

Appendix 2: Historic Landscape Character Narrow Type Descriptions

The following section details the 98 Historic Landscape Narrow 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 Narrow 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 Narrow 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 98 types in this section.

Each of the 98 Narrow Types is discussed in turn using a consistent format with plain language in order to maximise their accessibility. Each Narrow Type Description has the following information:

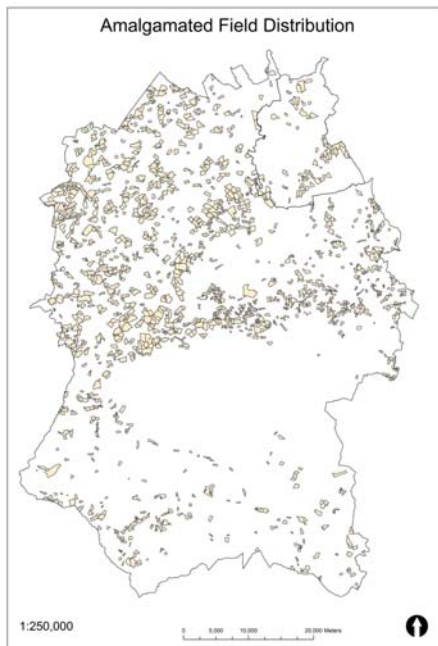
- *Definition*
 - o A brief definition of what is meant by the Narrow HLC type – mostly done using the NMR's Thesaurus Listings for Historic Characterisation
- *Distribution*
 - o A map showing where the Narrow HLC type exists in the present day and discussion of patterns/trends of the distribution
- *Principal Historical Processes*
 - o Detailed discussion of the origins of the Narrow Type with a focus on the any processes or influences that have had an impact on its distribution and frequency
- *Identification/Components*
 - o Brief list of features that are commonly associated with, or included within, areas of the Narrow Type and how to identify the Narrow Type
- *Rarity/Survival*
 - o How rare or common the Narrow HLC type is relative to other Narrow HLC types along with a discussion of how robust/fragile the Narrow HLC type is and what has affected its survival

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Amalgamated fields

Definition

Enlarged fields, created by the amalgamation by boundary removal of smaller fields, mainly since the 19th century and usually since the Second World War. Usually done to ease mechanised working and increase productivity.

Distribution



They occupy c.39,957 ha

Fairly widespread, but a focus in the northern part of the county where the proliferation of small fields were enlarged from the post medieval period onwards

Absence in downland areas in the south and east of the county where widespread formal enclosure is a later occurrence

Not prevalent around heavily wooded areas and ancient forests

Some correlation with land around major towns and villages where older, communally used fields were modified over time

Historical Processes

These fields are mainly modern in origin and the result of the intensification and mechanisation of farming. They tend to replace former post medieval piecemeal and planned fields (more commonly the former) and can be linked to the rise of individual rather than collective ownership of land. The process of amalgamating fields involves removal of boundaries, some of which may once have been demarcated by hedges or woodland.

Identification/Components

- Generally larger fields as this is the desired effect.
- Morphology depends on former field combined, but often irregular.
- Varied boundaries but with some historic hedgerows/trees surviving.
- Traces of former boundaries often visible on modern maps and photographs.

Rarity/Survival

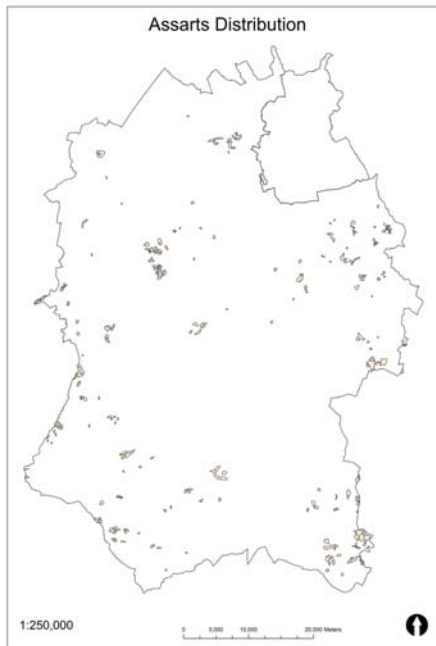
These fields are modern and so survive quite well. Once they have been created they tend not to be modified much, and they are fairly distinctive in the landscape, and not easily confused with other types. Previous field systems are often legible in amalgamated fields.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Assarts

Definition

Land enclosed from woodland. Required licence in medieval period. Term applied more generally in landscape history. Can include planned and regular enclosures and piecemeal irregular ones too. Often still with numerous trees on boundaries.

Distribution



They occupy c.3887 ha

Scattered clusters of assarts exist across the county but they are obviously closely linked to woodland

Primarily distributed in areas that had/or have areas of ancient woodland or forests

Some relationship to areas of land cleared for settlement, so there can be correlation with older villages and hamlets

Limited presence around well established urban centres

Historical Processes

Most assarts are of post medieval date but some can be of medieval origin. The process of assarting from the medieval period onwards was the result of increasing population pressure and the need for more agricultural land and settlement space. As woodland became a less communal resource, there was an increasing desire to clear land for tenant farmers or industrial purposes. Some post medieval tree plantations have also been thinned down in modernity to free up land for recreational and agricultural purposes.

Identification/Components

- Generally small fields that are associated with to extant woodland.
- Often have wavy boundaries lined with trees or thick hedgerows.
- Occasionally take the form of open areas within dense woodland or plantations.
- Cluster on parish boundaries and can be associated with common land or heath.

Rarity/Survival

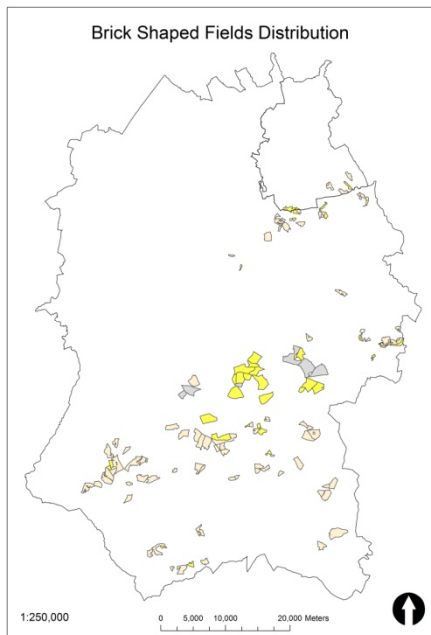
These fields are hard to identify and quite rare. They survive poorly as removal of wooded and hedged boundaries is common in modern farming, and many assarts have been incorporated into other fields. Some have been replanted recently so are hard to spot.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Brick shaped fields

Definition

Patterns of early fields, often prehistoric in origin, that are roughly rectilinear with sinuous sides and that share a common general orientation without having the dominant lines of coaxial fields. Sometimes called Celtic Fields.

Distribution



They occupy c.12478 ha

These very early field systems are uncommon but do survive across the county; but primarily in the southern and western portions

They survive best in areas without intensive activity such as in downland or military areas but are occasionally fossilised in modern field systems

They sometimes survive in association with prehistoric or Roman settlement or ceremonial areas/landscapes

Historical Processes

These fields represent one of the earliest formalised farming systems in Britain. They tend to date from the Bronze Age to Iron Age period, but can extend in use into the Roman period. They are quite distinct in form and are comprised of earthworks and ditches which set out fairly square/rectangular parcels. Due to their early date they seem not to have hedged, tree-lined or fenced boundaries but instead can spread quite extensively across a wide area. They survive as cropmarks or earthworks and are often characterized by their proximity to other contemporary features such as enclosures, trackways and farms and settlements. Field size may suggest that they were each cultivated by one individual or family.

Identification/Components

- Small to medium size fields that show up as cropmarks or earthworks
- Rectangular in form and associated with enclosures, settlements and trackways
- Survive well in downland areas, military areas, upland/marginal areas and parkland
- Sometimes help define boundaries of later field systems – particularly medieval ones

Rarity/Survival

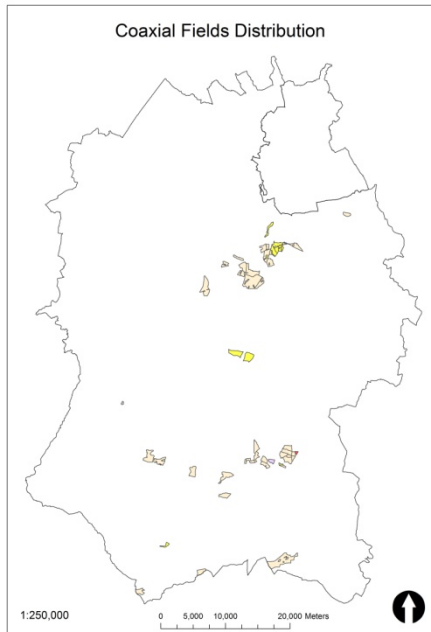
Prehistoric and Roman fields rarely survive into modernity and are a valuable insight into early farming practices. They are distinct and contribute to local character where they survive (e.g. on Fyfield Down) due to their interaction with other prehistoric or Roman occupation areas. They are easily lost due to their antiquity and ephemeral nature so tend to survive best in areas not under intensive modern agriculture or development.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Coaxial fields

Definition

Field system with prevailing orientation. Most boundaries are straight and closely align with main axis or run perpendicular to it. Suggestive of early planned land allotment.

Distribution



They occupy c.4586 ha

These very early field systems are uncommon but do survive across the county; but primarily in the southern and central portions

They survive best in areas without intensive activity such as in downland or military areas but are occasionally fossilised in modern field systems

They sometimes survive in association with prehistoric or Roman settlement or ceremonial areas/landscapes

Historical Processes

These fields represent one of the earliest formalised farming systems in Britain. They tend to date from the Bronze Age to Iron Age period, but can extend in use into the Roman period. They are quite distinct in form and are comprised of earthworks and ditches which set out chains of regular parcels. Due to their early date they seem not to have hedged, tree-lined or fenced boundaries but instead can spread quite extensively across a wide area. They survive as cropmarks or earthworks and are often characterized by their proximity to other contemporary features such as enclosures, trackways and former farms and settlements. They have a prevailing orientation and are much narrower than brick-shaped fields.

Identification/Components

- Small to medium size fields that show up as cropmarks or earthworks
- Regular in form with a prevailing orientation and associated with other early features
- Survive well in downland areas, military areas, upland/marginal areas and parkland
- Sometimes help define boundaries of later field systems – particularly medieval ones

Rarity/Survival

Prehistoric and Roman fields rarely survive into modernity and are a valuable insight into early farming practices. They are distinct and contribute to local character where they survive (e.g. on Fyfield Down) due to their interaction with other contemporary features. They are vulnerable due to their antiquity and ephemeral nature so tend to survive best in areas not under intensive modern agriculture or development.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Meadows

Definition

Permanent grassland, usually enclosed with stock-proof boundaries. Low-lying and damp or hard by farmstead, receiving yard dung. Ideally lush, and mown for hay. Also secure convenient grazing for young or sickly livestock. Common or individually held.

Distribution



They occupy c.3718 ha

Fairly even distribution across the county, with all areas being represented

Very closely correlated with watercourses and areas of formal water meadows

Tend to be linked in linear chains rather than isolated examples

Association with rural settlements in river valleys

Historical Processes

These fields were used for the cultivation of hay and for grazing of livestock. Most have later post medieval origins, but some have place names which could indicate an older origin. They were created in a variety of landscapes including upland/hillside locations and wet lowland areas. Meadows would have been more commonplace in the past and possibly associated with most rural settlements and farms.

Identification/Components

- Generally small fields
- Sinuous boundaries and irregular enclosed forms
- Associated with watercourses, both major (rivers) and minor (streams, brooks)
- Association with engineered water meadow systems and scrub/scattered woodland

Rarity/Survival

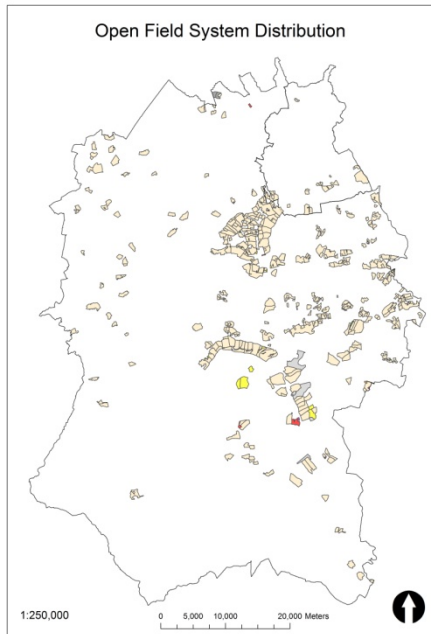
Meadow land is relatively rare and is a fragile landscape type that is easily affected by development and agriculture. Their cohesion has been eroded over time and the preservation of substantial grassy parcels only really occurs in the river valleys. Some of the meadow land would have been converted into water meadows in the C18 and C19 which would have resulted in the loss of earlier character. Often it is their location rather than form which allows the meadows to be identified, in comparison to other agricultural holdings.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Open field system

Definition

System of fields in which several farmers held land in common, intermixed in narrow strips assessable via length and width, with low or no separating boundaries. Mostly medieval. Few survive. Lost to piecemeal or planned enclosure, from the 13th to 20th century.

Distribution



They occupy c.23,522 ha

Open fields are uncommon but not rare and they are reasonably well distributed but with a focus on the central parts of the county

They survive well in some modern fields but have been removed in other instances

Open fields tend to surround settlements – both towns and villages

There is no particular correlation with any other particular landscape character types

Historical Processes

The open field system of farming has medieval origins and survived in some places until the early post medieval period. Under the system, each manor, village or town had two or three large fields subdivided into strips or furlongs. These narrow plots were farmed or used to graze animals by tenants and left unfenced – hence the name 'open fields'. Each tenant had several furlongs and some were left fallow to ensure continued soil fertility. The right of pasture on fallowed and harvested fields was held in common and necessitated cooperation among the tenants. By the early post medieval period, many open fields had been altered and enclosed to allow more intensive agriculture and livestock rearing. Private landowners enclosed the landscape and demarcated boundaries with hedges, trees, ditches and fences.

Identification/Components

- In this project former open fields are identified by their morphology and place name and not on the presence of ridge and furrow (unlike the strip field type)
- Fields are often large and have jointed or reverse s-shape boundaries and are semi-irregular or irregular in shape
- Fields are named by direction or by settlement and lie adjacent to villages/towns

Rarity/Survival

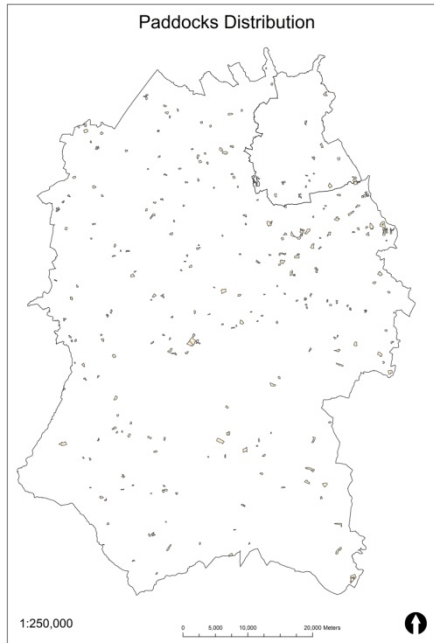
While open fields are not common, they do survive well in certain localities. However, they are at risk from boundary re-shaping and modern subdivision. Their overall form is distinct and provides a direct link to the medieval character of each settlement they surround.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Paddocks

Definition

Enclosed fields for horses. Usually a modern adaptation of part of an earlier field system.

Distribution



They occupy c.2731 ha

Widely distributed, but with a preponderance in the northern and central parts of the county

Less prevalent in wooded and downland areas

Related to farmsteads and the edge of rural settlement areas

Only recorded where there are significantly-sized groups of paddocks

Related to areas where the horse racing industry is based

Historical Processes

Paddocks are a modern phenomenon and have been created by parcelling off and subdividing older agricultural fields to set them aside primarily for the keeping horses. The equestrian industry has grown over time and this has led to an increase in paddock creation, particularly on land unfavourable for arable farming. Their creation has eroded the form and coherence of post medieval and earlier field systems, although they do in some instances retain older boundaries and forms within their structure.

Identification/Components

- Very small and regular-shaped plots, often grouped together in clusters
- Lots of fenced or lightly hedged boundaries
- Some consideration of earlier field layout and components
- At edge of settlements or associated with equestrian concerns

Rarity/Survival

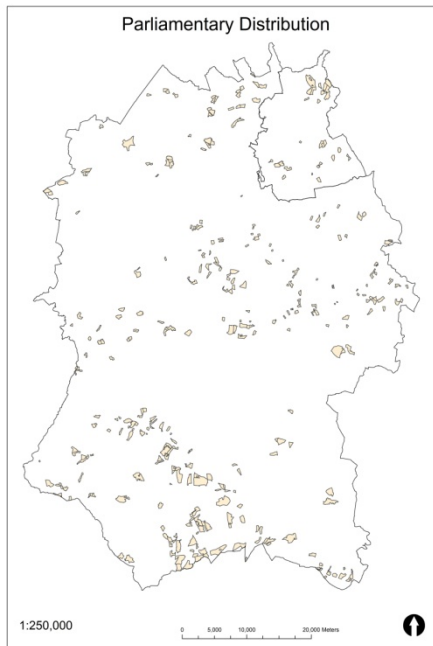
As these are fairly recent and increasing in number, they are not under threat of survival. They are also becoming increasingly common in rural counties like Wiltshire, where there has been an adhoc/piecemeal spread of this enclosure type. Paddocks can only be considered the dominant landscape character where they exist in sufficient numbers, as individual holdings can be very small. While they are distinctive, they do not offer a great opportunity to perceive time depth in the areas where they do occur.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Parliamentary enclosure

Definition

Field patterns usually rectilinear and regular with straight boundaries and access lanes, fixed by surveyors, resulting from Parliamentary Enclosure of large areas of common arable (open fields) and rough ground. Mainly occurred during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Distribution



They occupy c.11,161 ha

Concentrations in the southwest, central and north-eastern parts of the county

Tend to survive in clusters rather than as isolated examples due to former communal land being enclosed by Act

No particular correlations with woodland or settlement areas

Some enclosure of downland areas

Historical Processes

Fields created by this formal process of enclosure tend to date from 1750-1850, when the Enclosure Acts were passed by parliament. This process changed whole landscapes at a stroke and took communal land (fields, meadows, heath, scrub and downland) and placed it into private ownership. As such, they chart the rise of the individual over the collective at a landscape level. The regimented and surveyed fields created by this process replaced and obscured some of the older fieldscapes which dated for the medieval period and earlier.

Identification/Components

- Very regular fields with straight boundaries due to surveying
- Clearly demarcated boundaries – often hedged
- Imposed on the landscape without regard for form and layout of earlier fields
- Sometimes align with parish boundaries, due to the period they were set out in

Rarity/Survival

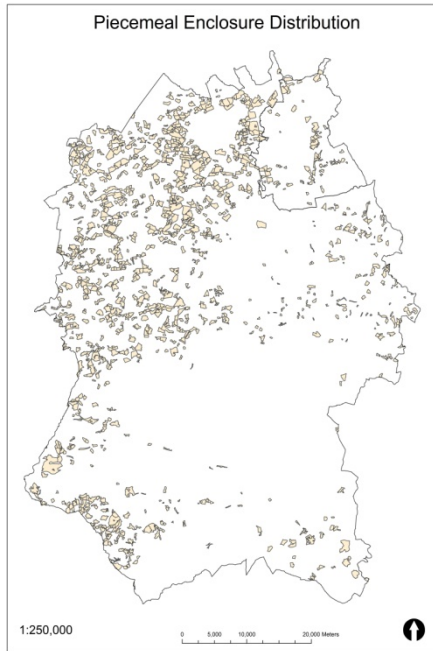
Such fields occur occasionally and are locally prevalent in certain areas. While these fields are distinct, a good many have since been altered and lost. Where they do survive they are distinct, and despite their nature they do on occasion fossilise earlier character types through mirroring of boundaries and making use of older boundaries where they were deemed suitable.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Piecemeal enclosure

Definition

Field systems derived from gradual enclosure of open fields, usually from C13 to C17 & C18 when Parliamentary Enclosure dominated. Individual strips or groups enclosed by landholders, leaving elements of the former open field pattern visible.

Distribution



They occupy c.35,284 ha

They are relatively common but are predominantly found in the west and northwest of the county

Few survive in the south of the county where there are large swathes of downland and areas of woodland

Many survive in the landscape around the market towns

Lost through urban expansion and modern alteration of fields

Historical Processes

The vast majority of piecemeal enclosures are of post medieval date; with some examples being in the early part of this period. They represent an informal and ad-hoc enclosure of land, in many cases from the medieval open field system, where holdings comprise of strips or furlongs. Some of these medieval fields are still fossilised within these later post medieval enclosures. Those fields defined by topography tend to be more irregular and sinuous and on occasion preserve strip lynchets. Other piecemeal enclosures result from agreements between landowners in the post medieval era; using existing boundaries and topography.

Identification/Components

- Fields are of variable size but are semi-irregular or irregular in shape
- Boundaries are less orderly and can be thickly wooded or defined by watercourses
- Some have reverse s-shape boundaries or are sinuous due to the presence of former medieval ridge and furrow field systems
- Associated with old trackways, woodland and historic villages

Rarity/Survival

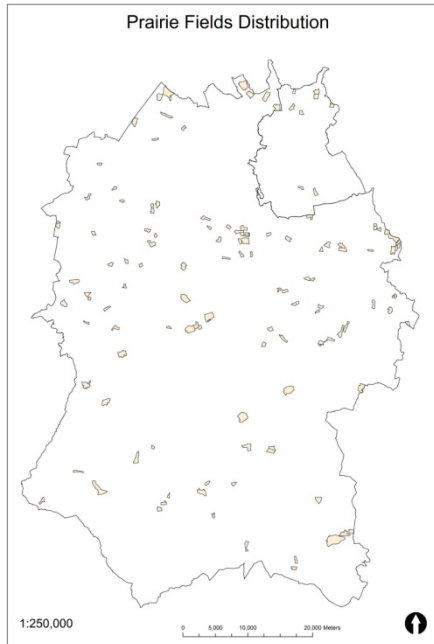
These fields are quite distinct but some appear similar to assarts. They are not uncommon but have been affected by boundary loss and re-ordering in recent times. The best examples are the semi-irregular fields which fossilise medieval field systems, and these can be quite extensive. However, establishing the true antiquity of piecemeal enclosures is challenging.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Prairie fields

Definition

Patterns of very large fields, some with boundaries over 1km long. Usually resulting from post WWII combination of holdings and the removal of earlier boundaries creating land units convenient for highly mechanised arable, or for extensive livestock raising.

Distribution



They occupy c.6291 ha

Not common but well distributed across the county

Occur in the south where some large swathes of downland have been enclosed for arable purposes

Tend to be set away from settlements in areas that were either previously open or part of extensive older field systems

Many in upland areas and set away from watercourses and the bottom of river valleys

Only possible for them to exist in remote locations due to their size

Historical Processes

These fields are one of the most recent additions to the landscape. They have come into being to allow either exploitation of land that was formerly hard to use for agriculture (poor soils, inaccessible etc.) or to make it easier to use land that was once a series of smaller fields. This process started in the first half of the C20 and has increased since this period. These very large fields tend to occur in blocks and are obvious in areas of former downland, or in amongst post medieval piecemeal or planned fields. However, they have not been imposed on the landscape and instead seem to be more organic and respect existing boundaries and topographic features, which helps to preserve traces of earlier character.

Identification/Components

- Extremely large fields which are normally regular or semi-irregular in form
- Boundaries either demarcated by verges, ditches, fences or light hedges
- They exist in isolated or marginal areas and often in upland areas
- They typically respect parish boundaries, tracks and topography

Rarity/Survival

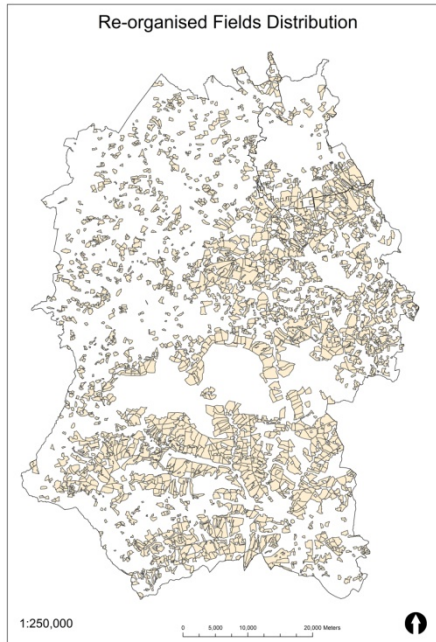
These fields are currently uncommon but may well increase in frequency over time. As they are a modern re-shaping of the landscape they are not under threat of change. Prairie fields are distinct due to their size and location, and are not easily confused with other types. They are not as destructive of previous landscape character as may be assumed.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Reorganised fields

Definition

Field pattern of any type or date that has been subject to revision, through either insertion or removal of boundaries, but where the original form is still legible.

Distribution



They occupy c.105,589 ha

They are the most common modern landscape type and are abundant in all parts of the county

They are absent from some downland and military areas that are not suitable for agriculture

Other gaps in the distribution relate to large extant woodland blocks and substantial urban settlements where any existing green space is not in agricultural use

Interspersed with surviving historic (mainly post medieval) fields

Historical Processes

These fields are primarily modern and have been created by altering, modifying and re-arranging existing post medieval and medieval fields. They also represent the late enclosure of open areas and conversion of other character types (such as parkland, orchards, settlement etc.) into fields. They arise through changes in farming practice and the recent intensification of agriculture. Re-organised fields often have new boundaries created to subdivide older holdings, re-aligned orientation or modified/replacement boundaries. In this instance, this landscape type encompasses re-planned, modified and new fields as discussed in the CCWWD AONB and NWD AONB HLC dataset.

