

Cabbagefield Row, Havant

Landscape and Visual Evidence and Appraisal

Volume 1 Landscape and Visual Evidence

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The **terra firma** Consultancy Ltd.
www.terrafirmaconsultancy.com

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Project reference: 2270

Date	Rev	By	Chk	Comments
13.04.21	P01	KB	AG	Stage 1 issue
2.8.21	P02	KB		Minor changes following comments from client.

1. Introduction

1.1. Appointment

1.1.1. The terra firma Consultancy was appointed in March 2021 to provide landscape architectural services in support of the proposed development of land at Cabbagefield Row, Havant. Our services involve the production of a Landscape and Visual Evidence and Impact Appraisal (LVE&IA) which, all in light of the client brief, comprises:

- Developing an understanding of the site and its setting;
- Defining what matters most about the landscape and visual aspects;
- Incorporating these into the best possible development proposals which maximises opportunities and potentials; and
- Minimises and mitigates harm;

1.1.2. For the purposes of the planning process the above work is presented in two volumes:

- Volume 1 Landscape and Visual Evidence (LVE) comprises our understanding of the site and its setting and the identification of what is important. This is critical in developing context-appropriate proposals and minimising harm and is the starting point for our work. The design and assessment should not be viewed as a linear process but rather an iterative one, with the identification of potential harm and mitigation informing the design at every stage, along with the work of other disciplines.
- Volume 2 Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal will comprise the assessment / appraisal section of the final landscape report which will be completed once the final design is confirmed and will be as an impartial assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the final proposals.

1.2. Report structure

1.2.1. Volume 1 is set out as below:

- Introduction; report structure; project brief; site location;
- Policy framework; planning policies; landscape character assessments; planning evidence;
- Landscape elements, qualities, functions and character: description and sensitivities;
- Views: description and sensitivities;
- Summary of emerging key design drivers; constraints and opportunities.
- Appendix 1: Landscape and Visual Evidence methodology
- Appendix 2: Figures
- Appendix 3: Landscape baseline table

1.3. Project brief

1.3.1. The brief for the design team is to produce an outline planning application for approximately 150 dwellings on the 7.4 hectare site (red line area) with a developable area of 3.7 hectares. The brief for landscape architectural input is to advise on a landscape led approach to the location and arrangement of development on the site and to assess the impact of 150 dwellings on landscape and views and to support the pre-application discussions with the local authority.

1.4. Site location

1.4.1. The site is located on the northern edge of Havant to the west of Staunton Country Park (refer to Figure 1 Site location).

2. Policy and guidance framework

2.1. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019)

2.1.1. The NPPF confirms that the purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development and that there should be a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Planning policy-making and decision-making should take into account the roles and character of different areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services. Paragraph 170 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- *'protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)*
- *'recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland*
- *'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures*

2.2. Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011)

2.2.1. The relevant policies of the Havant Borough Core Strategy as they relate to the site and its landscape setting are concerned with the following:

- Creating new open spaces close to housing developments and the provision of additional allotments. (Policy CS1)
- Creating developments which provide well-lit footpaths and cycle ways (providing this does not adversely affect designated habitats or landscapes), maximising opportunities for natural surveillance and the amount of 'defensible space'. (Policy CS8)
- Protecting and enhancing key landscape principles (as set out in the Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments), designated landscapes, and habitats, areas designated for nature conservation or heritage and the best and most versatile agricultural land. (Policy CS11)
- Maintaining, managing and improving green infrastructure. (Policy CS13)
- Responding to existing features of natural, historic or local character, integrating with existing landscape features and promoting biodiversity. (Policy CS16)
- Tenure blind design. (Policy CS16)
- Concentrating development within the urban areas of Havant Leigh Park, Waterlooville, Emswoth and Hayling Island. The southern parcel of this site lies within this policy boundary (CS17)
- Protecting and enhancing local habitats and landscape distinctiveness including features of nature conservation or amenity importance and providing new landscape works that successfully integrate with the local environment. (Policy DM8)

2.3. Havant Borough Local Plan (allocations) (2014)

2.3.1. The southern parcel of this site lies within the boundary of Policy AL2 which defines the Urban Boundaries and Undeveloped Gaps between Settlements.

2.3.2. The southern parcel of the site is allocated for housing under Policy UE6a subject to the following landscape requirements;

- *Access to be provided south onto Swanmore Road*
- *A Landscape Assessment will be required to support a planning application, which sets out how mature trees*

and hedgerow have been retained wherever possible and how screening and the design of buildings will mitigate any impacts on the undeveloped area. Strong landscape boundary to be retained and strengthened where possible to minimise the impact on the undeveloped gap.

2.3.3. The Study into the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity and the Value of the Undeveloped Open Land in HBC (2015)

- 2.3.4. The site was not examined as part of this study as the southern parcel lies within the Urban Boundary as defined by Policy AL2 and is allocated for housing by Policy UE6a (refer to 2.3. above).

2.4. Havant Borough Council Borough Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2011)

- 2.4.1. Area 7i Warren Park - Residential Suburb lies to the immediate south of the site and relevant design guidance as it may be considered to relate to the site and its landscape setting is concerned with the following:

- *For new development to make the most of the views to the countryside*
- *To encourage new development to introduce more distinctive buildings or landmarks to help legibility, where appropriate*
- *To ensure that new developments fully utilise land for development and avoid left over areas of space without function and make the most of existing areas of open space*
- *To improve pedestrian access to the countryside and to The Warren, Park Lane, Havant Thicket and Staunton Country Park through improved signage and routes and to encourage the upgrade of surfacing on rural edge footpaths and bridleways*
- *To encourage street tree planting to enhance the character of the streets and improve sense of enclosure and enhance the wooded landscape character of the surrounding area*
- *To encourage the replacement of existing and new front garden boundaries with walls/ fences below 1.5 metres and to ensure new developments reflect this preference*

2.5. Landscape character assessment

- 2.5.1. Relevant published landscape character assessments are listed below. These have been reviewed and the relevant key characteristics and guidelines taken into account in section 4 and the table in Appendix 3. The most relevant of these is Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007) which has a good level of detail and identifies valued characteristics as well as detractors and strategies. Therefore we have focussed on the Havant Borough LCA, adding other aspects from the national and county LCAs as well as our own observations, where they add to our understanding.

- National Character Assessment 128: South Hampshire Lowlands
- Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (2012); LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East, Landscape Character Type: Coastal Plain Open
- Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007): Landscape Character Area (LCA) 20: Staunton Country Park, Landscape Character Type B: Lowland Settled Wooded Farmland

2.6. National Design Guide (2019):

The National Design Guide supports paragraph 130 of the NPPF which states that 'permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions'. The NDG sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics to be used to inform development proposals and their assessment by local planning authorities. The most relevant characteristics to LVE are:

2.6.1. Characteristic 1: Context: Enhances the surroundings

2.6.1.1. Para 37 describes this 'the location of the development and the attributes of its immediate, local and regional surroundings.' Para 38 states that 'An understanding of the context, history and the cultural characteristics of a site, neighbourhood and region influences the location, siting and design of new developments. It means they are well grounded in their locality and more likely to be acceptable to existing communities. Creating a positive sense of place helps to foster a sense of belonging and contributes to well-being, inclusion and community cohesion.'

2.6.1.2. Para 39 states that well-designed places are:

- based on a sound understanding of the features of the site and the surrounding context, using baseline studies as a starting point for design;
- integrated into their surroundings so they relate well to them;
- influenced by and influence their context positively; and
- responsive to local history, culture and heritage.

2.6.2. Characteristic 2: Identity: Attractive and distinctive

2.6.2.1. Para 49 describes this as 'the identity or character of a place comes from the way that buildings, streets and spaces, landscape and infrastructure combine together and how people experience them. It is not just about the buildings or how a place looks, but how it engages with all of the senses. Local character makes places distinctive. Well-designed, sustainable places with a strong identity give their users, occupiers and owners a sense of pride, helping to create and sustain communities and neighbourhoods.'

2.6.2.2. Para 50 states that Well-designed places, buildings and spaces:

- have a positive and coherent identity that everyone can identify with, including residents and local communities, so contributing towards health and well-being, inclusion and cohesion;
- have a character that suits the context, its history, how we live today and how we are likely to live in the future; and
- are visually attractive, to delight their occupants and other users.

2.6.3. Characteristic 5: Nature: Enhanced and optimised

2.6.3.1. Para 90 describes this as 'Nature contributes to the quality of a place, and to people's quality of life, and it is a critical component of well-designed places. Natural features are integrated into well-designed development. They include natural and designed landscapes, high quality public open spaces, street trees, and other trees, grass, planting and water.'

2.6.3.2. Para 91 states that well-designed places:

- integrate existing, and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and addresses climate change mitigation and resilience;
- prioritise nature so that diverse ecosystems can flourish to ensure a healthy natural environment that supports and enhances biodiversity;
- provide attractive open spaces in locations that are easy to access, with activities for all to enjoy, such as play, food production, recreation and sport, so as to encourage physical activity and promote health, well-being and social inclusion.

2.7. Summary

2.7.1. The key implications of the above policies, assessments and guidance have been considered further in relation to landscape and visual aspects in the following sections 3-5.

3. Landscape elements, qualities, functions and character

3.1. Methodology

- 3.1.1. The landscape elements, qualities, functions, and character of the site and its wider area are described in the table set out in Appendix 3 and summarised below. These form the landscape baseline evidence which both informs the development proposals and, where likely to be affected by the development, form the landscape receptors against which the proposals are assessed. The sensitivity of landscape receptors is established by combining judgements on value with those on susceptibility to the type of change proposed, in line with the methodology set out in Appendix 1.

3.2. General description of existing site and setting

- 3.2.1. The site comprises an irregular parcel of rough grassland, scrub and young, self-seeded trees located to the north of Swanmore Road, Havant from which it is accessed. The northern part of the site comprises a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) known as Dunsbury Hill Grassland 2. Towards the centre of the site is an area of higher ground at approximately 40m AOD. The lowest point is in the north-west corner at approx. 25m AOD. Currently the site is used for informal recreation including dog-walking and unauthorised motocross. There is no built form on the site but a telecommunications mast is located towards the eastern boundary.
- 3.2.2. To the south of the site, bounded by vegetation, lies Swanmore Road which in turn forms the northern boundary of The Warren housing estate. To the west lies a wooded stream valley, Dunsbury Hill Wood which is a SINC and to the north are situated bridleway 108/120/2 and Bell's Copse (SINC and Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland). Beyond the eastern boundary lies Staunton Country Park. To the northern part of the eastern boundary this is adjacent to bridleway 108/121/1 but in the south Cabbagefield Row (SINC/ Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland) lies between the site and the bridleway.
- 3.2.3. Deerslaughter Plain which lies to the east of bridleway 108/121/1, within Staunton Country Park, is the proposed site of the Havant Thicket Reservoir (Planning ref: APP/20/00990) which is yet to be determined. These proposals are for the construction of a reservoir of approximately 1.6km x 0.8km with routes for walking, cycling and horse-riding, a visitors centre, picnic and play areas and wetland habitat. The 'Southern Access Option' is located on Swanmore Road approximately 150m east of the south-east corner of the site.

