of the county in the Kennet and Avon Vales. Settlement is generally less dense in the southern part of the county, probably as a result of the topography and slightly poorer transport links. This has resulted in more small scale and rural settlements (often following river valleys) in this area which impacts on the distribution of settlements with an urban character.

Images



Plate 19

Principal Historical Processes

While all of the towns in Wiltshire have expanded since the late 19th century (some like Swindon considerably so) all of them have earlier origins. They are mentioned in the Domesday Book, but some have pre-medieval origins with some evolving from Saxon or even Roman predecessors. In most towns these early and historic cores are preserved and continue to form the focal point of the town as well as retaining some of the most interesting and aesthetically pleasing vernacular architecture. Settlement patterns for towns vary greatly, with some areas set out in gridiron and geometric patterns or in a series of cul-de-sacs. The expansion in the size of towns occurred in line with increased industrialisation in the later post medieval period, which precipitated a centralisation of population who helped to spur on the scope and opportunities for living within an urban environment.

Components

The form, layout and character of the features recorded in the Urban Settlement category vary enormously. For the majority of them, an historic core with a selection of pre 19th century buildings survives and remains legible. In many towns, the core is then surrounded by amenities, civic buildings, recreational and ornamental spaces. Often the more modern industrial, commercial and residential areas lie further out of the town centre, and have been built on a combination of green field and brown field sites. As the major production centres within the county, the towns hosted some fairly large industrial concerns. While many of these are no longer active, their former presence has had a substantive effect on the

character of these urban settlements. No convincing examples exist within the county of entirely new towns that are entirely separate from any existing settlements.

Rarity

Towns are fairly uncommon in Wiltshire, as the majority of settlements are smaller in scale and rural. Interestingly, in terms of area the proportion of Wiltshire covered by the Urban Settlement category and the proportion covered by the Rural Settlement category. However, the number of inhabitants in the urban towns greatly exceeds those who live in rural settlements.

Survival and Coherence

There is strong continuity in settlement pattern in Wiltshire. All of the major towns are well established and have surviving elements of historic character. In some places very early town planning can be seen (Salisbury) and coherent historic cores remain legible in all of these urban settlements. In some instances the historic elements have shrunk, but these still remain legible in the present day. However, most of the urban landscapes of the county have a recent origin and constitute swathes of modern housing built to accommodate their burgeoning populations.

Settlement is obviously easy to identify, although the classification by exact Narrow Type can prove challenging in certain circumstances. As such the subtleties of settlement character and history can only be readily understood through the detailed study of maps and aerial photography.

Time Depth

Some urban areas preserve traces of earlier land use – either through infilling old field parcels, retaining field boundaries, preserving ornamental features or the survival of trees that were once part of larger woodland or orchards. In addition, as many of the towns once had big industries relating to manufacturing of goods (be it bricks, beer, iron, railway infrastructure/locomotives or fabric), elements of this former character still survive, even if sites have been repurposed.

Statistics

Area

The Urban Settlement type covers 9740ha, which constitutes 2.79% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 729 polygons which equates to 5.05% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

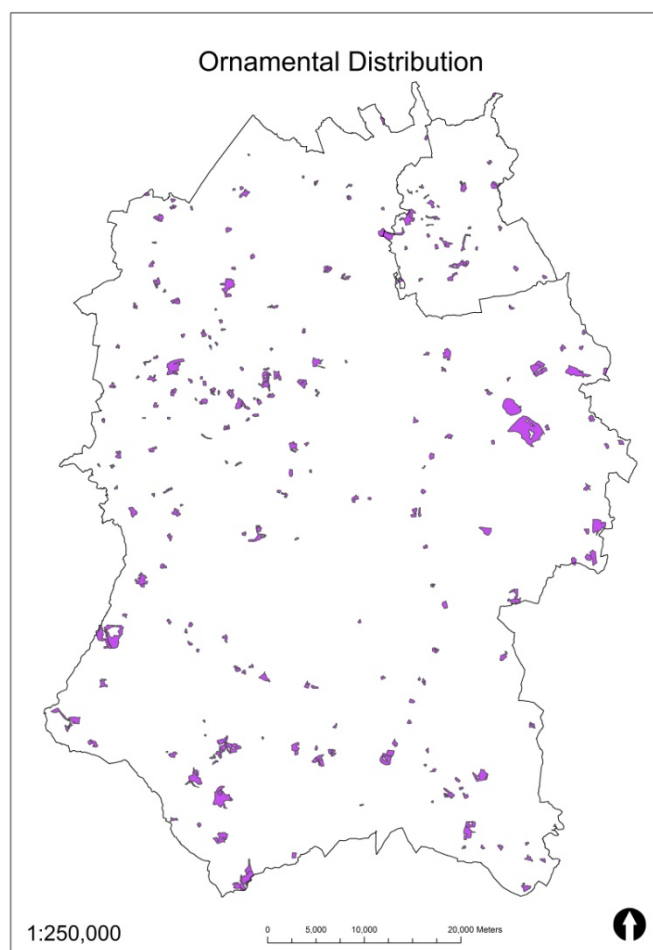
Each polygon averages 13.36ha in size.