Components

- Very variable morphology and size – nothing characteristic for this type
- Virtually all types of boundaries – wooded, hedged, tree-lined, ditched
- Not necessarily any correlation between the current form and earlier character
- Tend to preserve legible elements of former character – e.g. old boundaries, veteran trees, designed features, ridge and furrow or industrial sites being identifiable

Rarity/Survival

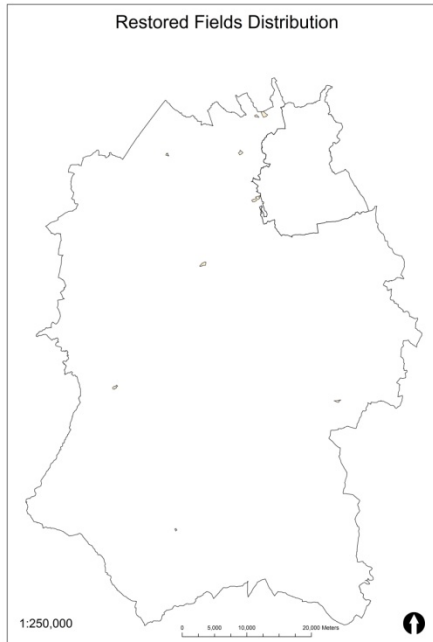
This type is the most prevalent across Wiltshire and Swindon, and may even increase further over time as even modern fields are themselves altered. They are part of an ongoing process of landscape change but as they are not distinctive, they cannot be viewed as under threat. Their most important facet is their ability to preserve earlier landscape character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Restored fields

Definition

Fields created on the surface of restored land, such as that landscaped from the former dumps of coal mines. Modern and often regular.

Distribution



They occupy c.224 ha

These fields are hard to identify and so rare that their distribution is scattered

They are associated with areas of former quarrying and extraction and so are slightly more prevalent in the north, where the gravels exist

No other patterns or correlations can be identified, though they may be slightly under represented

Historical Processes

These fields are all modern and have been created by converting areas of former quarrying and extraction into agricultural fields by restoring the landscape. This process is the result of either a desire to bring more land into use for farming or to remove unsightly areas from the landscape. In counties with more of a tradition of quarrying and aggregate extraction, this landscape character type would have been more prevalent. Of course, some of the areas within Wiltshire where these industries did occur lie within present day urban areas, where rather than restoration of fields, it was desirable to build elements of urban infrastructure or housing.

Components

- Varied, but generally irregular field parcels and boundaries as quarry features are not regular
- Mixed in size, but tending towards slightly larger parcels as restoring localised and small scale quarrying not always necessary
- Boundaries tend to be modern and not well established, as these are new landscapes.

Rarity/Survival

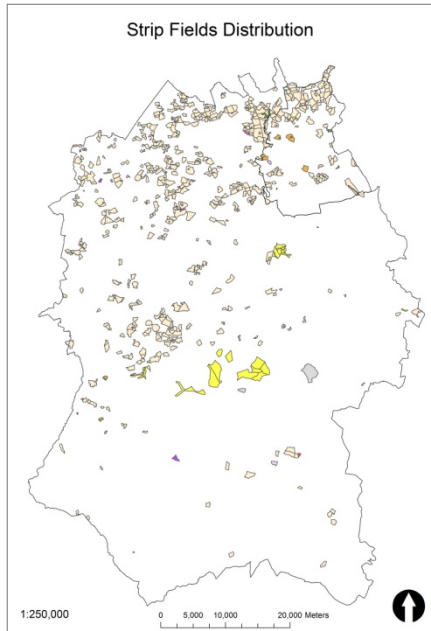
This landscape character type is relatively rare, due to the limited amount of extraction and quarrying generally present in Wiltshire. Restored fields can also be hard to identify. As they are modern they are not under threat of change and are not especially distinctive features.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Strip fields

Definition

Long narrow plots of land within an open field. Also used for those plots once enclosed and held in severalty, the form in which most now survive. Some Saxon ones but most medieval.

Distribution



They occupy c.23,299 ha

Strip fields are relatively uncommon but there are dense clusters in the northern and western parts of the county

They survive well in modern fields and downland areas but have been removed in other instances

Strip fields tend to surround settlements – both towns and villages

As they are principally identified by ridge and furrow they can be hard to spot on the available sources so are probably slightly under represented

Historical Processes

Strip fields or furlongs form part of the medieval open field system but some may have earlier, Saxon, origins. They are elongated strips of land with a reverse s-shape profiles caused by the method of turning the oxen teams which ploughed the land. This ploughing creates headlands as well as very distinct ridges and furrows in the land and these are characteristic of this agricultural system. Tenants in each manor farmed or grazed animals on these strips, and were part of a communal farming enterprise. However, by the early post medieval period, many strips (as part of open fields) had been lost to more formalized and privately owned fields (usually piecemeal ones but also planned and parliamentary ones) which were used more intensively and demarcated by hedges, trees, ditches and fences.

Identification/Components

- In this project, former strip fields are identified by their morphology, place name and the presence of ridge and furrow (unlike the open field type)
- Fields have jointed or reverse s-shape boundaries and are semi-irregular, irregular or sinuous in shape. They tend to be relatively small in size, despite modern alterations
- Cropmarks or earthworks of ridge and furrow (narrow and broad rig) show on aerial photographs and are occasionally mapped on modern and historic OS maps

Rarity/Survival

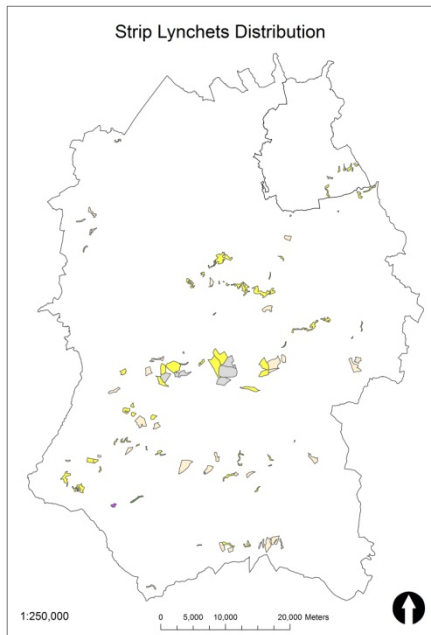
While strip fields are not common, they do survive well in certain localities. However, they are at risk from boundary re-shaping and modern subdivision. Their overall form is distinct and provides a direct link to the medieval character of each settlement they surround.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Strip lynchets

Definition

A lynchet is a bank of earth that builds up on the downslope of land ploughed over a long period of time. The disturbed soil slips down the hillside to create a positive lynchet while the area reduced in level becomes a negative lynchet. The ridged landform can be cultivated and this practice was common in upland areas from the prehistoric to medieval era.

Distribution



They occupy c.6981 ha

Strip lynchets are uncommon but do survive in remote upland locations

Those that do exist are concentrated in the central and southern portions of the county

They are very clearly legible in downland landscapes but some are fossilised in modern field systems

They are sometimes associated with areas of open fields/strip fields where there is a sloping landform (i.e. the open fields have not been set out in an entirely flat part of the landscape)

Historical Processes

Strip lynchets were created by ploughing or cutting cultivation terraces into hillslopes in upland areas within Wiltshire. It has also been argued that some of these strip lynchets have formed by natural erosion and weathering of the land. Whatever the case, the ridges formed by this process were then used to grow crops such as cereals. This agricultural strategy has origins in the Bronze Age but continued to be used until the medieval era in some places. While many of the modern fields that have replaced these strip lynchets lack the need for such earthworks due to the improvements in mechanised agriculture, they still retain the historic lynchets in a fossilised form which is quite distinctive.

Identification/Components

- Exist in upland locations and tend to follow topography, so are often sinuous in form
- Tend to be small in size and their earthworks are fossilised within existing character
- Not usually associated with settlements but sometimes close to open/strip fields
- Survive well in downland and military areas where there is not intensive land use

Rarity/Survival

Strip lynchets are rare, but can only exist in upland areas. They are at risk from intensive agriculture which flattens their characteristic earthworks and removes the old cultivation pattern. Where they do exist they are quite striking reminders of early farming techniques.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Water meadows

Definition

Controlled irrigation to draw nutrient-rich silts and material onto valley-bottom grassland to increase hay yields and enable earlier mowing. Early modern agricultural improvement; normally now no longer operated though earthworks may survive.

Distribution



They occupy c.4657 ha

Their distribution is obviously linked to the watercourses and rivers in the county

They survive particularly well in the south of the county in the area around Salisbury

Some water meadows will have been affected by the creation of canals in the C18 and C19

They would likely have been more extensive in the past and some will have been lost

Historical Processes

Water meadows played an important role in the agricultural economy from the C17 to C19. Grass produced on water meadows was crucial to farmers and was a characteristic element of the exploitation of chalk downlands of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. Their sophisticated engineering allowed the watering of meadows to be controlled which was important in the sheep and corn system of agriculture. The advantage of such systems was making land available for grazing before it would naturally be ready, and this allowed the keeping of greater numbers of livestock.

Identification/Components

- They lie adjacent to watercourses and are sinuous in their form
- They have wavy boundaries marked by ditches and on occasion vegetation
- Elements of the engineering survive in the form of sluices, hatches, drains, channels, beds, culverts and bridges
- Elements appear 'ridge and furrow' like when viewed on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

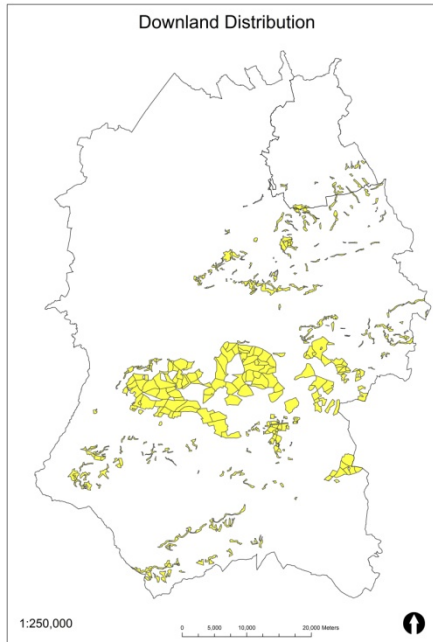
Water meadows are uncommon and have certainly been lost over time. They are very distinct and characteristic in the landscape and would once have been locally common. No water meadows remain in use, and their survival is threatened by development and changes in agricultural practice. Recently, schemes to restore such features have been proposed.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Downland

Definition

An area of rolling upland terrain characterised by chalk escarpments separated by vales of softer earth.

Distribution



They occupy c.25,593 ha

The downland clusters in the areas around the chalk outcrops – primarily around Salisbury Plain and Marlborough Down

Other examples survive along the river valleys and there is a correlation with watercourses

Naturally the downland does not survive in and around urban areas, or in areas of heavy woodland

Heavily affected by the increase in agricultural farming in the county since the late C19 and C20

Historical Processes

The surviving downland represents a fraction of what would once have been broad belts of chalk grassland. While in the C19 it formed an important part of the local farming practices, much has been lost in the present day to more intense agriculture, with the exploitation of formerly marginal land. These downland areas would have been used for grazing of livestock and the animals in turn would have fertilised the land. Where downland still exists, these practices continue but other areas are in use as nature reserves or survive in amongst the military training areas in the south of the county.

Identification/Components

- Large areas of short cropped downland in mainly irregular parcels
- Varied boundaries, but often not heavily delineated – often just fences or light hedges
- Often associated with patches of scrub, woodland or furze
- Good preservation of earlier character, particularly prehistoric and Roman fields, ritual/ceremonial landscapes and settlement areas

Rarity/Survival

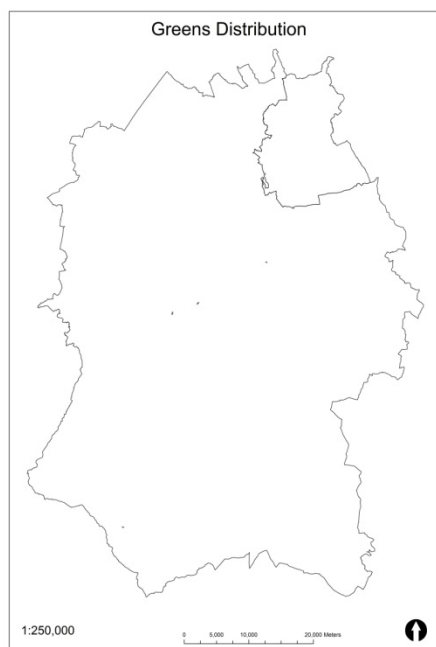
Downland is uncommon but not rare, and in some parts of the county it is locally distinct. It tends to survive in upland or marginal areas, where there has not been a need to create additional fields or settlement areas. While some areas have been affected by military activity, this has had less of an adverse effect than the modern farming. It is vulnerable to change and of interest because it tends to preserve earlier character so well.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Greens

Definition

Area of often grassy ground, usually common, normally situated at the centre of a village or hamlet, sometimes within or near a town. Usually maintained by grazing.

Distribution



They occupy c.8 ha

Very few greens associated with hamlets or villages are large enough to be recorded as individual character areas

Distribution of current type is limited, but there would have been many more in the past

Obviously they closely correlate with settlement areas

Historical Processes

From the Saxon/medieval period onwards, many of the villages and hamlets and small towns would have had a green. This communal grassy area would have been used for grazing animals, public meetings, fairs and community celebrations. Often these would lie at the heart of a settlement, but if settlements were agglomerated, they could sometimes end up on the periphery. Many greens are very small and don't register at a landscape scale. Others have been absorbed into other recreational spaces or simply been developed. These reasons explain the paucity of the distribution for the current character types.

Identification/Components

- Small grassy areas associated with settlements, and often located at their core
- Sometimes have a pond or a number of veteran trees
- Usually named as greens or have a clearly identified purpose on historic/modern maps.
- Almost always unenclosed land, which links to its communal ownership and exploitation

Rarity/Survival

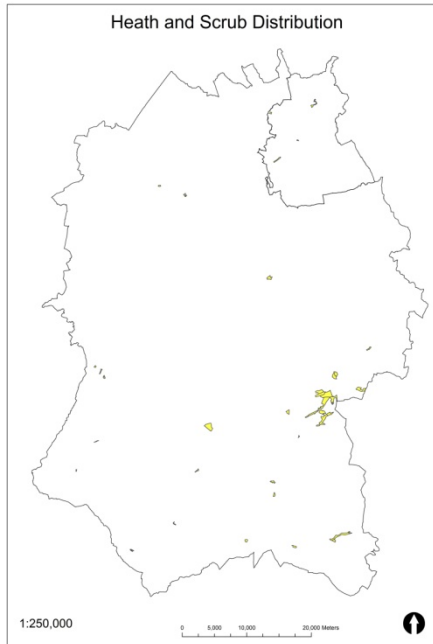
Large examples of greens are very rare and where they do exist they are locally distinct. They link to older (particularly medieval) settlement layouts and a more communal existence. Smaller examples do survive reasonably well and are often protected from development, although they are usually too small to be identified and recorded at a landscape scale.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Heath and scrub

Definition

Unimproved, but grazed area of low-growing woody shrubby vegetation, including heathers and gorses, sometimes in a mosaic with grassland and damp areas. Sometimes including groups of small trees.

Distribution



They occupy c.1054 ha

Areas of heath survive in remote or liminal locations, but are widely distributed

Heath land often survives in locations where there are patches of downland or woodland

Some areas of scrub have an association with wet areas or watercourses

Historical Processes

These areas are more-or-less natural and tend not to have been managed. They tend to be areas with acidic soils, but this has not prevented their exploitation for agricultural or recreational purposes. They survive in marginal areas where there has been no need to fundamentally change their character. Areas of heath can have fairly ancient origins (similar to the downland character type) and do preserve elements of earlier character reasonably well, on the occasions they do survive. They are often named on historic and modern mapping and are quite distinctive.

Identification/Components

- Grassy and marginal areas without subdivision into parcels
- Sometimes associated with scrubby vegetation and trees
- Tend to have few formalised boundaries and have an open feel to them.
- Often named to indicate their character and retain elements of earlier character

Rarity/Survival

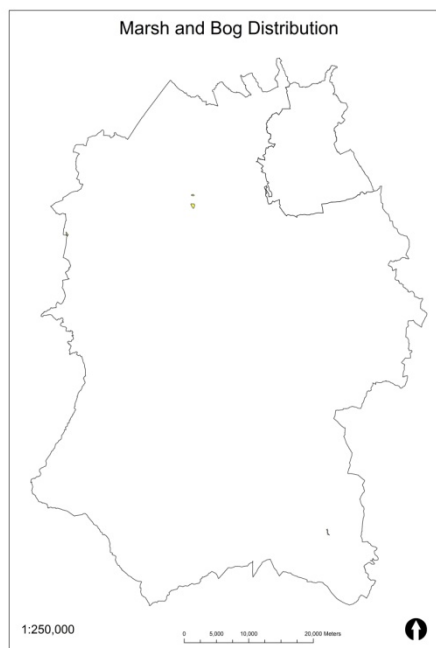
Areas of heath and scrub tend to be relatively rare and don't survive well, unless they exist within designated special areas (AONBs, SSSIs, World Heritage Sites, Protected Landscapes etc). Heath land is vulnerable to change and intensification of agriculture. It is of interest because it tends to preserve earlier character so well – especially early fields and ritual landscapes.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Marsh and bog

Definition

Low-lying land often covered by water and usually with peaty vegetation. Used seasonally for grazing. Historically, peat was sometimes cut as domestic fuel and the area also used for trapping wildfowl.

Distribution



They occupy c.50 ha

Very rare and so an extremely limited distribution

Small in size so they tend not to exist or be identifiable at a landscape scale

Clearly associated with watercourses and wetland areas

Often form part of other landscape character types like heath and grassland, secondary woodland, meadows and parkland

Historical Processes

These pieces of land, where they survive, represent wet areas which were not expedient or economic to drain. They typically exist in areas with associated watercourses, such as in some of the river valleys (although those on the chalk are mainly well drained). Within the landscape, they are frequently surrounded by meadows, valley-bottom fields or close to features like water meadows. By their very nature they are naturalistic parts of the landscape that have not been exploited or adapted by man.

Identification/Components

- Small scale and irregular parcels of land with wavy or sinuous outlines
- Often very overgrown and associated with scrubby vegetation or trees
- Frequently named as such on historic and modern maps
- Located near to rivers, streams, brooks and ponds

Rarity/Survival

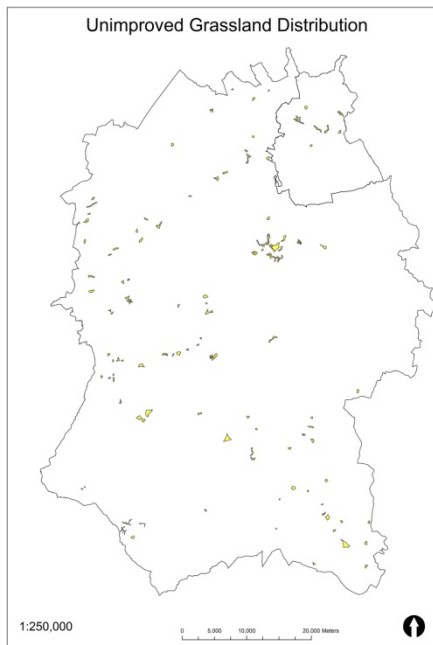
Marshland and bogs are rare within the county, but many areas that could be classified as this character type are too small to be mapped or identified at a landscape level. While marshland would have been more prevalent in the past (as alluded to by place name evidence) it would only have been of distinction at a local level. While it is sensitive to change, any areas of marsh and bog are unlikely to be exploited for settlement and agriculture if they have not been already.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Unimproved grassland

Definition

Open areas of grazing or grassland which have not been formally managed.

Distribution



They occupy c.1611 ha

Sparse but fairly even distribution across the county

Some areas associated with marginal landscapes but others lie closer to both rural and urban settlement areas

Different to areas of downland and heath land which have much more particular distributions based on the underlying geology

Some of the distribution gaps exist in areas of chalk downland in the south and east of the county

Historical Processes

These areas are more-or-less natural and tend not to have been managed. While land with this character can survive anywhere, parcels of grassland tend to survive in marginal areas where there has been no need to fundamentally change their character through intensive use of the landscape.

Identification/Components

- Grassy and marginal areas, often without subdivision into parcels
- Sometimes associated with scrubby vegetation and trees
- Tend to have few formalised boundaries and have an open feel to them.
- Sometimes named to indicate their character and retain elements of earlier character

Rarity/Survival

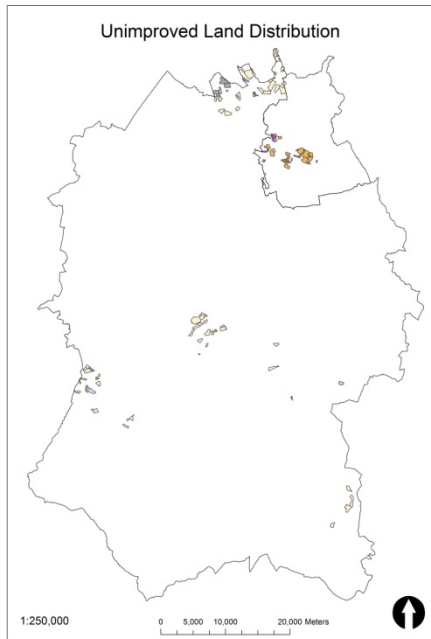
Areas with this landscape character are not uncommon, but as they tend to be very small in size, they tend to have been subsumed into areas with a more dominant character. They can occur in rural or semi-urban settings, with some land around settlements not being put to a formal use or kept as a natural green space. In many cases the lack of change to the character of such areas helps to preserve elements of earlier character – sometimes visible as cropmarks or earthworks on aerial photographs.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Unimproved land

Definition

For areas of open, unenclosed and unimproved land where the type of coverage (i.e. grass, heath/scrub etc.) cannot be readily determined.

Distribution



They occupy c.3088 ha

Something of a catch-all term for areas where there was clearly an open character in the past but where the function of this land could not be determined

Patchy distribution because in most cases a more detailed character/function could be determined from the available map/photographic sources

Mix of wasteland in rural or urban areas but often poorly legible

Could be grouped with unimproved grassland in many cases?

Historical Processes

Throughout history, there have been areas of the landscape that have been under exploited or have lapsed into disuse after being used for particular purposes (such as occupation, farming or industrial purposes). Sometimes it is apparent from the current character or surrounding areas of landscape that a particular tranche of the landscape was unimproved or waste land in the past. Such areas could have been present in built up or isolated areas and they tend to be depicted in an uncertain manner on historic mapping sources – with no indications of character from place name evidence or landform/location.

Identification/Components

- Limited ability to identify – something of a catch all term to characterise all areas with a clearly open but undefined character in the past
- Blank areas on historic maps or marginal zones that existed between areas of more definite and identifiable character
- No ability to use place name, geological or topographical evidence to characterise the landscape.

Rarity/Survival

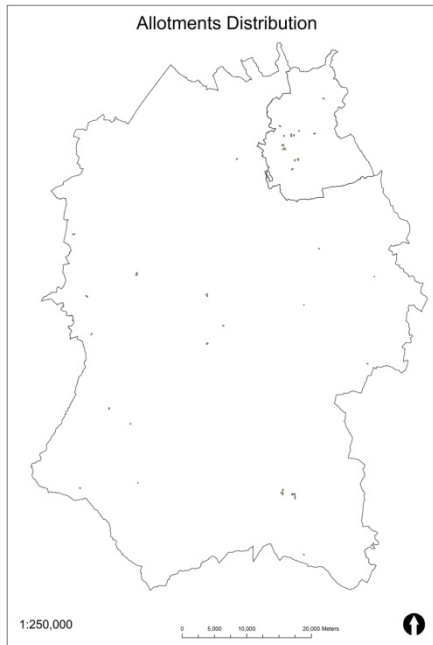
Such areas of uncertain character are rare, and by their very nature are not especially valuable in understanding the past landscape. All have been subsequently re-developed and can perhaps be assumed to have been set aside or waste ground – whether in rural or urban contexts.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Allotments

Definition

Land, often public, let out to individuals or an individual for the purposes of cultivation or other land use. Often in numerous small parcels, sometimes individually fenced.

Distribution



They occupy c.116 ha

Due to their small size they are often not the dominant character of a landscape/area. As such they are quite rare

Their distribution is sparse and scattered across the county

They are clearly associated with settlements (principally towns and villages) and provide a green space for those in built-up areas

Sometimes combined with other character types

Historical Processes

Allotments are typically let out by local government organisations, or private allotment associations, to allow the growing of food. They have late post medieval origins (18th century and 19th century) and would once have been small plots of land which would have allowed the rearing of livestock in addition to the growing of fruit and vegetables. The majority of allotments identified by this HLC project relate to the 19th and 20th centuries and have continued in use. Some allotments relate to the wartime periods, and the initiative to 'Dig for Victory'. Whatever their origin, they remain popular in towns and villages and are valued for their green credentials.

Identification/Components

- Small and very regular parcels located in and around settlement areas
- Sometimes subdivided by fences or hedges but also can be open with no dividers
- Associated structures like sheds, water butts, raised beds and small bushes/shrubs
- Do not exist in very rural locations as there is no need for formalised green space

Rarity/Survival

They are fairly rare in Wiltshire and Swindon, but not have been recorded in some instances due to their small size. While they do survive relatively well, and are very distinct, some allotment land has been given to development recently – particularly in larger urban centres. Due to their structured nature, they do not preserve previous character type well.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Market gardens

Definition

An area of land used to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers to be sold at markets.

Distribution



They occupy c.3 ha

As these are principally a historic rather than present landscape character type in Wiltshire there are almost no surviving examples

Much of what might be represented by this type in the present day has been encompassed by the plant nursery/garden centre and allotments type

Modern day Wiltshire and Swindon has little precedent for market gardening, and those that do exist are too small to be identified as dominant character areas

Historical Processes

Traditionally, "market garden" was used to contrast farms devoted to raising vegetables and berries a specialized type of farming, with the larger branches of grain, dairy, and orchard fruit farming. Simply put, a market garden was simply a vegetable plot (like an allotment) the produce of which the farmer used to sell as opposed to use to feed his or her family. These growing areas have origins dating to the late 18th century onwards, and were particularly prevalent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Sometimes these market gardens made use of railway lines and canals to get their fresh produce to market further afield.