3.3. Topography and soils

- 3.3.1. The site comprises a somewhat undulating piece of ground with a noticeable high-point in the centre/east at approx 42m AOD which falls to approx 25m AOD in the north-west corner and approx. 21m AOD in the south-west, adjacent to Swanmore Road. The soil is classified as poor quality agricultural land (Grade 4) with limited scope for producing food and a low carbon content.
- 3.3.2. The site's topography, being largely typical of the wider LCA has medium value and susceptibility to the type of change proposed and is therefore assigned a medium sensitivity. The sites soils have a low value and are slightly susceptible to compaction and contamination through construction works and therefore we assign them a low sensitivity.

3.4. Hydrology

- 3.4.1. There are no water bodies on site but a stream lies off site to the west. The site lies within a nitrate vulnerable zone. The site is permeable and has a role in absorbing rainfall. Water may potentially run off the site and feed the stream. The sites hydrology is considered to have low value but a medium susceptibility to change through potential reduction of the site's ability to absorb water and the potential contamination of the stream and we assign it a medium sensitivity.

3.5. Land use

- 3.5.1. Land use is informal recreation which is assessed under access and recreation.

3.6. Vegetation and biodiversity

- 3.6.1. The site is partly surrounded by SINC and Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands with boundary woodlands graded as Grade A in the Arboricultural Survey. In addition the northern part of the site is designated as a SINC and has a high value and susceptibility to the specific type of change is therefore assigned a high sensitivity.
- 3.6.2. The interior of the southern part of the site which comprises patches of ruderal vegetation and scrub has medium value as it contributes to ecosystem services through carbon sequestration and providing food for pollinators and is considered to have a high susceptibility to change and is therefore, on balance, assigned a high sensitivity.
- 3.6.3. The boundary vegetation to Swanmore Road which includes some mature trees (1 no. Grade A, 1 no. Grade B that are not subject to TPO) is considered to be of medium value due to its contribution to ecology, amenity and carbon sequestration and medium susceptibility to the specific type of change which equates to an overall medium sensitivity.

3.7. Settlement and road pattern

- 3.7.1. There are no settlements or roads on the site. Those that are adjacent to the site are generally well-contained by the boundary vegetation to the north of Swanmore Road which provides a strong edge. The adjacent settlement is considered of low value and with a medium susceptibility to the specific type of change and, on balance, we assign a medium sensitivity.

3.8. Access and recreation

- 3.8.1. The site is not formally designated as access land but used for informal recreation and unauthorised motocross. The bridleways to the north and to the east retain a largely rural setting and are considered to be of medium value and medium susceptibility to the specific type of change which equates to a medium sensitivity.

3.9. History

- 3.9.1. The site historically formed part of the Forest of Bere but the extant field pattern dates from the 19th or 20th century. Historic map regression shows little change in the field pattern since the mid Victorian times. The site lies adjacent to the Staunton Country Park but is not considered to form part of the setting of the Sir Gorge Staunton Conservation Area which lies within it. The creation of the A3(M) and the nearby housing developments have somewhat eroded this sense of history and as such history is considered to have a medium value and medium susceptibility to the specific type of change which equates to a medium sensitivity.

3.10. Perceptual qualities

- 3.10.1. The site retains a slight sense of remoteness but is influenced by traffic noise, power lines and nearby development especially in the south. Perceptual qualities are therefore given a low value and a low susceptibility to the specific type of change which equates to a low sensitivity.

3.11. Cultural connections / memories

- 3.11.1. The site lies adjacent to the Staunton Country Park which includes features associated with an historic country estate which as assessed under 'History'. There are no other apparent cultural connections and accordingly 'cultural connections' will not be carried forward for assessment.

3.12. Condition and coherence

- 3.12.1. The site is a somewhat isolated area of open ground surrounded by woodland to the north, west and (partially) the east. Whilst it connects fairly well to the landscape to the north-east it is less well-connected in the south and west. It is in a neglected state with self-sown trees and scrub, litter and evidence of use for unauthorised motocross. Condition is considered on balance to be of low value and low susceptibility to change which equates to a low sensitivity. Coherence is considered to be of medium value and low susceptibility to change which equates to a medium sensitivity.

3.13. Built form and materials

- 3.13.1. The only built form on site is a telecommunications mast and as such built form and materials will not be taken forward for assessment.

3.14. Ecosystem services summary

- 3.14.1. The site provides some contribution to ecosystem services in the following ways: through absorbing rainfall, carbon sequestration, providing resources for pollinators and recreational opportunities and these services are taken into account in the preceding sections

4. Views

4.1. Methodology

- 4.1.1. The visibility of the site is influenced by the topography of the surrounding area and the presence of features such as buildings and vegetation. The topography of the area is illustrated in Figure 8 and this is the basis for the diagram showing the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) Figure 10. The ZTV is used to guide fieldwork, ruling out areas where the likely proposed development would be screened by landform. The visual study zone was limited to 3 km beyond which views are unlikely to be affected. Likely views from private houses are assessed from within the site.
- 4.1.2. Figure 9 indicates the location of photographic viewpoints. Figures 12 to 20 set out photographs annotated to describe the distance of the viewpoint from the site, the direction of the view, the nature of the viewpoint, type and relative numbers of visual receptors and the visibility of the existing site. Views of a similar nature which are likely to be affected by the development, are grouped together below and an overall assessment of the sensitivity of the view receptors is made by combining judgements on value with those on susceptibility to the type of change proposed, in line with the methodology set out in Appendix 1. These view receptors form the visual receptors against which the proposals are assessed. The potential visibility of the proposed development and any seasonal changes to that visibility are also described next to each photograph and this informs the emerging development proposals. Viewpoints with no existing or potential view of the site are not considered further.

4.2. General description of visibility

- 4.2.1. The site is generally well-screened by boundary vegetation which limits views into the site. Views will be possible from bridleway 108/120/2 which bounds the north of the site and from bridleway 108/121/1 which runs along part of the eastern boundary. There are views of the southern boundary of the site and may be views onto the site from residential properties facing northwards on Swanmore Road.

4.3. Views from Swanmore and Calshot Roads (Viewpoints 1 to 4)

- 4.3.1. These views represent visual receptors on Swanmore and Calshot Road to the south. View receptors will be motorists concentrating on the road ahead and pedestrians and cyclists who would have greater interest in their surroundings. All would be on the edge of a settlement, with some close to a Country Park and have moderate expectation of scenic beauty somewhat reduced by the proximity of adjacent housing. We therefore assign these

receptors a medium sensitivity and low susceptibility to the specific type of change, which on balance, equates to a medium sensitivity.

4.4. Views from PRow to the east- bridleway 108/121/1 (viewpoint 7)

- 4.4.1. These views represent visual receptors on PRow to the east of the site, adjacent to Staunton Country Park. View receptors will be walkers and horse-riders with an interest in their surroundings and some expectation of scenic beauty. Receptors in the south, within the Staunton Country Park but closer to the settlement, would have, on balance similar expectations. We therefore assign this receptor a high value and a medium susceptibility to the specific type of change which, on balance, equates to a high sensitivity.

4.5. Views from PRow to the north- bridleways 108/120/1 and 108/120/2 (viewpoints 8, 9, 10 and 14)

- 4.5.1. These views represent visual receptors on PRow to the north of the site. View receptors will be walkers and horse-riders close to a settlement but with an interest in their surroundings and a moderate expectation of scenic beauty. We therefore assign these receptors a medium value and a medium susceptibility to the specific type of change which equates to a medium sensitivity.

4.6. Views from PRow within Staunton Country Park - bridleway 108/120/3 (viewpoint 12)

- 4.6.1. These views represent visual receptors on PRow to the north-east of the site within Staunton Country Park. View receptors will be walkers and horse-riders with an interest in their surroundings and some expectation of scenic beauty but aware of the proximity of the settlement which can occasionally be viewed. We therefore assign these receptors a high value and a medium susceptibility to the specific type of change which equates, on balance, to a high sensitivity.

4.7. Private views from houses

- 4.7.1. There are a small number of houses opposite the site's southern boundary on the southern side of Swanmore Road, and in Stacey Court and Teglease Green with views looking towards it from north-facing, first floor and ground floor windows and gardens, heavily filtered by boundary vegetation. The value of these private views is considered to be low as they are not attributed any formal value by society, but they have a high susceptibility to the type of change and an overall high sensitivity.

5. Summary of key design drivers, constraints and opportunities

- 5.7.1. The key sensitivities, constraints and opportunities are summarised below and illustrated in Figure 21.
- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity such Staunton Country Park, SINC and Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
 - Creating new open spaces close to housing developments
 - Enhance existing green infrastructure and provide additional habitat and pedestrian linkages
 - Responding positively to the site's topography and minimising the need for cut and fill.
 - Protecting the nearby watercourses and boundary vegetation
 - Minimising impact on sensitive visual receptors on PRow, within Staunton Country Park and private views from nearby houses.

6. References

- National Character Assessment (NCA, 2014)
- National Design Guide, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2019)
- Havant Borough Core Strategy (2011)
- Havant Borough Council Borough Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2011)
- Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007)
- Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (2012)
- The Landscape Institute and IEMA 'Guidelines for landscape and visual impact assessment' 3rd Edition (2013)
- The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage: 'Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland' (2002)
- Natural England: 'Agricultural Land Classification mapping' (2010)
- MAGIC website

Appendix 1: LVE Methodology

1. Scope and methodology of study

1.1. Scoping of the study

The geographical scope of the landscape baseline included the site itself and parts of the area immediately surrounding the site likely to be impacted by the proposals.

The landscape character of the wider area, as described by landscape character assessments carried out at Borough level has been reviewed and used as context. A detailed character assessment of the site and its immediate setting has been carried out as part of this study.

The geographical scope of the visual study was established through the creation of a computer-generated zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) which ruled out some areas where landform would block views. The remaining areas of potential visibility were then checked in the field by visiting publicly accessible areas and photographs were taken to record views towards the site.

1.2. Methodology Guidance

This study has been undertaken in a systematic fashion based on the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' 3rd Edition (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and The Landscape Institute, 2013), referred to in this report as GLVIA3 and Natural England's An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014).

1.3. Desktop research

The desktop survey included the review of OS maps, aerial photography, landscape character assessment documents and related planning policy, as well as the applicant's development brief and reports by other consultants on the team.

1.4. Method statements

The photographic survey was undertaken in early spring, meaning that deciduous vegetation was lacking leaf cover and provided minimum screening, demonstrating 'worst-case' visibility. Seasonal changes in screening resulting from leaf cover would therefore be favourable compared to the survey results. Where seasonal changes in screening are relevant this has been noted in the photograph descriptions.

The ZTV was created in ArcMap by importing a georeferenced Ordnance Survey (OS) map base and bare-earth digital terrain model (DTM). The DTM shows only landform and does not account for structures or vegetation which rise above ground level and potentially screen views. Points were added to represent heights of proposed built form in a number of locations across the site. Running a viewshed analysis then showed areas from which a 1.65m height viewer could potentially see proposed built form with no structures or vegetation blocking views. Areas with potential views of the proposed development were visited (where publicly accessible) and photographs taken to record the nature of views. Any areas from which there was no visibility were ruled out of the fieldwork.