Previous Coverage

45 polygons (0.31% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Urban Settlement category. These polygons comprise an area of 333.81ha (0.10% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Ornamental

Type Distribution



Introduction

This type comprises parks and gardens, the majority of which have late post medieval or modern origins. Many of these are associated with grand country houses or former manorial seats of the nobility (or royalty). Some are very large in scale and scope, whereas others are more modest but nevertheless, all of them form focal points in the landscape and were designed to please the eye. Some incorporate older elements relating to medieval hunting and estates but this can be determined from the historic maps and sometimes from the aerial photography too.

Distribution

This type is reasonably well distributed across the county, but there are particular concentrations around Savernake Forest, Tollard Royal, Fonthill Gifford, Bowood, Corsham and Lydiard Tregoze. There is also a strong correlation with settlements in the river valleys in the south of the county having small ornamental parks associated with the old manors which existed within each village from at least the post medieval period.

Images



Plate 20

Principal Historical Processes

The earliest traces of parkland have origins as medieval deer parks and hunting chases. The outline and boundaries of these early features often influenced the layout of later designed and ornamental parks. However, it should be seen that the majority of the parks and gardens within Wiltshire have 18th or 19th century origins as landscapes with designed views, organised planting and ornamental features. Some of the parks associated with the large urban towns are more modern creations to provide pleasant green space within new residential areas.

Components

The components present in the parks and gardens of this Broad Type vary from example to example. Those that evolved from deer parks typically have remnants of their park pale and designed elements which were added later. Many of the parks and gardens focus on a grand house, and these typically have elaborate drives and promenades, carefully crafted views, ornamental plantings and lawns and the occasional water feature. Walled gardens with specialist planting schemes are not uncommon either. The quantity of features present is usually proportional to the size of the estate or manor.

Rarity

While there are a number of ornamental landscapes within Wiltshire, they are not common and thus tend to be a significant influence on the local character of an area. Some parkland has been lost but this does not heavily influence the overall quantity of designed landscapes that remain to be enjoyed.

Survival and Coherence

There has been a decline in the number of parks and gardens since the later post medieval period as their upkeep and maintenance is expensive. However, some are still in private ownership and others are now visitor attractions (such as at Longleat and Bowood). In many instances, the larger parklands survive well and are clearly legible in the landscape. Where they are closely associated with settlements, they form part of its identity and character (as is the case in Corsham for example).

While this Broad Type is very recognisable in the landscape, it can be challenging to understand the full range of complex features that relate to the history and evolution of each individual example.

Time Depth

The majority of the parks and gardens in Wiltshire evolved gradually over time. Some betray evidence of woodland that was felled or fields that were enclosed to help create them. In other areas of designed landscape there has not been substantial ground disturbance so evidence of very early agriculture or occupation (from the medieval period and before) can be identified.

Statistics

Area

The Ornamental type covers 7179 hectares which constitutes 2.06% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 323 polygons which equates to 2.24% of all the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

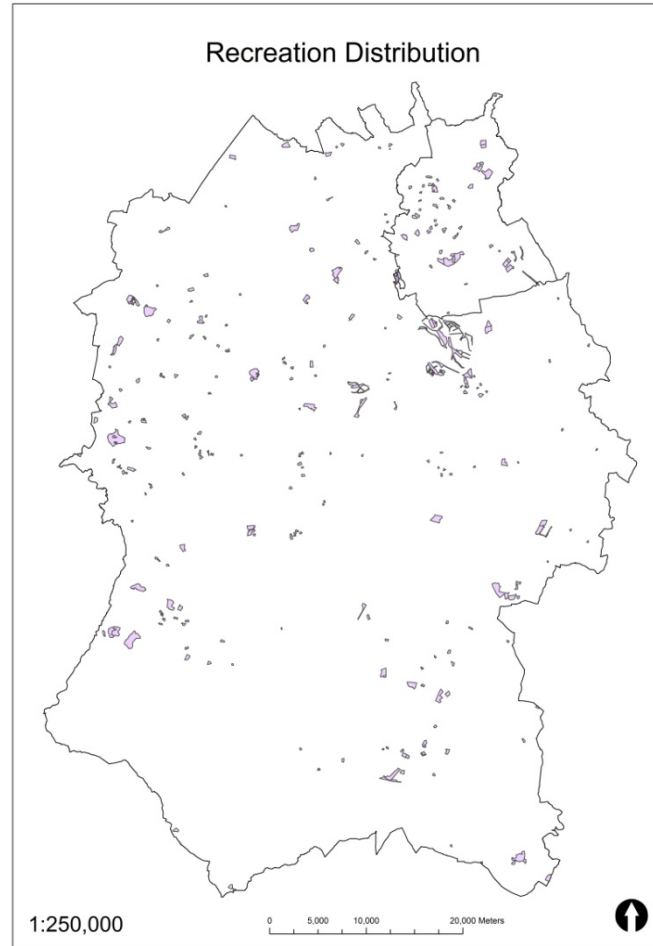
Each polygon averages 22.23 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

340 polygons (2.35% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Ornamental category. These polygons comprise an area of 6405.39 ha (1.84% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Recreation

Type Distribution



Introduction

This type is one of the most diverse of all landscape character types, but all have the common characteristic of being a man made leisure space or facility. With the exception of medieval deer parks (created for the enjoyment of hunting), all of the other features recorded in this category have a post medieval or modern origin. Most are associated with rural and urban settlement areas and they vary from large landscape-scale enterprises like golf courses to small playing fields for the enjoyment of the local residents.