Identification/Components

- Typically small land parcels located in and around settlement areas
- Varied areas within the market garden to grow different crops and often not delineated
- Associated structures like sheds, greenhouses, raised beds and poly tunnels
- Sometimes associated with transport like railways or canals to get produce to market

Rarity/Survival

This character type typically relates to historic rather than current landscape character. Market gardens existed in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries to allow the sale of locally grown produce, but most have disappeared now. Some have evolved into allotments, plant nurseries/garden centres or farms but almost all have disappeared from the landscape (or cannot be mapped due to their small size). Any that remain are rare examples of this historic farming process.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Orchards and vineyards

Definition

An enclosed area of land or garden for the growing of fruit-bearing trees or land and associated buildings where grapevines are cultivated.

Distribution



They occupy c.49 ha

Orchards large enough to map and/or constitute the dominant character are rare

Their limited distribution is scattered across the county but they do seem to have some association with settlement areas

Many orchards have disappeared in modernity and there is no established cider or wine industry in the county to promote creation of new orchards

Historical Processes

The vast majority of the orchards that survive and have been mapped by the HLC project have late post medieval or early modern origins (19th and 20th century). These traditional orchards would be much less densely packed with trees than their modern equivalents. Orchards would have been highly prevalent in the past, with many towns, villages and farms having small areas set aside for the growing of fruit. These can be seen through depictions of the landscape on the 1 ed. 6" OS map and later epochs of historic mapping. Many orchards have been cleared in recent times for residential or commercial development or are so small that they do not merit characterisation (as they are not the dominant local character).

Identification/Components

- Small enclosures which are typically hedged or fenced
- Clusters of small fruit trees – regularly laid out if modern and more piecemeal if older
- Often associated with farms in modernity but previously with settlement areas
- Sometimes indicated by local place name evidence

Rarity/Survival

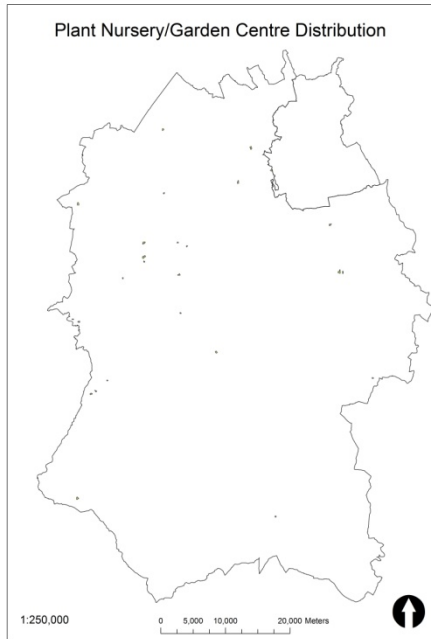
Orchards are very rare and are fragile reminders of a former agricultural/rural lifestyle. While they are very distinct in the landscape, they have often been cleared for more intensive use of the land they occupy. Previous landscape character is poorly legible within them due to the planting of the trees, which disturbs earlier field patterns and earlier character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Plant nursery/garden centre

Definition

An area such as a commercial garden where plants and trees are grown and nurtured for the purpose of transportation or sale or a place/buildings where gardening tools and plants are sold.

Distribution



They occupy c.116 ha

Nurseries and garden centres of a significant size (>2ha) are uncommon

They seem to be principally in the north and west of the county and are perhaps associated with the larger urban centres that exist in these areas

Some plant nurseries have associations with former manors and designed landscape parks, presumably with plants being grown for use in these grand locations

Historical Processes

While a very small number of plant nurseries have historic origins the vast majority of them, and all of the garden centres, are modern creations. They have been created in rural locations or outside settlements to cater for the growing interest in gardening and horticulture. They tend to comprise outdoor areas (sometimes with covering) and plots where the plants are grown for sale, and buildings where association gardening and outdoor equipment is displayed and sold. Often there is a large accompanying car park and this, along with the other features of this landscape character type, tends to result in very poor legibility of previous character.

Identification/Components

- Out of town locations by roads and easily accessible.
- Sheds/buildings for sale of horticultural goods that are surrounded by large car parks
- Covered outdoor areas or plots/paddocks for growing trees, shrubs and flowers
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps by name and purpose

Rarity/Survival

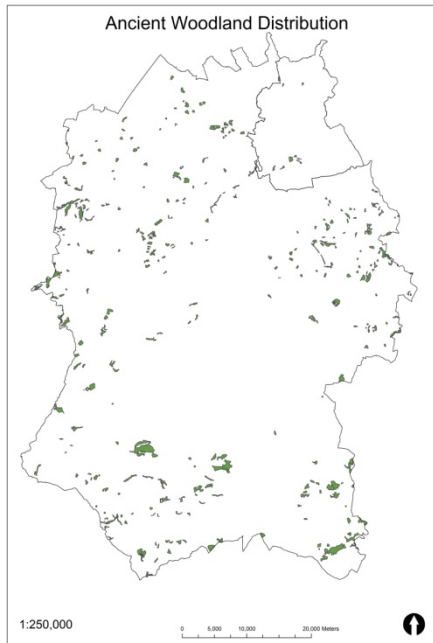
Sites of this type are uncommon across the county (due in part to smaller enterprises not being mapped separately) but the demand for plants and garden supplies does not require a huge number of outlets. In general, they are very modern and are robust to landscape change. However, as the sites that accommodate them have been heavily developed and modified, there is usually extremely poor preservation of previous landscape character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ancient semi-natural woodland

Definition

Woodland believed to have existed since at least 1600 in England and in England defined as such by Natural England. Usually managed for timber, coppice etc and often contains dividing banks, trackways, charcoal burning platforms etc.

Distribution



They occupy c.5869 ha

This woodland is slightly uncommon but reasonably well distributed across the county

There is a particular cluster in the south, and eastern/western fringes of the county - areas where there were formerly medieval hunting forests

They form the original parts of extensive woodland that has since been felled or subject to re-planting – so there are clear associations with assarts and re-planted ancient woodland and coppices

Historical Processes

The majority of woodland in this category has origins in at least the medieval period, but possibly even earlier in some cases. Such woodland would have been a valuable resource in the past and formed part of royal or noble estates and been used for hunting, industry, woodcraft and livestock rearing. Place name evidence gives a hint to the purposes of the woodland and in some instances to its antiquity. Over time, many of the extensive forests in Wiltshire such as Savernake, Braydon and Selwood were reduced in size to make way for agriculture or settlement due to increasing population pressure. Nevertheless, pockets of ancient woodland remain, are very distinctive and contribute significantly to local character.

Identification/Components

- Mainly broadleaf trees that have grown in an organic/un-ordered fashion
- Woodland blocks are irregular in form and often show evidence of assarting
- Sometimes have associated boundary banks, or act themselves as boundaries
- Often incorporated into later designed landscapes or parks
- Distinctly named on both modern and historic maps with names implying function

Rarity/Survival

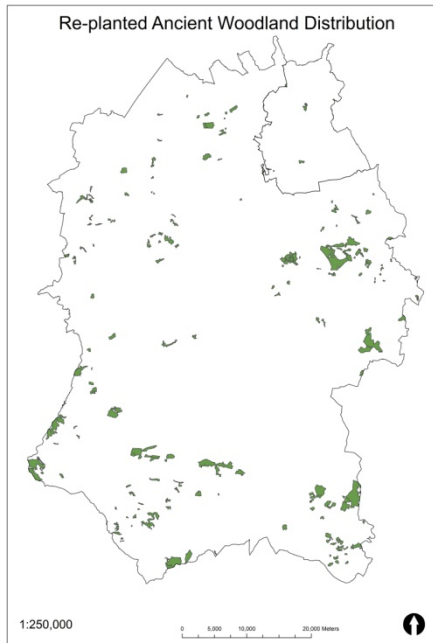
Woodland of this type is uncommon and has diminished significantly from the 19th century onwards. It tends to be concentrated in clumps and has been supplemented by areas of re-planting. Its influence on biodiversity and recreational benefits ensure it is valued locally.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ancient semi-natural woodland re-planted

Definition

Ancient woodland where original natural tree coverage has been clear-felled (often during the 20th century world wars) and the area replanted with other trees, often coniferous.

Distribution



They occupy c.7742 ha

This woodland is slightly uncommon but reasonably well distributed across the county

The majority of this woodland is associated with semi-natural ancient woodland and as such it concentrates in areas with existing wood of this type

It focuses in areas of either ancient forest or as part of parkland where the original ancient woodland had diminished and there has been an aesthetic desire to restore it

Some association with assarts – with woodland infill

Historical Processes

Despite its name, the re-planted ancient woodland is of much more recent origin – primarily in the late 19th century or early 20th century. The re-planting trees can be coniferous types or non-native species, as well as the more traditional native broadleaf/deciduous species. Some of the earlier re-planting was conducted to enhance the landscape and is associated with ornamental parks or gardens. Some of the later re-planting was to replace trees felled during the First and Second World Wars for use in the war effort. It is possible to discern these areas of re-planted wood within more ancient woodland bodies on aerial photographs.

Identification/Components

- Typically coniferous trees that have been planted to infill old assarts or to supplement areas of semi-natural ancient woodland
- Often blocks of this woodland more regular in shape than the adjacent older woodland
- Infills areas of old woodland and sometimes this is alluded to by place name evidence

Rarity/Survival

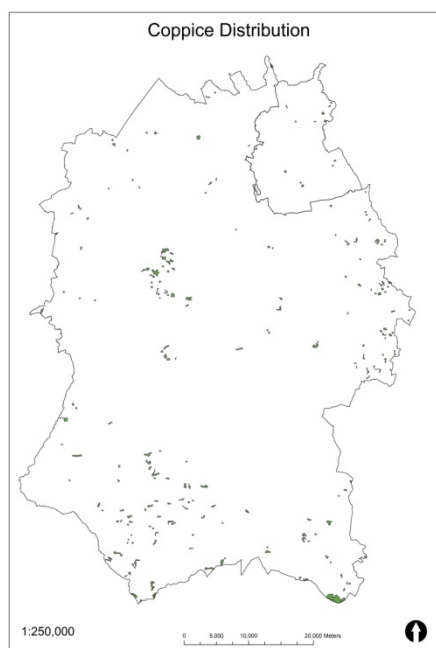
Woodland of this type is not common in Wiltshire, although there are more re-planting schemes now than there has been in the past. There seems to have been little threat to the more recent planting episodes, and its value in enhancing biodiversity and recreational benefits (where associated with parkland etc.) make it a reasonably robust character type.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Coppice

Definition

Area of managed woodland, usually oak, ash, hornbeam, hazel, alder, willow or beech, periodically cut to encourage new growth providing a source of smaller timber; for rods, fuel, charcoal etc. Larger coppices often divided into cropping areas or coups.

Distribution



They occupy c.1684 ha

This woodland is uncommon but reasonably well distributed across the county, with a concentration to the south

Most are associated with other wooded areas, but some more modern coppices have been created in remote or marginal areas

Many farms and agricultural concerns have woodland to utilise for commercial purposes

Some coppices have been created as part of designed landscapes

Historical Processes

The coppices identified in the HLC project are mainly late post medieval or modern in origin. While coppicing was well established in the medieval period (and even earlier), few such wooded areas survive unaltered into the present day. As coppiced woodland is harvested in sections or *coups* the form and layout of the woodland can be quite distinct and identifiable within the landscape. The wood was used for ship building, house construction and industrial processes like charcoal burning. Some coppices also existed on grand estates and manors to provide an income or for ornamental purposes. While these still survive as part of some parkland, very few woodlands of this type are still operated for coppice today. Those that do are often managed by to provide materials for local crafts and woodworking activities.

Identification/Components

- Often regular in shape and more typically coniferous varieties of trees.
- Usually clearly named on modern and historic maps.
- Occasionally associated with parkland areas or infilling of ancient woodland
- Some association with farmsteads or agricultural hamlets

Rarity/Survival

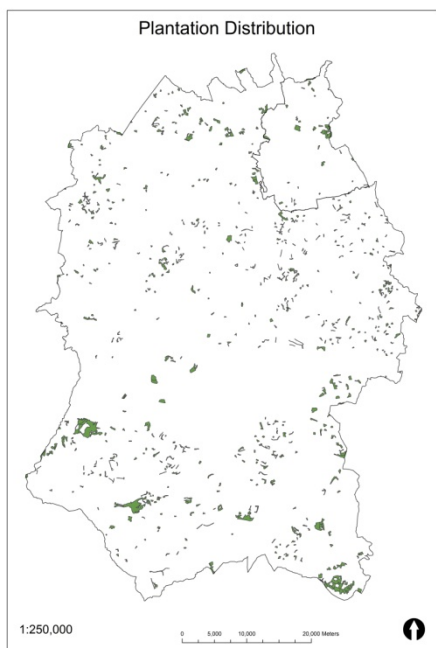
Historic coppices are rare, and there are a few examples of coppices created in modernity. While they are distinct and represent an interesting aspect of historic woodland management they are not directly under threat or characteristic of particular landscapes in Wiltshire.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Plantation

Definition

Woodland planted deliberately, either for landscaping or to produce a crop of timber. Mid 20th century plantations usually single species conifers often planted in rows. Earlier plantations and those of the late 20th century onwards are often more mixed.

Distribution



They occupy c.6689 ha

This type of woodland is prevalent across the county and is probably the most common modern type

Plantations tend to exist in all areas and landscape types but there is a natural lack of them in extensive downland areas

There is some correlation between plantations and areas of well established historic woodland, where new trees have been planted to supplement existing

Some plantations are associated with parkland and farmsteads

Historical Processes

The majority of plantations have late post medieval (18th and 19th century) or modern origins. They have been planted for a number of reasons including: to provide shelter belts, to delineate land parcels, for commercial purposes, to enhance existing woodland and for hunting or recreation activities. Many of these plantations comprise coniferous or non-native trees, and they can exist in areas with little historic pedigree for woodland. While they vary in size, there are some particularly large examples in Wiltshire – often associated with parkland or ancient woodland. New areas of woodland continue to be planted across the county.

Identification/Components

- Variable sized blocks of woodland that are typically regular or geometric in form
- Often comprised of coniferous or non native trees and sometimes enclosed by fences or banks
- Clearly named on the modern and historic Ordnance Survey mapping
- Associated with parkland, farms and ancient re-planted wood but can exist anywhere

Rarity/Survival

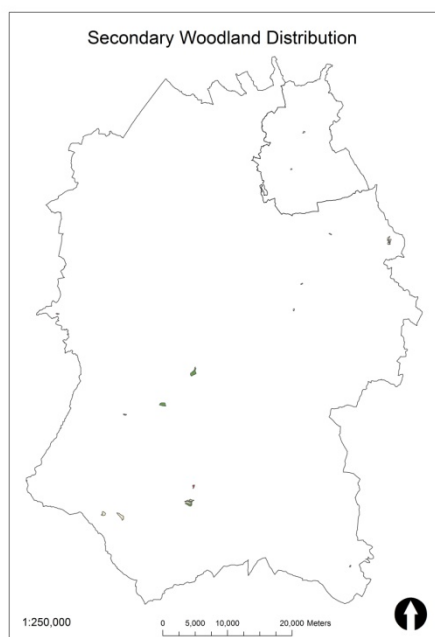
Plantations are typical and common to all parts of the county. As most are relatively modern in origin they are not under threat and those that are felled are replaced as part of sustainable woodland management. While distinctive, they are not characteristic of any particular landscape type.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Secondary woodland

Definition

Woodland that has developed, usually by natural colonization, on land formerly used for other purposes (agriculture, settlement, industry etc). If this process pre-dated 1600, secondary woodland can be classified as ancient woodland.

Distribution



They occupy c.2406 ha

Very uncommon and scattered across the county with no particular distribution

Some association with other wooded areas

Hard to identify and something of a catch-all category for woodland that does not fit any of the other landscape types

Probably more prevalent in the past but wood without a distinct purpose has been altered or removed

Historical Processes

Woodland classified as of secondary character tends to have grown up in areas of the landscape through natural means. It often takes the form of scraggly and disorganised trees which have grown on marginal land, waste land, old industrial sites or redundant farmland. Blocks of secondary wood tend to be small, irregular and with a mixed tree type. There are also sometimes associated areas of rough grass, heath or furze as this woodland exists in areas that are not heavily exploited. Due to the nature of this woodland, much of it is of fairly recent origin, although some elements may date back to the post medieval period.

Identification/Components

- Small scale and irregular parcels of woodland
- Mixed tree types and place names that do not indicate any particular character
- Sometimes associated with unimproved land, wet areas, or derelict urban land
- Show little signs of management, exploitation or organisation (e.g. fencing, tree thinning)

Rarity/Survival

While this woodland type appears to be fairly rare, this is because most areas of wood have a more clearly defined and distinct character. It seems likely that this type of woodland was more extensive in the past and has been cleared for development and agriculture.

Nevertheless, it is not a type with strong character or particular local value.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Wood pasture

Definition

Scattered trees within grassland, the trees providing shelter for forage as well as being harvested for timber and fuel. Now most often found within deer parks, but more widespread, especially on steep slopes, in the medieval period.

Distribution



They occupy c.105 ha

Very limited distribution, but with a slight focus on the south of the county

Wood pasture is very hard to clearly identify as it shares similarities with other woodland, field types and ornamental landscapes

Where wood pasture does exist it tends to be associated with ancient woodland, deer parks and landscape parks

The best examples survive in the Clarendon area

Historical Processes

Wood pasture is a historical process to manage land as part of estates and manorial holdings. The open woodland provided shelter and forage for grazing animals as well as woodland products used for construction, fuel and craft activities. Wood pasture has Saxon/medieval origins and continued into the early post medieval period, however there is no modern usage of this technique. Typically, this management system was associated with deer parks and forests (which survive as blocks of ancient woodland in modernity) and can still be seen in the present day in a few isolated examples in Wiltshire.

Identification/Components

- Land parcels with scattered veteran trees and often associated ancient woodland or grassy areas in a matrix layout
- Trees tend to be of the high forest type and planted in an orderly manor
- Tend to be linked to estates and deer parks – sometimes associated boundaries
- Hard to identify due to their similarity to more common ornamental and field types

Rarity/Survival

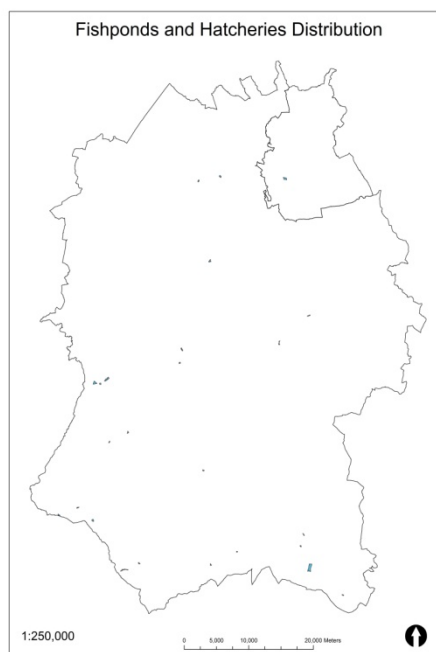
Wood pasture is rare and also difficult to identify in the landscape. It is easiest to classify when in a coherent combination with ancient woodland, deer parks and grand estates. It is under threat from clearance and landscaping, but is important as it represents a very early woodland management process which is no longer practiced.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Fishponds and hatcheries

Definition

Areas characterised by the creation of controlled ponds, artificial lakes or reservoirs for cultivation of fish for domestic, ornamental or commercial purposes. Sometimes sited inland and at other times they make use of rivers and natural watercourses.

Distribution



They occupy c.143 ha

They are fairly rare and their distribution is very closely related to natural watercourses or manorial/ecclesiastical holdings

Very small in size and fishponds (rather than hatcheries) may have been more prevalent in the past

Wiltshire does not have a big fish farming industry but there are some examples in the Salisbury area

Historical Processes

The landscapes recorded in this category are split between historic fishponds and modern hatcheries. Fish ponds were created in the medieval and post medieval periods in association with manors, castles and monasteries so as to enable a degree of self sufficiency for their inhabitants. These were often quite sophisticated feats of engineering and also served an ornamental purpose – particularly for grand moated country houses. Hatcheries relate to the rearing of fish for commercial purposes, and these have mainly 20th century origins. They are often situated at riverine locations and make use of machinery and engineered beds to help maintain a suitable environment for the fish being produced.

Identification/Components

- Fish ponds are small, less regular and associated with grand historic buildings (or their ruins) – particularly monasteries, estates and castles
- Modern hatcheries are often fairly large facilities with engineered beds, sluices, pens, gates, pumping machinery and associated outbuildings
- Both are easy to identify on modern/historic mapping and are usually clearly named

Rarity/Survival

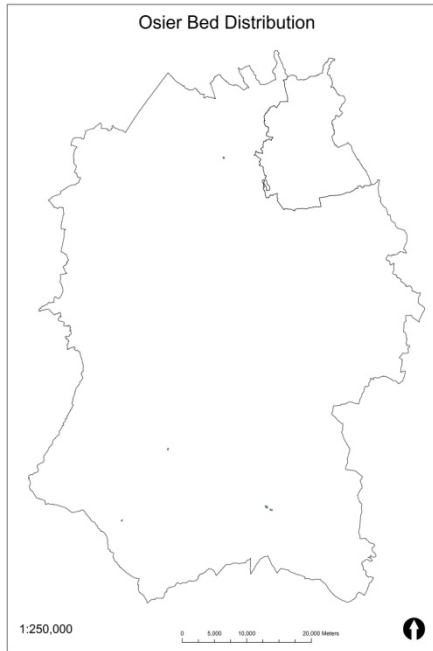
Fishponds are very rare, but may not be recorded in all instances due to their small size. They are fairly fragile and their earthworks and hollows are often removed by modern development. Hatcheries are large industrial facilities by rivers and, as they are modern, not under any particular threat. While rare in Wiltshire, they are not particularly characteristic.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Osier beds

Definition

An area where osiers (types of willows, producing long straight stems) are cultivated for use in basketry.

Distribution



They occupy c.22 ha

Osier beds are extremely rare in Wiltshire, but tend to be in the southern part of the county

They are associated with rivers and other areas of wetland (such as marsh and bog)

Most are not extensive enough to be recorded separately as the dominant character type

Not in use in modernity, and Wiltshire did not have a big basketry/reed weaving industry in the past

Historical Processes

All of the osier beds (sometimes referred to as withy beds) are of late post medieval origin. Willow was planted in beds in rows so that it could be harvested as rods/wands every couple for weaving and basket making. As the beds require a constant water supply, they tend to be low lying and near existing watercourses – thus valley floor locations are typical. Such beds tend to be fairly small scale and localised and there were possibly more examples in the past. Most have been identified through their clear depiction on historic/modern OS maps.

Identification/Components

- Small and irregular willow beds that are associated with manmade irrigation channels
- All have fallen from use and they are often associated with scrubby vegetation, marsh or light woodland cover
- Located in valley floor and riverine locations – sometimes there is some association with water meadow systems

Rarity/Survival

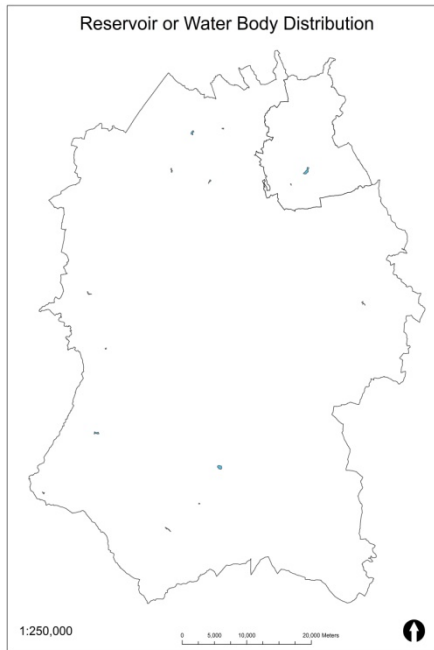
Osier beds are rare and represent a distinct and characterful historic management of willow. As their survival is primarily linked with production of willow for economic purposes, and they require regular cutting to maintain productivity, they have diminished over time. They survive poorly and are threatened by increased exploitation of riverside locations for agriculture. However, due to their nature, they do not readily preserve prior character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Reservoirs and water bodies

Definition

A body of water or other liquid, wholly or partly artificial and sometimes covered, used to collect and store water, or other liquid for a particular function. Most often for the collection and supply of water for public and industrial use.

Distribution



They occupy c.124 ha

Sizeable bodies of water are rare within Wiltshire but there have been some created in the north of the county in areas of former gravel extraction

They have no particular or clear association with other landscape types

Most are modern and preserve little of the previous landscape character of the areas within which they exist

Historical Processes

The lakes and reservoirs identified in this HLC project tend to have late post medieval (18th and 19th century) to modern origins. They were created for either aesthetic or practical purposes, or in more recent times have represented a restoration of the landscape after extractive processes. Some of these water bodies are valuable recreational assets used for activities like water sports and sailing, whilst others are used to supply water for nearby towns and villages.

Identification/Components

- Often irregular shaped areas of water which make use of local topography and landform
- Associated manmade features like dams, sluices, run offs and jetties
- Sometimes associated with former extractive areas or landscape parks

Rarity/Survival

While this type of water body is relatively rare in the county, they are not under threat due to their mainly modern origins. They are occasional valuable local resources which contribute to character, but are principally functional features which tend not preserve much in the way of previous landscape character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Watercress beds

Definition

An area set aside for growing watercress. As the watercress requires large quantities of slightly alkaline water the beds are usually sited around the headwaters of chalk streams.

Distribution



They occupy c.27 ha

Watercress beds are very rare and those that do survive are focused almost solely in the south of the county

They are associated with rivers and other areas of wetland (such as marsh and bog)

Most are not extensive enough to be recorded separately as the dominant character type

Not in use in modernity and Wiltshire does not have a historic pedigree of watercress production

Historical Processes

Watercress beds have a late 19th century and early 20th century origin, and the vast majority are no longer in use for their intended purpose. They were used to provide freshly produced watercress for market and use was made of the road, rail and canal networks for movements of goods. Due to the nature of the production process, the beds used to grow the cress exist in association with rivers and other established watercourses. Some watercress beds were suitable for conversion into fish farms/hatcheries and this process has diminished their number.