It should be noted that the establishment of a ZTV is a potentially misleading exercise, showing an indiscriminate level of visibility using a 'bare earth' scenario, without consideration for vegetation and built form that may often prevent views, and takes no account of the extent of accessible viewpoints. It is a desktop exercise, a tool to inform the scope of fieldwork that has then to be tested in the field to check the reality of the situation. An LVE and LVIA should be proportional to the nature of the proposals to which it relates and there may be no need to carry out a ZTV exercise. This should be judged on a project by project basis, in consultation with the Local Planning Authority if necessary, when agreeing the scope of the study.

2. Evaluation criteria for Landscape Sensitivity

2.1. Reporting on the landscape baseline

The landscape baseline is established through careful fieldwork and review of published Landscape Character Assessments. Landscape Character Assessments at national, regional, district and local levels are critically reviewed to establish the most relevant in terms of scale, level of detail, methodology, age. A brief explanation of this approach is given:

- Map, describe and illustrate the character of the landscape by appropriate means;

- Identify landscape based designations and others (conservation, heritage etc.) that may be impacted by the development;
- Identify and describe the individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape that contribute to the character;
- Indicate the condition of the landscape;
- Establish the relative value of the landscape as attached to it by society.

2.2. Landscape receptors

The landscape receptors need to be identified; these are components of the landscape such as individual elements or features, qualities or landscape character that are likely to be affected by the scheme.

2.3. Sensitivity of landscape receptor

The sensitivity of the landscape or feature of the landscape as a receptor needs to be established. This is determined by combining judgements on value with those on susceptibility to type of change or type of development proposed.

2.3.1. Determining value of landscape receptor

Value can be understood through relevant landscape designations, the use of available landscape character assessments (as a starting point) and information on status of features (such as conservation areas and tree preservation orders). The basis for judgements should be linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

A range of other factors can also help in the identification of value:

- Landscape quality (condition) of physical state: includes extent to which typical character is represented, intactness and condition of individual elements
- Function as an ecosystem service
- Scenic quality: level of appeal primarily to the senses (not wholly visual)
- Rarity: presence of individual elements or features, or rare Landscape Character Type
- Representativeness: where a particular character, or element / feature is considered particularly important example
- Conservation interests: where features of interest add value to landscapes such as wildlife, archaeological, or historical / cultural interest. These can have value in their own right.
- Society: the relative value attached to the landscape by society, either formally or informally.
- Perception: recognition of perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty or tranquillity
- Associations: connections to art, literature or events that contribute to perception of value and material available on local or community interests.

Judgements on value should be determined on a scale of high, medium or low:

HIGH ↑ ↓ LOW	High value, with acknowledged or perceived positive character and quality, multi-functional ecosystem services provision Medium value, with acknowledged or perceived positive character and quality that may have been reduced through alteration or degradation of character or features, some provision of ecosystem services. Low value, without acknowledged or perceived positive character and quality, little or no provision of ecosystem services.
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2.3.2. Determining the landscape receptor's susceptibility to type of change

Susceptibility to change is the ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the type of change or type of proposed development without undue consequence for the maintaining of the baseline situation, or the achievement of landscape planning policy or strategies. The basis for judgements should be linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Judgements on susceptibility to change should be determined on a scale of high, medium or low:

HIGH susceptibility to change ↑ ↓ LOW susceptibility to change	Not able to accommodate proposed type of change or type of development without detrimental consequences to the baseline situation or landscape planning policies and strategies. Medium susceptibility to change; may be able to accommodate proposed type of change or type of development without detrimental consequences to the baseline situation or landscape planning policies and strategies. Low susceptibility to change; able to accommodate proposed type of change or type of development without undue consequences to the baseline situation or landscape planning policies and strategies.
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2.3.3. Level of sensitivity of landscape receptor

By combining judgements on value with those on susceptibility to type of change or type of development proposed, the level of sensitivity of a landscape receptor should be defined as high, medium or low.

Where judgements on value and susceptibility to change differ (e.g. value may be high, with a medium susceptibility to change) professional judgement will be used to determine the overall sensitivity.

3. Evaluation criteria for visual sensitivity

3.1. Reporting on the visual baseline

- The visual baseline report should:
- Identify the area in which the development may be visible;
- Identify the different groups of people who may experience views of the development;
- Identify representative viewpoints where views will be affected and the nature of those views, including where these are within the site area;
- Identify any recognized viewpoints (known viewpoints in the landscape);
- Identify any views characteristic of the landscape character area;
- Identify any illustrative viewpoints (that might identify a particular effect or issue).

3.2. Photographs

Photographs were taken using a Nikon D5300 digital SLR camera at a 35mm focal length using a 18-55mm variable zoom lens set at a focal length of 35mm, which is accepted as being equivalent to a fixed 50mm lens on a non-digital SLR, which is in turn generally accepted to most closely represent views seen with the naked eye. It has been noted against photographs where a wide-angle focal length setting was used in order to show close up foreground views, or where a zoom setting was used to show more detail in a distant view.

3.3. Visual receptors

The visual receptors need to be identified; these are the people within the area who will be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity.

3.4. Sensitivity of the visual receptor

The sensitivity of the visual receptor needs to be established. This is determined by combining judgements on value of a particular view with those on susceptibility to type of change or type of development proposed.

3.4.1. Determining value of the view

This is a judgement of value attached to the particular view, through planning designations, recognition of historic, tourism or cultural value, or through community or perceived value. The basis for judgements should be linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Judgements on value should be determined on a scale of high, medium or low:

HIGH ↑ ↓ LOW	High value within a high quality landscape, or a recognized viewpoint (at any level from local to national). Medium value within a medium quality landscape. Low value within a low quality landscape.
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3.4.2. Determining the visual receptor's susceptibility to type of change

Judgements are dependent on the occupation or activity of people experiencing the views and the extent their attention or interest is likely to be focused on the on views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

Judgements on susceptibility to change should be determined on a scale of high, medium or low:

HIGH ↑ ↓ LOW	Visual receptors particularly susceptible to change in general due to a high level of interest in the surrounding landscape. Receptors most susceptible to change are likely to include residents at home, people engaged in outdoor recreation whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape, visitors to heritage assets where the landscape contributes to the experience and communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area. Visual receptors with a medium susceptibility to change in general due to a medium level of interest in the surrounding landscape. Travellers on road, rail and transport routes are likely to fall into a category of medium susceptibility to change, however where travel involved scenic routes this is likely to increase as awareness of views is heightened. Visual receptors with a low susceptibility to change in general due to a low level of interest in the surrounding landscape. Receptors least susceptible include people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation that does not involve or depend appreciation of views and people at their place of work where attention is not focused on their surroundings
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3.4.3. Level of sensitivity of the visual receptor

By combining judgements on value of view with those on susceptibility to type of change or type of development proposed, the level of sensitivity of a visual receptor should be defined as high, medium or low.

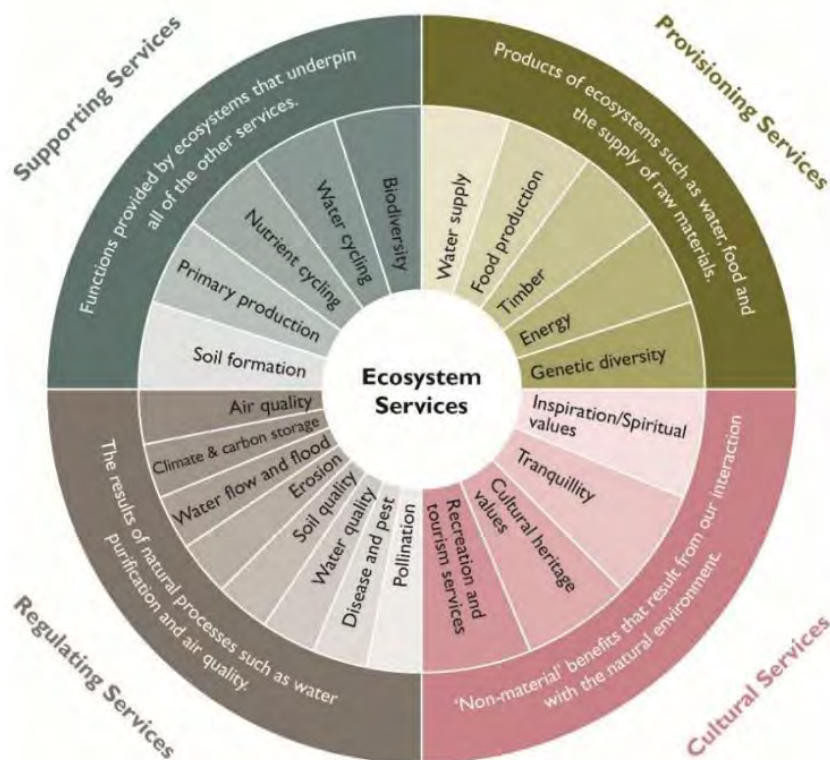
Where judgements on value and susceptibility to change differ (e.g. value may be high, with a medium susceptibility to change) professional judgement will be used to determine the overall sensitivity.

4. Glossary of key terms

- **Ecosystem services:** Ecosystem services are products and processes of the environment that lead to benefits for people. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment – a major study of the value of the environment to people – defined ecosystem services as: 'The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.' Ecosystem services are the result of the interaction of human and natural systems, including the way that environments are designed and managed (see image below, courtesy of South Downs National Park Authority).
- **Landscape character:** A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one

landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

- Landscape character area: Geographically identifiable areas of landscape that have their own individual sense of place.
- Landscape character type: Landscapes sharing broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use and settlement pattern, which may have been found in different parts of the country.
- Time depth: The visible evidence in the landscape for change and continuity over periods.
- Tranquillity: A sense of a lack of disturbance from either visual or noise intrusion.



