

# **APPENDIX B**

Summary Descriptions of National Character Areas and  
Regional / County Landscape Types  
in and around Wellington Heath

# 1. National Character Areas

- 1.1 Nationally, the country is divided into National Character Areas (NCAs)<sup>1</sup>. These are shown on Figure 1 - Location Plan and Overview.
- 1.2 NCAs are the responsibility of Natural England. They are “... *areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment*”.
- 1.3 Importantly, NCA profiles are “... *guidance documents which can help communities to inform their decision-making about the places that they live in and care for. The information they contain will support the planning of conservation initiatives at a landscape scale, inform the delivery of Nature Improvement Areas and encourage broader partnership working through Local Nature Partnerships. The profiles will also help to inform choices about how land is managed and can change.*”
- 1.4 The NCA profiles contain specific ‘Statements of Environmental Opportunity’ (SEOs) for each area, which offer guidance on the critical issues identified, and which could “... help to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future”.
- 1.5 The landscape in the majority of the study area is covered by NCA 100 Herefordshire Lowlands, although the eastern sectors are covered by NCA 103 Malvern Hills.
- 1.6 **NCA 100 Herefordshire Lowlands** lies almost entirely within Herefordshire, with small areas to the north and east in Shropshire and Worcestershire, and to the south-east in Gloucestershire.
- 1.7 It is largely tranquil and rural in character, but does include the larger settlements of Hereford and Leominster. There are small dispersed settlements of hamlets and villages, many of which contain older buildings with the local vernacular of black-and-white timber-framed buildings. Restored cider barns with characteristic double doors and historic farmsteads are also common.
- 1.8 The landscape is gently undulating with steep-sided cornstone hills in the central area dominated by ancient woodland of ash and field maple or oak and bracken. Woodland within the area is a significant landscape feature, typically on the hill tops and valley sides. Many of these woodlands are actively managed (commercially) to produce quality timber, for example Garnons Estate. The NCA is an important area for commercial agriculture supported by the fertile and high-grade agricultural soils; the farming is mixed arable and livestock. Traditional orchards are still to be found, though suffering decline, with new orchards and dwarf varieties of trees also common. The area is also important for commercial production of soft fruit under polytunnels, supplying much of the UK. Historic parklands such as at Berrington Hall have many veteran trees that are important for invertebrates.
- 1.9 There are many rivers in the area, the largest of which are the rivers Wye, Lugg and Frome, flowing through wide, fertile mudstone valleys. Old Red Sandstone is commonly found in the west and east of the area and here the soils take on a distinctive red colour. The River Wye Special Area of Conservation is of international importance, designated for its natural river habitat, which includes species such as native migratory fish (lamprey, shad and salmon), and the wide, meandering river valley creates a unique and beautiful landscape. Recreational opportunity is offered by long-distance trails including the Wye Valley Walk which links to the Shropshire Hills and the Herefordshire Trail which links the market towns in Herefordshire. Views can be expansive across to neighbouring NCAs, looking west to the Black Mountains, north to the Clun and Shropshire Hills, and east to the Malvern Hills.
- 1.10 The character area displays a wide range of key characteristics, many of which are relevant to this study as they are represented in the LSCA study area:
- Gently undulating landscape with localised steep-sided hills in the centre and wide agricultural flood plains.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

- Much of the area is underlain by Old Red Sandstone, with localised deposits of alluvium and glacial drift. There is also a small area of Silurian limestone and siltstone at Shucknall Hill.
- Fertile soils support intensive mixed agriculture, especially on the better drained glacial river terraces.
- Wide, meandering river valleys drain the area, including the Wye, a major ecological and recreational asset, and the Lugg, and the valleys of the rivers Frome and Arrow also offer rich habitats.
- Pasture with occasional wet meadows and permanent grassland along the rivers. Low hedgerows with sparse tree cover. Arable cultivation on lower-lying land.
- Localised traditional and bush orchards and occasional hop fields planted with windbreaks.
- Several historic parklands include Humphry Repton's landscape improvements at Garnons and Hampton Court, Capability Brown's landscape at Berrington Hall, Uvedale Price's Foxley and numerous medieval parks, many with important ancient and veteran trees.
- Timber-framed (black-and-white) buildings are characteristic with stone and red brick also used frequently as building materials.
- Dispersed rural settlement pattern throughout with scattered villages, hamlets, farmsteads and clustered settlements around commons.
- Historic market towns of Hereford and Leominster are the principal settlements.
- Tranquil and relatively undisturbed by major infrastructure aside from a few crossing A-roads between Hereford, Hay-on-Wye and Leominster.