Identification/Components

- Watercress grows in specially constructed beds at riverine locations
- The beds are small and rectangular and have associated ancillary buildings
- They exist in lowland valley floor locations and are often associated with water meadows

Rarity/Survival

Watercress beds are rare and fairly fragile landscape features. While they have been eroded naturally with the passing of time and through vegetation growth, they have also been removed through more intensive land use or reclamation of wetland areas. While not a characteristic industry of the county, the growing of watercress is a distinct historic farming practice and is of interest at a local level.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Common edge settlement

Definition

Agricultural village with farmsteads and cottages wholly or mainly arranged along the edge of a common.

Distribution



They occupy c.242 ha

Common edge settlements are rare, but examples do exist in various locations in the county, but most are at the periphery rather than in the core

They exist at the edge of large areas of former common land which are now mainly extensive fields in modernity

There seems to be some connection with the areas of ancient wood such as at Savernake, the New Forest and Chute forest

Historical Processes

Common land, held by the community and available for their use, has origins in the medieval period. This land was used for grazing, craft/industrial activity and recreational purposes as part of the feudal system. As such, small settlements encircling or at the periphery of common land sprung up. As the rise of individual land ownership and the need for intensifying agricultural production occurred in the post medieval era, common land was enclosed. Sometimes this was by Parliamentary Acts in the 18th and 19th century, in other times it was a more informal local agreement. Nevertheless, enclosure of the land left many of the historic settlements which had circled the common land isolated in the new fieldscapes. In some instances, new settlements were also created to house workers of the newly enclosed land. Such settlements are unusual in Wiltshire but can be identified from their linear/dispersed form, place name links to common land and separation from amenities.

Identification/Components

- Small scale settlements along the edge of former common lands and named as such
- Typically linear and dispersed, either along the edges of the common or encircling it
- Easier to spot on the historic rather than modern OS mapping

Rarity/Survival

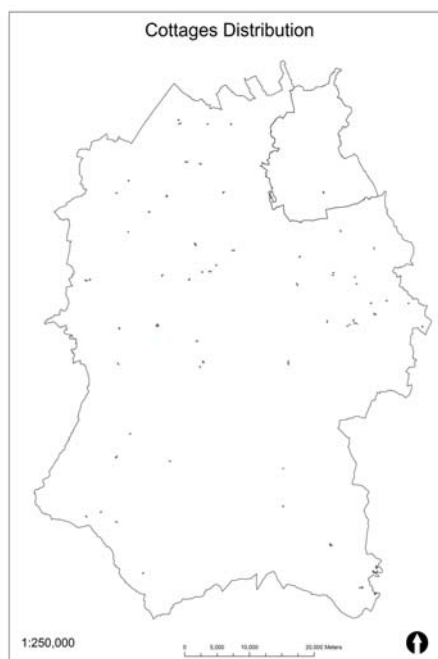
These settlements are rare and very distinctive in certain parts of Wiltshire. They link to a medieval past or the advent of a landscape-wide enclosure in the post medieval period. Their distinctive form is characteristic of these processes and can be easily lost or damaged by modern developments. They survive better where the common can still be perceived.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Cottages

Definition

Scatters of rural dwellings separate to formalised hamlets or settlements. Sometimes set along the roadside, other times distributed within the landscape.

Distribution



They occupy c.211 ha

Some examples were too small to record separately or formed part of other more dominant landscapes

Large groups of cottages are uncommon in Wiltshire but do exist, primarily in the northern half of the county

By their very nature, they lie in rural areas, sometimes outside villages or hamlets but in other cases set into the rural landscape of fields, downland and woodland

Historical Processes

Cottages are a very well established form of rural settlement and are a common sight in a rural county like Wiltshire. However, large clusters of cottages outside settlements or set in the wider landscape are rather rarer. While there are some modern examples, desirable homes built in beauty spots/picturesque areas, most cottages are historic. Some have medieval origins, but the majority that survive well are 17th to 19th century in date. Some would have been accommodation for agricultural workers or craftsmen whereas others are the remnants of shrunk or deserted settlements. Some line the lanes and routeways of the county, particularly near the market towns of central/northern Wiltshire. They vary in architectural style but often use of local stone, wood, thatch or brick in their construction.

Identification/Components

- Modern or historic houses set out along routeways or embedded in the landscape
- Sometimes associated with shrunk/deserted settlements, of which they were part
- Rural locations often near large fieldscapes and wooded areas
- Identified by form and place name evidence on modern/historic OS maps

Rarity/Survival

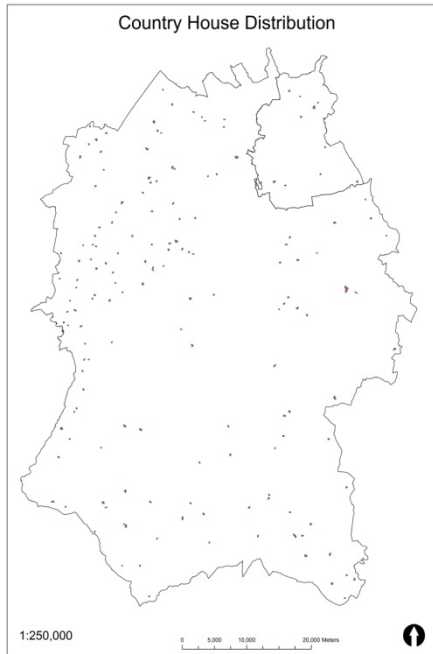
Cottages are rare and tend to be historic rather than modern. They can be distinct and offer insights into past rural settlement practice and vernacular building styles, but are small scale so don't dominate the character of many areas of landscape. Some are under threat of redevelopment or expansion into larger settlements such as hamlets or villages.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Country houses and palaces

Definition

Grand house in a rural setting, normally within a landscape park, and usually accompanied by a range of attached buildings. Often a residence for royal or aristocratic individuals.

Distribution



They occupy c.595 ha

Country houses are relatively common in Wiltshire and Swindon and can be identified in, or near to, the majority of villages and towns

The west of Wiltshire has the densest concentration of these grand residences

They are associated with settlement areas (urban and rural) but are also strongly linked to ornamental and wooded landscapes

The only palace identified by the HLC project is at Clarendon in the south of the county

Historical Processes

The creation of grand residences in rural and urban settings has very ancient origins. The royal palace at Clarendon in the south of Wiltshire has Saxon origins as a hunting lodge. Later, in the medieval period, a large number of estates were governed by manorial seats. These were positioned to dominate local settlements and to control woodland, watercourses and routeways. Later, in the post medieval period, many of these manors developed large landscaped grounds/estates – and some of these grew from the medieval deer parks owned by the nobility. Examples include Bowood House and Corsham Court. Despite the changes in modern society and settlement, most parishes in the county retain these country houses or manors. They typically comprise grand houses and ancillary buildings with landscaped grounds, estate walls, ornamental plantings, associated woodland or parkland. While many are no longer in use for their original purpose, this historic character remains highly legible.

Identification/Components

- Grand houses with outbuildings, woodland, parkland, walls and ornamental features
- Located in settlements or rural areas and dominate fields, woods or old deer parks
- Clearly marked on modern/historic OS maps and identifiable from place names

Rarity/Survival

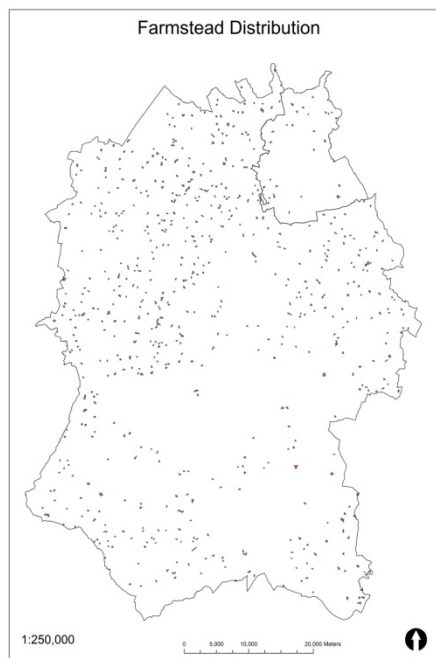
While country houses are not uncommon they are very distinct and characterful and dominate the landscapes they occupy. They provide a link to the medieval/post medieval past and contribute significantly to local character and identity. Some country houses are under threat of inappropriate use/redevelopment or encroachment onto their grounds.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Farmstead

Definition

A farmhouse/ancillary buildings forming the operational centre for the surrounding farmland.

Distribution



They occupy c.2074 ha

Farmsteads are very common in Wiltshire and Swindon and can be found in virtually all areas

Gaps in the distribution relate to large areas of urban settlement, woodland or open/unimproved land

Mixed settings for farms – either within villages and hamlets or set in amongst the fields they serve

Most associated with routeways – be that rivers, roads or trackways

Historical Processes

Farming has ancient origins, and still forms a major part of the Wiltshire economy. The county has a strong pedigree of dairy, corn and wool production, often referred to the 'Chalk and Cheese' economy. The farmsteads and farm buildings identified by the HLC project are mainly of post medieval or modern origin although some earlier examples do exist (e.g. the Bradford-on-Avon tithe barn). Large farms constituted small settlements in the medieval and post medieval periods, and they had various outbuildings, dwellings, yards, plots and orchards to sustain the workers and landowners. More modern farms are far more industrial/commercial in character and have planned layouts and specialised buildings to accommodate the mechanised equipment used by farmers. While many farmsteads have been converted for residential, commercial or recreational purposes a large number are still in use for their original purpose. Some of the historic examples contribute significantly to the character and identity of the landscapes and settlements which they occupy.

Identification/Components

- Features include: farmhouses, sheds, yards, pens, granaries, barns, dairies and silos
- Can be modern buildings or historic ones demonstrating local styles and materials
- Either set within settlements or in amongst the rural fieldscapes they utilise
- Clearly marked on modern and historic OS maps and identified by place names

Rarity/Survival

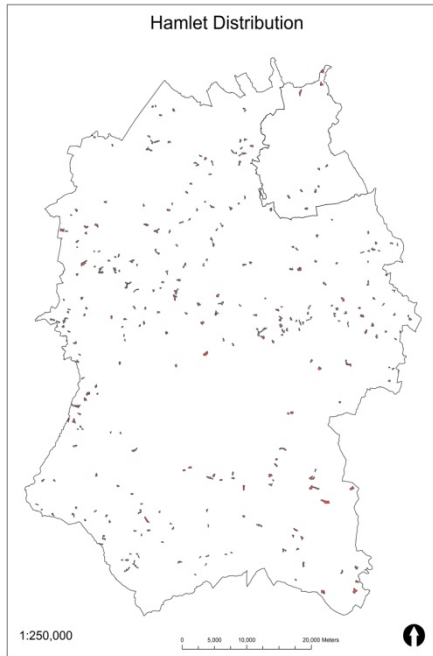
Farmsteads are common in Wiltshire, but some of the more historic examples are being repurposed, removed or redeveloped which threatens the survival of historic landscape character. Coherent historic farms are valuable links to agricultural communities of the past.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Hamlet

Definition

Small settlement with no ecclesiastical or lay administrative function and usually with no other amenities.

Distribution



They occupy c.1922 ha

Hamlets are a very common rural settlement type and they are widely distributed across the county

Gaps in the distribution tend to relate to concentrations of downland, woodland and urban areas

Many follow routeways, watercourses and occupy locations dictated by local topography

Typically associated with land given over to fields, recreation purposes or ornamental landscapes

Historical Processes

Agricultural hamlets are common in counties like Wiltshire which have a predominantly rural character. They exist in almost every landscape type in the county and have a variety of forms including: nucleated, piecemeal, linear and planned. Extant hamlets can have Saxon, medieval, post medieval or modern origins and this can be determined by their vernacular styles, buildings and place name evidence. Distinct clusters of hamlets can be seen in the clay landscapes of the northeast and northwest parts of the county, around areas of ancient woodland and at the periphery of the county, along the borders with neighbouring counties.

Identification/Components

- Very variable in form and layout – most have medieval/post medieval origins
- Typically components include houses, agricultural buildings and communal spaces
- Usually no church or civic amenities, and can be satellites to nearby villages
- Clearly marked on all sources and historic maps provide useful place name evidence

Rarity/Survival

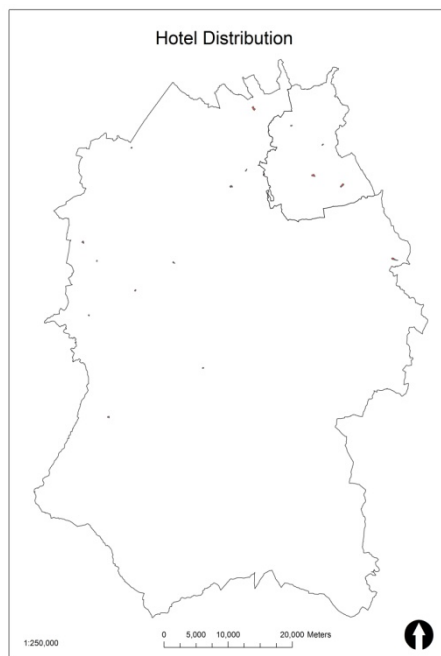
While hamlets are common, each is unique and has its own character – some with more historic character and components than others. Nevertheless, the core of each hamlet defines the character and identity of the settlement and is valued by the residents. Some are under threat from infill development and expansion which threatens their historic form/layout.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Hotel

Definition

A building and its directly associated grounds, used for the accommodation of paying travellers and guests.

Distribution



They occupy c.87 ha

Large hotels (>2ha) are rare in the county – most of the examples that do exist are in Swindon or the northern part of the county

They are either associated with major transport routes, towns as major employers or converted country estates

Some country hotels have extensive landscape grounds with legible historic character

Other hotels are associated with leisure/recreational facilities and tourist attractions

Historical Processes

The hotels recorded by the HLC project tend to either be modern buildings catering for travellers visiting major towns and attractions in the county or former manors/estates which have branched out into the leisure industry. An example of the former would be the large 'motel' type establishments around Swindon and an example of the latter would be Bowood Hotel – set in the former estate and with associated parkland and golf course. They therefore tend to exist at the edge of towns or set in the countryside in picturesque locations, where the hotel is based on pre-existing historic buildings. Whatever the case, they tend to comprise large buildings, car parks areas, grounds/gardens and associated recreational and dining facilities. The number of hotels will likely increase over time, as the importance of the leisure and tourism continues to grow in Wiltshire.

Identification/Components

- Large buildings with associated car parks, gardens, grounds and leisure facilities
- Some based in former country houses/estates and retain historic character/features
- Modern ones associated with major transport routes and out of town locations
- Usually clearly marked on modern maps and easy to identify on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

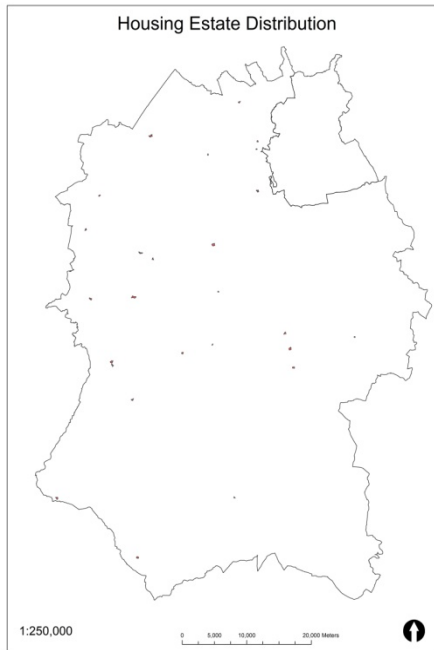
Large hotels are relatively rare in Wiltshire, but will likely increase in number. Modern examples can be intrusive and heavily landscaped which has removed prior character but those reusing historic country houses often retain historic character in the form of buildings, gardens and grounds. Most are not under threat and survive well at landscape level.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Housing estate

Definition

A planned residential area, usually with its own self-contained street system including cul-de-sacs, sometimes with its own amenities, such as shops, a public house etc.

Distribution



They occupy c.138 ha

Housing estates in rural settlements are fairly uncommon but do exist in larger villages across the county

There is a cluster in the northwest of the county, in the satellite villages outside the market towns

Some are associated with recreational space or allotments

All are of 20th century date and few new examples are being built

Historical Processes

Rural housing estates are very distinct in their appearance and character. They tend to comprise houses built to a standard form, with functional materials and set components – like small gardens, garages or yards. They reflect a very particular process of occupation, whereby local authorities or housing associations have provided accommodation for the use of the elderly, vulnerable or low wage earners. Most areas of social housing have mid 20th century origins, with many constructed in the post war period to cater for the growing population and to replace damaged or defunct housing stock. Many examples are additions to much more traditional villages and hamlets, but can form infill developments. Few examples have been built in recent years, as developers commonly include more affordable housing integrated within their wider projects.

Identification/Components

- Simply constructed houses/flats set out in estates, usually with a planned form
- All properties have the same components – often garages, yard, gardens, porches
- Usually set away from the village core but with associated green space

Rarity/Survival

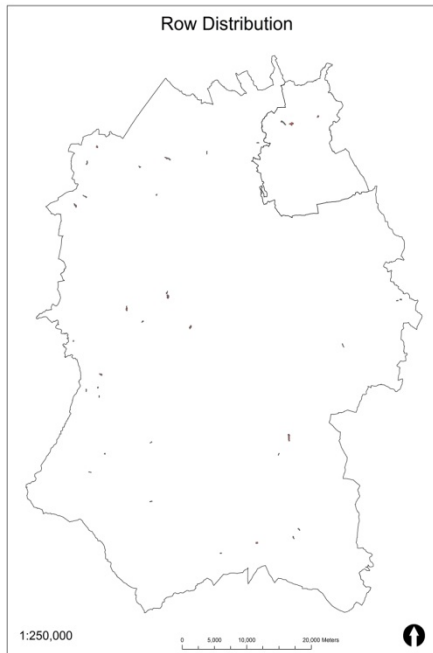
Housing estates are uncommon but exist within some larger villages. They provide an insight into social conventions of the 20th century. While distinct, they are not usually considered of value locally, and some have been demolished or converted through private ownership.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Row

Definition

Linear arrangement of farmsteads and dwellings, usually built along a road.

Distribution



They occupy c.143 ha

Rows of housing separate from villages/hamlets are rare – but those that do exist are located in the north of the county

However, many examples were too small (>2ha) to record separately or to constitute the dominant landscape character

Many line important routeways and lie close to, but clearly outside, other rural settlements

They tend to be set away from other amenities, and in landscapes dominated by fields

Historical Processes

Rural settlements take many forms, and rows of houses have a long history in counties like Wiltshire. Houses lining important routeways or along watercourses in orderly or interrupted rows can be observed in most parts of the county. Most are historic in origin and may have been the homes of workers/craftsmen/traders in the past, or individuals who preferred to live outside the principal rural and urban settlements in the county. Some modern examples also exist – often forming exclusive and tranquil homes for those who appreciate some of the picturesque rural landscapes. Most rows of housing have associated gardens, garages/outbuildings and some are linked to wooded areas, heath land or wetland areas.

Identification/Components

- Modern or historic houses set out in a linear fashion along routeways/watercourses
- Can be continuous/interrupted in form, and detached, semi detached or attached
- Located outside villages/hamlets in rural landscapes often with landscape views
- Easy to identify on modern/historic maps and aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

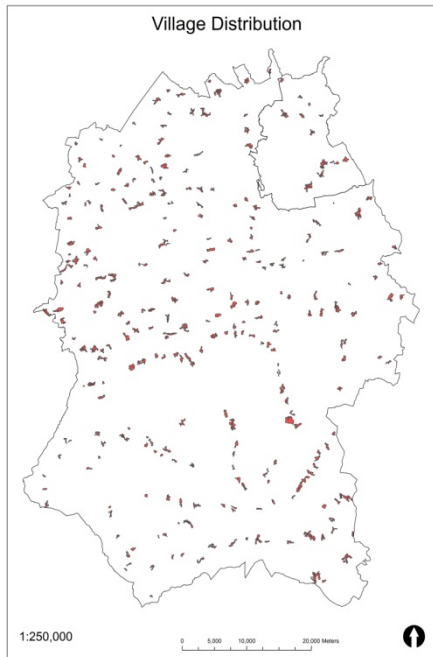
Rows of housing are rare and tend to be historic rather than modern, as the majority of new houses are built inside existing larger settlements. They can be distinct and offer insights into past rural settlement practice, but are generally small scale so don't contribute significantly to the wider landscape character. They are not generally under threat.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Village

Definition

Collection of farmsteads, dwellings, yards, gardens etc. Larger than hamlet, smaller than town. Often includes church, inn, shops, workshops, manor house. Main rural settlement form in central province; rarer elsewhere. Also industrial villages.

Distribution



They occupy c.5860 ha

Villages are the most common rural settlement type and they are widely distributed across the county

Gaps in the distribution tend to relate to concentrations of downland, woodland and urban areas

Many follow routeways, watercourses and occupy locations dictated by local topography

Typically associated with land given over to fields, recreation purposes or ornamental landscapes

Historical Processes

The village at the core of a parish is the most ancient unit of settlement that can be readily identified in Wiltshire. They exist in almost every landscape type in the county and have a variety of forms including: nucleated, piecemeal, linear and planned. Extant villages can have Saxon, medieval, post medieval or modern origins and this can be determined by their vernacular styles and buildings, place name evidence and associated civic facilities. Some examples of deserted villages or settlements of prehistoric or Roman date can still be identified and are captured as the previous character type. Distinct groups of villages can be seen in the southern river valleys, surrounding the ancient forests, on the Cotswold clays and in the bustling commercial landscape of west Wiltshire with its numerous market towns.

Identification/Components

- Very variable in form, size and layout – most have medieval origins in Domesday
- Typically components include houses, church, village green, marketplace, hall
- Vernacular style, burgage plots, enclosed/defended limits can indicate early origins
- Clearly marked on all sources and historic maps provide useful place name evidence

Rarity/Survival

While villages are very common, each is unique and has its own character – some with more historic character and components than others. Nevertheless, the core of each village defines the character and identity of the settlement and is valued by the residents. Some are under threat from infill development and expansion which threatens their historic form/layout.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Apartments/maisonettes/flats

Definition

Residential area dominated by purpose-built tenement buildings, each containing several flats or apartments.

Distribution



They occupy c.51ha

They are rare housing types and tend to only exist in the larger urban centres

The most obvious cluster is in Swindon, but other smaller areas of apartments/flats may have been too small (>2ha) to record individually or to be recognised as the dominant character types

In Wiltshire, these housing types tend not to be recorded in the centre of urban settlements

They have no particular association with other historic landscape character types

Historical Processes

In the context of this HLC project, this type generally refers to modern blocks/towers/complexes of flats or apartments rather than historic buildings which have been subdivided to allow multiple occupancy. This is because it is very difficult to identify the latter from the available sources. The pressures of modern living have led to an increase in the number of individuals living in flats/apartments – many of which were purpose built to serve this need. As Wiltshire has a very rural character, with Swindon (and to a lesser extent Salisbury) being the only large urban centre, the proportion of modern flats is much lower than elsewhere in the country. Where they do exist they have a planned form and associated parking, gardens, storage and communal areas. This type will likely increase over time.

Identification/Components

- Generally large complexes/blocks set in their own grounds or compounds
- Have associated parking, gardens, communal areas or green space
- As most are modern they tend to be infill development or occupy old industrial land
- Not always easy to identify from aerial photographs and modern maps

Rarity/Survival

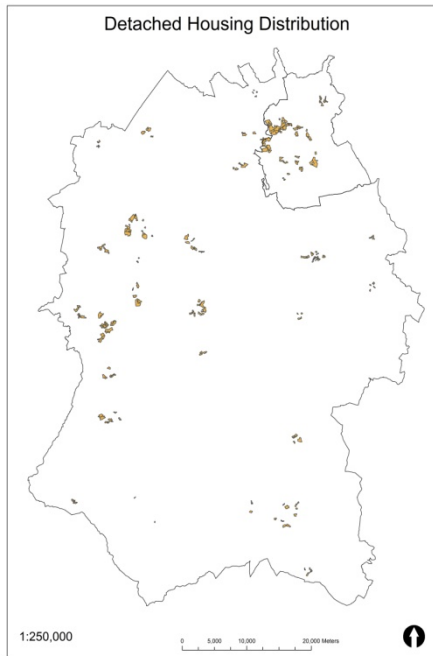
While uncommon, this type forms a very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As most are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Detached Housing

Definition

Residential area dominated by free-standing houses that are not joined to others on any side.

Distribution



They occupy c.2475 ha

Detached houses are very commonplace and exist in every urban settlement in the county

They can exist in the centre and at the periphery of settlements

The greatest concentrations exist in the west of Swindon and in the towns of west Wiltshire

No particular association with any one other historic landscape character type

Historical Processes

Detached houses are very common in all of the urban settlement in the county. They can be of both historic (late medieval or post medieval) or modern origin and exist in a variety of contexts – whether as town houses, part of modern estates or as suburban residences. They can have associated gardens, yards, garages – either set out in a uniform manner or in a way that is bespoke to each property. The majority of houses in this category either tend to be set out in 20th or 21st century estates with cul-de-sacs and associated green space, or of later post medieval date (18th or 19th century) and set out in rows or clusters in the land radiating out from the historic core. It could be seen that the popularity of individually defined properties has increased in popularity in recent years.