Distribution

This type is reasonably well distributed across the county, but with some focus on the northern portion – perhaps due to the higher density of settlement in this part of the county. There is an obvious gap in areas of downland but also in the southwest around Hindon and Mere. A fair proportion of recreational landscape character types cluster around Swindon and its borough, and these are the likely result of the need to cater for the town's inhabitants.

Images



Plate 21

Principal Historical Processes

A small proportion of recreational facilities (such as playing fields and gallops/stables) have a late post medieval origin, but the vast majority of the features described by this category have 20th century or later origins. This is probably due to the increasing amount of leisure time available to ordinary people, the increased ability to travel to access facilities and the needs of a more urban society to enjoy outdoor activities.

By and large, the impact of these facilities is fairly low as they are typically modest in scale and don't cluster in any particular parts of the county. One of the few exceptions to this is golf courses, which can be quite large and take in a diverse range of landscapes – many of which are subsequently altered. In the north and northeast of the county there are also landscape features relating to racehorse training and ownership, and some of these can also be fairly extensive in scope.

Components

In order to create recreational facilities, it is often necessary to heavily alter and modify the existing landscape. As such, many of the distinctive features associated with recreation are alien and manmade intrusions such as bunkers, tarmac race tracks, stadium seating and modern sports centre buildings. It is usually the case that these recreation spaces are detached from the rest of the landscape, often as a result of screening provided by fences, hedges and barriers. While some are more open spaces in nature (e.g. playing fields), many are complexes of buildings, kiosks, clubhouses and grandstands.

Rarity

Features within this Broad Type are uncommon but not rare, as many settlements have some recreational space associated with them.

Survival and Coherence

As the vast majority of recreational features are modern, they survive well and are easy to identify due to their highly legible forms. Most facilities are still in use and are thus maintained.

Time Depth

While some such features have late post medieval origins, most are modern. Nevertheless, some retain evidence of previous landscape character, in the form of ridge and furrow, tree cover, re-use of old field boundaries or through lack of substantial modification (such as is the case with gallops that have been created in downland areas). However, heavily developed sites such as leisure centres and many golf courses, have truncated or removed evidence of the previous landscape character.

Statistics

Area

The Recreation type covers 4281 ha, which constitutes 1.23% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 296 polygons which equates to 2.05% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

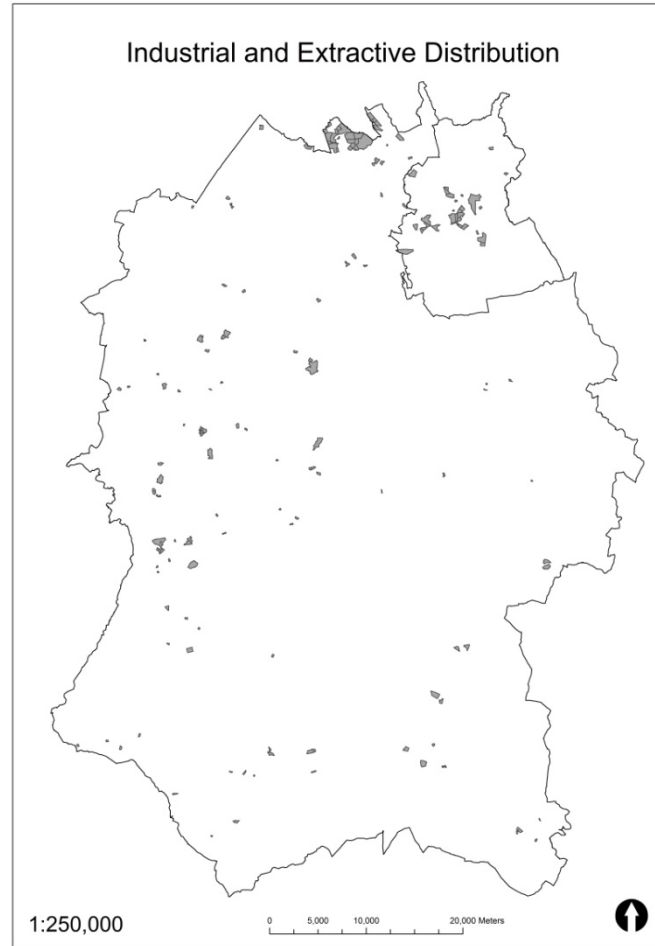
Each polygon averages 14.46ha in size.