1.11 The Statements of Environmental Opportunity for this NCA area are:

- **SEO 1:** Protect and manage the internationally important River Wye Special Area of Conservation and the many other watercourses and their flood plains to improve the health of the rivers and the quality and availability of water. Develop the capacity of the riverine environment to tolerate more extreme flow levels by protecting and creating new wet meadow and woodland in the flood plain and seek to increase recreational opportunities related to the riverine environment.
- **SEO 2:** Protect and enhance the natural and historic environment, integrating new development through the use of green infrastructure principles informed by existing heritage, geodiversity and biodiversity assets. Protect the agrarian character of the area by making the most of versatile and fertile soils to produce food while integrating semi-natural features and protecting above- and below-ground heritage assets and geological assets and reinforcing the strong sense of character.
- **SEO 3:** Protect, manage and restore semi-natural habitats, in particular woodlands, grasslands, orchards and wet meadows within the rural and urban areas to improve ecological connectivity, biodiversity, landscape character, the historic environment, and flood water storage capacity and the ability of the landscape to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In particular, manage, restore and create new woodland, and develop connectivity in other semi-natural habitats such as the hedgerow networks and orchards.

1.12 In this character area, Natural England identifies changes and trends; those of relevance to Wellington Heath include:

- The intensification of agriculture, leading to the removal of hedgerows;
- The area's traditional orchards being neglected, with newly created bush orchards having a very different character;
- Pasture improvement and arable expansion threaten areas of semi-natural grassland and meadow resulting in fragmentation and loss of habitats;
- The valley bottom meadows are under pressure from agricultural intensification and fragmentation; and
- Effects of climate change, especially on traditional orchards and woodlands.

- 1.13 The profile also sets out 'key drivers' in the landscape, and these are also relevant to the Parish:
- The need for food security may result in continued expansion of arable production. This may impact on ecological habitats, networks and species, as well as landscape character. Agri-environment schemes can offer opportunities to work with land managers to incorporate management of farmland habitats, develop and create networks of new habitats and enhance the rural character of this landscape.
  - In parts of the NCA, particularly Leominster and Hereford, development pressure provides a key driver for improved delivery of green infrastructure and the possibility to maximise opportunities to integrate it into new development from the outset.
  - Further growth of Hereford is considered to be constrained without the construction of an outer distributor road taking traffic away from the city centre. Options are being considered for routes to either the east or west of the city.
  - Increasing fuel costs have resulted in more biomass installations, a growing demand for woodfuel and more woodlands being managed.
- 1.14 **NCA 103 Malvern Hills** comprises a narrow ridge of rounded hills, with hill forts rising above the Severn and Avon Vales to the east. To the west these subside to the Herefordshire Lowlands, and to the north-west they subside to the Herefordshire Plateau. The area is described in the profile as follows:
- "...The area is one of great contrasts. These range from the majestic height of the hills themselves to the undulating swells and low wooded escarpments of Eastnor and the Suckley Hills, and to the jumble of rolling hills and woodlands marching away to the west. Most of the area lies within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)."*
- 1.15 The key characteristics of the Malvern Hills NCA are set out below: many of these are represented in this part of the study area:
- A prominent, narrow north–south ridge of high, unenclosed, rounded hills [which] ... form a highly visible dominant landmark, visible from a long distance;
  - A varied geology, which is reflected in the soils;
  - Along the Malvern Hills ridge there are a number of dramatic historic sites, including the bronze-age barrows, iron-age hill forts at British Camp and Midsummer Hill, and the Shire Ditch;
  - There is a high density of public rights of way and an extensive area of open access land;
  - There are good rail and road links to urban populations;
  - To the north and west of the hills there are wooded limestone ridges, separated by vales of mixed shale. The lower slopes and ridges – particularly the steeper ones – are densely wooded, with blocks of ancient woodland and occasional plantations. Many field boundaries are species-rich and also of medieval origin; and
  - The ridges and vales form a mixed pastoral landscape of small irregular fields, orchards, hop yards and many ancient, species-rich hedgerows and meadows. Interspersed throughout this landscape (particularly to the south, where larger farms and estates developed) are larger fields bounded by thorn.
- 1.16 The SEOs for NCA 103 are:
- SEO 1: Conserve and appropriately manage the areas of semi-natural habitat in the wider character area of the Malvern Hills such as woodland and traditional orchard, providing economic opportunities, fostering community participation;
  - SEO 2: Manage and improve access to the landscape, as well as the cultural and geological features of the Malvern Hills National Character Area and promote enhanced understanding and enjoyment to reinforce a strong sense of place;
  - SEO 3: Protect and appropriately manage the historic environment and its setting, ensuring that historic features and landscapes are recognisable and valued; and
  - SEO 4: Plan for an expansion of semi-natural habitats where appropriate, so that a significant ecological network is created and interconnected to adjoining areas. This will