Identification/Components

- Very variable housing style, can be very modern or historic in origin
- Typically have attached gardens, yards and garages depending on their age
- Often set out in cul-de-sacs but older examples can be linear/isolated cluster form
- Easily identifiable on modern maps and aerial photographs and usually large clusters

Rarity/Survival

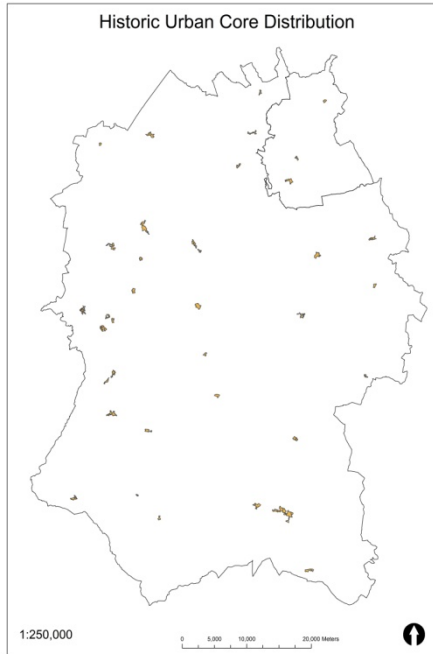
Detached housing is a typical urban housing type. While they are easy to identify, many are not iconic forms. However, some of the historic examples can influence local character/identity. Most are not under particular threat of loss/redevelopment and many very modern ones do not keep with older vernacular styles seen elsewhere in the town.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Historic urban core

Definition

The long-established historic centre of a town or city, typically delineated in historic characterisation as extent shown on an early epoch of OS mapping.

Distribution



They occupy c.1073 ha

Every town in the county has a historic core, but the size varies widely

Some of the larger and more ancient settlements, like Salisbury, Devizes and Bradford-on-Avon have very obvious and coherent historic cores

The earliest historic cores have Saxon/medieval character

Typically these historic cores are associated with civic buildings, communal facilities and on occasion recreational or ornamental spaces

Historical Processes

Every town in Wiltshire has a historic pedigree and has grown considerably since their early foundation. Many have Saxon or medieval origins, but some towns like Salisbury can be traced right back to Roman times (as Sorviodunum). These early towns often had a central church/cathedral, market place, town hall, inns and workshops. Some also had defences like walls, castles or earthwork enclosures to defined the settlement and protect the occupants. While all of the towns in the county have grown considerably over time, the historic town cores are often legible and easy to identify from the architectural styles of their buildings. These cores are crucial to the towns and are very characterful, locally distinct and inspire a sense of place. Areas like Salisbury cathedral cloisters, Swindon old town, Marlborough market place or the area around the castle at Devizes are some of the best examples in the county. Many of the civic buildings related to the early occupation of the towns survive today.

Identification/Components

- Town centre locations with grand civic buildings, churches, markets and defences
- Often small and winding street plans with distinct vernacular styles and place names
- Strong elements of Saxon, medieval and post medieval character at road confluence

Rarity/Survival

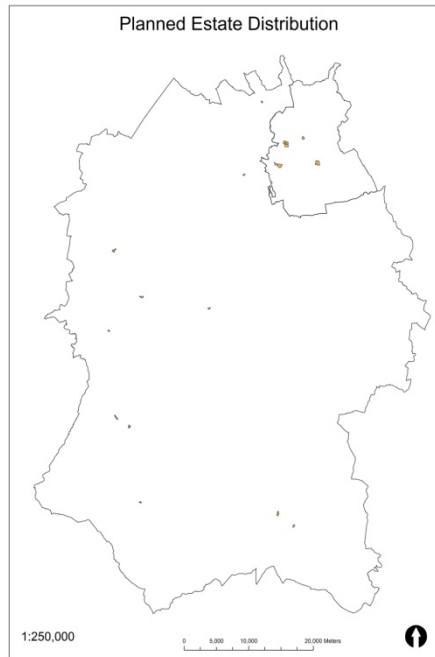
The historic cores of Wiltshire towns are crucial to their character and define the townscapes which they dominate. Many are iconic and attract visitors as well as providing a tangible link to the historic past. Locally valuable and occasionally threatened by unsuitable development.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Planned estate (social housing)

Definition

A planned residential area, where properties are often owned by the local authority or council. Usually self contained urban areas, but with associated amenities and recreational space.

Distribution



They occupy c.211 ha

Housing estates of this type only tend to exist in the larger urban areas

The principal concentrations exist within the town of Swindon

Some of the historic towns (like Marlborough) seem to lack any areas of planned social housing – or it is so small scale so as not to be recorded as the dominant character type

Historical Processes

Estates of social housing are very distinct in their appearance and character. They tend to comprise either blocks of flats/apartments or rows of dwellings built to a standard form, with functional materials and set components – like small gardens, garages or yards. They reflect a very particular process of occupation, whereby local authorities or housing associations have provided accommodation for the use of the elderly, vulnerable or low wage earners. Most areas of social housing have mid 20th century origins, with many constructed in the post war period to cater for the growing population and to replace damaged or defunct housing stock. In some areas, like Swindon, the social housing areas are set out in a geometric pattern, and elsewhere they can be identified from the carefully planned form. Few examples have been built in recent years, as developers commonly include more affordable housing integrated within their wider projects.

Identification/Components

- Simply constructed houses/flats set out in estates, usually with a geometric pattern
- All properties have the same components – often garages, yard, gardens, porches
- Usually set away from the town centre and sometimes associated with allotments

Rarity/Survival

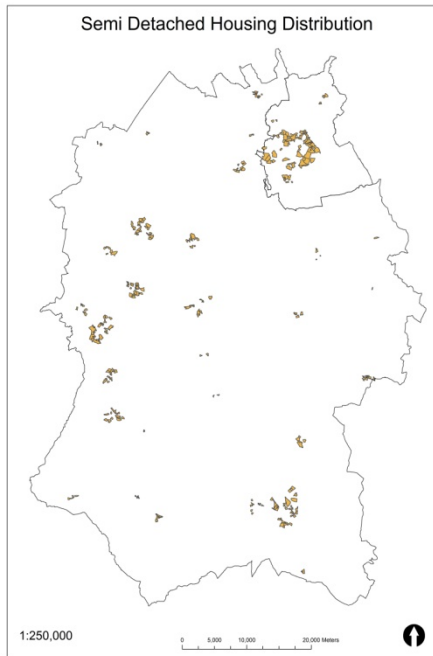
Planned housing estates are uncommon and provide an insight into social conventions of the 20th century. While distinct, they are not usually considered of value locally, and some have been demolished or modernised in recent times.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Semi detached housing

Definition

Residential area dominated by houses joined to just one other to form one building.

Distribution



They occupy c.3861 ha

Every town in the county has areas of semi detached housing and it is the most prevalent urban housing type

This housing can be grouped in separate blocks, estates or rows, and be close to the town centre or on the periphery

Due to the widespread nature of this character type, it has no particular relationship with any one other landscape character type

Historical Processes

Semi detached housing, where properties adjoin a neighbouring property, is commonplace in every urban settlement in the county. They can be historic (typically 17th to 19th century) or very modern, with many housing developers still favouring this form when constructing new housing estates. While they exist in a variety of urban contexts, they are most readily identifiable where they have been set out in designed estates which comprise a series of cul-de-sacs. Sometimes these designed housing areas have associated local amenities like schools, recreation grounds and small areas of shops. Some of the historic examples take the form of grand town houses, and these properties tend to have far more elaborate designs – often in the popular architectural styles of the later post medieval period.

Identification/Components

- Very variable housing style, can be very modern or historic in origin
- Typically have attached gardens, yards and garages depending on their age
- Often set out in cul-de-sacs but older examples can be town houses/suburban villas
- Easily identifiable on modern maps and aerial photographs and usually large clusters

Rarity/Survival

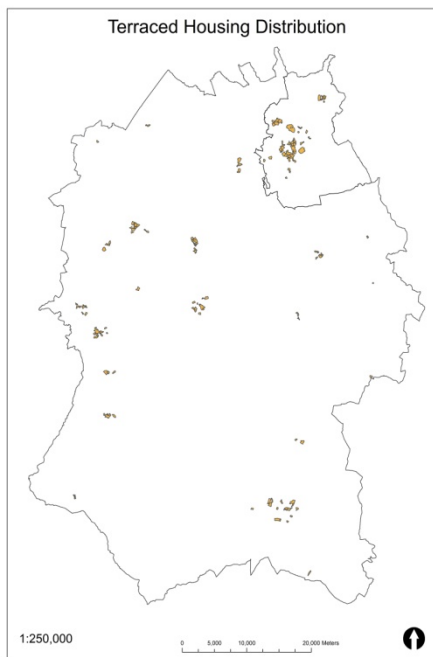
Semi detached housing is the most commonplace of all of the urban housing types. While they are easy to identify, many are not iconic forms. However, some of the larger historic examples can influence local character/identity. Most are not under particular threat of loss/redevelopment and many very modern ones do not keep with older vernacular styles.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Terraced housing

Definition

Residential area dominated by lines of attached houses, usually planned and built as one unit. Often associated with industrial towns. Sometimes follow earlier patterns, such as those of the fields they overlay.

Distribution



They occupy c.1694 ha

Areas of terraced housing exist in many of Wiltshire's towns but there is a concentration in Swindon, and other towns like Westbury and Warminster

They may have some association with industrial/former industrial areas as they may have been accommodation for the workers

Tend to be larger and more coherent blocks of housing rather than smaller, isolated examples

Uncommon in the south outside Salisbury

Historical Processes

Terraced houses are very iconic and distinctive in the urban townscapes in which they exist. They tend to have been built in coherent blocks and can be locally dominant in certain areas of Wiltshire's towns. The houses in this category are overwhelmingly historic in origin, as few modern terraced houses are built nowadays. Those terraces that can be identified tend to date to the 18th/19th century and have links to the industrialisation of Wiltshire and the movement of population into towns to work in the large industries that were flourishing. As such, many terraces became accommodation of workers as they could be built in dense blocks to house large numbers of people. The best example in the county is perhaps the Swindon Railway Village which served the workers of the Great Western Railway Works.

Identification/Components

- Blocks of narrow houses with enclosed back/front yards and/or elongated gardens
- Set out in discrete areas, usually in geometric, grid-iron or linear layouts
- Functional and often brick built houses, often associated with industrial areas
- Easily identifiable on modern and historic OS mapping

Rarity/Survival

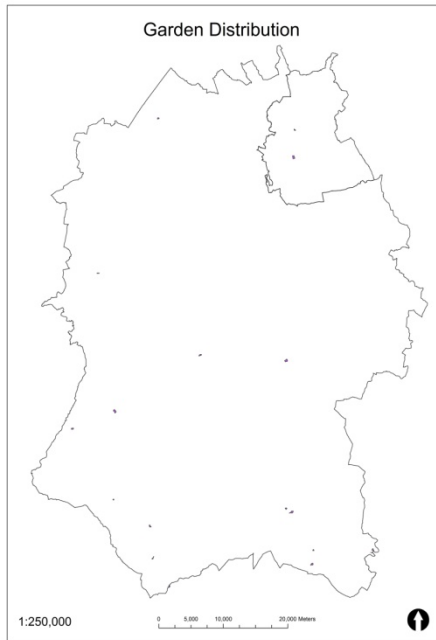
Of the urban housing types, terraced houses are perhaps the most distinctive, and they tend to reflect housing and working practices of the 18th to early 20th century. While they are robust and define local character, some are at risk of demolition/redevelopment

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Garden

Definition

An enclosed piece of ground devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit or vegetables for domestic use.

Distribution



They occupy c.89 ha

Formal/designed gardens are rare in Wiltshire but this is in some part due to the scale of study (so only those over 2ha were recorded)

They are relatively evenly distributed with examples in most areas of the county

They are almost always associated with country houses or large landscape parks

Some exist in rural settings and some exist in urban settings – they tend to relate to former manors

Historical Processes

Most of the gardens identified by the HLC project are of late post medieval date (18th and 19th century) or more recent origin. They tend to have been created as part of manorial holdings and as such are typically associated with grand country houses and/or landscape parks. Such sites comprise elements such as walled gardens, geometric planting beds, ornamental vegetation and trees, paths and water features. As the tradition for grand gardens continues, there are some modern examples – some of which have been set out in urban areas as pleasurable green spaces. They are certainly distinct and characterful additions to the local areas in which they exist.

Identification/Components

- Small and formal gardens often associated with grand houses, estates and parkland
- Comprise features such as paths, beds, ornamental plantings and water features
- Usually enclosed or have enclosed sections, and may have ancillary buildings
- Under represented due to their small size and inclusion in other landscape types

Rarity/Survival

Formal gardens are rare and survive within emparked and estate landscapes. They are vulnerable to landscape change and their form and character can be lost unless the garden is maintained; which is why some become visitor attractions. It is worth noting that the footprint of these formal gardens often survives better than their features/components.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ornamental lake

Definition

An artificial lake or pond, often made by damming a stream, whose main function is to catch the eye and to contribute to ornamentally designed landscapes. As such a common feature of landscape parks.

Distribution



They occupy c.145 ha

Overall, ornamental lakes are rare and are limited to some of the larger landscape parks within Wiltshire and Swindon

There seem to be few examples in northern and eastern Wiltshire

They are exclusively located within large post medieval or modern designed landscapes.

As only lakes of over 2ha were recorded there may be a slight under representation of this type

Historical Processes

The ornamental lakes identified by this project date to the later post medieval period (18th and 19th century). They are carefully engineered and extensive creations which were implemented for aesthetic reasons within the large landscape parks popular in the post medieval era. Some are later features that were created within former medieval deer parks, to enhance the landscape and offer vistas and promenades to the visitors/owners of the parkland. Some of the best examples exist at Bowood, Stourhead, Clarendon and Fonthill.

Identification/Components

- Large water bodies, often set within landscape parks or associated with manors
- Often have boat houses, piers, jetties and fishing points for leisure purposes
- Associated with ornamental planted trees, paths and designed vistas
- Place name evidence indicates the character of these water bodies

Rarity/Survival

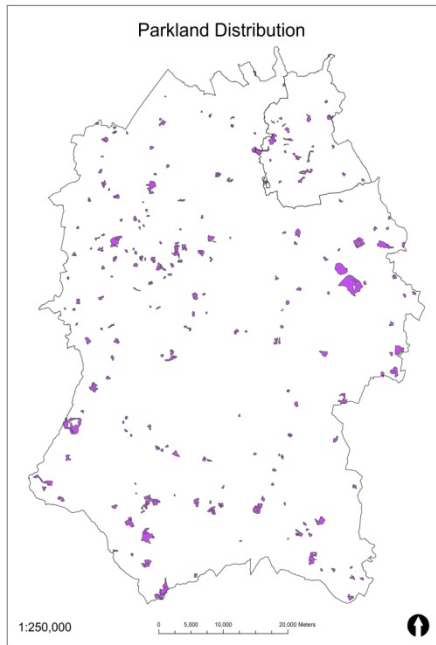
While ornamental lakes are fairly rare across the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon, they are fairly common within the large landscape parks that do exist within the county. Due to their size and the substantial engineering they are not particularly under threat. Most large historic parkland areas have been protected and retained, but these large lakes do remove much of the previous landscape character due to the manner of their construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Parkland

Definition

An enclosed piece of land, generally large in area, usually either surrounding or adjacent to a country house or castle. Used for hunting, the tree cultivation, pasture and enjoyment.

Distribution



They occupy c.6780 ha

Designed and ornamental parks are relatively common and are thus quite characteristic of the landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon

Parks are evenly distributed across the county and are only really lacking in downland areas

They are often associated with ancient woodland, country houses/manors and recreational facilities (like golf courses and playing fields)

Historical Processes

The vast majority of parks are of 18th and 19th century date, focused on a grand residence or manor. Some have been extensively modelled and designed to fit with a particular style while others have grown more organically from earlier origins as medieval deer parks (which would have been used for hunting). They are comprised of numerous planned elements and carefully set out features, intended to create a beautiful and thought provoking landscape. Natural elements (such as woodland and watercourses) are often incorporated into the parks, but extensive landscaping and alterations are common too. While some parks fell from use in the 20th century due to maintenance costs, a significant proportion remain privately owned or have become attractions. In addition, new parks are being created all the time, particularly in urban settings where there is a desire for leisure/recreational spaces.

Identification/Components

- Usually associated with a grand house or estate and often linked to formal gardens
- Components include: paths, grottos, follies, summer houses, green houses, walled gardens, arboretums, ornamental water features, avenues and designed vistas
- Associated with woodland; often ancient for the older parks or planted for newer ones
- Many have evolved from medieval deer parks and retain their earthwork pales

Rarity/Survival

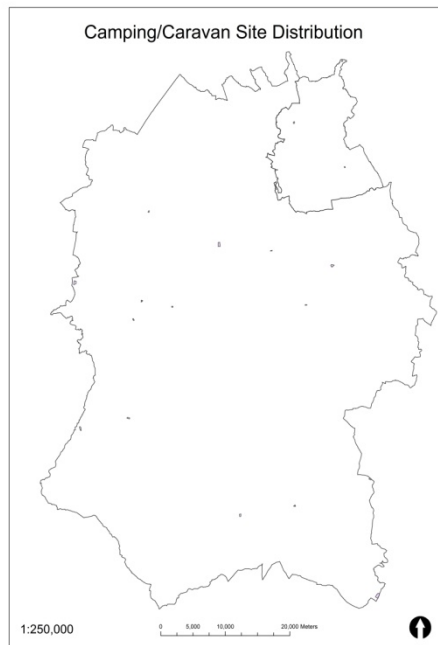
While parkland landscapes are fairly typical, they are important landscapes which contribute significantly to local character. Many do survive well, but some are at risks from development, agriculture or the desire for modern leisure activities (such as golf courses).

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Camping/caravan/mobile home site

Definition

An area providing space for those with caravans, mobile homes or tents to setup accommodation and stay. Sometimes with associated facilities such as power points, toilets and shower blocks. Some are permanent sites, others temporary.

Distribution



They occupy c.130 ha

Camping or caravan sites are relatively rare, but those that do exist are widely distributed across the county

Due to their small size, many are not recorded individually, or do not represent the dominant landscape character of an area and exist as part of a mixed character

They tend to be located in rural areas or on the edge of settlements

Historical Processes

All of these sites are modern in date and have been created from the early 20th century onwards. They have been created in the main for recreational purposes and to allow people to visit areas and stay in more rural surroundings rather than traditional hotels, hostels and guest houses in towns and villages. While many of them have had little impact on the landscape they have been created within, some have extensive landscaping and facilities (particularly some of the more modern mobile home parks which offer permanent residences) which have impacted on the legibility of previous landscape usage.

Identification/Components

- Usually clearly named and defined on the modern OS maps.
- Enclosed areas with concrete roads and spaces to pitch tents/caravans
- Ancillary buildings and leisure facilities such as shops, wash blocks, cafes and swimming pools or sports areas

Rarity/Survival

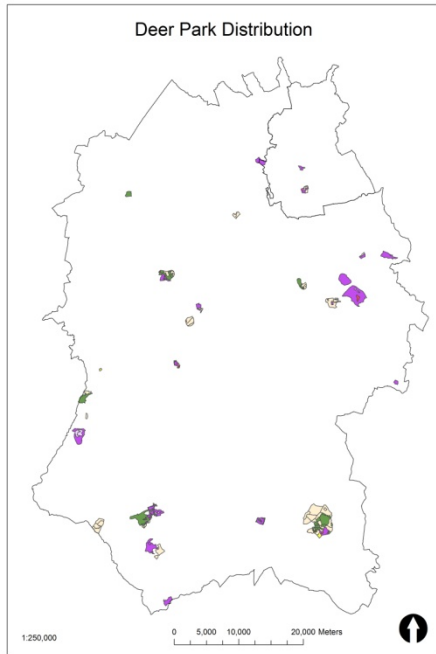
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often fairly recent and small in scale they do not contribute greatly to local character, but nor do they usually damage prior character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Deer park

Definition

A large, enclosed park, often containing some woodland and divided to provide a variety of habitats for shelter, grazing etc for deer, usually fallow, for hunting and for aesthetic appreciation.

Distribution



They occupy c.5524 ha

As deer parks are historic creations, none remain in use in modernity for their original purpose

They are rare, but those that do exist are reasonably well distributed across the county

They tend to have been incorporated into later post medieval designed landscape parks associated with grand country houses and manors

Some parts of former deer parks have been converted into agricultural use or have had trees planted on them – for visual or commercial purposes

Historical Processes

Deer parks were principally created during the medieval period. They functioned as game reserves and hunting grounds but also fed into the local economy. Typically they were associated with estates held by royalty or the nobility, which explains the relatively limited number in existence in Wiltshire and Swindon. Many were modified and altered to for the grand landscape parks of the post medieval era – such as at Longleat, Bowood, Littlecote and Lydiard Tregoze. Others have fallen into disrepair and been converted into wooded areas or arable fields but the place name evidence of presence of earthworks allude to their original purpose.

Identification/Components

- Place name evidence and proximity to ancient forests helps to identify deer parks
- They were enclosed by park pales, fences, earthworks and sometimes had hunting lodges or kennels associated with them
- Many exist within the large post medieval parks and gardens belonging to manors
- Some are clearly marked on modern or historic OS maps

Rarity/Survival

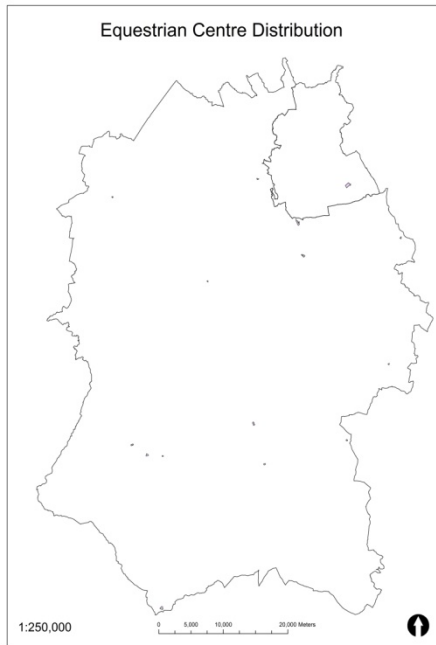
Deer parks are fragile landscape types and do not survive well, even when they have been incorporated into later parks. Many of their pales and earthworks have been eroded, but where they do survive as relict landscapes they are significant reminders of the medieval past and of local value. Some examples, such as Clarendon, are exceptional indeed.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Equestrian centre

Definition

A complex, including buildings, providing accommodation and activity areas for those involved in equestrian sports/activities and their horses.

Distribution



They occupy c.111 ha

As Wiltshire does not have a strong equestrian industry, these formal sites are relatively rare

They are fairly well distributed but tend to exist in rural location where there is space for the horses to be kept and exercised

They are associated with both farms and paddocks – as many such facilities have grown out of agricultural diversification

Possibly slightly under represented as examples under 2ha have not been recorded by the project

Historical Processes

While the keeping of horses for sport and recreational purposes has a long pedigree, the construction of bespoke facilities for doing so is principally modern in origin. The vast majority of the equestrian centres identified by this study are of late 20th century origin. They tend to exist in rural location due to the need for space to graze, exercise and ride the horses being kept. Some are associated with race horse breeding/training, but the majority are to allow horse riding to be undertaken for enjoyment and recreational purposes.

Identification/Components

- Buildings and stable blocks for the care and storage of horses
- Exercise areas with obstacles and equipment, often associated with paddocks
- Located in rural areas – sometimes linked to farms or race courses
- Clearly named and marked on the modern and historic OS maps

Rarity/Survival

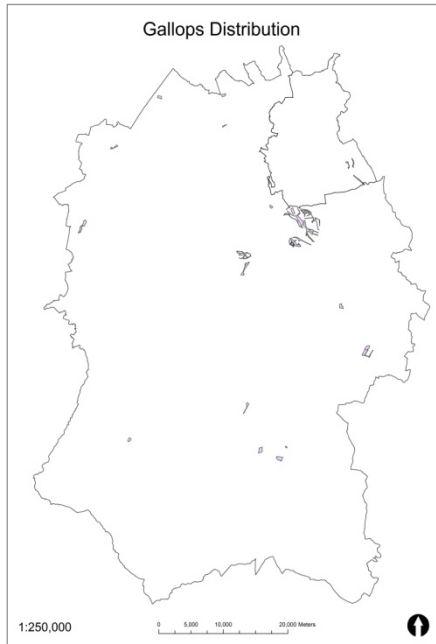
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often fairly recent and small in scale they do not contribute greatly to local character. In some instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the landscaping and partitioning of the land into paddocks, exercise areas and construction of visitor facilities.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Gallops

Definition

A track or area where horses are exercised at a gallop.

Distribution



They occupy c.879 ha

Gallops are relatively rare in Wiltshire and Swindon but this is unsurprising as there is no large equestrian industry in the county

There seems to be a focus in the central and northern parts of the county

Gallops are often set in amongst downland landscapes

They are associated with equestrian centres, farmsteads and race courses

Historical Processes

While the keeping of horses for sport and recreational purposes has a long pedigree, the construction of bespoke facilities for doing so is principally modern in origin. The vast majority of the gallops identified by this study are of late 20th century origin. They tend to exist in rural location due to their extensive nature and are sometimes set out in fairly marginal areas. Most are associated with race horse breeding/training either for domestic or military purposes.

Identification/Components

- Sinuous tracks with fencing/rails that often follow the local topography
- Located in rural areas – sometimes linked to equestrian centres or race courses
- Clearly named and marked on the modern and historic OS maps
- Historical example associated with the military barracks in the south of the county

Rarity/Survival

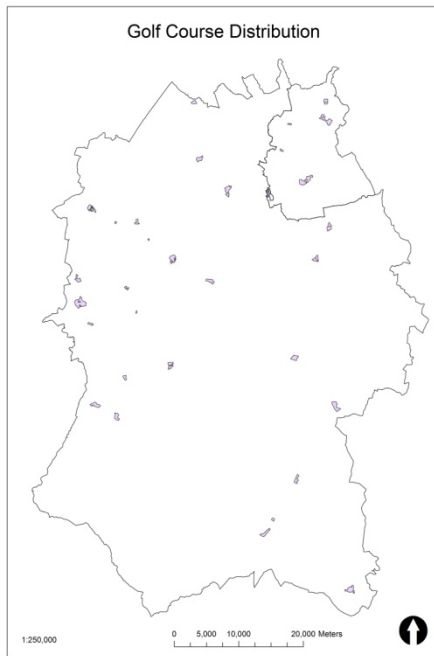
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and fairly robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As they are large in size and very distinct they can contribute significantly to the character of their local area. Additionally, as some of them are quite light touch constructions they do not tend to mask or overtly damage previous landscape character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Golf course

Definition

A landscaped area of ground, encompassing different types of terrain and features, such as ponds, sand-filled bunkers etc, on which the game of golf is played.