Ecosystem Services wheel, courtesy of South Downs National Park Authority

Appendix 2: Figures

Figure 1 - Site location

Figure 2 - Site description

Figure 3 - Site photos

Figure 4 - Site photos

Figure 5 - Site photos

Figure 6 - Landscape designations

Figure 7 - Heritage designations and access

Figure 8 - Topography

Figure 9 - Landscape elements: Historic Maps

Figure 10 - Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV)

Figure 11 - Viewpoint location diagram

Figure 12 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 1-3

Figure 13 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 4-5

Figure 14 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 6-7

Figure 15 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 8-9

Figure 16 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 10-11

Figure 17 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 12-13

Figure 18 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 14-15

Figure 19 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 16-17

Figure 20 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 18-19

Figure 21 - Opportunities and constraints

Figure 1 - Site location

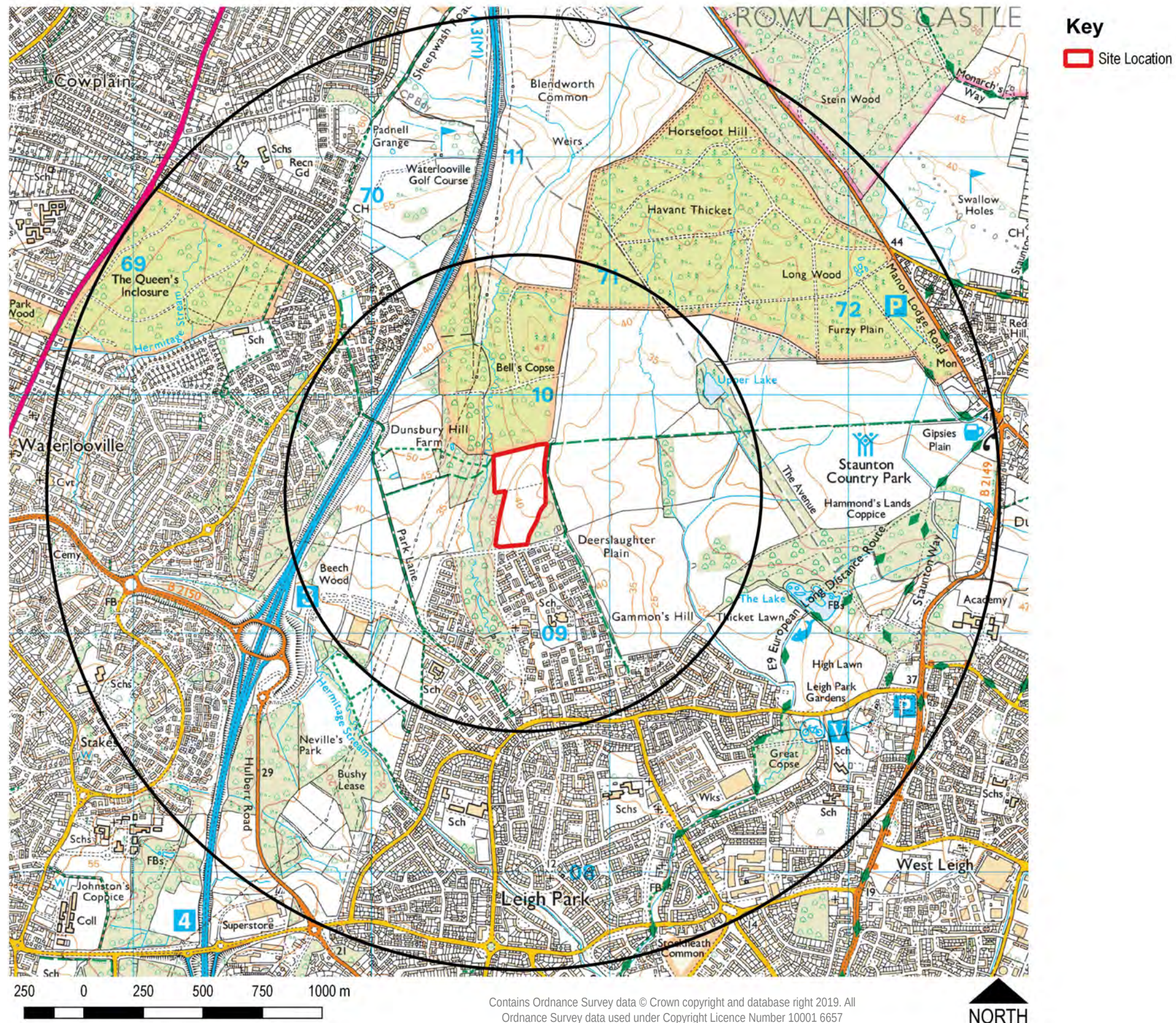
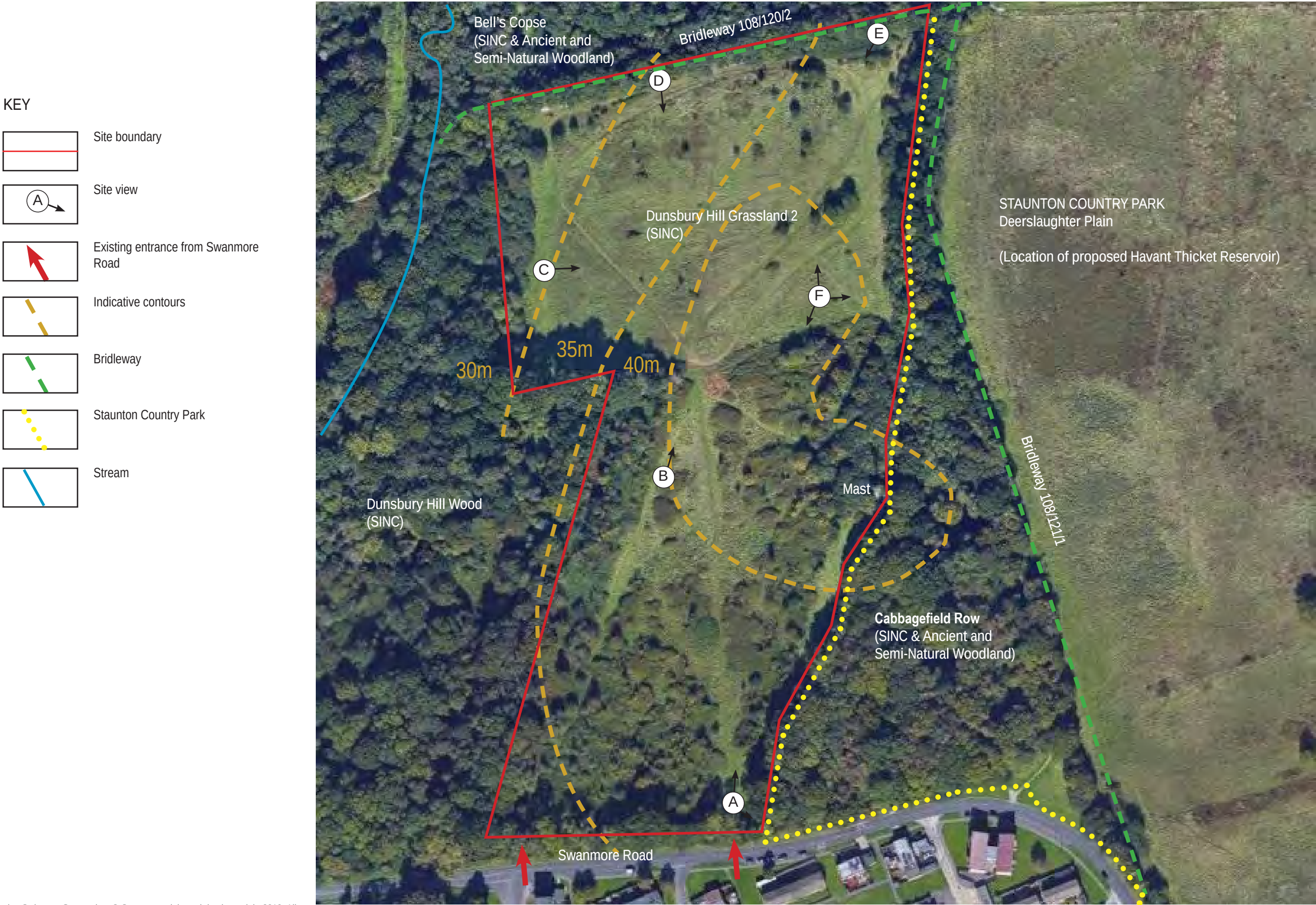


Figure 2 - Site description



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Figure 3 - Site photos



Viewpoint A: Looking north from within eastern entrance to site. Dense scrub and self-sown trees, coupled with topography, restricts long views .



Viewpoint B: Looking north-east from higher ground within centre of site towards Bell's Copse on left of photo. Pine trees on right of photo mark approx. site boundary adj to Staunton Country Park



Viewpoint C: View east from western boundary on lower part of site. Bell's Copse to left of photo. Pine and poplar trees on right of photo mark approx. site boundary adj to Staunton Country Park

Figure 4 - Site photos



Viewpoint D: Looking south from bridleway 108/120/2 on northern boundary adj to Bells Copse. Land-form limits visibility south but views towards wooded stream valley in west are possible on right of photo.



Viewpoint E: Looking south-west from north-east corner of site on bridleway 108/120/2 Land-form limits visibility south but views towards wooded stream valley in west are possible on right of photo.



Viewpoint F: View east from higher ground at centre of site, Boundary vegetation (including pine and poplar trees) limits views towards Staunton Country Park. On-site mast is visible in right of photo

Figure 5 - Site photos



Viewpoint F: Looking south from higher ground in centre of site. Boundary trees and intervening scrub limit views out of site towards the south .



Viewpoint F: Looking north from higher ground in centre of site towards Bell's Copse. Pine trees on right of photo mark approx. site boundary adj to Staunton Country Park