increase biodiversity, pollination, food and drink production, as well as regulate soil erosion, water and soil quality, reinforcing a strong sense of place.

- 1.17 The changes and trends in this NCA which are of relevance to Wellington Heath include:
- Woodland clearance and the gradual loss of trees along hedgerows and stream sides have damaged visual links between areas historically cleared and those still wooded;
  - Hedgerow neglect and replacement with fencing;
  - Loss of local vernacular design and distinctiveness and 'higher' standards of highway management and road signing that can be out of character with the area;
  - Loss of traditional orchards and species-rich grassland;
  - Effects of climate change.
- 1.18 The 'key drivers' in this NCA landscape are also relevant to this part of the Parish:
- Potential opportunity to manage and extend traditional orchards and increase the resource for the production of fruit and apple juice, perry and cider and to benefit wildlife and pollination.
  - Development pressures present the opportunity to advocate good, sustainable design, looking to reduce the impact on the landscape and increase climate regulation, within the parameters of maintaining the built character. The sloping terrain may lend itself to the construction of earth-covered buildings.
  - Challenge to reduce the impacts on the NCA of polythene and polytunnels that are being used for intensive production of certain crops and can be highly visible. This is particularly prominent around the borders of the AONB, especially to the south and west.
  - Potential to manage the increased biomass production in the area, making use of wood which is already a component of the landscape.
  - Forestry Commission research indicates that there is scope for an additional 72 to 170 ha (average 120 ha) of woodland in the NCA. As well as increasing habitat this could absorb some of the pressure of recreational use from other heavily used areas.
  - Extension of semi-natural habitats and maintenance of hedgerows to connect adjoining landscapes and make biodiversity stepping stones and corridors.
  - Insensitive development can lead to the direct loss of, or adverse effect on, geodiversity through the loss of designated sites or exposures. Sensitive development, on the other hand, can create temporary or even permanent exposures and features.
- 1.19 More detailed information about the NCA and SEOs can be found in the NCA profiles at the link given above.

## 2. Regional / County Landscape Types

- 2.1 NCAs are relevant to this study for the reasons set out above, and it is important that the assessment evaluates whether the landscapes are good representations of landscape character at a national level. However, the NCA descriptions usually cover large areas, so for more county-specific detail it is necessary to look at the landscape character 'types' (LCTs) which have been surveyed and categorised by both Herefordshire Council and the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership (AONBP)<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 The LSCA study area is covered by several countywide landscape character types (LCTs), which are indicative of the complexity and variety of the landscapes of the area. The types

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<sup>2</sup> HC's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (2004, updated 2009) is Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). The AONB Partnership's Landscape Strategy and Guideline (2011) provides direction and guidance on how the different landscapes of the Malvern Hills AONB can be managed in order to obtain optimum character, condition and sustainability. Both are essential sources of reference for all landscape-related matters, the former throughout the County and the latter within the AONB.

- reflect differences in geology and topography, and subsequent variations in landuse and landcover which give rise to character.
- 2.3 These are shown on Figure 3 – LSCA Landscape Baseline, and illustrated throughout the main report.
- 2.4 The types, descriptions and issues of most relevance to the capacity study are summarised below, most of the text being extracts from HC's LCA and / or the AONBP's *Landscape Strategy and Guidelines*. Any notable variations which arise in the local landscape are described later in this report.
- 2.5 The information contained in both of the guidance documents is similar, and / or identical in places, but the AONB's guidance focusses on more localised areas, follows a slightly different structure, and was published more recently than HC's. For the purpose of this assessment, the descriptions of the LCTs which lie within the AONB are based on the AONBP's *Landscape Strategy and Guidelines*, and those which lie outside the AONB are based on HC's LCA.

### **Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings**

#### LOCATION IN WELLINGTON HEATH

This LCT covers the whole of Wellington Heath village centre, along with the fields which are contiguous with the edge of the settlement and slope down to the east, west and north west.