Previous Coverage

153 polygons (1.06% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Recreation category. These polygons comprise an area of 5662.37 ha (1.62% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Industrial and Extractive

Type Distribution



Introduction

Industry in Wiltshire and Swindon has played a part in shaping the landscape and character of the county today. The major industries were focused on the major towns like Swindon, Trowbridge and Westbury which were well connected to other parts of the county and beyond to help ensure a distribution of the goods produced. In addition to these main industrial centres, there were more localised practices on a smaller scale which exploited the local geology and watercourses. Many of these mills and quarries have since fallen from use, but their character remains legible in the present day landscape.

The more modern industrial picture differs slightly from that visible on the later post medieval sources. Rather than focusing on the large scale utilisation of natural resources, there are far more small industrial estates, workshops, depots and factories situated in an around the rural and urban settlements providing revenue and employment for the local area in the form of small businesses. This is not to say that some of the larger, historic, industries do not survive in some form. For instance the centre of Swindon is still dominated by the railway works and infrastructure associated with the Great Western Railway, and buildings relating to textile and fabric mills can still be observed in Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and

elsewhere. The most clear modern industry perhaps, relates to the gravel extraction in the Ashton Keynes, Latton and Marston Maisey area.

Distribution

There is a focus for industrial activity on the north and northwest parts of the county. This may relate in part to the geology (with exploitation for stone, gravel and sand), but also due to the excellent transport network that exists in and around Swindon. The majority of industries that survive lie within the modern towns; where they are easy to access and provide employment opportunities for the local community. It is likely that many smaller industrial concerns have fallen from use, or are too small in scale to be identified by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Images



Plate 22

Principal Historical Processes

Exploitation of the land to create resources for building and manufacture is not a new phenomenon, but the industrial landscapes that do survive are by and large of post medieval date or later. Stone quarrying has historic origins at Okus in Swindon and more recently sand and gravel extraction in the Thames Vale area. While chalk extraction was important to construction and agriculture in the south of the county, few areas of quarrying survive or are extensive enough to merit recording. In fact, it should be seen that much of the industry still focuses on the areas of clay that lie in the Avon Vale area.

However, many sites such as industrial estates and workshops relate to the increasing industrialisation in the 20th century and can be seen as a modern occurrence. It is these larger scale industrial areas that are perhaps the most legible.

Components

The components of industrial sites in Wiltshire and Swindon vary enormously – depending on the industry to which they relate. Mills have mill buildings, leats and millponds, while factories have sheds, outbuildings if old and car parking and building complexes if modern.

Quarries are easy to identify from their association with exposed stone faces and disturbed ground. It is worth noting that some former quarries are now water filled lakes or reservoirs, but their original character remains clearly legible.

Rarity

Despite the widespread nature of industry in the county on the past, the surviving examples are rare. Most of the features identified in the HLC project have fairly recent origins, but some features are distinctive locally and have a substantial impact on the landscape they inhabit.

Survival and Coherence

Industrial sites with historic origins are frequently redeveloped or regenerated and as such often survive poorly. While surviving elements can be identified at a ground level they are not always clear from the mapping sources and aerial photographs. Some of the larger historical sites survive (such as Westbury ironworks), while others remain in use (like the railway at Swindon), but many smaller industries have disappeared. Of course, many of the modern industrial features are in use and are expanding to meet demand so they are much more obvious and coherent in their character.

Time Depth

While a proportion of industrial sites retain some elements of former land use, many have been heavily developed and expanded in the 20th and 21st centuries and so have removed all traces of prior character. Those that display time depth best are the historic industrial sites which have either not fallen from use, have yet to be redeveloped, or have been converted in a manner sympathetic to their character.

Statistics

Area

The Industrial and Extractive type covers 2754 hectares, which constitutes 0.79% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 164 polygons which equates to 1.14% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

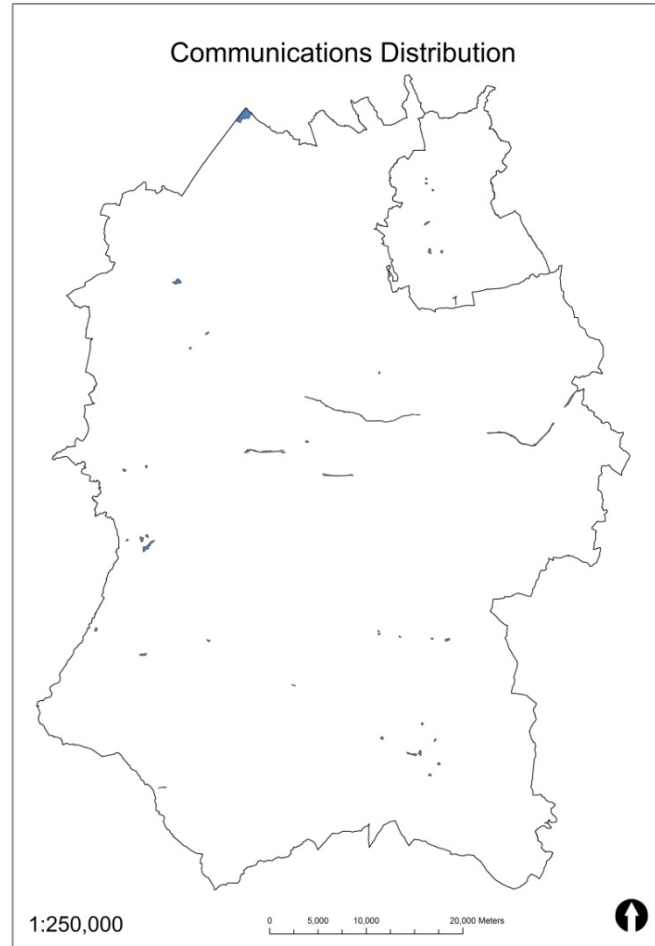
Each polygon averages 16.79 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