Figure 6 - Landscape designations

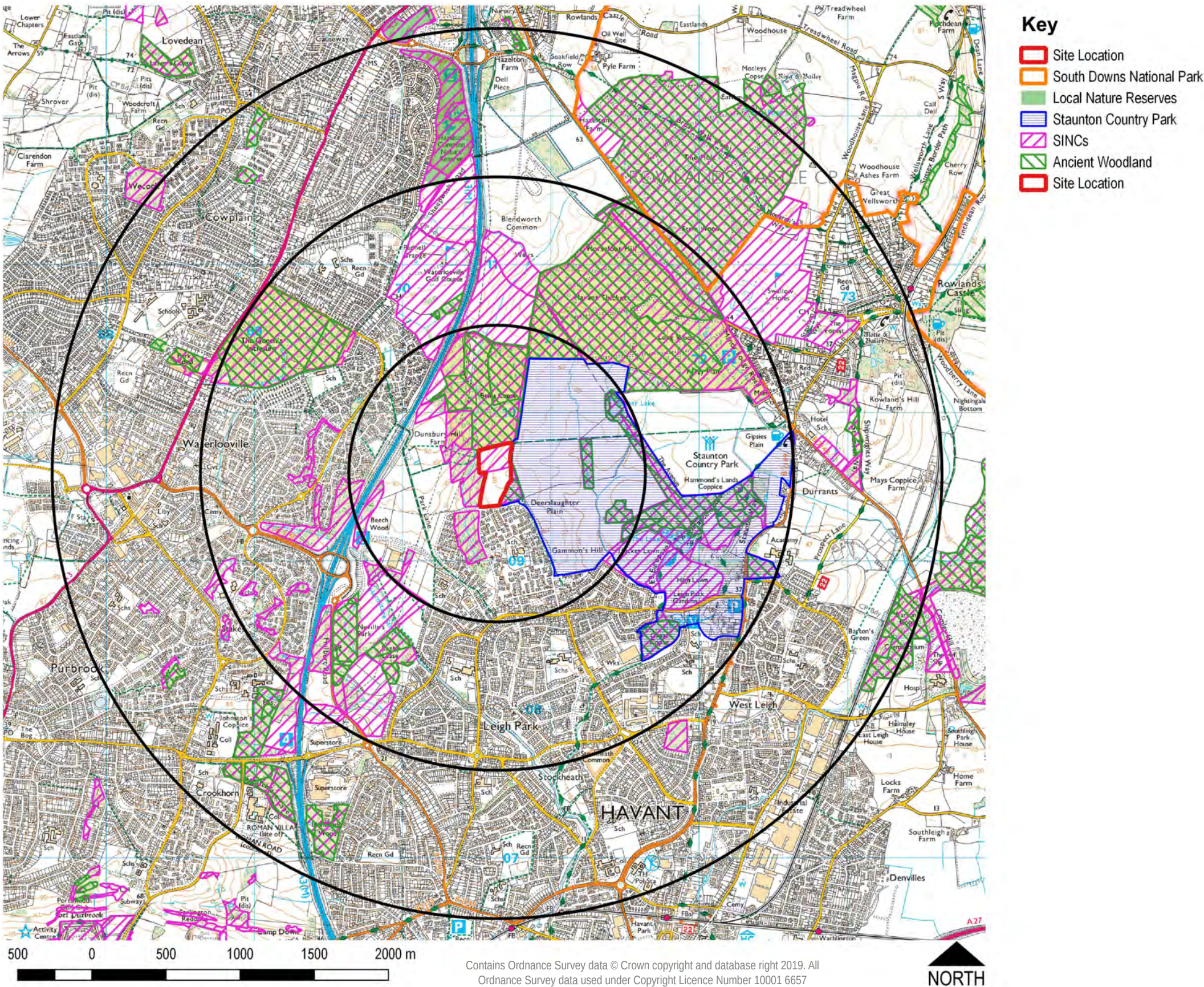


Figure 7 - Heritage designations and access

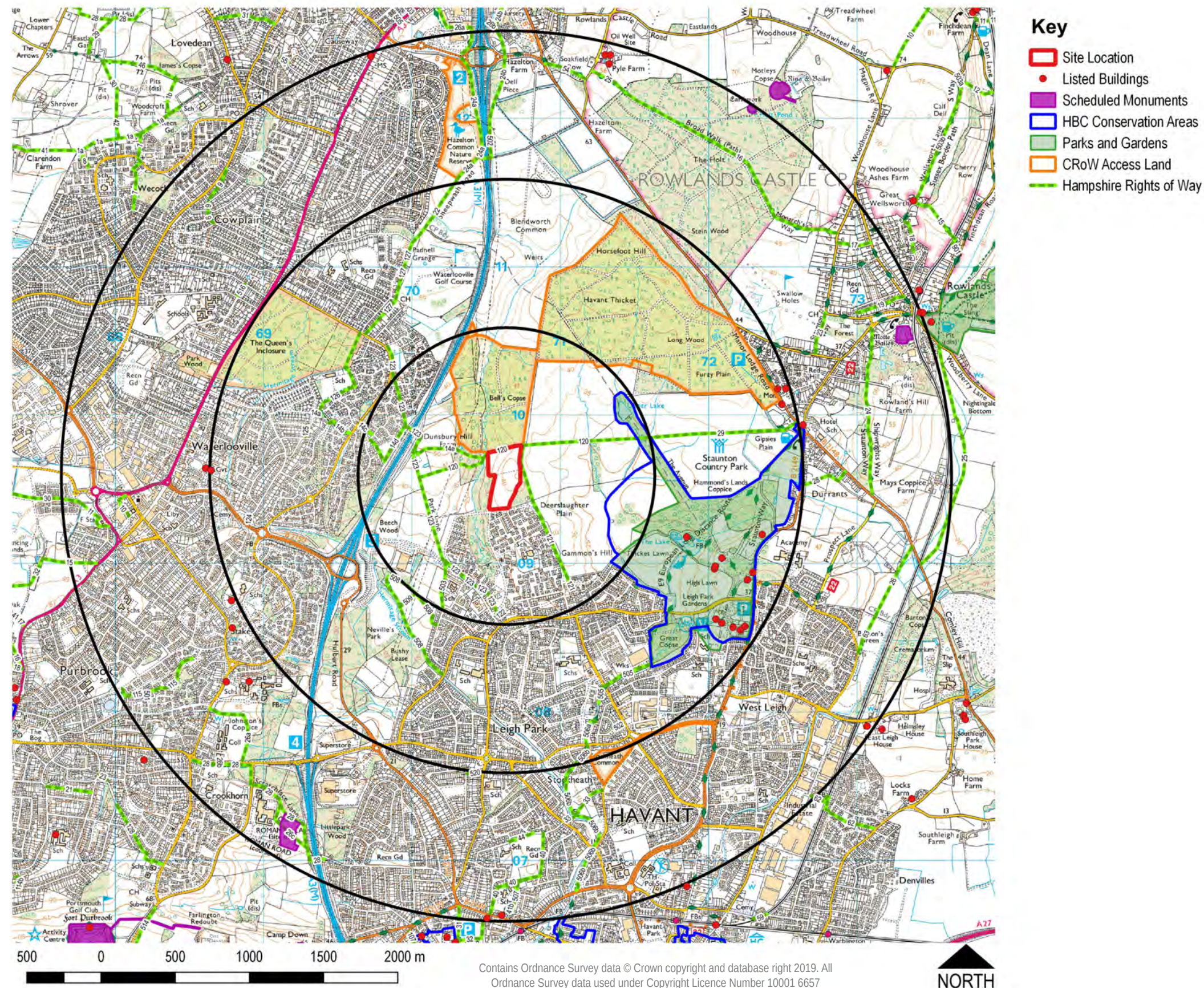


Figure 8 - Topography

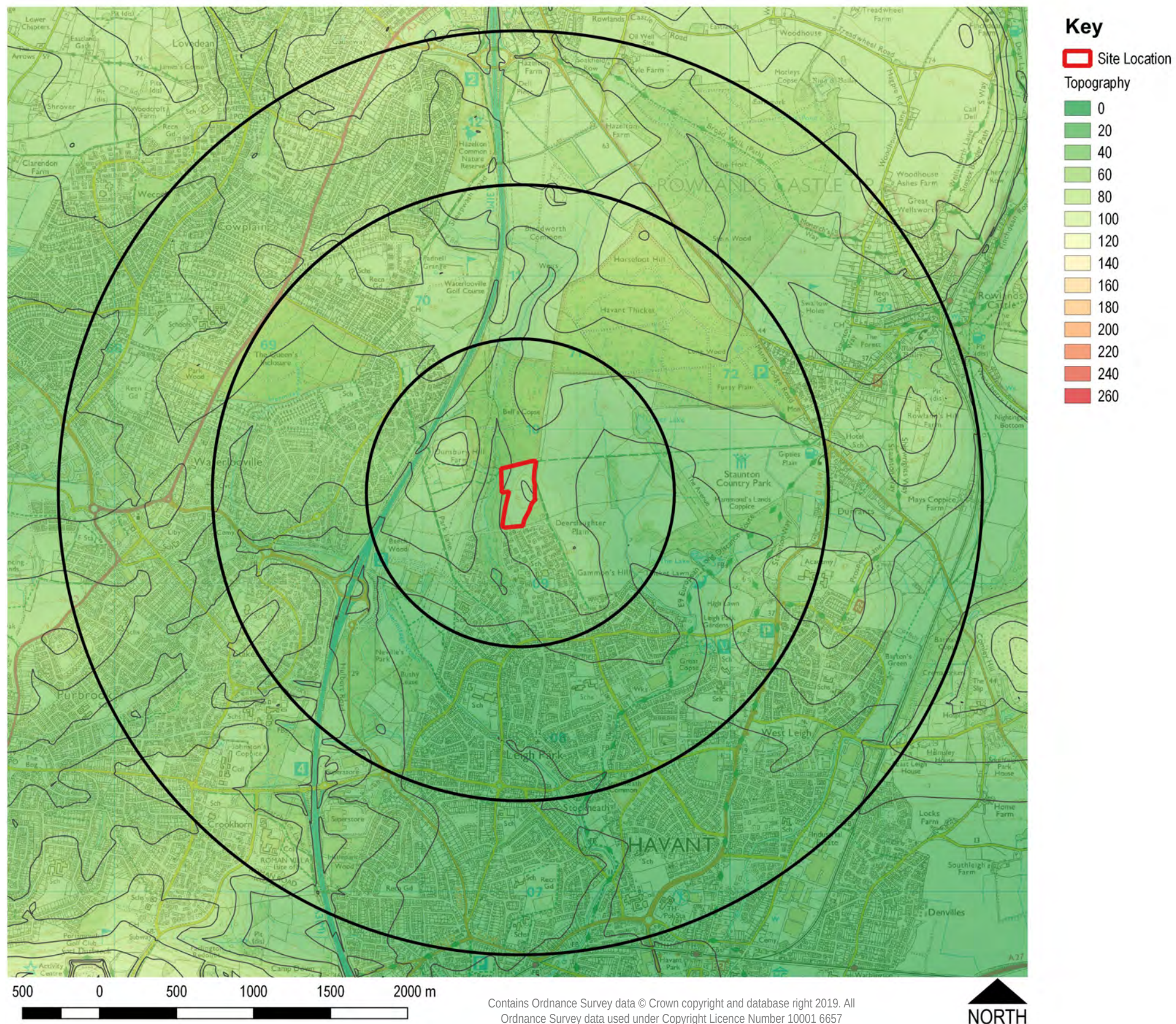
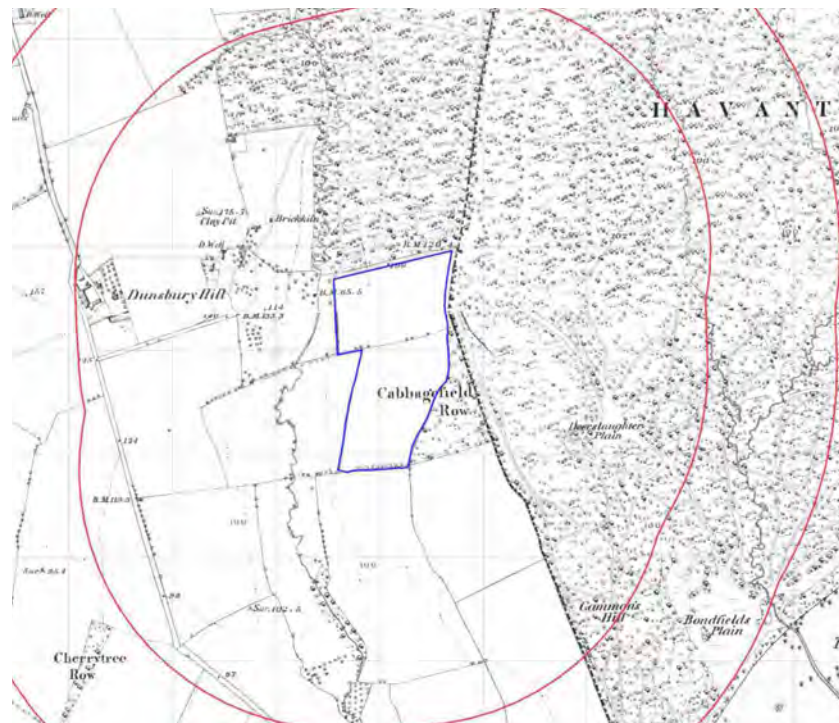
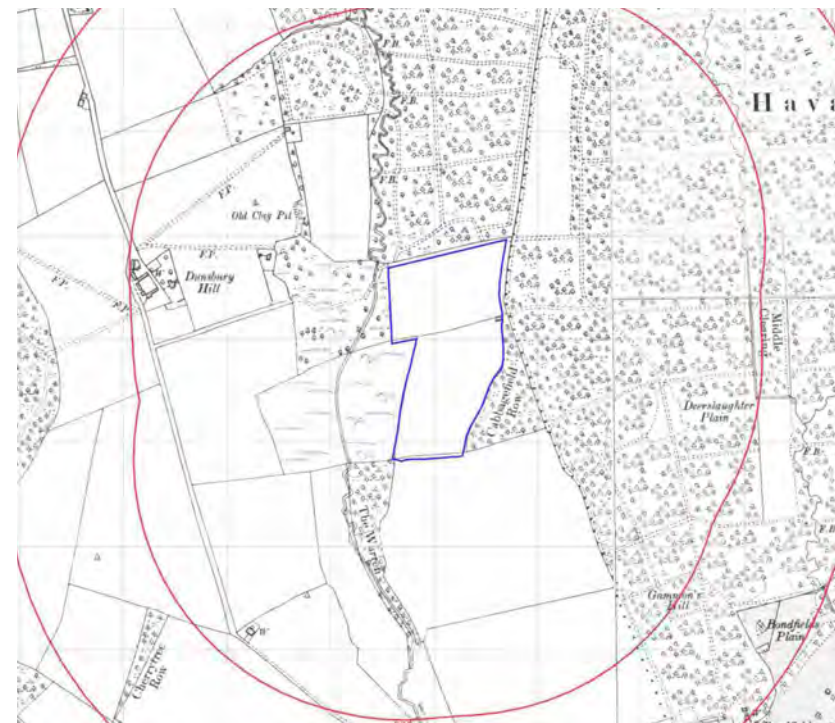