Distribution



They occupy c.1600 ha

Golf courses are uncommon but not rare, and there are enough sites in the county to allow individuals to pursue the sport

They are fairly evenly distributed and tend to be fairly extensive so as to cater for the player's needs

They exist in rural locations and usually involve extensive re-working and alterations of the landscape

Some have correlations with parks/estates – such as at Bowood and Monkton in the north of the county

Historical Processes

Golf courses are a modern phenomenon, and all of the examples recorded by the project are of 20th century date. They are large and heavily landscaped areas which have been specially designed to allow a challenging game of golf to be played. Most consist of grassed areas, water features, bunkers and woodland; all set out in a very easily identifiable way. Most golf courses also have associated car parks and club houses for use by members.

Identification/Components

- Courses comprise grass tees/fairways, bunkers, water features and wooded areas
- Associated features like club houses, parking spaces and driving ranges
- Sometimes set in historic parkland and retain elements of the 18th/19th century landscape as part of the course layout (such as field boundaries or woodland)
- Highly legible and clearly named on modern maps and aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

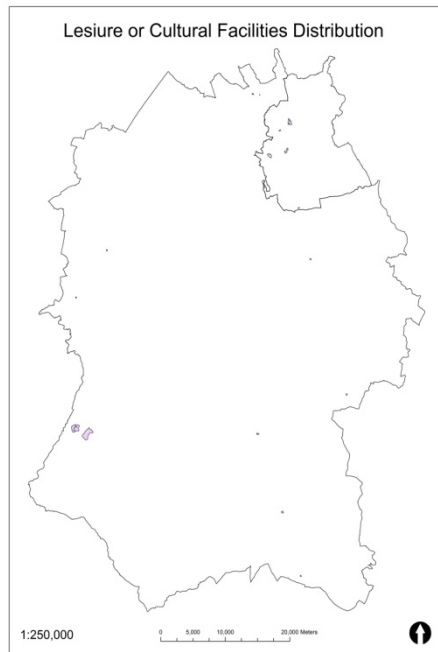
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often fairly recent and heavily landscaped they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the necessary landscaping and construction of visitor facilities.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Leisure or cultural facilities

Definition

This category includes a wide variety of leisure attractions and facilities, usually modern in date, and often in purpose built facilities or buildings. Visited for recreational purposes.

Distribution



They occupy c.329 ha

Purpose built leisure facilities of a large size (>2ha) are rare across Wiltshire and Swindon

They are fairly thinly distributed but tend to lie close to larger urban areas (such as Swindon) so as to be accessible to large numbers of visitors

They have little direct correlation with particular landscape types. However, the largest facilities exist in the Longleat area and make use of the grounds and estates of the former manor

Historical Processes

The facilities recorded in this landscape type comprise: sports centres, cinemas, museums, safari parks, holiday villages and other attractions. With a few exceptions, the vast majority of these attractions are very modern and have been built in a bespoke fashion to cater for large numbers of visitors or tourists. Some retain elements of the prior character (such as the Steam Museum in Swindon being situated in an engine shed and Cente Parcs Longleat being set in the grand estate) but most are heavily engineered/landscape sites which have obscured or removed traces of earlier character.

Identification/Components

- Components vary, but usually modern buildings with associated car parking, toilet and dining facilities.
- Some large outdoor attractions have pathways and designed ornamental planting
- Usually set close to urban centres to allow ease of access
- Clearly marked on the modern, and in some instances, historic OS maps

Rarity/Survival

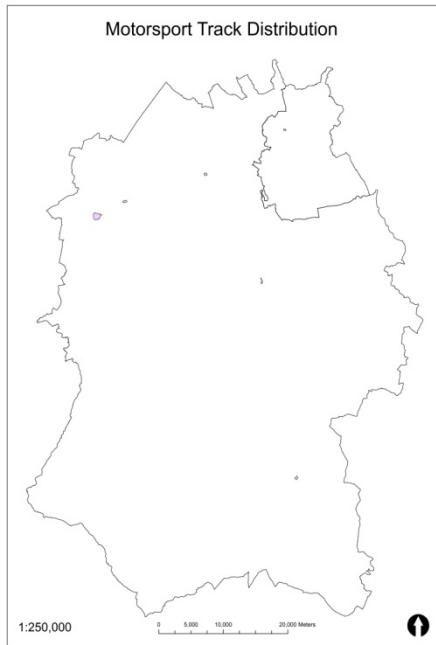
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are often very recent and heavily landscaped they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the necessary landscaping and construction of facilities. Many have also grown recently to accommodate the increasing visitor numbers.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Motorsport track

Definition

A purpose-built facility for racing motor cars and/or motor cycles which may also include grandstands or concourses.

Distribution



They occupy c.146 ha

They are rare across the county and have not particular distribution pattern

They tend to be situated in rural areas, so as to minimise disruption and noise to inhabitants of towns and villages

There is no clear association with any other landscape types

Historical Processes

These motorsport tracks are modern creations in the landscape, and of later 20th century date. They comprise mainly dirt/tarmac tracks surrounded by crash barriers or tyre walls. Sometimes there are associated ancillary buildings or grandstands, but most are purely for the racing. The most prominent one is at Castle Combe, where the racecourse makes use of the former WWII airfield.

Identification/Components

- Oval or irregular courses set out in dirt or tarmac
- Enclosed areas and the track has safety barriers or tyre walls
- Sometimes ancillary buildings like garages, grandstands or refreshment shops
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and very easy to identify

Rarity/Survival

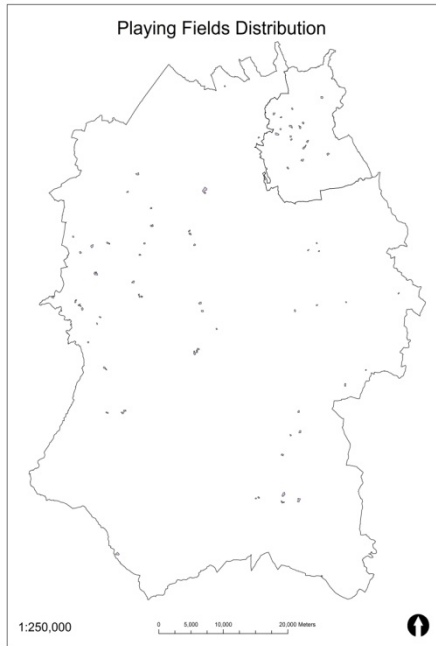
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the necessary landscaping and track construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Playing fields

Definition

Playing fields created for recreational purposes and used by a wide section of the local community, including schools.

Distribution



They occupy c.406 ha

Playing fields of a substantial size (>2ha) are fairly rare but there are local concentrations

They are predominantly associated with larger urban areas and clusters can be seen in Swindon and the market towns in the county

Many have been created on former fields or parkland, although some modern ones have been placed to regenerate formerly developed areas

Sometimes associated with woodland – whether modern or historic

Historical Processes

Playing fields are mainly of 20th century origin and have been created to provide recreational space for inhabitants of towns and villages across the county. Many are associated with schools, but other have a more communal use. They tend to be mainly grassy areas, but sometimes have play equipment, exercise areas or clubhouses.

Identification/Components

- Small and often regular in shape, typically with some sort of fenced, hedged or walled boundary
- Sited close to residential areas in urban centres and villages and primarily grassed
- Occasionally have associated car parking, club houses/pavilions or play equipment
- Fairly distinctive and usually marked as playing fields on the modern OS maps.

Rarity/Survival

They are fairly rare but represent one of the most recent phases of activity in the landscape. Most are operational and well maintained but some are under threat of residential development – particularly those owned by schools. While they are enjoyed locally, they are small in scale and tend not to contribute significantly to local character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Race course

Definition

A purpose-built facility for the racing of horses or bicycles; may also include grandstands or concourses.

Distribution



They occupy c.52 ha

They are very rare and only 4 such courses exist within the Wiltshire and Swindon area

They tend to be in rural locations and can be fairly extensive in size

They have clear associations with gallops and equestrian centres

Those used for BMX bicycle racing tend to be associated with farms or rural industries

Historical Processes

Horse racing in Britain has post medieval origins and continues to be popular into the present day. The racecourses in Wiltshire and Swindon have late 19th century or 20th century origins, whereas the BMX courses are extremely modern. They are used for commercial and recreational purposes and are popular local amenities where they exist. The layouts of these courses and their associated facilities have become more elaborate over time.

Identification/Components

- Horseracing courses comprise a circuit, grandstands, fences/rails and exercise areas
- They are large and distinct within the landscape and clearly marked on the OS maps
- BMX courses are dirt tracks with sinuous layouts and areas with jumps/water
- Both types of race course tend to be rural, often located on former fields/downland

Rarity/Survival

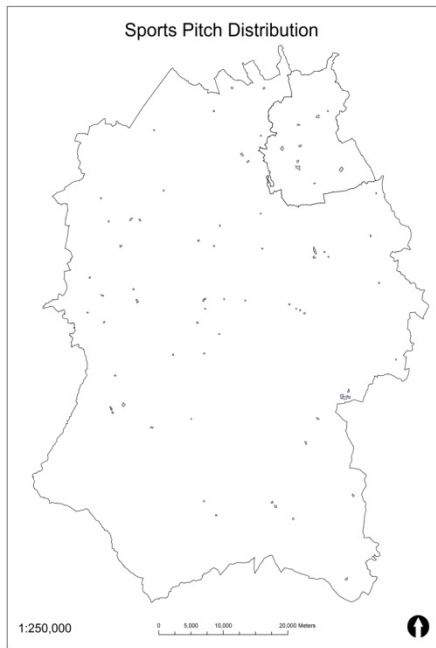
Race courses are rare and distinct features in the landscape. As they are fairly modern features, they are under little threat but also tend not to contribute greatly to the local character/feel of the places they exist. Unlike in neighbouring counties, there is not a well established horse racing industry in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Sports pitch

Definition

An area of ground, often publically owned, where outdoor sports are played, usually with the necessary marking out and structures (goal posts etc). Distinguished from sports grounds or stadiums where spectators pay to watch.

Distribution



They occupy c.453 ha

Sports pitches of a substantial size (>2ha) are fairly rare but there are local concentrations

They are predominantly associated with larger urban areas and clusters can be seen in Swindon and the market towns in the county

Many have been created on former fields or parkland, although some modern ones have been placed to regenerate formerly developed areas

Sometimes associated with other recreational types such as playing fields or leisure centres

Historical Processes

Playing fields are mainly of 20th century origin and have been created to provide space to play games such as rugby, football and cricket for the inhabitants of towns and villages across the county. Some are associated with schools, but other have a more communal use. They tend to be mainly grassy areas, but sometimes have equipment, exercise areas, stands or clubhouses.

Identification/Components

- Small and often regular in shape, typically with some sort of fenced, hedged or walled boundary
- Sited close to residential areas in urban centres and villages and primarily grassed
- Occasionally have associated car parking, club houses/pavilions or stands
- Fairly distinctive and usually marked as playing fields on the modern OS maps.

Rarity/Survival

They are fairly rare but represent one of the most recent phases of activity in the landscape. Most are operational and well maintained but some are under threat of development. While they are enjoyed locally, they are small in scale and tend not to contribute significantly to local character. However, it should be noted that some are located at the heart of villages and help to preserve the character of the former village green (cf. cricket pitches).

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Stadiums and show grounds

Definition

A large area, usually open-air, used for permanent, seasonal or regular shows/events/exhibitions or a large sports ground surrounded by spectator seating arranged in tiers or terraces.

Distribution



They occupy c.25 ha

Large stadiums or sports grounds are very rare in Wiltshire and Swindon

They show no particular distribution pattern – the ones recorded primarily relate to Swindon Town FC and the Larmer Tree Festival (held to the south of Salisbury)

The Swindon Town FC stadium lies within the town whereas the Larmer Tree show ground is in a rural location

Historical Processes

The types of features in the landscape type tend to be of C20 date, although some county show grounds were established much earlier. Show grounds and stadiums have been created to allow large numbers of people to attend sports events, festivals, shows and markets in a bespoke arena. Such recreational areas are large and obvious and often have associated infrastructure like car parks, kiosks, toilet blocks etc. On occasion, elements of the previous landscape character (like the designed parkland in the Tollard Royal area, where Larmer Tree Festival is held) can still be discerned.

Identification/Components

- Stadiums are large open air arenas, with banked seats/terraces around a central pitch or stage
- Show grounds tend to be large grassy spaces with areas for car parking, tent/marquee pitching and staging for exhibitions or music
- They often have associated infrastructure like kiosks, toilet blocks and shops
- Such features are clearly marked and very obvious in the modern landscape

Rarity/Survival

While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to the landscaping/engineering required in construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Brickworks

Definition

An industrial manufacturing complex producing bricks.

Distribution



They occupy c.25 ha

Very few brickworks survive into modernity as most have fallen from use and been redeveloped (therefore some are now recorded as the previous character type)

The only characteristic one is the former brickworks at Westbury which was large and fairly extensive.

They would have been associated with large towns and good transport networks to allow goods to be sent to market

Historical Processes

Manufacture of bricks for construction purposes has only occurred on an industrial basis since the late post medieval period. Large scale brickworks are located on clay bedrock (the most common material from which bricks are made), and often had associated quarries on site. The brick-making industry was not widespread in Wiltshire and Swindon but where it did exist, it would have provided a good source of employment for the local area. This would have been the case with the brickworks in Westbury. Few brickworks are active now, and material for construction are mass produced either abroad or at specialist modern facilities outside the county.

Identification/Components

- Identified by large industrial units, buildings and hard standings
- Often associated with quarry pits or transport networks to allow transit of goods
- Easy to identify and often marked on modern/historic OS maps
- Typically obscure or remove the previous landscape character due to construction

Rarity/Survival

Surviving brickworks are very rare and survive poorly, due to the popularity of converting them or demolishing them to make way for modern developments or residential areas. They are distinct and are of local significance as they hint at industrial landscapes of the post medieval period which are increasingly becoming less legible in the present day.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Depot/yard

Definition

A space or complex where goods/vehicles are stored, repaired and distributed. In this instance, the site has an industrial purpose – such as a builder's yard.

Distribution



They occupy c.213 ha

Depots/yards are fairly uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the north of the county, in the Swindon area

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns such as industrial estates

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

The vast majority of depots and yards are modern and of 20th century date. They have been built to serve small scale industries that are common in most towns and villages in the county. Such areas allow the storage of goods/vehicles/machinery and as such the majority of their area is space to do so. There are also ancillary offices, portacabins, hard standings and car parks on such sites. Due to their nature, depots and yards very rarely preserve any traces of former landscape character.

Identification/Components

- Sometimes marked on modern and historic OS maps and visible on aerial photos
- Tend to be walled/fenced compounds with stacked goods/vehicles/machinery
- Small temporary office buildings and cabins are common, as are car parks
- Tend to be out of town locations, or near to other industrial concerns

Rarity/Survival

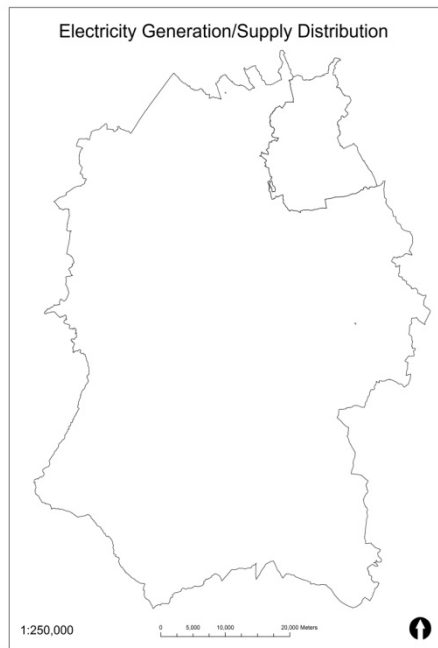
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Electricity generation/supply

Definition

A building or set of buildings and structures associated with the generation or distribution of electrical power.

Distribution



They occupy c.2 ha

There are no power stations within Wiltshire and Swindon and the vast majority of electricity substations or compounds are too small (<2ha) to be recorded in this HLC project

Therefore landscapes dominated by features relating to electrical power are extremely limited

Those features which are present are large substations in rural areas which undoubtedly supply local settlements with power

Rural examples dominated by Fields and Enclosed Land category

Historical Processes

The mass generation and distribution of electricity is a modern phenomenon. While pylons and cables carry electricity to rural and urban areas, there are occasional substation/processing plants/transformers along the route. Typically they are small, fenced compounds with machinery to help with the conveyance of power. They are secure to ensure safety and some have associated hard standings for the storage of other equipment and vehicles owned by power companies.

Identification/Components

- Compounds and hard standings with substantial secure fencing to keep people out
- Modern machinery to process and distribute electricity – lots of cables and pylons
- Either in rural locations or situated in dense industrial areas
- Marked clearly on modern OS maps

Rarity/Survival

While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. Most are too small to be considered the dominant landscape character type and are incorporated into other types.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Gasworks

Definition

A gasworks is an industrial plant for the production of flammable gas. Many of these have are now redundant in the developed world by the use of natural gas.

Distribution



They occupy c.6 ha

Only one large gasworks survives into modernity (all other gasworks were identified as previous landscape character types)

Other gasworks (or similar character types) were too small to be recorded as the dominant landscape character or were part of a mixed industrial character and recorded under different narrow types

Most gasworks became obsolete with the changes to gas extraction and utility in modernity

Historical Processes

The use of gas for heating, lighting and power in urban areas began in the later post medieval period. In order to produce and distribute gas, various large works buildings were erected in towns across the county, sometimes near rivers so coal could be brought in to fire the machinery. The works comprised buildings dedicated to condensing, scrubbing, purifying and storing gas. Gas towers and tanks on site were then used to distribute the product and these tanks provide the most iconic aspect of gasworks. By the mid 20th century, most gasworks had fallen from use and national pipelines were used to supply gas to households.

Identification/Components

- Usually too small to be recorded individually and all are redundant now
- Former buildings characterised by compounds with machinery, pipework and tanks
- Existed within industrial areas and still incorporated into more modern sites
- Clearly marked on modern and historic maps – but many demolished now

Rarity/Survival

Gasworks are usually too small to impact on the landscape in a significant way. The example that exists is a historic survival providing evidence of a former industrial process to supply gas to householders. Most gasworks are under threat of demolition or redevelopment but they are not necessarily iconic or valuable contributors to local identity or character unless well preserved or particularly extensive.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Industrial estate

Definition

An area of land owned by a developer, whether a private entrepreneur or a public authority, and divided into plots for leasing or sale to manufacturing or commercial concerns which may share some common services.

Distribution



They occupy c.802 ha

Industrial estates are fairly uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the north of the county, in the Swindon area

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

The vast majority of industrial estates are of 20th century date. They have been built to serve small scale industries that are common in most towns and villages in the county. In addition, many of them sell goods/services to trade and on occasion the general public. The components of these sites vary quite widely but typically include sales buildings, offices, hard standings and car parks. Due to their nature, industrial estates and yards very rarely preserve any traces of former landscape character.

Identification/Components

- Sometimes marked on modern and historic OS maps and visible on aerial photos
- Tend to be out of town locations, or near to other industrial concerns
- Sales buildings, offices, hard standings and car parks are commonplace
- Usually modern and functional buildings made of concrete and glass

Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Manufacturing

Definition

Industrial sites where the production of secondary materials occurs through various processes. In this instance, primarily at factory sites.

Distribution



They occupy c.337 ha

Manufacturing sites are uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the north of the county, in the Swindon area – focused on the railway industry

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns and exist in urban areas usually

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

Production of goods in factories has occurred since the industrial revolution (late 18th and early 19th century) and continues into the present day. Large factory complexes exist to manufacture goods for sale or for use in other production processes. Sites engaged in this activity typically consist of substantial buildings or sheds and ancillary machinery, hard standing, parking areas and office blocks. Manufacturing at a local level to contribute to the local economy was much more prevalent in the past, and many goods are now imported from abroad. As such, there has been a decline in the number of factories, and many of those with historic origins have been demolished or converted for another use.

Identification/Components

- Sometimes marked on modern and historic OS maps and visible on aerial photos
- Tend to be out of town locations, or near to other industrial concerns
- Large buildings with associated machinery, offices and concrete hard standing

Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction. However, should historic examples survive; they can contribute significantly to local character and link to trades that may have been iconic to the local populace.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Mills

Definition

A factory used for processing raw materials. Usually wind, water or steam powered and typically focused on production of goods like flour, silk, cotton, wool, paper and iron/steel.

Distribution



They occupy c.13 ha

Few large mills or complexes exist within the county so the distribution is skewed by the absence of smaller mills (<2ha) that were not recorded by the project (such as isolated windmills)

Those that exist lie within market towns and generally make use of the local rivers or watercourses

They tend to be associated with industrial landscapes and would have been commonplace in the later post medieval period

Historical Processes

The process of milling has ancient origins, but the mills identified in this HLC project tend to relate to the industrial revolution and have later post medieval origins. Mills were an important part of the economy of several Wiltshire towns, and the county had a well established cloth/wool making industry. Mills in areas like Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon made use of the rivers to produce goods for sale and trade. Later in the post medieval period, mills were also involved in the production of paper, metals and silks. The tall mill buildings with their characteristic windows, doors and layouts still survive, as do areas of mill ponds, leats and races. While many have been redeveloped into offices, retail spaces or residential accommodation they are iconic and link to the recent industrial past of towns.

Identification/Components

- Tall historic buildings with numerous windows, high doors and external pulleys
- Watermills have associated ponds, leats, sluices and waterwheels
- Industrial mills have tall chimneys for the steam/coal powered machinery
- Clearly marked on modern/historic maps and place name evidence confirms

Rarity/Survival

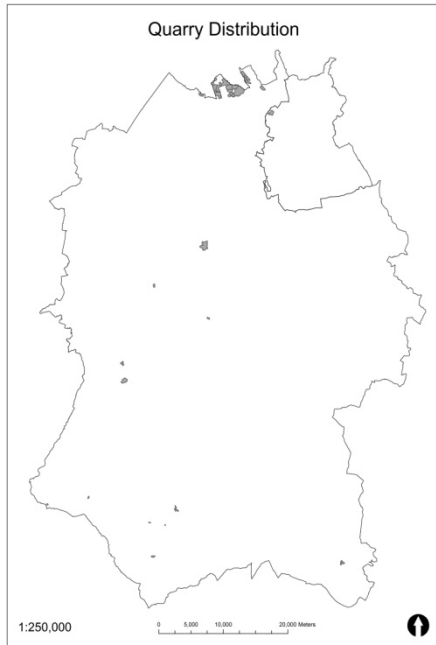
Large mills are rare in Wiltshire and many have been demolished or redeveloped. Where they do survive they are striking features which link to the industrial landscapes of the 18th and 19th century. They allude to localised trades (such as cloth and wool making) and contribute significantly to the identity of the settlements and landscapes in which they exist.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Quarries and gravel pits

Definition

An excavation on land from which stone or aggregates are extracted for use primarily building and civil engineering.

Distribution



They occupy c.1087 ha

Quarries are now fairly rare in Wiltshire and Swindon but are prevalent in the far north of the county where the Thames gravels have been excavated

Other localised stone extractive works still survive in parts of the central/southern areas

The extractive industry would have been more prevalent in the past but many related landscapes have been redeveloped

Mix of urban area locations for processing and rural areas for extraction of materials

Historical Processes

Quarrying for stone or aggregates has an ancient origin, but those features identified in this study tend to be of later post medieval or modern date. Wiltshire has rich gravel deposits in the north and various sources of fine stone (such as Chilmark stone, Cotswold stone etc.) exist in other parts of the county. Extraction on an industrial scale was required as population pressures increased in the 18th and 19th centuries, but localised industries were in operation prior to this – as can be seen by the vernacular building styles distinct to each part of the county. Some small scale quarry pits remain, but most of the surviving examples are larger in scale and may relate to more modern and mechanised extraction of materials. A large quarry/works was sited at Okus in Swindon, and chalk extraction was characteristic of the area surrounding Salisbury in the south. The present day quarries tend to focus on sand and gravel extraction for the construction industry and are focused on the area around Ashton Keynes, Marston Meysey and Eisey – all to the northwest of Swindon.

Identification/Components

- Variable size, but often irregular areas of disturbed ground and exposed stone faces
- Active quarries have spoil heaps, heavy machinery, access tracks and portacabins
- Disused quarries/pits often have scrubby tree/vegetation cover or are water filled

Rarity/Survival

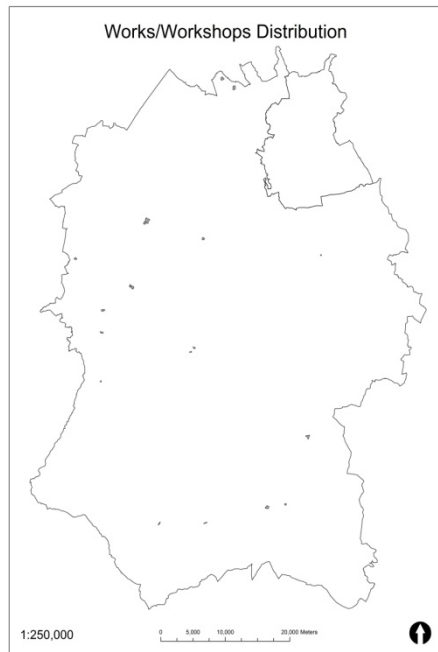
Extant quarry/gravel pits are relatively rare now, but are very distinct features with a substantial impact on local landscape. They remain legible even after restoration schemes, and provide some link to the county's industrial past. Some adapted for leisure purposes.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Works/workshops

Definition

Workshops and ancillary buildings typically used by local or small scale industries or businesses for the production or repair of goods or vehicles. Not on the same scale as large factories or production centres.

Distribution



They occupy c.190 ha

Workshops sites are uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there is a cluster in the west of the county

They tend to be associated with other industrial concerns and exist in urban areas usually

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

The localised production of goods for trade or repair of everyday items and equipment has ancient origins. However, in the context of this study the works/workshops identified tend to have mainly very modern origins, although some late post medieval examples do exist. Workshops producing/repairing equipment for farming, the motor industry, domestic household goods and building materials were commonplace in many towns and villages in the past, but over time there has been an increased centralisation of such services. Where they do survive, they tend to comprise workshop buildings/sheds, hard standing areas, storage facilities and office buildings or cabins.