115 polygons (0.80% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Recreation category. These polygons comprise an area of 869.41 ha (0.25% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Communications

Type Distribution



Introduction

Communication networks have always been of importance, as they allow travel across the landscape for work, trade and enjoyment. While the majority of inland communications take the form of roads and tracks there are other features in the landscape which also relate to travel. These principally relate to railways, canals and airports/airfields, and all of these exist within parts of the Wiltshire landscape. Features such as canals and railways have later post medieval origins (during the 18th and 19th centuries), whereas air travel is a recent phenomenon. Also of note, are the former routeways that traverse parts of the county and some of these have early origins, such as the Ridgeway which runs from West Kennett to the northeast for some 87 miles. Such features are rare but impact upon their local landscape in a significant way. This category also includes associated infrastructure associated with communication such as depots, stations, services and car parks.

For the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project it was decided not to map modern roads and railway lines, as this would prove time consuming, complex and unhelpfully subdivide the landscape unduly. Where relict canals and railway lines exist and remain legible they have been recorded (though this is not common). Roman roads, where they have not been overlaid with the modern roads, are also perceptible in certain areas. However, many

features in this category are also not sufficiently extensive or dominant in the landscape to merit separate recording. By lifting away this mainly very recent activity, the truer landscape can be perceived. As such, few landscapes dominated by communications infrastructure exist within the county and those that do tend to link to former industries (like the Great Western Railway) or to the expansion of urban conurbations which require facilities like park and ride bus systems to ease access. Despite this, some routeways can be implicitly seen in the landscape as they are boundaries that mark clear divisions in the landscape character; with differing histories of land use lying on either side.

Distribution

These features are sparsely distributed, in the main due to the methodological approach necessitated by the characterisation process. Where they do occur, is around the urban centres (particularly Swindon) and along rivers where canal existed and beside parts of the rail network.

Images



Plate 23

Principal Historical Processes

While division and traversal of the landscape have an ancient pedigree, the majority of the communications features which dominate the landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon have late post medieval and modern origins. The canals that exploit the Kennet and Avon have 18th century origins, while those that use Thames and Severn have 18th century origins. The railways came to the county in the early 19th century through the work of the Great Western Railway. Many of the networks established in this period were enhanced and updated over time and survive into modernity. Indeed, the railway industry is still significant in modern Swindon and the impact it has had on the character of the town and its surroundings remains readily apparent. Other features in this category, such as bus depots and airports, are very recent in origin and represent the evolution of modern society where the ability to travel for work and leisure purposes has become increasingly important.

Components

The components of the Communication landscape type mainly comprise features such as car parks, depots, stations, service and runways. These are often distinct, easy to recognise and at odds with the surrounding landscape – from which they are frequently divorced. Such sites are often screened or landscaped so as to enhance their appearance or to hide them altogether.

Rarity

Due to the recording methodology of the HLC project, these features are very rare, but often have a distinct impact on their local landscapes.

Survival and Coherence

As most features are modern they survive quite well. However, many of the historic routeways and their associated infrastructure/buildings have been lost, obscured, or are too small to dominant the character of the landscapes within which they exist. Where sites and features do survive, they are very recognisable although the evidence for some disused railways and canals is not so easily appreciated.

Time Depth

Little previous landscape character can be identified for the landscape dominated by communication sites and features. Modern developments obscure prior character, and those landscapes with historic origins are well established enough that it is not easy to identify former character from the available sources.