#### CHARACTER

The Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings is an intimate, densely settled landscape, characterised by strings of wayside cottages and associated smallholdings. The settlement comprises a mixture of different styles, mostly post-war in age, but also including some older brick/timber and stone built dwellings. These nestle within a complex matrix of small pastoral fields, historic orchards and a network of narrow winding lanes, often defined by tall hedges with hedgerow trees. The ad hoc pattern of settlement and fields is a distinctive feature, which owes its character to the clearance and enclosure of areas of former wood pasture and common. The associated small fields and pockets of rough ground, with semi-natural heathy / acid grassland vegetation, are a recurring feature and provide constant reminders of the origin of this landscape.

#### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Densely settled pattern of small holdings and wayside cottages
- Settlement plots and gardens separated by small orchards and pasture fields
- Network of narrow winding lanes
- Hedged field boundaries with hedgerow trees
- Patches of heathy / acid grassland vegetation
- Mixture of older and more modern building styles
- Nonconformist chapels
- An intimate landscape with a strong sense of enclosure.

#### STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

Human activity in this complex, small scale landscape has resulted in a unified and distinctive small scale character. The landscape owes its character to the clearance, enclosure and settlement of areas of former wood pasture and common, which has resulted in the development of a random, opportunistic settlement pattern. The density, scale and pattern of both dwellings and lanes create a distinctive and intimate character.

#### FORCES FOR CHANGE

This landscape is affected by a degree of recent urbanisation, with much post-war development, of both new, larger dwellings and alteration of older dwellings. This has resulted in the infill of open spaces between older dwellings and within former smallholdings to create a more settled 'urban fringe' character. The distinctive built character of some older buildings has also become degraded and continues to be vulnerable to change through the expansion and modification of existing properties.

Changes and an intensification of land use, for example, as a result of creeping urbanisation, have also led to the degradation or loss of hedgerows. This change in land use has altered the traditional pattern of settlement and introduced unusual features into the landscape, including fencing normally associated with residential developments. Such changes have had a significant impact on the overall character and unity of this landscape.

#### FUTURE LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities to consider how built development could be planned and managed in a manner which would reinforce, rather than degrade, the traditional pastoral character of this landscape. There are also opportunities to reinforce landscape pattern through the protection and management of hedgerows.

#### OVERALL LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

This is a landscape where sub-urbanisation of the style and pattern of settlement are evident and where changes to land management are reinforcing this changing character. The result is a reduction in the strength of character and a decline in appropriate management of characteristic landscape elements. The overall strategy is therefore to **Enhance the overall unity and historic character of this small scale, settled pastoral landscape.**

#### LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

- Conserve the historic enclosure pattern
- Conserve all older permanent pastures
- Conserve the network of narrow winding rural lanes
- Maintain/ restore hedgerow boundaries
- Maintain and manage hedgerow trees, ensuring a diverse age structure
- Manage/ restore all remaining patches of semi-natural vegetation
- Encourage sensitive restoration of historic farmsteads and buildings
- Promote the uptake of renewable, particularly solar, energy
- Seek opportunities to restore / create orchards
- Reinforce vernacular character in new development through appropriate siting, design, scale and materials.

#### **Settled Farmlands on River Terrace**

##### LOCATION IN WELLINGTON HEATH

This LCT covers a locally-broad swathe of landscapes which lie to the north west, west, south and east of the parts of the Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings LCT which covers the village centre.

##### CHARACTER

In Herefordshire, this LCT is only found along the River Leadon near Ledbury (although it is not confined to a narrow corridor).

This is an open, intensively cultivated, settled agricultural landscape, associated with fertile, free draining river terrace soils. These soils give rise to a productive, horticultural land use, where intensive commercial orchards are a recurring and visually prominent feature of the landscape.

Overall this is a medium-scale landscape with a rolling lowland topography, characterised by medium-sized fields, often with sinuous boundaries and tall hedgerows. Woodland and hedgerow trees are often absent, allowing open views.

Settlement is sparsely dispersed and tends to be found in discrete clusters of farmsteads and roadside dwellings. Oast houses are a feature in places and most buildings are of timber frame construction with clay tiling.

##### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Free draining, sandy brown soils
- Intensive horticultural production
- Large commercially managed orchards
- Medium-scale, sub-regular field pattern

- Sparse hedgerow tree cover
- Open views
- Clusters of roadside settlement.

#### STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

The agricultural land use, the sub-regular pattern of fields with commercial orchards and the open views define the character of this landscape. The area is also characterised by a dispersed pattern of farmsteads and clusters of roadside dwellings. These features need to be conserved and, enhancements are needed if the local distinctiveness and wider value of this landscape is to be retained.

#### FORCES FOR CHANGE

The pressure on the land from intensive agricultural/horticultural practices and the consequent rationalisation of traditional patterns has resulted in a decline in the structure of this landscape as hedgerows lose their function, become neglected and deteriorate. It is likely that the value of the land for biodiversity has also declined in the past. As a consequence of the changing field pattern, the survival of hedgerow trees is threatened. Growing demand for apples has led to more commercial orchard planting in this landscape type while growing pressure to increase productivity of soft fruits has seen large-scale polytunnel development in adjacent areas, which is visually intrusive and impacts on the tranquillity and beauty of the landscape.

The density of settlement in this area is low because the land is highly valued for intensive agriculture. Currently there is localised ribbon development with red-brick interwar housing, while recent roadside development is also evident. Development in adjacent areas is likely to increase with proposals for residential and commercial development on the outskirts of Ledbury. The location and design of such development needs to be carefully managed, so as not to impact on the existing rural settlement pattern of farmsteads and small clusters of dwellings which characterise this landscape.

#### FUTURE LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES

The agricultural landscape of the Settled Farmlands on River Terrace is liable to change from many factors, particularly the economy. Changing markets and the introduction of commercial orchards have had an impact on rural character, leading to the creation of new textures and alteration of the visual character of this landscape. The restoration and enhancement of characteristic landscape features such as open, uncluttered views and traditional orchards should be a priority alongside careful management of farm practices and built development.

#### OVERALL LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

This is an intensively farmed agricultural landscape where there is much evidence of change, resulting in a consequent degradation of the cultural pattern. The overall strategy for the Settled Farmlands on River Terrace should be to **Conserve the traditional rural character of this open, agricultural landscape, whilst seeking ways to enhance both the structure of the cultural pattern and its associated biodiversity.**

#### LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

- Conserve remaining traditional orchards
- Maintain/enhance tree cover and wetland vegetation along watercourses
- Conserve archaeological evidence of field pattern in the southern part of the area
- Conserve all mature and veteran trees
- Manage field pattern and hedgerows to provide good ecological habitats and good visual screening around orchards
- Create/ maintain a minimum 4m buffer strip around arable/horticultural field margins
- Maintain and manage hedgerow trees, ensuring a diverse age structure
- Seek opportunities to restore/ enhance the biodiversity of agricultural land
- Seek opportunities to restore/ create orchards



## **Principal Wooded Hills**

### LOCATION IN WELLINGTON HEATH

This LCT covers the wooded landscapes north, east and south-east of the village. It is adjacent to the Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings LCT north and north east of the village, but is separated from it by the Settled Farmlands on River Terrace LCT to the south east.

### CHARACTER

The Principal Wooded Hills is a densely wooded landscape, associated with bands of Silurian sandstones and limestones which form escarpments. The ridges enclose vales eroded in softer shales and mudstones. There is an undulating, in places steeply-sloping topography rising locally towards the adjoining ridge of the Malvern Hills. The character of the landscape is derived from the pronounced relief and the dominant, interlocking woodland cover, often located on the ridges, which together provide a strong sense of visual unity. This landscape has a significant cover of ancient semi-natural woodland with large, irregularly shaped woodlands and wooded streamlines, often forming an interlocking pattern with the surrounding thickly hedged fields and traditional orchards.

Where there has been historic clearance of the woodland, the presence of strong, often species-rich hedge lines with many mature hedgerow oak trees contribute strongly to the character of the landscape. The upstanding topography means that long distance views into and out of this landscape are frequent and often framed by woodlands.

Overall this is a sparsely-settled landscape, characterised by historic farmsteads, with occasional outfarms and smallholdings, dispersed throughout the area. These consist of a variety of farm plans dominated by regular courtyards with some loose courtyard types.