Figure 9 - Landscape elements: Historic Maps



OS Map 1866-67. The site sits within a rural field landscape of pasture and woodland. The stream to the west of the site appears to run through pasture. There is very limited built form. The site has its current field pattern of regular assorted fields with straight sides.



OS Map 1907. Tree cover to the north and east appears more formalised, giving the impression of commercial forestry. Tree cover is developing around the stream to the west of site. There is very little built form. Fields to the south appear to have become amalgamated.



OS Map 1930-33. Woodland is developing along the stream corridor to the west of site, otherwise no noticeable change. Fields to the south appear to have been subdivided again.



OS Map 1959-63. Residential development of Leigh Park is apparent to the south-east of site, otherwise little change.



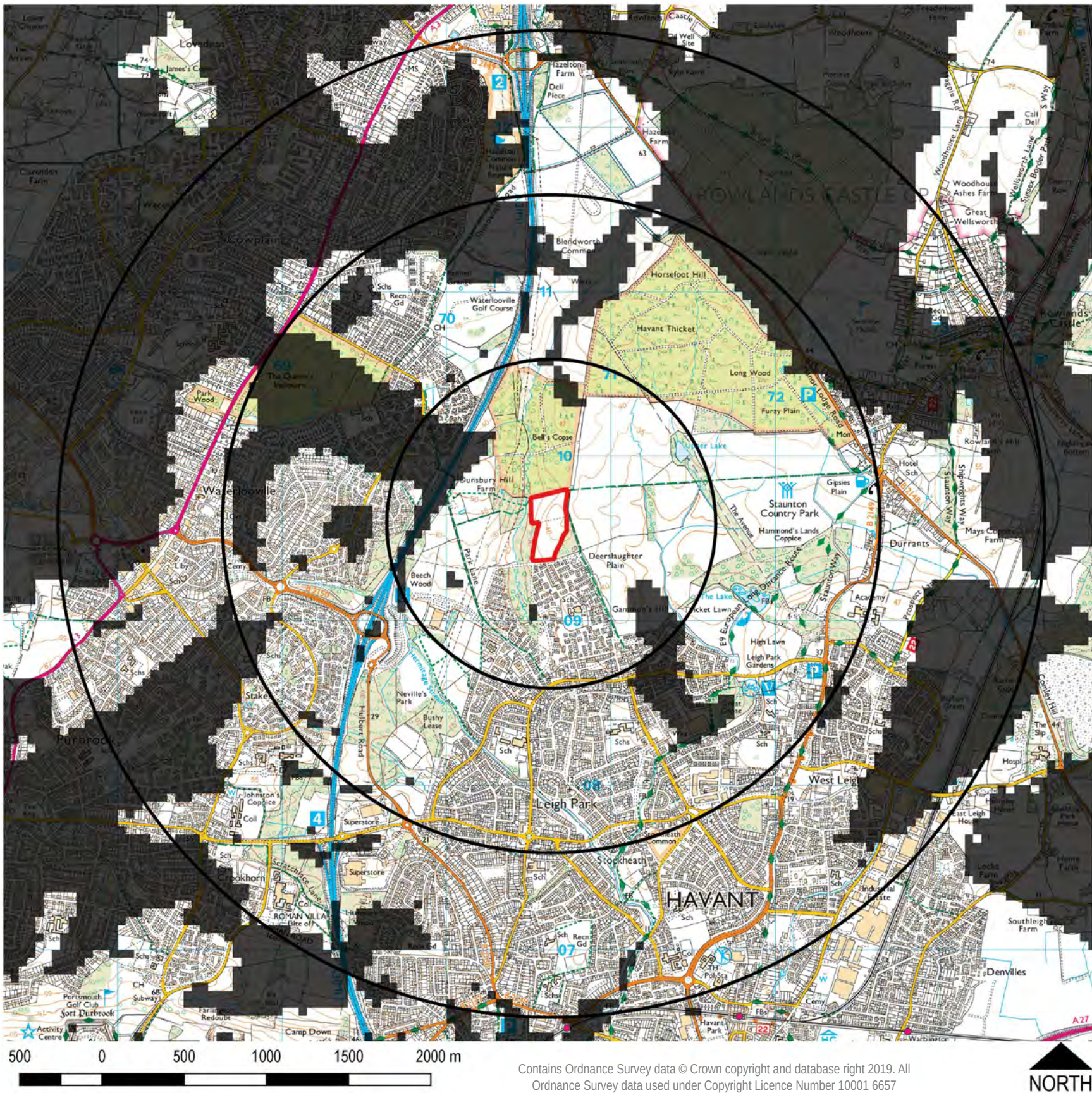
OS Map 1975-80. The A3(M) is being constructed to the west of site and powerlines installed parallel to it. The Warren development has been constructed to the south of site and it appears that woodland is being cleared to the east. The site now sits within a less rural landscape and there is disruption to the wider field pattern.



OS Map 1991-92. Further housing has been built to the north of the A3(M) and the woodland to the east has been cleared. It appears that the 2 fields which comprise the site have become amalgamated.

Source: Socotec

Figure 10 - Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV)



IMPORTANT

This computer generated model is based on a 'bare earth' scenario, discounting the vegetation in the area. The ZTV diagram is theoretical, for use only as a starting point to inform potential areas to be tested in the field. As such, the ZTV is potentially misleading and actual visibility may be proved to be considerably less through fieldwork, as has been proven to the case here (refer to Viewpoint Location Plan). This diagram was created with a building ridge height of 8.0m, and a viewer height of 1.65m.

Figure 11 - Viewpoint location diagram

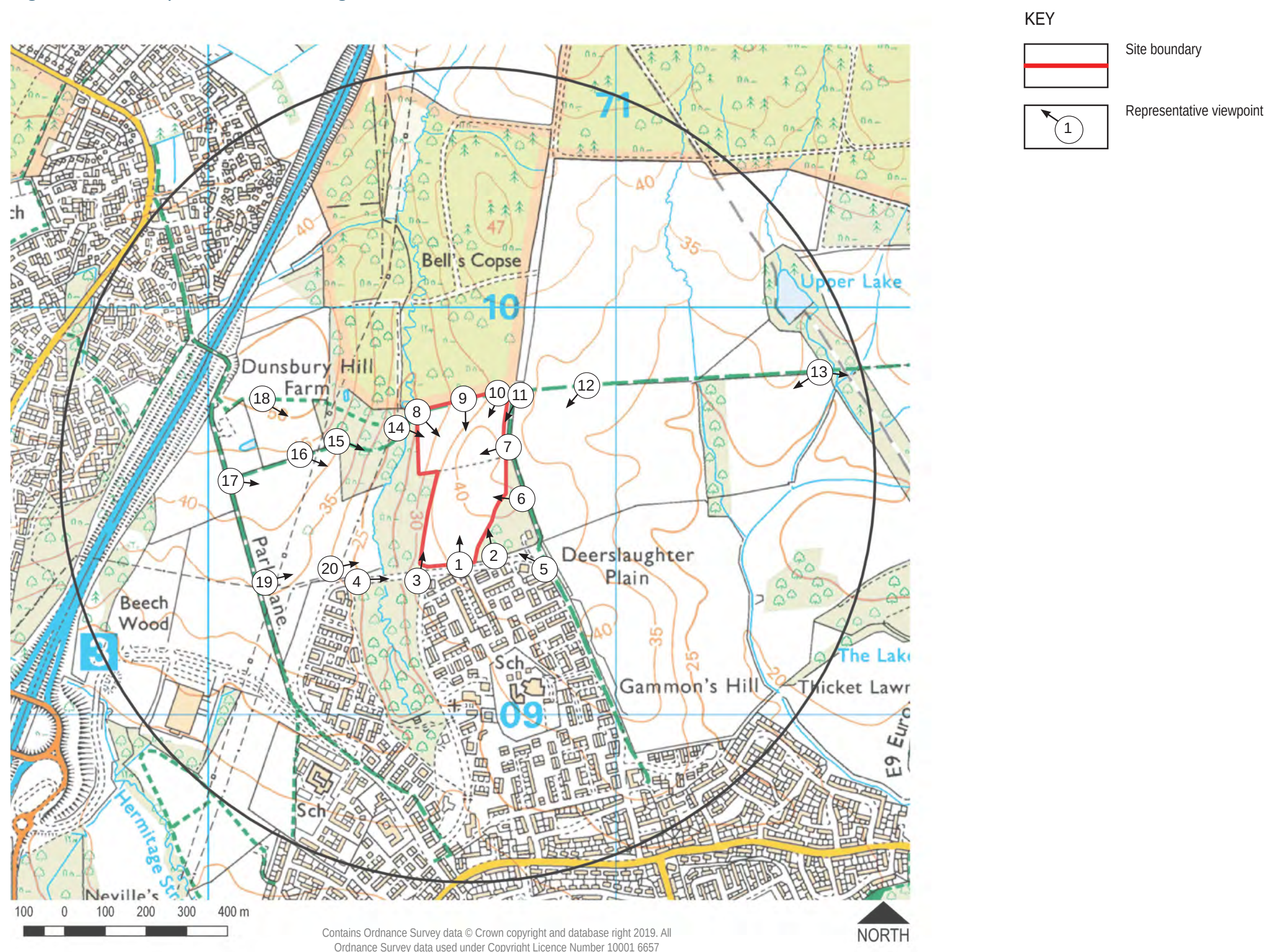


Figure 12 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 1-3



Viewpoint 1: Panorama from Swanmore Road opposite the site boundary looking north towards the site. Boundary vegetation limits views into the site



Viewpoint 2: Panorama from Swanmore Road opposite Cabbagefield Row (SINC/ Ancient woodland) looking north towards the site. No view of the site is possible due to intervening woodland



Viewpoint 3: Panorama from Swanmore/Calshot Road at junction with St Clare's Avenue opposite the site boundary looking north-east towards the site. Boundary vegetation limits views into the site

Figure 13 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 4-5



Viewpoint 4: View north-east from Calshot Road approximately 200m from the site boundary. Boundary vegetation limits views into the site.