Statistics

Area

The Communications type covers 471ha, which constitutes 0.14% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 47 polygons which equates to 0.33% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

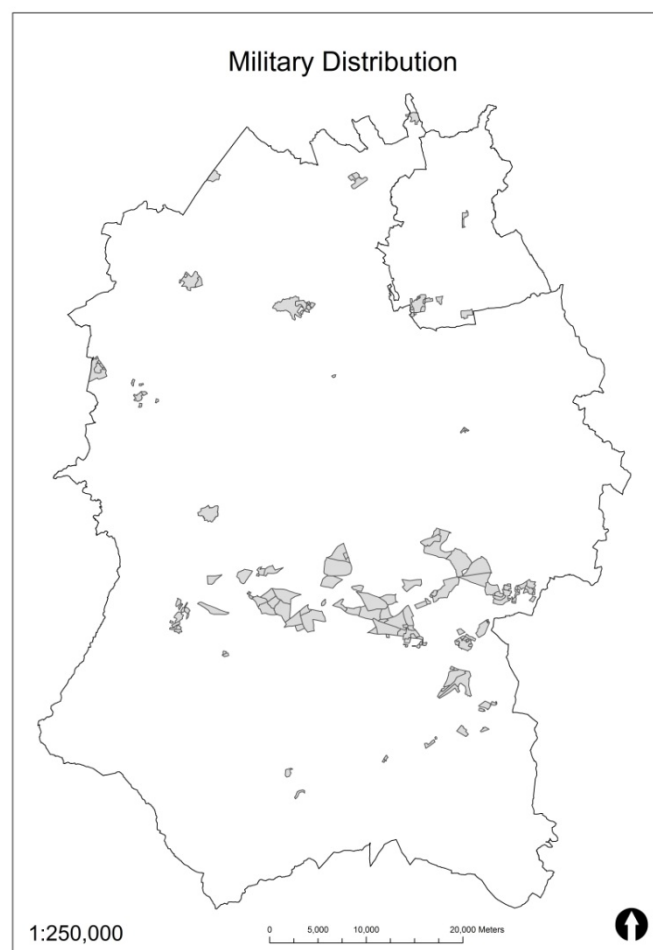
Each polygon averages 10.02ha in size.

Previous Coverage

35 polygons (0.24% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Recreation category. These polygons comprise an area of 265.66 ha (0.08% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Military

Type Distribution



Introduction

The military have a strong presence in Wiltshire and have done so since the later post medieval period (C18 onwards). A number of camps, practice areas and RAF airfields exist across the county, and while some have fallen from use, others continue to expand and develop. This is especially the case with the sites in the Salisbury Plain Training Area (such as at Durrington, Bulford and Larkhill) which are being readied for the return of British troops who have been based abroad. The military, and the landscapes associated with their activities are seen as characteristic of the county and are certainly of local significance and interest in the areas where they cluster.

Only where military activity forms the dominant landscape character of the area, has this broad type been recorded as the current type. Despite appearances, it could be argued that many areas that are owned by the military have not had their landscape affected unduly by their stewardship. For instance, within the Salisbury Plain Training Area (which is owned by the MOD and covers an area of c.41,000 ha) there are large swathes of land which while in use for target firing and practice manoeuvres, retain their open chalk downland character. Some other military features have not survived to be recorded, are not substantial enough or

were of a nature that did not strongly influence the landscape (such as temporary camps and airstrips).

Nevertheless, where the military sites remain active they are highly distinctive and can be easily recognised from maps and aerial photographs. Although characterising some of the features can be challenging as there is limited information available concerning individual facilities, due to their role in national security.

Distribution

The distribution of military sites is uneven and heavily focused on Salisbury Plain. Other major sites tend to lie in the north of the county at Wroughton, Fairford and Colerne – but many of these are RAF airfields, as a pose to army establishments.

Images



Plate 24

Principal Historical Processes

The military have been prominent land owners in the county since the later post medieval period and have increased their holdings in the 20th and 21st centuries. The majority of military camps, bases and airfields have First World War or Second World War origins, but they have continued in use into the present day. Some former military sites have reverted to agriculture or nature, and some have been converted into business and industrial units but much of their original character remains legible.

Components

The components of each site from this category are tailored to their purpose. In general, features comprise, runways, barracks, bunkers, mess buildings, housing, bunds, training areas, firing ranges and ancillary buildings. They are distinct in their military character and frequent cluster around named establishments – although some more isolated outliers exist.

Rarity

Across the county, military landscapes are uncommon but they are typical in the Salisbury Plain area, where they form an important component of the landscape character.

Survival and Coherence

In the main, military sites survive well and their features cluster together within camps, which adds to their legibility and coherence. They are very recognisable in the landscape, even from the mapping, although most are not accessible to most people due to their associated security. While some facilities and buildings have been repurposed, they often retain some of the character of their previous usage.

Time Depth

Some military sites have the capacity to retain elements of earlier character. Sometimes this is due to the survival of archaeological monuments and features within their limits. Other times the shape and form of the camps and establishments have been influenced by former fields, woods, and other land parcels. The notion that the military activity has removed all traces of early character has been proven untrue in many areas of the county.