Identification/Components

- Generally small scale sites enclosed by fences, railings or walls
- Mix of small workshops/sheds, cabins, hard standings and storage/sales spaces
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and associated with other industrial activities

Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Airfield

Definition

Small-scale commercial or private field used for air travel, mainly fixed-wing.

Distribution



They occupy c.14 ha

Domestic airfields are very rare in Wiltshire with only a few examples

They are in rural and spacious locations which allow for the construction of air strips and runways

They have no clear correlation with any other landscape character types

Possibly under represented slightly as they are light touch constructions and can be difficult to identify or are temporary in nature

Historical Processes

Airfields have a 20th century origin and were created to allow small flights for leisure or business purposes. Many are in use for flying/glider clubs and generally used by small propeller driven aeroplanes that are privately owned. Airfield sites tend to comprise grass or concrete runways, landing zones and taxiing areas along with hangars, control towers and ancillary buildings. As they are not heavy duty constructions, they can on occasion be difficult to identify in the landscape and do not heavily influence the existing/previous character of the landscapes in which they are built.

Identification/Components

- Typically with grass or concrete runways, landing zones and taxi areas
- Usually with small hangers, control towers and ancillary buildings
- Rural locations as space is needed for the necessary infrastructure
- Generally used for leisure purposes, and may increase in number over time

Rarity/Survival

Airfields are rare features in the landscape. As they are fairly modern features, they are under little threat but also tend not to contribute greatly to the local character/feel of the places they exist. However, they do not tend to damage either the current or previous landscape character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Bus depot

Definition

A yard and facilities used for the storage, maintenance and repair of buses and coaches.

Distribution



They occupy c.12 ha

Bus depots are rare but as many are not very large (>2ha) they may be under represented as they do not form the dominant character of the landscapes in which they exist

Those extensive enough to be recorded unsurprisingly exist in the largest two urban areas in the county: Swindon and Salisbury

They exist within urban settings and tend to be associated with areas of industrial, civic or commercial character

Historical Processes

Bus depots are a modern creation, which allow bus operators to store, maintain and repair the vehicles they use. An increase in the use and sophistication of public transport means that a large number of Wiltshire's inhabitants make use of buses and coaches to access the workplace, schools/colleges, shopping areas, attractions and leisure spaces. As each bus company/network only requires a few substantial depots, they are not a common feature in the landscape and tend not to contribute significantly to the urban landscapes in which they exist.

Identification/Components

- Concrete hard standings for parking/storage of buses and coaches
- Workshops and sheds used for maintaining and repairing vehicles
- Usually enclosed or secure sites to prevent theft or damage of vehicles
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and distinctive sites on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

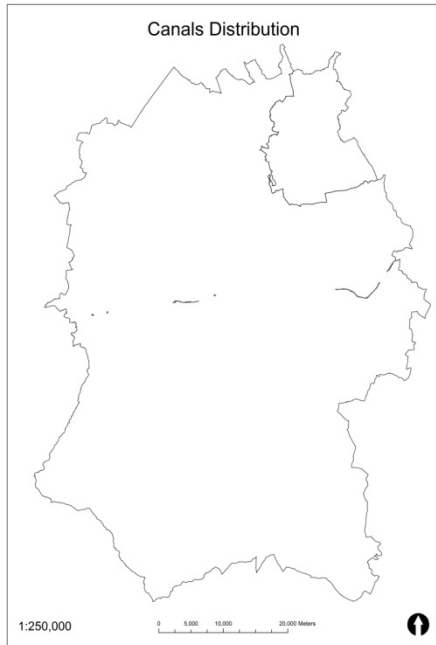
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Canals

Definition

Artificial watercourse, usually connecting existing watercourses or bodies, constructed for the purpose of inland navigation and transportation. Nowadays also used for recreation.

Distribution



They occupy c.107 ha

This type is problematic to record as HLC deals with polygonal areas not linear features

While the canal network was quite extensive in the past, this project only recorded areas where the canal (and associated infrastructure) was overwhelming the dominant legible and current character and of sufficient size

As a consequence areas of canal are very limited in the county and primarily exist in the central

Many elements of the post medieval canal network are now redundant and overgrown with vegetation

Historical Processes

Canals came into being because the Industrial Revolution (which began in Britain during the mid-18th century) demanded an economic and reliable way to transport large quantities of goods. They continued in use into the 19th and eventually 20th century, but with the improvements in road networks, shipping and air freight their use for industrial purposes ceased. As such, most canals are now used for leisure or domestic purposes but they are very characteristic of certain parts of Wiltshire (in the vicinity of Trowbridge, Melksham, Devizes and Bradford-on-Avon). The principal canals in Wiltshire were the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal and these were created through extensive engineering in the 19th century. Canals make use of natural watercourses but also have features like dams, sluices, locks and weirs which are distinct within the landscape.

Identification/Components

- Canals make use of rivers so are linear, sinuous and follow the topography
- Engineered features like dams, weirs and locks occur at regular intervals
- They are clearly named and marked on both modern and historic lines
- Relict courses have often become overgrown with vegetation

Rarity/Survival

Canal systems are uncommon in Wiltshire but very distinctive and important where they do survive. Although there are few areas where they dominate the landscape, they are very locally distinctive and link to an important industrial past which is increasingly forgotten. Programmes of restoration are increasing and re-instatement of canals is a local priority.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Car parks

Definition

Area for parking motor vehicles; usually with permanent surfacing, sometimes in purpose-built multi-storey buildings.

Distribution



They occupy c.60 ha

Car parks of a substantial size (>2ha) are very rare within Wiltshire and Swindon

The majority exist within urban areas and concentrations of large car parks can be seen in Swindon, Westbury and Salisbury

Car parks are associated with other landscapes with civic, commercial, industrial and recreational character

Sometimes exist but are not the dominant character type

Historical Processes

Car parks are clearly a very modern phenomenon. As Wiltshire is a very rural character, there are very few very large car parks in existence. Those that do exist are related to large attractions, large employers or large industries. As such, it is highly likely that as population pressure increases in both rural and urban areas more large car parks will be necessary. Some examples are multi storey and heavily built up, whereas others are merely extensive tarmac areas enclosed by fences, walls or hedges.

Identification/Components

- Large flat areas of tarmac enclosed by walls/fences/hedges with ticket kiosks
- Alternatively large multi-story concrete constructions near to retail centres
- Very obvious on aerial photographs and often marked on modern OS maps

Rarity/Survival

While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Engine sheds

Definition

Long sheds, into which railway lines run, used to house railway engines.

Distribution



They occupy c.75 ha

No substantial engine sheds survive unchanged into modernity, most have been incorporated into other railway infrastructure or have been repurposed

The historic legible examples that do exist are linked to major urban centres with a railway heritage such as Swindon

They are also obviously linked to other areas with a communications character type

Historical Processes

The advent of railways in the 19th century in Wiltshire led to the rise in the desire to travel using this new method of transport. As such, a large number of locomotive engines were needed to fulfil the freight and passenger services offered by the railway companies. When these were out of service, they needed to be stored and maintained and this led to the creation of large, elongated engine sheds situated just outside major train stations. No extensive (>2ha) areas of engine sheds survive in use in modernity, and those that do exist are part of other more dominant railway character types. The Steam Museum in Swindon is housed in one such former engine shed owned by the Great Western Railway Company.

Identification/Components

- Long, high ceilinged sheds straddling railway lines and existing outside stations
- Association with other railway landscape types and dense urban areas served by rail
- Some redevelopment into industrial/commercial areas, but still legible aspects remain
- Clearly marked on the historic OS maps – particularly around Swindon

Rarity/Survival

No substantial engine sheds can be recorded in the modern landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon. The historic examples were focused on Swindon, and elements of this former character remain legible despite conversion into recreational and retail spaces. Where traces of this prior character survive they provide a link to the strong railway heritage that the county (and in particular Swindon) had in the late 19th/early 20th century.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Rail yard

Definition

Complex, often attached to a railway station where engines, coaches and wagons are laid up and maintained.

Distribution



They occupy c.21 ha

No substantial railyards survive unchanged into modernity, most have been incorporated into other railway infrastructure or have been repurposed

The historic legible examples that do exist are linked to major urban centres with a railway heritage such as Westbury and Swindon

They are also obviously linked to other areas with a communications character type

Historical Processes

The advent of railways in the 19th century in Wiltshire led to the rise in the desire to travel using this new method of transport. As such, various carriages and wagons were pressed into service to convey both travellers and goods. All of these needed to be stored and maintained and as such, rail yards sprung up around the major railway hubs in the county. These yards mainly comprised sidings, turntables and maintenance areas to allow servicing of the rolling stock near to the stations and engine sheds. No extensive (>2ha) rail yards survive in use in modernity, and those rail yards that do exist are part of other more dominant railway character types.

Identification/Components

- Areas of sidings for the storage and maintenance of rolling railway stock
- Association with other railway landscape types and dense urban areas served by rail
- Some redevelopment into industrial areas, but still legible aspects remain
- Clearly marked on the historic OS maps – particularly around Swindon

Rarity/Survival

No substantial rail yards can be recorded in the modern landscape of Wiltshire and Swindon. The historic examples were focused on Swindon and Westbury and elements of this former character remain legible. Where traces of this prior character survive they provide a link to the strong railway heritage that the county had in the late 19th/early 20th century.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Railway line

Definition

System of rail tracks along which passenger carriages or goods wagons are moved, usually by locomotive engines. Usually includes beds, cuttings, embankments, tunnels etc.

Distribution



They occupy c.50 ha

This type is problematic to record as HLC deals with polygonal areas not linear features

While the rail network is extensive, this project only recorded areas where the railway line (and associated infrastructure) was overwhelmingly the dominant legible and current character and of sufficient size and impact in the landscape

As a consequence areas dominated by the railway line are rare.

Elements of historic railway are now redundant and overgrown with vegetation or have been redeveloped

Historical Processes

The creation of railway lines in the 19th century had a substantial impact on communities in Wiltshire. Inhabitants were able to access all parts of the county swiftly for the purposes of work, recreation, leisure, commerce and trade. The majority of these historic lines survive and have been updated to allow improvements in rail technology. Wiltshire was also the location for a crucial part of the Great Western Railway Company, started by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, with a locomotive works created in Swindon. Some military and industrial sites also had associated light railways to help transport goods or munitions but most of these are now redundant. As railway lines exist all over the county, continue in use and are linear features which rarely define the landscape they have been largely ignored by the HLC.

Identification/Components

- Routes comprise lines, sidings, yards and cuttings.
- Sometimes associated infrastructure like signal boxes and junctions
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and best not addressed through HLC

Rarity/Survival

Substantial areas of railway line with infrastructure that could be characterised by the HLC project were very rare. While railways are extremely common in the modern landscape (as are roads) they are not particularly characteristic of the wider landscapes which they inhabit. While the creation of individual lines proves interesting, the physical lines themselves contribute little at a landscape level nor are they at threat of loss/redevelopment.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Railway station

Definition

Where railway trains stop to load and unload passengers or freight. Includes buildings and directly related grounds.

Distribution



They occupy c.21 ha

While every stop along a railway line has a station of sorts, very few in Wiltshire are substantial and extensive (>2ha)

As such, this category is under represented and railway stations appear rare and scattered in distribution

Those that have been recorded exist in major urban centres like Chippenham, Westbury, Salisbury and Swindon

Historical Processes

The advent of the railways during the 19th century opened up the opportunity to travel swiftly across the county for leisure or work purposes. Passengers on the railways require facilities to buy tickets, organise luggage and obtain refreshments. These functions were served by the purpose built railway stations that accompanied most major stops on the rail network. While many stations have been modernised and rebuilt completely, there are still a number with historic origins and surviving character.

Identification/Components

- Buildings, car parking, grounds and kiosks/shops associated with the railway line
- Coherent grouped sites set in both rural and urban locations
- Clearly marked on the modern and historic OS maps
- Naturally associated with other railway infrastructure and ancillary buildings

Rarity/Survival

While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. A mix of very modern and more historic examples, but few contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their extensive nature and method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Routeways

Definition

A well established and substantial path, trackway or route that has been used to traverse the wider landscape. Often with substantial engineering, in the form of banks, ditches or made surfaces, and usually of medieval or earlier origins.

Distribution



They occupy c.44 ha

This type is problematic to record as HLC deals with polygonal areas not linear features

While the network of routeways is extensive, this project only recorded areas where examples were overwhelmingly the dominant legible and current character, and of sufficient size to impact the landscape

Most routeways have either become converted into modern roads (not recorded by this project) or have become disused and overgrown

Historical Processes

Since the most ancient of times, there has been a desire to travel across the landscape for exploration, trade, communication and wider social interaction. Many of the routeways were small scale and accessed and linked local areas; in the form of tracks, green lanes and trails. Many of the larger routeways (such as the Roman roads) became converted into more formal roads in the form of turnpikes in the post medieval period and A-roads, B-roads and motorways in the modern era. The only substantial routeway that seems not to have followed this evolution is the Ridgeway in the central/northern part of Wiltshire. This ancient routeway is sinuous, substantial and very legible as it cuts across several parishes. It is still walked today and has been preserved and managed to maintain this purpose

Identification/Components

- Long and substantial routeway with clear surface and banked sides
- Cuts across several parishes and defined later land-use patterns adjacent to it
- Still a modern walking route and maintained and managed in the landscape
- Named and depicted on historic and modern OS maps and legible on aerial photos

Rarity/Survival

This routeway is very rare and a unique landscape feature. It links to the ancient past, has influenced later land use and is a valuable contributors to local character and identity. It is now a tourist attraction and not under immediate threat due to its careful management.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Service station

Definition

A commercial complex, usually sited along motorways or trunk roads, providing facilities such as car parking, restaurants, shop and fuel stations.

Distribution



They occupy c.35 ha

While service stations are common, those substantial enough in size to be recorded by the HLC project (>2ha) are rare

Those that do exist are located adjacent to major roads like the M4

They are exclusively in out of town locations, along the roadside

Unlike other counties, Wiltshire has comparatively few major roads that require extensive services

Historical Processes

Service stations are clearly a very modern phenomenon. As Wiltshire is a very rural character with few major roads (other than the M4), there are very few very large service stations in existence. Those that do exist cater for travellers by providing shops, restaurants, petrol stations and occasionally outdoor recreation spaces. They tend to comprise service buildings, petrol stations and extensive car/lorry parking areas. As the road network in the county continues to be improved it is possible the need for large service stations will increase further.

Identification/Components

- Roadside and often remote locations – large and artificial landscape features
- Comprise service buildings, petrol stations, restaurants, shops and car parks
- Clearly marked on modern maps and very distinctive on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

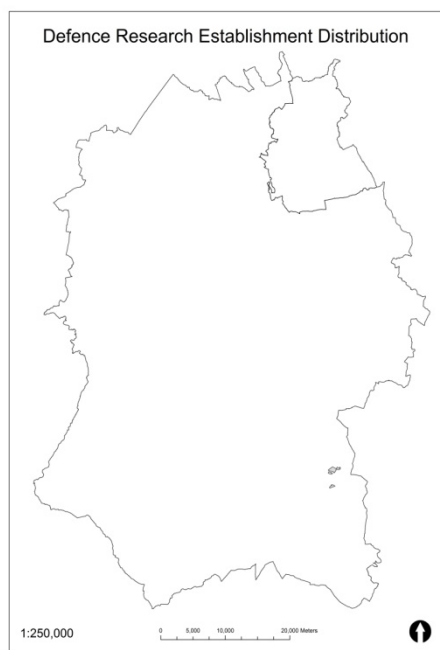
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As the sites are recent and very artificial landscapes they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Defence research establishment

Definition

A complex of buildings and areas in which a range of weaponry and techniques are developed and trialled.

Distribution



They occupy c.109 ha

Areas with this landscape character are very rare nationally, let alone at a county level

The Porton Down facility near to Salisbury is the only example in the county, and a very famous site where military research and hardware is developed

The defence research establishment in Porton is associated with the wider military presence on the Salisbury Plain Training Area

Some elements of prior character remain legible despite the extensive nature of Porton Down

Historical Processes

The military have had a presence in the southern part of Wiltshire since the late 19th century and this intensified through the First and Second World War periods. Along with training and housing troops, the military have also been involved in the development of new technology and armaments since the mid 20th century. The research required as part of this process has taken place on bespoke facilities or establishments, and Porton Down near Salisbury is an excellent example of this type. It comprises laboratory buildings, test areas, bunkers, tracks, compounds and defence structures to ensure the security of the site.

Identification/Components

- Large and extensive facilities with enclosed and secure perimeters
- Mixed buildings in the form of labs, bunkers and test areas for experimental work
- Compounds and outdoor firing ranges and test areas for military hardware
- Clearly of military character when seen on aerial photos and clearly marked on maps

Rarity/Survival

Such modern military facilities are rare and very important assets to the MOD/DSTL where they do exist. While they are extensive and have altered the landscape, there are some areas at Porton Down which preserve character as test areas are often fairly undeveloped. They are still active and dominate the landscapes they sit within, and most are under no immediate threat of closure or redevelopment.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Military airfield

Definition

A landing and taking-off area for military aircraft. Often includes ancillary structures and buildings for the maintenance and storage of aircraft, defence of the site, accommodation of staff, controlling airspace etc.

Distribution



They occupy c.2687 ha

In terms of military facilities, airfields are not uncommon in Wiltshire with examples to be found in all areas other than the southwest of the county

There is a strong RAF presence in the north of the county

They exist in a variety of rural locations, sometimes in association with other military installations

Even though some First and Second World War sites have fallen from use, their character remains legible despite redevelopment

Historical Processes

The earliest military airfields date to the First World War (like the Stonehenge Aerodrome), and were supplemented by many others that were built during the Second World War and thereafter. These sites are owned by the Army and Royal Air Force and while they have been modernised, many have early C20 origins. They are very extensive and dominate the local landscape where they exist, as well as providing character and identity for the nearby towns and villages. They tend to comprise tarmac runways, hangars, control towers, maintenance and storage areas, offices, car parking areas all surrounded by securely fenced perimeters.

Identification/Components

- Active airfields are fenced and have runways, hangars, control towers, storage areas
- They are extensive and set in rural locations, sometimes close to large villages
- Disused airfields are still legible through their iconic form, layout and relict buildings
- Clearly marked on modern/historic OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

Rarity/Survival

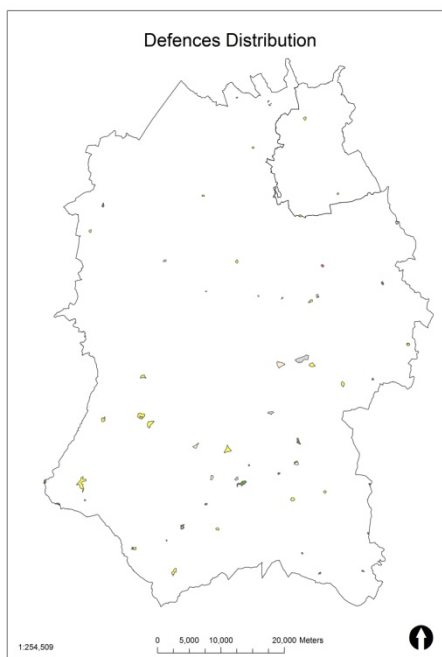
Military airfields are uncommon but there are clusters in certain localities. Many remain in use, and even where they are redeveloped, their character is often still fairly legible. They provide an important link to the military past and Wiltshire has a strong military pedigree, and they have a substantial impact on the character of the landscape which they inhabit.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Defences

Definition

Areas, sites and linked systems of such involved in the passive or active defence of the country against hostile forces on land, sea and in the air.

Distribution



They occupy c.1156 ha

Relate to both modern and ancient defences – be they hillforts, castles or WWI/WWII features

Defences that exist at a landscape scale are rare, and none are currently in use for their original purpose

The examples that remain legible in the modern landscape are well distributed across the county

Often relate more to topography than other landscape character types – they occupy strategic locations

Historical Processes

Since prehistory, there has been a need for societies and communities to build structures to defend people, property and territory from hostilities. Many of the defences produced for this purpose, such as hillforts and castles, represent communal efforts and were large and grandiose constructions. As such, many impacted heavily on the landscapes they were set in, and while none are in use for their original purposes they remain legible. Wiltshire has a rich pedigree for landscapes dominated by defences. Medieval castles can be discerned at places like Ludgershall and Devizes and exceptional Iron Age hillforts survive at Old Sarum and Roundway amongst others. Some have become tourist attractions, walking locations, elements in designed or recreational landscapes. Many also defined the layout of towns; particularly those of a Saxon or medieval origin such as Cricklade or Trowbridge.

Identification/Components

- Vary by type of defence but often earthwork banks/ditches or stone structures
- Circuits of defences/moats and set in prominent in settlement or upland locations
- Impact later land use as farmland, grassland, urban areas, park or recreational space
- Well marked on modern and historic maps and striking on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

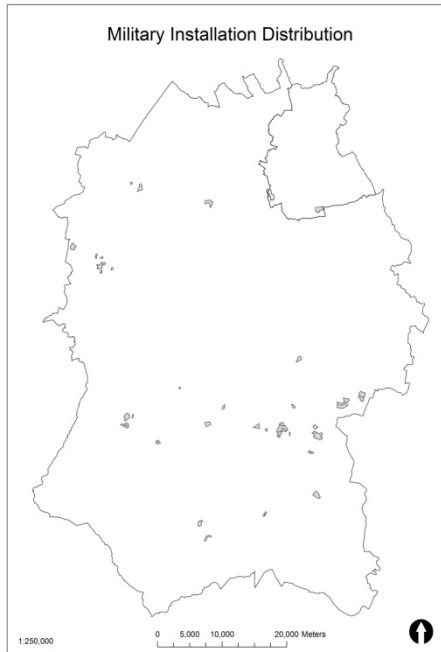
These are rare and fragile landscapes and some are under threat from development or agriculture. They are iconic reminders of the ancient past and very valuable contributors to local identity, character and tourism when they exist on a landscape scale.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Military installation

Definition

A site and associated buildings used by the military for various purposes, usually defensive.

Distribution



They occupy c.1434 ha

Military installations are uncommon but abundant in certain locations – particularly in the SPTA

The greatest concentrations exist in the Salisbury and Warminster areas

Many exist in rural locations although some installations influence the character of the towns which they adjoin

They tend to be associated with other military character types like residences and airfields

Historical Processes

The creation of military bases and installations in Wiltshire from the 19th century onwards has played an important role in defining the character and development of the areas in which they exist. Barracks, bases and training camps are a common site in the Salisbury Plain area, with substantial examples existing at Larkhill, Bulford, Boscombe and Warminster. Those examples recorded by this project tend to comprise a selection of buildings/structures that date from the mid 20th century onwards (although some WWI structures survive). These facilities usually lie within securely fenced perimeters and have been set out in planned form and linked by tarmac roads, tracks and paths. While some installations (such as at Corsham) have fallen out of military use and shut others are growing. With the re-basing of military personnel formerly stationed abroad on SPTA from 2016 onwards, more sites will be built.

Identification/Components

- Functional buildings comprising barracks, mess halls, offices, exercise halls etc.
- Fenced and secure perimeters and planned layout with roads and activity zones
- Associated with other military character types and landscapes
- Clearly marked on OS maps, identifiable on aerial photographs and distinct in form

Rarity/Survival

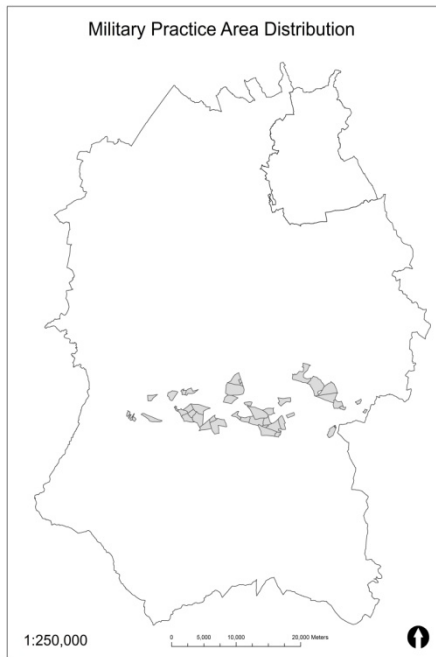
Military installations are uncommon but there are clusters in certain localities. Many remain in use, and even where they are redeveloped, their character is often still fairly legible. They provide an important link to the military heritage of Wiltshire, and they do have a distinct impact on the character of the landscape and settlements with which they are associated.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Practice area

Definition

Areas used by armed forces on land or at sea for training and military exercises.

Distribution



They occupy c.6507 ha

Practice areas are very uncommon across the county but very common in the Salisbury Plain area due to the extensive land holdings of the military

They exist in association with the military bases and facilities that together comprise the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

Most are situated in downland and still preserve elements of prior character as they are not intensively developed or built up

Historical Processes

The military bought up land on Salisbury Plain in the late 19th century and turned it into one of Britain's largest military bases and training centres. Over time, the holdings have been consolidated and the range of facilities available has increased in scope and sophistication. The downland landscape is ideal for training, and rifle ranges, artillery ranges, parachute drop zones, tank/vehicle driving areas and mock combat environments have all been implemented for use by the army personnel. While these activities have undoubtedly impacted on the landscape, there are still large areas of the SPTA which are little changed from their origins as chalk downland. This ensures fantastic preservation of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later field systems, occupation areas, defences and land boundaries.

Identification/Components

- Usually open areas which contain rifle butts, simulated combat environments (as at Imber), craters from live firing ranges and tracks for vehicle driving and training
- Few built structures exist within the practice areas themselves, as these are on separate parts of the bases and installations where the troops are billeted
- Marked on modern OS maps but not always obvious as military activity zones

Rarity/Survival

Extensive military practice areas are very uncommon but are characteristic of the Salisbury Plain area in the southern part of the county. The military ownership and maintenance of the land is not under threat and despite the training activities there is often excellent legibility of ancient character such as field systems and settlements of Bronze Age to medieval date.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Military residence

Definition

Houses or accommodation blocks (billets) used as places of residence by military personnel. Typically associated with nearby military bases or installations.