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Varied, often steeply-sloping, topography

Ancient mixed hard rock geology with narrow bands of harder limestone

Frequent, narrow wooded valleys, or dingles

Large, interconnecting, irregularly-shaped blocks of ancient broadleaved woodland

Organic pattern of thickly-hedged pastoral fields

Patches of rough grassland and scrub

Sparsely-settled pattern of farmsteads and wayside dwellings

Small limestone quarries

Long-distance views framed by woodland

### STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

The steeply-sloping topography and frequent, interlocking blocks of ancient woodland are prominent features throughout this landscape. The undulating topography, comprising a series of narrow limestone ridges and localised sandstone hills, provides a particularly important unifying feature. The interlocking ancient woodland is linked to areas of historic clearance by thick hedgerow field boundaries, creating a visually-integrated landscape. These features create a strong strength of character and need to be conserved.

Opportunities for enhancing biodiversity should also be sought if the local distinctiveness of this landscape is to be maintained.

### FORCES FOR CHANGE

The distinctive character of the Principal Wooded Hills relies heavily upon the extensive irregularly-shaped woodland cover, which creates a strong visual unity. Due to previous forestry practices, however, planting has in places created single-species compartments with geometric shapes, which compromise the visual integrity of the landscape. In addition, the introduction of a high proportion of conifers has in places reduced the ecological value of the woodland.

Hedgerow and streamside trees play a vital role in maintaining a link between the areas of historic woodland clearance and those areas still wooded today. Past woodland clearance and the loss of hedgerow and streamside trees have had a localised impact on this landscape

and have led to a loss of biodiversity. Many hedgerows are also dominated by mature and veteran 'standard' hedgerow trees and lack the younger trees required to sustain this feature in the landscape.

Horse-pasturing and the keeping of horses constitutes a significant land use in certain parts of the Principal Wooded Hills. This activity can make an important contribution to the local economy and, if well managed, can also contribute positively to the local landscape.

#### FUTURE LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES

Ancient woodlands are of high nature conservation value and usually have a diverse flora and fauna. The introduction of conifers has, on balance, reduced the ecological value of these landscape features. Opportunities should be sought to replace conifers with locally-occurring native tree species found in adjoining ancient woodlands. There are also some opportunities to plant new woodlands and traditional orchards to enhance degraded areas. The new woodlands and orchards should be designed to fit into and enhance the irregular pattern of woodlands and hedgerows.

There has been some loss of hedgerow trees in the past, often associated with removal of internal hedged field boundaries. The ecological and landscape value of these trees should be restored, for example through the planting of native hedgerow species to complement the existing hedgerow network.

Within the Principal Wooded Hills landscape there are some remaining areas of grassland that are no longer adequately grazed, resulting in the encroachment of scrub and secondary woodland. There is a need to re-establish grazing in these areas.

#### OVERALL LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

This is a landscape with a strong character that is generally in good condition. In places, however, there have been past changes in the pattern and species composition of both the woodlands and connecting hedgerows, which has impacted on the visual integrity of the landscape. The overall strategy for the Principal Wooded Hills, therefore, should be to **Conserve the overall unity and linked, ancient wooded character of the landscape and seek opportunities for enhancing biodiversity.**

#### LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

- Conserve the historic enclosure pattern
- Conserve all older permanent pastures
- Conserve and maintain all remaining blocks of ancient woodland
- Conserve all mature and veteran trees
- Conserve the network of narrow rural lanes
- Conserve the historic pattern of settlement
- Conserve remaining traditional orchards
- Protect the heritage value of small quarries
- Manage/ restore all remaining patches of semi-natural vegetation
- Maintain and manage hedgerow trees, ensuring a diverse age structure
- Enhance landscape character through sensitive pasture management
- Manage / restore hedgerow boundaries
- Manage gamebirds to support sustainable woodland and hedgerow management
- Maintain and manage all woodlands using traditional forestry management practices
- Encourage sensitive restoration of historic farmsteads and buildings
- Maintain/ enhance tree cover and wetland vegetation along watercourses
- Seek ways to better integrate large buildings / structures into the landscape
- Seek opportunities to create new woodlands

- Promote opportunities for grazing on commons
- Seek opportunities to restore / create new orchards
- Seek opportunities to restore/ enhance the biodiversity of agricultural land
- Replace conifer plantations in ancient woods.

2.6 The other LCTs in the LSCA study area are listed below. For detailed information about these LCTs, please refer to HC's LCA and / or the AONBP's Landscape Strategy and Guidelines as appropriate:

- **Principal Timbered Farmlands** (covering the landscape beyond the Principal Wooded Hills LCT on the northern side of the village);
- **Principal Settled Farmlands** (beyond the Settled Farmlands on River Terrace LCT west of the village);
- **Riverside Meadows** along the River Leadon valley; and
- **Estate Farmlands** west of the Riverside Meadows.