Statistics

Area

The Military type covers 11,212 ha, which constitutes 3.22% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 155 polygons which equates to 1.07% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

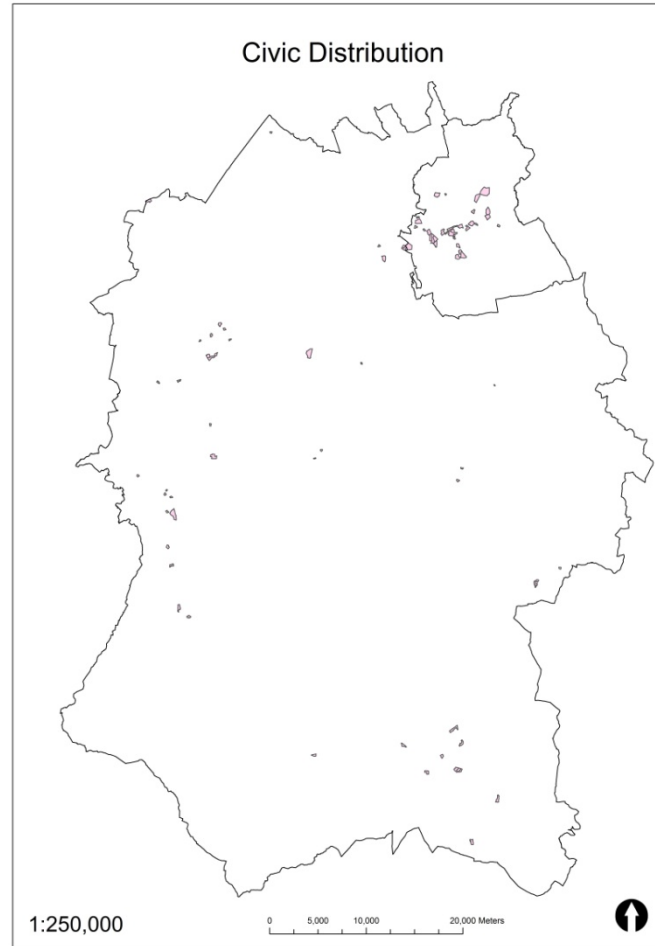
Each polygon averages 72.34 ha in size.

Previous Coverage

78 polygons (0.54% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Military category. These polygons comprise an area of 1341.20ha (0.38% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Civic

Type Distribution



Introduction

The features in this category are very varied, and relate to services and facilities, accessed and required by occupants in the towns and villages of the county. Some of these, like civic buildings, are situated within settlements, but others are deliberately set away due to their nature and purpose (e.g. sewage works). While there are some historic examples within this category, such as churches (some of Saxon or medieval origin), schools and former workhouses – the vast majority of them are of 20th or 21st century date. It should be remembered that many sites that relate to civic activity or infrastructure are small in extent, and those that were not 1ha or larger were not recorded separately in this project, which may explain the sparsity of features that could be considered common place.

Within this category, an important previous landscape character type has been recorded. This concerns the ritual and ceremonial landscapes that were prevalent particularly during the prehistoric period. These include the barrow cemeteries, enclosures, henges, cursus monuments that dominate parts of the county and remain legible today. While they differ greatly to the other 'civic' sites and features, they do serve a societal function and so are best placed within this Broad Type.

Distribution

The bulk of features and sites recorded in this category cluster around the major towns and centres of the county. This is particularly the case with civic buildings, schools and religious buildings. Some of the waterworks and sewage works are situated along water courses, but due to the scale of the features recorded, few exist within rural areas – hence the large blank areas across various sections of the county.

Images



Plate 25

Principal Historical Processes

Many of the features in this category are modern in origin and developed in the 20th and 21st centuries to provide a better standard of living for the occupants of Wiltshire. However, some of the religious and ritual features and landscapes have much older origins and date from the prehistoric, Saxon or medieval periods. While some of these civic landscapes have changed over time (so that their former use is represented as a previous type) others remain intact into modernity.

Components

This category represents a diverse range of features and thus is comprised of fairly varied components. Some landscapes are occupied by specialist engineering and ancillary buildings, while others are occupied by modern service buildings with car parking and associated landscaping or green space. Features such as landfill and cemeteries tend to have a more extensive and open nature, but are certainly clearly identifiable.

Rarity

Large scale civic features and landscapes are rare in Wiltshire. While there are undoubtedly lots of small utility sites, schools, churches and emergency service facilities these are not easy to identify at the scale of the project and are often incorporated into other larger areas with a different dominant character.

Survival and Coherence

Where they do exist, civic landscapes with their associated structures, buildings and engineered layouts survive well. This is particularly the case where they are modern and in use. They are very easy to identify from the maps and aerial photographs, although they are often integrated into settlements or other urban landscapes.

Time Depth

Many of the areas classified within this category have been heavily modified over time and don't preserve much in the way of previous character. Some areas that have been converted into civic facilities within towns will betray some evidence of their former use but this is uncommon. However, it is worth noting that some civic sites have a great longevity and that other features within this category (such as ritual and ceremonial landscapes) remain legible as previous types in areas where the current landscape character has changed.