Distribution



They occupy c.421 ha

While rare across the county, military housing is common in areas that have military installations and bases

There is a concentration around the Salisbury Plain/Boscombe Down area, but also near to the airfields that exist in the northern parts of the county

They are only associated with other military infrastructure and tend to be slightly separate from civilian settlement areas

Historical Processes

The creation of military bases and installations in Wiltshire from the 19th century onwards gave rise to the need for accommodation for associated personnel. Purpose built housing for use by military staff and their families exists close to many of the bases in the county. These houses/residence blocks tend to be fairly basic and functional buildings and set out to a planned form. As such, they are easy to identify from other housing and residential areas – although they do share some traits with social housing estates. Some groups of these houses are accompanied by recreational facilities or green spaces. Some houses have fallen out of military use as the bases they serve have shut, but others are expanding in size.

Identification/Components

- Functional houses laid out to plan with regular forms and road layouts
- Close to military bases, facilities and airfields – often enclosed/fenced off
- Share similarities to social housing estates in villages/towns and not always easy to identify from aerial photographs and maps

Rarity/Survival

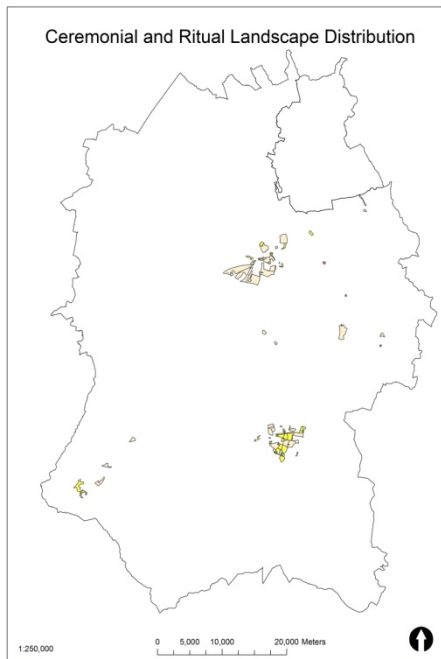
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As these houses are recent and very functional constructions they are not valued locally but they do give a distinct military character/identity to the landscapes and settlements where they do exist.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Ceremonial/ritual landscape

Definition

Areas within the landscape used for ritual or ceremonial purposes in the past, often during the prehistoric period. Such landscapes may have surviving structures, buildings, routeways, earthworks or cropmarks.

Distribution



They occupy c.3169 ha

Areas with legible ceremonial/ritual character (typically of prehistoric or Roman date) are rare

They tend to exist in areas without intensive land use or development – but can also exist within agricultural areas

Only extensive areas of landscape with this early character have been recorded by this project

Associated with downland landscape or areas subject to particular management regimes (i.e. the World Heritage Site or Salisbury Plain Training Area)

Historical Processes

Since the Neolithic period, societies have demonstrated ceremonial or ritual behaviour within the landscapes which they occupy. This category records areas where extensive and coherent examples of this behaviour remain legible at a landscape level – usually in the form of burial monuments (e.g. round and long barrows), henges, avenues, temples, substantial manmade mounds (e.g. Silbury Hill) or enclosures. Many of the features that comprise these landscapes survive as earthworks, standing structures or are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Wiltshire has some exceptional and world famous examples like the henges at Avebury and Stonehenge, but also some more local examples such as coherent barrow groups that survive in and amongst rural settlements. Many such landscapes survive through legislative protection or as attractions or assets of value to their communities.

Identification/Components

- Often earthwork banks, mounds or enclosures or standing stone structures
- Usually survive in undeveloped areas (e.g. downland) and sometimes attractions
- Extensive and inter-related in the landscape – multi-period and coherent monuments

Rarity/Survival

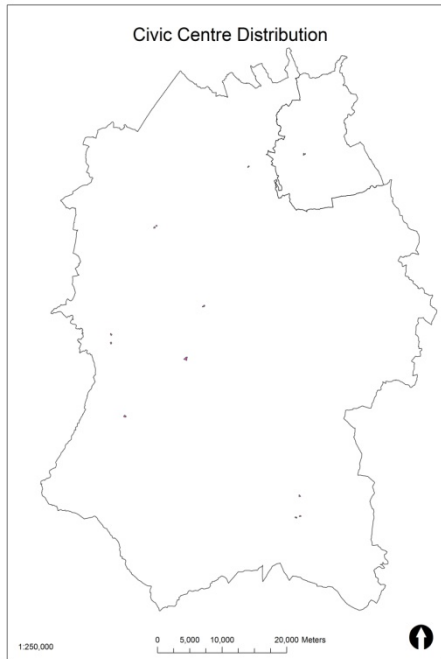
These are very rare and fragile landscapes and often under threat from development or agriculture. They are iconic reminders of the ancient past and very valuable contributors to local identity, character and tourism when they exist on a landscape scale.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Civic centre

Definition

A building or complex often with several buildings where municipal offices and other public buildings are situated.

Distribution



They occupy c.53 ha

Large civic buildings/complexes are rare across the county – but many examples of this type would have been too small (>2ha) in size to record

Those that do exist are focused on the larger towns, in the northern and western parts of the county

They tend to exist within the core of towns and are often linked to employment

Historical Processes

Civic structures like town halls, council offices and municipal authority buildings can have historic origins or be modern constructions. Many of the features recorded in this category relate to Wiltshire Council or Swindon Borough Council, as both authorities have the staff resource and civic responsibilities to require large sites. Some civic buildings, like town halls and legal courts, lie within the heart of settlements, but others are self contained complexes or campuses on the periphery of the towns which they serve. Many of the smaller scale examples not recorded by this project exist within areas with a different dominant character (often residential, industrial or commercial).

Identification/Components

- Such sites comprise large office buildings, chambers, assembly halls or compounds
- Usually have associated car parks and can be enclosed by fences/hedges/railings
- Sometimes historic buildings which add to the streetscape or campus-like facilities
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and identifiable on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. The recent examples are functional constructions that do not contribute greatly to local character, but some historic examples can be very iconic institutions that form part of the local character and identity. In some instances, they have impacted prior character due to their construction and landscaping.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Emergency services

Definition

Building, or complex of buildings, associated with the provision of the emergency services to the local area; be this the fire service, ambulance service or police.

Distribution



They occupy c.16 ha

Facilities associated with the emergency services are rare but exist in sufficient number to serve the county

Some features, like police stations and fire stations, were too small to record as part of the HLC Project

They exist in association with large settlements like Chippenham, Trowbridge, Westbury and Swindon

Exclusively located within settlement areas and not in rural areas

Historical Processes

The features in this landscape character type are modern and primarily of 20th/21st century date. Many are purpose built facilities to enable the operation of the principal emergency services: police, fire and ambulance. They are located in urban areas to allow rapid response to the immediate local areas and their services are more readily required by densely populated areas. The sites comprise vehicle garages, office buildings, control centres, training compounds, car parking areas and maintenance facilities. The lack of historic predecessors and heavily planned/designed elements of these sites limits the legibility of former landscape character.

Identification/Components

- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and easy to identify on aerial photographs
- sites comprise garages, offices, control centres, training compounds and car parks
- Situated in or around major towns in the county with good transport routes

Rarity/Survival

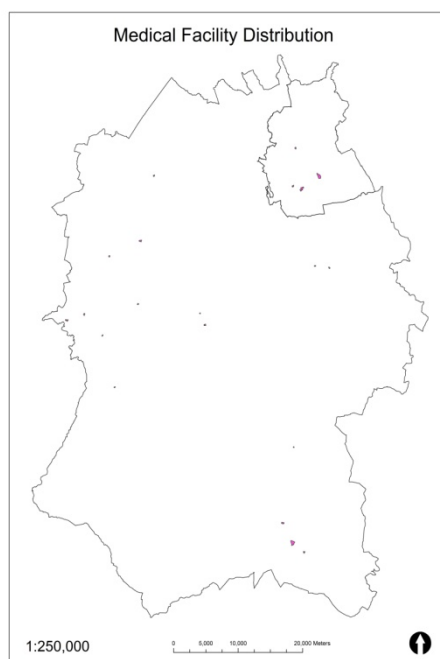
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As emergency service centres are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Medical facility

Definition

Buildings or complexes which provide assistance to help individuals maintain a satisfactory condition of mind and body, and freedom from sickness, injury and pain.

Distribution



They occupy c.124 ha

Large medical facilities are rare but their distribution is sufficient to serve the population of the county

They are naturally focused on large urban areas where the need for healthcare is more pressing

They are associated with settlement areas and situated in accessible locations with good transport routes

Population density is higher in the northern and central parts of the county and distribution reflects this trend

Historical Processes

Formalised medical facilities have existed since the medieval period, and they were often tied into the care for the poor. The examples dealt with in this project are primarily of post medieval or modern origin, and some have grown from asylums, sanatoriums and workhouses. Those with historic origins may have surviving historic buildings, compounds and facilities which retain their earlier character. However, most of the medical facilities have been substantially modernised (or are entirely new foundations) and have car parking, ancillary buildings, ornamental or recreational space. This is particular the case with the large hospitals in Swindon and Salisbury. Some former hospitals have been redeveloped for commercial, residential or industrial purposes, or have been demolished altogether.

Identification/Components

- Large buildings with associated compounds and structures – historic or modern
- Usually with car parking, landscaped grounds and emergency vehicle areas
- In the urban core or in peripheral areas. Sometimes former asylums/workhouses
- Clearly marked on modern/historic OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

Rarity/Survival

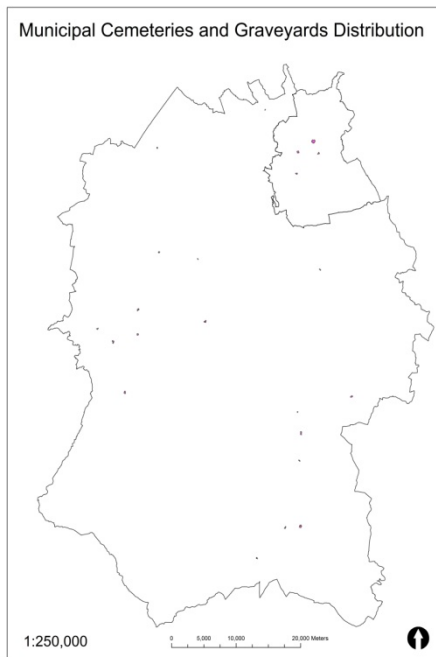
Large medical facilities are rare, and a mixture of historic foundations or very modern institutions. While most are not under threat and are robust landscape character types, some of the historic examples are under threat of redevelopment and this can result in the loss of iconic local character. This is particularly the case with former asylums, sanatoria and workhouses which are often challenging to modernise/re-use.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Municipal cemeteries and graveyards

Definition

Place, usually defined, where the dead are carefully and respectfully placed, usually via interment.

Distribution



They occupy c.97 ha

Cemeteries and graveyards are rare but probably under represented as many examples will be under 2ha in size, or not the dominant character type

Mix of rural and urban locations, but usually associated with dense settlement areas

Some are non-denominational and some are associated with religious foundations

Associated with other civic and settlement character types

Historical Processes

Burial and cremation of the dead and the interment or storage of remains in cemeteries and graveyards has an ancient origin. This type deals with graveyards of mainly post medieval or modern origin (the ceremonial and ritual landscape type deals with the burials etc. of earlier periods). While every parish has a churchyard for the burial of the dead, the increase in population and the rise in the number of secular ceremonies has led to the creation of extensive municipal graveyards/cemeteries. These offer an alternative to the burials in sanctified ground. Most cemeteries are laid out to plan with regular plots, paths to traverse them and dotted chapels, memorials, contemplation areas and car parking for visitors.

Identification/Components

- Clearly named on modern and historic OS maps and easy to identify on aerial photos
- Fenced/walled parcels of land with plots set out in regular fashion with access routes
- Interspersed with chapels and memorials and landscaped gardens/tranquil areas
- Associated with settlements and often designated burial sites for parishes/boroughs

Rarity/Survival

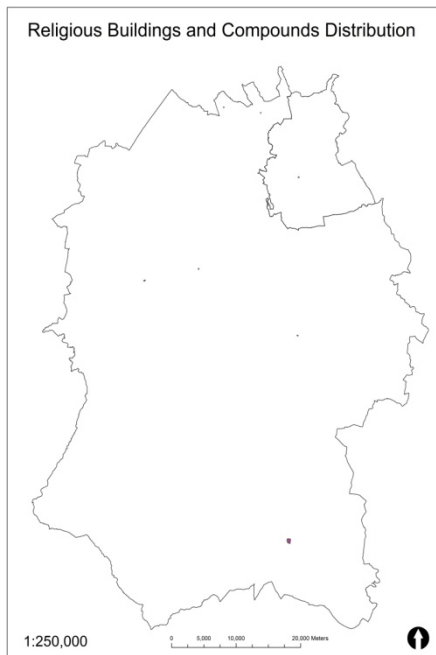
While large cemeteries and graveyards are rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As they are not too intrusive, it is possible to discern earlier surviving landscape character in areas where they survive, although many in themselves have historic character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Religious buildings and compounds

Definition

A place (buildings and directly associated grounds) where appropriate acts, rites and ceremonies are performed to honour or revere a supernatural being, power or holy entity.

Distribution



They occupy c.40 ha

This type is under represented in the HLC as the vast majority of churches and other religious buildings are not 2ha or larger in size

Large religious buildings and compounds are rare in Wiltshire. The best example is Salisbury Cathedral but some other large churches do exist

All of the examples recorded lie within settlement areas and have historic origins

Many such sites have been included in other narrow types as they are not the dominant character

Historical Processes

This type refers to formalised structures/buildings relating to a defined religion, and therefore largely deals with the monuments of Christianity. As such, the earliest buildings and compounds that survive have Saxon origins, but most have medieval or even post medieval foundation dates. While every parish of the county has at least a church/chapel, many occupy a relatively small area and primarily serve the spiritual needs of the local inhabitants. The larger examples, like Salisbury Cathedral, tend to exist in important towns and cities with an established ecclesiastical history. These established sites are often visitor attractions or places of pilgrimage. These iconic buildings conform to a variety of renowned architectural styles and, as such, contribute heavily to the local character and identity of an area.

Identification/Components

- Large substantial buildings, usually of stone, set in a delineated compound
- Often have associated monuments, memorials and graveyards and outbuildings
- Well marked on modern and historic OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

Rarity/Survival

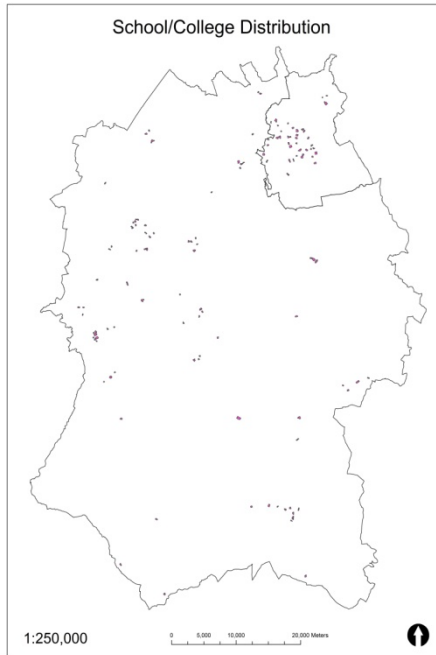
Large religious buildings are rare, iconic and have a well established historic origin. They form part of a coherent narrative relating to the everyday religious lives of the communities they serve. Most are not threatened and are protected as treasured local assets. However, their setting and components can be adversely influenced by inappropriate development.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: School/college

Definition

Primary, secondary or tertiary educational establishments, buildings and directly associated and usually defined grounds, including car parking etc.

Distribution



They occupy c.581 ha

While across the county, schools and colleges are uncommon there are local clusters – usually in dense urban areas like Swindon, Salisbury and Trowbridge

Some smaller establishments may not have been recorded as they are under 2ha in size

The gaps in the distribution relate to very rural and isolated areas where population density is low and young people commute to places of education

Most schools/colleges are associated with towns and villages

Historical Processes

The creation of schools and colleges for the education of young people has historic origins, with educational establishments linked to the clergy existing from the medieval period. Many of the schools in the county have origins from the post medieval period and include prestigious examples like the Salisbury Cathedral School, Marlborough College and Dauntsey School. Indeed, some schools are still linked to former manorial estates, churches/cathedrals or trades/guilds. Other schools are far more modern in origin and have been carefully planned to offer students the best educational experience. Most share a common suite of facilities (depending on their size) including sports fields, playgrounds, labs, classrooms, car parks, gymnasiums and music rooms.

Identification/Components

- Mixed school buildings including classrooms, sports halls, music rooms and labs
- Enclosed/fenced sites with playgrounds, sports fields, swimming pools, car parks
- Associated with towns and villages – often situated within them not outside them
- Clearly marked on modern and historic maps and identifiable on aerial photos

Rarity/Survival

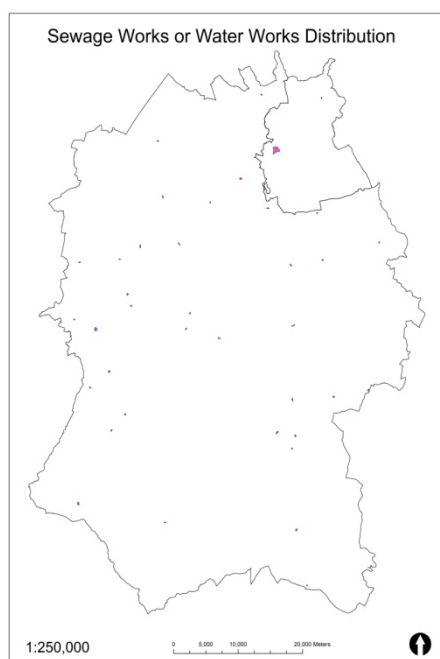
While uncommon across the county, most towns and villages have some sort of school/college. Where they do exist, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. Some have historic origins and contribute very heavily to the character/identity of their local areas.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Sewage or water works

Definition

An area in which local sewage is filtered and purified in large rectangular or circular tanks. Alternatively, buildings, engineering constructions and machinery, used for the purpose of supplying a town, or region with water distributed through pipes.

Distribution



They occupy c.190 ha

Sewage works and waterworks are uncommon, but some smaller enterprises may not have been recorded

They are relatively evenly distributed across the county, with facilities to serve every local community

They tend to be outside settlement areas and set within rural landscapes, and screened from view

Some are situated close to watercourses

Historical Processes

The processing of water for municipal purposes has occurred since the later post medieval period – with sewage farms, waterworks and processing centres. However, the vast majority of sites in this category identified by this project are of 20th/21st century origin. Many such facilities are situated close to watercourses as the fresh water plays an important part in the cleaning/refining process. Their locations are also dictated by the communities they need to serve, with the larger urban centres (particularly in the central/northern parts of the county) having a substantial demand for water/sewerage. The facilities used for these purposes are very heavily engineered and comprise tanks, settling areas, processing plants, pumping stations and control centres.

Identification/Components

- Engineering in the form of tanks, settling areas, processing plants, pumping stations
- Enclosed/screened compounds, often riverine locations, away from settlements
- Clearly marked on modern OS maps and recognisable on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

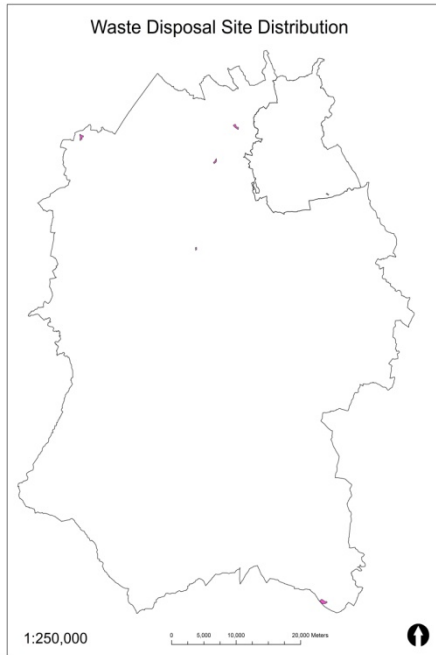
While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As most waterworks and sewage works are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Waste disposal site

Definition

Buildings, sites and structures associated with the disposal or recycling of domestic and industrial waste.

Distribution



They occupy c.112 ha

These sites are rare but many may not have been recorded as they are under 2ha in size

They tend to exist outside the large urban centres which they serve

Due to their nature they are generally set away from all other settlement areas, sometimes in rural or industrial areas

Most identified by this project exist in the north of the county and serve Swindon and the other major towns

Historical Processes

The waste disposal sites identified by this project comprise tips, landfill sites and recycling centres. They are modern in origin and have been created to serve the needs of the growing urban population of Wiltshire and Swindon. The rise of recycling in modern society is reflected in the construction of bespoke processing centres, and accordingly it is hoped that the need for landfill sites will decrease over time. While some landfill sites and tips have closed and been re-landscaped (cf. restored fields), those that do remain in use are very intrusive landscape features that detract from the character of the areas they exist within.

Identification/Components

- Landfill sites are large pits filled with refuse and serviced by heavy duty vehicles
- Tips usually comprise enclosed hard standing areas with various refuse containers
- Recycling centres comprise processing buildings and sorting yards/hard standings
- Most sites are clearly marked on OS maps and easily identifiable on aerial photos

Rarity/Survival

While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable character that is not greatly at risk of survival. Restoration schemes for former tips and landfill sites do exist and typically create recreation areas (such as parks and golf courses). Where they do exist, features in this category do heavily impact the landscape, and are perceived negatively locally. In many instances, they have removed much of the prior landscape character.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Business park

Definition

Area designed to accommodate several businesses, usually non-industrial, but normally not exclusively retail.

Distribution



They occupy c.442 ha

Business parks are uncommon but some were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger in size

They focus on the larger towns, and there are clusters around Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Westbury/Warminster

They tend to be associated with urban settlement areas or civic or industrial activity zones

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

Business parks are modern creations inhabited by companies who want to focus their employment and service streams within bespoke and easily accessible sites. They are typically carefully planned complexes with multiple companies having their premises adjacent to one another and networks of roads linking them together. Such sites also typically have compounds, car parks and loading zones. They tend to exist at the periphery of larger urban areas and provide employment for many local residents. Some have associated recreational facilities for employees, or landscaping to improve their aesthetic aspect. They form part of the 20th/21st century landscape and reflect changes in society and employment practices.

Identification/Components

- Bespoke offices, buildings and complexes situated on planned estates
- Networks of associated roads, cul-de-sacs, compounds and parking areas
- Typically on the urban fringe and close to active transport routes
- Clearly marked on modern maps and easily identifiable on aerial photographs

Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As business parks are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Freight handling or warehousing

Definition

Facilities (buildings and directly associated grounds) for the storage of goods.

Distribution



They occupy c.58 ha

Freight handling or warehousing sites are rare but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger in size, or the dominant character type in the areas where they existed

They concentrate around Swindon and seem linked to the railway industry

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

The freight handling and warehousing sites identified in this HLC project are exclusively modern in origin. They tend to be associated with large businesses and so are often associated with the larger towns or urban centres in the county. Many are also situated in locations with excellent transport routes – be that by road, rail or air. As they are often associated with other industrial or commercial enterprises they tend not to comprise the dominant landscape character of an area. As the 21st century progresses, the number of these large warehouse sites will likely increase.

Identification/Components

- Large enclosed compounds for storage of goods, crates, cargo and containers
- Large sheds/warehouses or covered yards – sometimes reuse of historic buildings
- Associated car parking, ancillary buildings and cabins for office use
- Clearly marked on OS maps and situated near good transport routes

Rarity/Survival

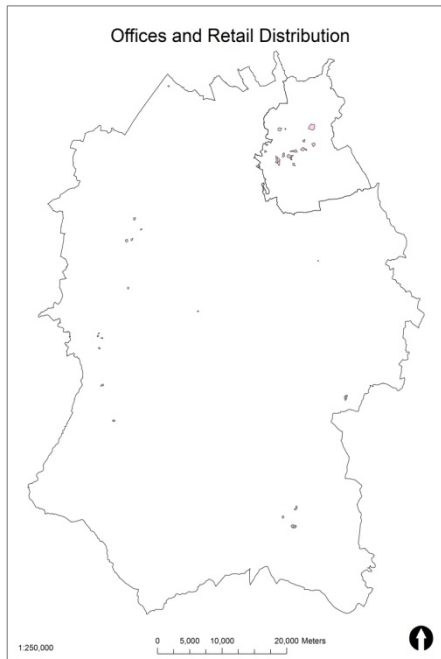
While rare, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As most warehouses/freight handling sites are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.

Historic Landscape Narrow Type Description: Offices and retail

Definition

Buildings or complexes of buildings, sometimes with associated car parking and ancillary facilities that are used for professional work or the sale of goods.

Distribution



They occupy c.394 ha

Office/retail sites are uncommon but many were not recorded by the project as they were not 2ha or larger

They concentrate around the larger towns, and there are clusters around Swindon, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Westbury/Warminster

They tend to be associated with urban settlement areas or civic or industrial activity zones

Most obscure or remove the prior landscape character

Historical Processes

The retail and commercial sites identified in this HLC project are exclusively modern in origin – although some do make use of historic buildings. Due to their nature, they exist primarily within urban settings as they form hubs that are easy to access. These commercial enterprises are the result of the 20th/21st century planning system, and as such they have often been carefully sited to encourage their use. This is a contrast to the historical patterns of commerce and employment where smaller scale endeavours were usually situated locally within villages or farm complexes.

Identification/Components

- Can be modern or historic buildings but generally situated within urban centres
- Large out of town retail complexes exist; some associated with industrial estates
- Usually shops, outlets, covered markets, office blocks/buildings sometimes with associated car parking, clearly delineated boundaries and ancillary facilities
- Often integrated with residential areas, industrial areas or those with civic functions

Rarity/Survival

While uncommon, this type forms an easily identifiable and very robust landscape character that is not greatly at risk of change or damage. As many offices/shops are recent and very functional constructions they do not contribute greatly to local character. In many instances, they have heavily impacted prior character due to their method of construction.