Statistics

Area

The Civic type covers 1356 ha which constitutes 0.39% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 243 polygons which equates to 1.68% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

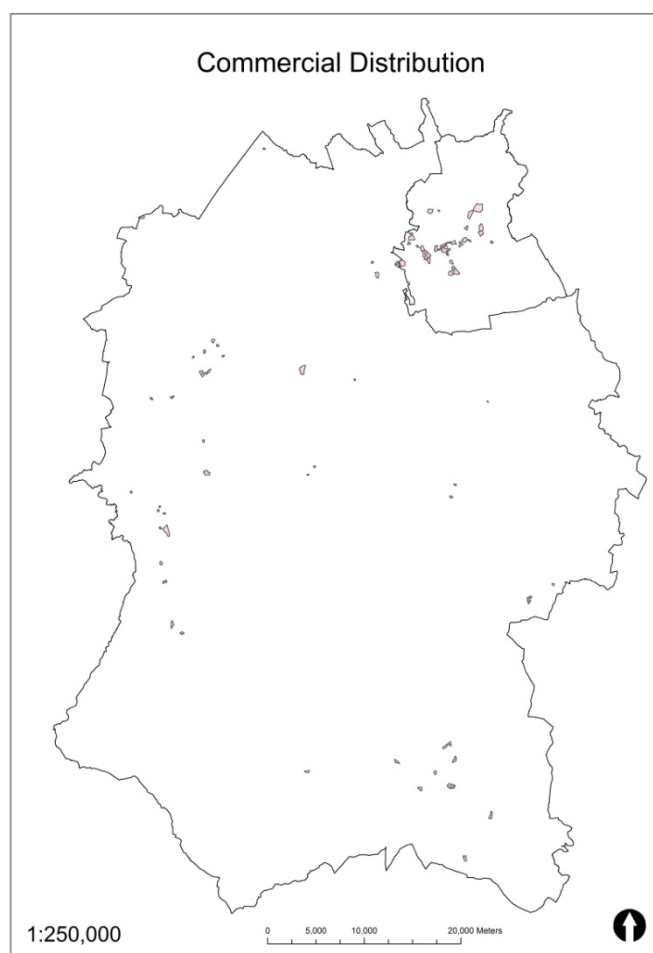
Each polygon averages 5.58ha in size.

Previous Coverage

146 polygons (1.01% of all polygons) have a previous character type from the Civic category. These polygons comprise an area of 3590.69ha (1.03% of the whole county area).

Historic Landscape Broad Type Description: Commercial

Type Distribution



Introduction

This category of landscape character relates more or less entirely to features and sites that are modern in origin. Business parks, retail outlets, warehouses and offices have 20th and 21st century origins. Some of the sites and features in this category are too small to map individually or are incorporated within other larger areas with a different dominant character type. Due to the nature of this category, many of the areas with this character are clearly associated with settlement areas.

Distribution

As the majority of these sites relate to large urban centres, the distribution is limited overall and does tend to focus on the principal urban centres. As such, many commercial features exist within the central and northern portions of the county, with an emphasis on Swindon.

Images



Plate 26

Principal Historical Processes

While shops and markets have existed since the earliest periods, those that survive now have mainly post medieval or modern origins. The commercial environment has expanded to cater for the more numerous consumers of a modern society and the diverse needs that they have. Towns and villages have always formed the logical hubs for shopping, trading and working and the sites/features in this class represent the growth of these activities. While in the past it could be seen that many of the commercial areas were interspersed within other landscape types (like the rural and urban settlements), some of the most modern commercial enterprises occupy large stand-alone sites which are self contained and thus heavily influence the local landscape.

Components

The sites and features recorded in this category comprise modern office buildings, large warehouses and storage areas, shops and shopping centres, retail parks, business parks with associated car parks and landscaped grounds. These buildings are often functional and typically serve a large number of consumers and workers alike. They are obviously man made and are easy to identify at ground level, but sometimes more tricky to see on maps and aerial photographs.

Rarity

Commercial entities that exist separate to other more dominant character areas (such as historic urban centres) and are large in scale are fairly rare in Wiltshire. Those examples recorded here are those that clearly stand out as being purely related to commercial purposes and it should perhaps be observed that many such commercial centres have a mixed character and as such they are underrepresented in this study.

Survival and Coherence

As most of the landscapes with a dominant commercial character are modern they survive well and are coherent. However, they can be difficult to identify at the scale of recording used in this project, and are sometimes incorporated into areas with a larger and more

dominant different landscape character. In densely packed urban areas it is also often difficult to separate the commercial areas from other areas as the character and land use is often mixed within these hubs.

Time Depth

Very little evidence of previous landscape character survives in commercial areas. This is often because they are large and purpose built facilities and sites which have been developed in a way that has removed or masked any prior character.

Statistics

Area

The Commercial type covers 933ha, which constitutes 0.27% of the county.

No of Polygons

This Broad Type comprises 82 polygons which equates to 0.57% of all of the polygons digitised by the Wiltshire and Swindon HLC Project.

Av Polygon size

Each polygon averages 11.38ha in size.

Previous Coverage

1 polygon (c.0.01% of all polygons) has a previous character type from the commercial category This polygon has an area of 8.96 ha (c.0.01% of the whole county area).