Viewpoint 5: Panorama from Swanmore Road/bridleway 108/121/1 opposite Cabbagefield Row (SINC/ Ancient woodland) and Staunton Country Park approx. 180m from the site boundary looking north-west towards the site. No view of the site due to intervening layers of vegetation.

Figure 14 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 6-7



Viewpoint 6: Panorama from bridleway 108/121/1 adjacent to Staunton Country Park, looking west through Cabbagefield Row (SINC/Ancient Woodland) towards site approximately 80m from site boundary. No view of site due to intervening layers of vegetation.



Viewpoint 7: Panorama from bridleway 108/121/1 adjacent to Staunton Country Park, looking through west boundary vegetation towards site. No view of ground plane of the site but partial, filtered views of proposed built form may be possible. Views will be less open in summer.

Figure 15 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 8-9



Viewpoint 8 View south from bridleway 108/120/2, adjacent to Bell's Copse on site boundary. Ground plane of northern part of site is visible but landform limits views of southern part of site.



Viewpoint 9 View south from bridleway 108/120/2, adjacent to Bell's Copse on site boundary. Ground plane of northern part of site is visible but landform limits views of southern part of site.

Figure 16 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 10-11



Viewpoint 10 View south from bridleway 108/120/2, adjacent to Bell's Copse on site boundary. Ground plane of northern part of site is visible but landform and vegetation limits views of southern part of site.



Viewpoint 11: Panorama south from junction of bridleway 108/120/2 and 108/12i/1adjacent to Bell's Copse and Staunton Country Park approx 200m from centre of site. No views of ground plane of site due to intervening layers of vegetation..

Figure 17 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 12-13



Viewpoint 12: Panorama south-west from bridleway 108/120/3 on Deerslaughter Plain within Staunton Country Park approx 300m from centre of site, on site of proposed reservoir. No views of ground plane of site due to intervening layers of vegetation. Partial, filtered views of rooflines of proposed built form might be visible through and above intervening vegetation. Built form on Swanmore Road is visible to left of photo.



Viewpoint 13: Panorama south-west from bridleway 108/120/3 on Deerslaughter Plain within Staunton Country Park at boundary of Sir George Staunton Conservation Area/Leigh Park Registered Park and Garden approx 900m from centre of site on site of proposed reservoir.. No views of site due to intervening layers of vegetation.

Figure 18 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 14-15



Viewpoint 14: Panorama south-west from bridleway 108/120/1 within Dunsbury Hill Wood approx 200m from centre of site. Partial, filtered views of the ground plane of the northern part of the site are visible through the vegetation. Views will be less open in summer.



Viewpoint 15: Panorama south-west from bridleway 108/120/1 west of Dunsbury Hill Wood approx 350m from centre of site. No views of the site due to intervening vegetation

Figure 19 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 16-17



Viewpoint 16: Panorama south-west from bridleway 108/120/1 west of Dunsbury Hill Wood approx 450m from centre of site. No views of the site due to intervening vegetation



Viewpoint 17: Panorama south-west from junction of bridleway 108/120/1 and Park Lane (bridleway 108/123/4) approx 600m from centre of site. No views of the site due to intervening vegetation

Figure 20 - Photographic record of baseline conditions: Representative viewpoints 18-19

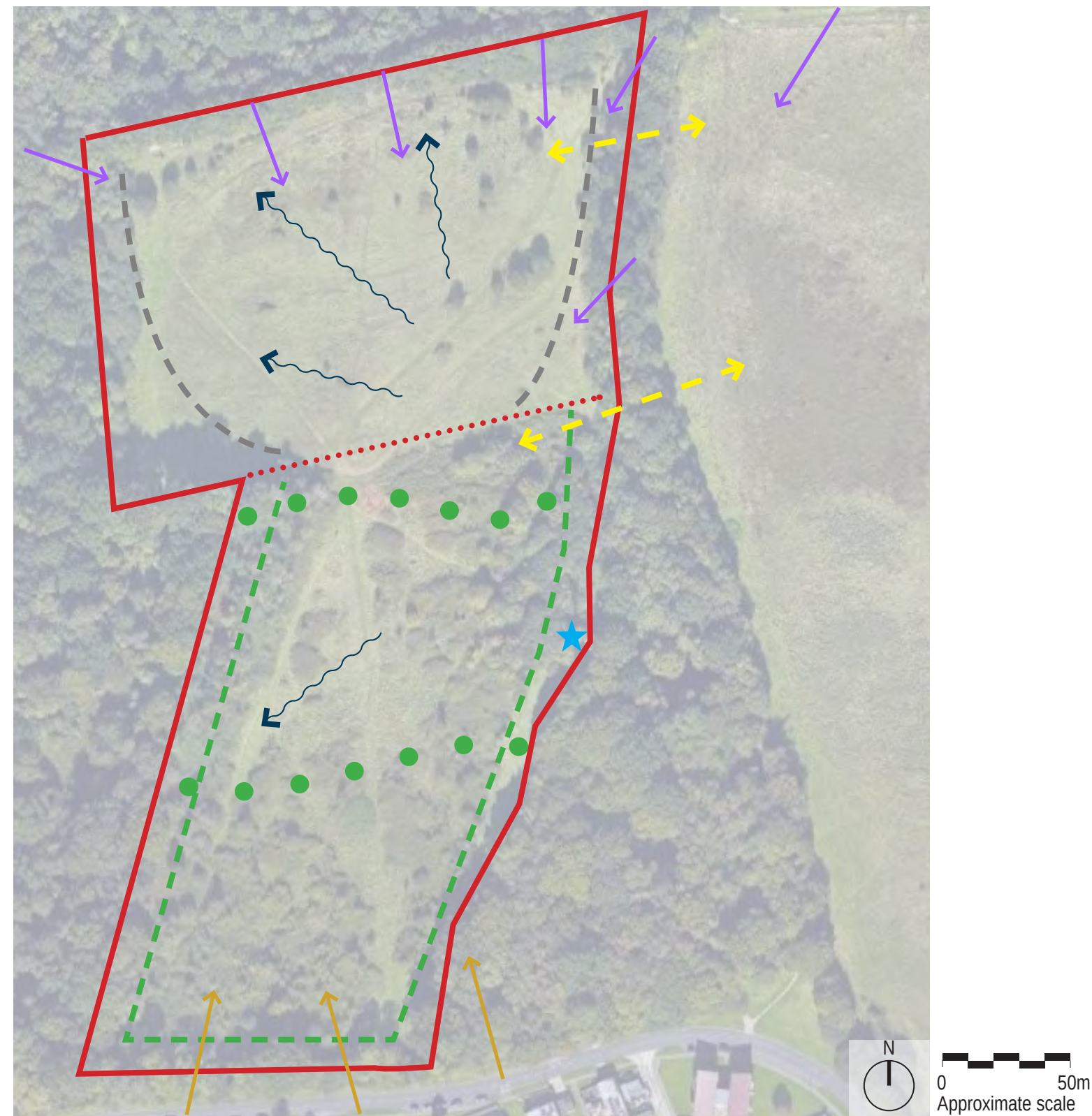


Viewpoint 18: Panorama south-west from footpath 108/14e/1 approx. 500m from centre of site. No views of the site due to intervening vegetation.

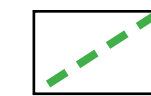


Viewpoint 19: Panorama north-east from Park Lane (bridleway 108/123/4) approx 600m from centre of site. No views of the site due to intervening vegetation

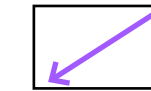
Figure 21 - Opportunities and constraints



Key:



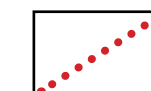
Protect existing boundary vegetation including SINC/ Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland and offset development from boundaries
Consider facing properties to boundaries to reduce pressure to trim trees/ dumping of garden waste etc.



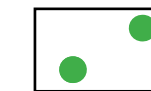
Consider possible views from the PRoW / Staunton Country Park



Consider views from nearby houses



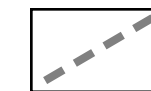
Approximate southern extent of on-site SINC. Built form should not be located in this area and consider ways to reduce potential pressure on SINC from new residents



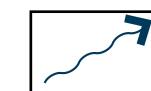
Opportunity to create green infrastructure links across the site to enhance connections to Cabbagefield Row woodland



Consider possible impacts of new reservoir including opportunities for views and potential pressures from increased visitor numbers



Opportunity to create new footpath links to PRoW network and reduce impact on grassland SINC caused by informal access



Indicative slopes from higher ground. Consider reducing impact of built form by locating taller structures on lower ground and working sensitively with existing contours.



Telecommunications mast

Appendix 3: Landscape Baseline Table

(Most relevant shaded green, most detailed shaded orange; other columns include only comments not included in the green – most relevant - column)

	Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007): Landscape Character Area (LCA) 20: Staunton Country Park, Landscape Character Type B: Lowland Settled Wooded Farmland	Additional characteristics from: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (2012); LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East, Landscape Character Type: Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale.	Additional characteristics from: National Character Assessment 128: South Hampshire Lowlands	Terra firma observations (most detailed characteristics)
Geology / topography / soils	A low lying undulating landform with an underlying geology of London Clay to the north and Bognor Sand to the west. Periglacial deposits arelocated to the south and around to the west within the valley bottoms The non agricultural land has slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils which are slowly permeable and seasonally wet Large open area of non productive grassland to the north and west, with field trees and intermittent hedgerows and the occasional tree belt The open area of grassland is enclosed by woodland with a mix of deciduous and evergreen providing containment, colour and texture A low lying undulating landform with small hills and small enclosed valleys.	Varied geology and soils, with seasonally saturated heavy clays in the central and southern parts and locally higher, more undulating sandy outcrops resulting in agriculturally poor soils.	The South Hampshire Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) is a low-lying plain between the chalk hills of the Hampshire and South Downs and Southampton Water	There is a distinctive 'hump' of higher ground to the centre/ east of the site which falls to lower ground in the north. Gorse and birch have established on site which might indicate drier, sandy, acidic soils. Cranfield soils classifies the wider area within which the site sits as: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. Loamy and clayey. Low carbon. Agricultural Land Classification - Provisional (England) classifies the site as Grade 4: poor quality agricultural land
Hydrology	A network of streams and ditches drain across the landscape in shallow valleys, draining from the north from Havant Thicket The underlying geology is a wide range of Tertiary clays, sands, clayey sands and gravels which give rise to a variety of loamy, or clayey seasonally waterlogged soils	The area falls within the Environment Agency Wallington catchment area. The Wallington in the west and Hermitage and Lavant streams in the east of the area are small and meandering, with numerous tributaries, although altered and canalised in suburban settings.	Water availability: A large proportion of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as well as areas of Sussex are dependent on the groundwater and surface waters of the rivers Test and Itchen. All the main rivers within the NCA also supply wetlands of international importance, for instance the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar site within the NCA and the Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar site in the neighbouring South Coast Plain NCA.	A stream is located within a small valley beyond the western boundary, but no water bodies were observed on site. Ground within Deer Slaughter Plan was observed as being soft. The open ground will have a role in capturing rainfall.
Land use		Predominantly pasture, commercial forestry and woodland with small some smallholdings High proportion of woodland, both coniferous plantation and ancient seminatural woodland, some fairly extensive, often accessible. Land use is very mixed, with a higher proportion than average of pasture and rough grassland		Currently used for informal recreation and unauthorized motocross.

	Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007): Landscape Character Area (LCA) 20: Staunton Country Park, Landscape Character Type B: Lowland Settled Wooded Farmland	Additional characteristics from: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (2012); LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East, Landscape Character Type: Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale.	Additional characteristics from: National Character Assessment 128: South Hampshire Lowlands	Terra firma observations (most detailed characteristics)
Vegetation and biodiversity	This area consists mainly of parkland: a large open area of semi-improved neutral grassland in the north continuing to the east outside of the boundary of Havant Borough There are two further areas of recent plantation to the west of the area, these are small in area The parkland creates a valuable biodiversity resource adjacent to an urban area to the south in LCAs 16 and 17 Cattle grazing of the grassland occurs with rare breeds of cattle such as English Longhorn and Rosacre cattle A mosaic of predominately grassland and woodland with the occasional area of arable land on more fertile soils Medium-sized irregularly shaped fields and woodlands with hedgerows, hedgebanks and mature hedgerow trees Woodland is predominantly broadleaved with some ancient, semi-natural woodland and some forestry scrub Much of the grassland is agriculturally improved grassland although there are some fields with more species rich neutral grassland	High proportion of semi natural habitats including ancient woodlands, wet woodland, remnant heath, unimproved neutral meadows and acid grassland supporting a rich biodiversity. Hedgerow oaks and hedgebanks are common features. There is a significant resource of unimproved grassland in this landscape.	SEO 3: Protect, manage and enhance the area's historic well-wooded character – including its ancient semi-natural woodlands, wood pasture and hedgerows – to increase biomass provision, link and strengthen habitats for wildlife, and improve recreational opportunities. SEO 4: Conserve, manage, link and enhance the traditional mosaic of seminatural grassland habitats – including chalk grassland, watermeadows and unimproved grassland – for the benefits they provide in protecting and regulating soils and water, climate change adaptation as well as recreational opportunities and improved biodiversity Timber provision: The area has been historically important for timber and today provides fencing, poles and some higher-quality firewood.	Dunsbury Hill Grassland SINC to northern part of the site. Other SINCS to western, northern and eastern boundaries. Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland to northern and south-eastern Boundary. Currently the southern part of the site comprises ruderal vegetation, rough grassland and self-sown trees. The northern part is more open. There are mature trees on the boundaries and a line of Pinus sp. is a distinctive feature on the north-eastern boundary.
Settlement and road pattern	Trackways were more numerous across the area than well-made roads A series of large gentleman's houses, with associated gardens and parkland were established roughly along the 30m contour in the early 19th century, taking advantage of the open views to the south across their parkland to the harbour and beyond Until the explosion of residential development in the 20th century, this landscape type covered a far more extensive area The presence of parks indicates the recreational use made by wealthy landowners of this poor and unproductive landscape The low-lying landscape between Havant and Waterlooville provides a major transport corridor.	Extensive mid to late 20th century development of Waterlooville, Horndean and Cowplain which divides the area in two. Other significant modern expansion at Denmead and Soberton Heath.		There are no roads or settlement on the site. Swanmore/ Calshot Road lies to the south and forms the a perimeter access road for The Warren/Leigh Park Estate which comprise post-war social housing schemes. Swanmore Road defines the current limit of built form and contains development The Warren, which lies closest to the site dates from approx. 1965-80 and comprises mostly flat-roofed houses and blocks of flats/maisonettes up to 3 storeys arranged in cul-de-sacs.

	Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007): Landscape Character Area (LCA) 20: Staunton Country Park, Landscape Character Type B: Lowland Settled Wooded Farmland	Additional characteristics from: Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment (2012); LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East, Landscape Character Type: Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale.	Additional characteristics from: National Character Assessment 128: South Hampshire Lowlands	Terra firma observations (most detailed characteristics)
Access and recreation	Staunton Country Park is now a popular and very accessible landscape with free open access across the northern part of the designed park, paid access to the southern part of the designed park, with café and children's farm. There is also footpath and bridleway access to the open areas of grassland to the north from the urban edge of Havant and the Staunton Way runs across the southern part of this LCA. Extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation including forest walks, cycling and horse riding	West Walk, Creech Wood, Southleigh Woods and Havant Thicket are woodlands with public access. They are supplemented by numerous rights of way which, together with the quiet rural lane network, provide good access, particularly for local residents. Long distance routes include Wayfarers Walk, Pilgims' Trail and Staunton Way Strongest correlation is with commons, and wooded ones in particular and accessible woodlands. Not particularly dense PRow network, but bridleways and footpaths present. Often located close to large centres of population, therefore demand for access is high.	SEO 1: Promote creative and effective sustainable development – including a well-connected network of high-quality greenspace in and around Southampton, Romsey, Eastleigh and Havant – which benefits local businesses and communities, protects local distinctiveness, encourages public understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment, and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change. SEO 3: Protect, manage and enhance the area's historic well-wooded character – including its ancient semi-natural woodlands, wood pasture and hedgerows ...and improve recreational opportunities.	The site is a recreation resource which is close to and readily accessible from adjacent residential areas and currently used for informal recreation and unauthorised motocross, (despite signs prohibiting the use of motorised vehicles) although it is neither designated as Common Land or open access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. A bridleway runs along the northern boundary and another runs along part of the eastern boundary. These form connections between the wider landscape and Staunton Country Park, which lies to the east. Within Staunton Country Park some areas are accessible free of charge (for example along PRow and footpaths in the north) whereas some areas (mostly in the south) require payment of an entrance fee. If the Havant Thicket Reservoir is constructed this will change the character of Staunton Country Park but opportunities for public access will be provided.
History	The northern half of the LCA is defined by regular assarted fields with straight boundaries interspersed by small woodland areas. The remaining field boundaries of degraded hedgerows reflect this HLC The landscape also has evidence of pre-1810 assarted woodland and regular assarts with straight boundaries whereas in the north the landscape becomes more open with large areas of rough grassland Two main phases of the enclosure of common land and woodland clearance in the early 18th and 19th centuries led to the creation of more extensive agricultural areas Historically, this was a mix of parkland, woodland, common land and agricultural land with the proportions of each type varying through time. The historic landscape character of open parkland of Staunton Park is retained in the landscape. The predominantly rural historic landscape character continues in the surviving field patterns which are a mixture of varying sized fields with mainly straight boundaries. These represent the enclosure of former heath and woodland into agricultural fields Areas of woodland are derived from the survival of pre-1810 woodland or later plantations on previous areas of woodland, associated with the Forest of Bere and Emsworth Common Two main phases of the enclosure of common land and woodland clearance in the early 18th and 19th centuries led to the creation of more extensive agricultural areas	Part of the former hunting reserve of the Royal Forest of Bere, which has shaped the pattern of woodland, commons and assart fields. Hedgerow oaks and hedgebanks are common features. The fringes are typically of later formal enclosure. There are some areas of more formal enclosure where late enclosure of open common has occurred (e.g. 2f).		Historically the site formed part of the Royal Forest of Bere dating from the 13/14 th Century, however this has become fragmented due to development. The Hampshire Historic Landscape Classification categorises the site as being part of a larger area of 'regular assarts with straight boundaries' which continues eastwards and probably dates from the 19th or 20th century Historic map regression (shown at Figure 9) reveals little change to the site, apart from the loss of an actual division between the northern and southern fields. The most noticeable change is in the land to the east (Deer Slaughter Plain) which appears to have been cleared of woodland/plantation in the post-war period. Further south the development of the land for housing has eroded the rural landscape and the construction of the A3(M) to the north has severed it from the wider landscape but protected it from the urban sprawl of Waterlooville.

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Perceptual qualities	The modern landscape has a strong rural character, however in places the urban edge of Warren Park, Havant to the south is visible, in particular the three storey buildings to the west on Gammon's Hill. The regenerating scrub on the area known as the High Lawn and Thicket Lawn softens the visual influence of the urban edge of Leigh Park further to the south Noise from the A3 (M) disturbs tranquillity especially to the west	Portsmouth Hill separates the conurbations to the south from the western and central section of the area, making this area feel relatively remote. The high proportion of woodland cover creates a rural and secluded character, even close to settlements. There is a marked transition from urban to rural, although urban fringe characteristics such as high voltage power lines, heavy traffic, fly tipping, small holdings and horse paddocks are evident. The central and western parts of the area are more tranquil, although pockets of seclusion can be found in the more wooded parts of the east Surprising sense of remoteness as often close to large centres of population Often situated in close proximity to large settlements, and often closest countryside where it is possible to feel visually detached from built up areas – particularly where this LCT occurs north of the Solent and south of the Blackwater conurbations		The site retains a slight sense of remoteness, especially further north, but is influenced by its use for unauthorised motocross and the presence of litter. The adjacent woodlands provide a buffer from the noise of traffic on the A3(M) but the south of the site is influenced by noise from traffic on Swanmore Road despite the wooded boundary which provides a strong sense of containment. . The telecommunications mast is also an urbanising feature. Deer Slaughter Plan and bridleway 108/121/1 to the east have some sense of remoteness but there are views of the settlement edge. To the west of the site the traffic noise from the A3(M) overlays the sound of the wind and bird song and there are views of Dunsbury Farm Business Park which is being developed. The construction of the proposed reservoir will have a temporary impact on tranquillity and once completed will provide a recreational resource that may result in additional visitors accessing it from Swanmore Road.
Cultural connections / memories	Nationally important 19th century pleasure park and gardens with areas of grassland, intermittent tree planting, ornamental lakes; a designated conservation area Although both Sir George Staunton and William Stone's mansions have now been lost, the park retains many ancillary buildings and structures dating to the two main periods of development of the house and park, including the Gothic library, an ornamental farm, walled gardens, re-creations of Staunton's impressive glass houses, and numerous bridges and follies, many of which are listed, and have considerable group value	Numerous cultural associations from the medieval period and Royal hunting forests, including deer parks and lodges and woodpasture. Little intensive exploitation pre Saxon period and less intensively post disafforestation than most lowland mosaic types.		The site lies adjacent to Staunton Country Park but is not considered to form part of the setting of the Sir George Staunton Conservation Area which lies within in.
Condition and coherence	This rural quality is however undermined by urban detritus, fly tipping and burnt out cars which are a common appearance and collect within the tree and shrub buffer along the western edge. Middle Park Way severs this LCA, although there are still strong visual ties along the designed central pathway northwards			The site is a somewhat isolated area of open ground surrounded by woodland to the north, west and (partially) the east. Whilst it connects well to the landscaper to the north-east it is less well-connected in the south and west. It is in a neglected state with self-sown trees and scrub, litter and evidence of use for unauthorised motocross.
Built form and materials	The building materials used on the estate are primarily those found generally in contemporary buildings of the Havant area; that is, brick, tile and slate. However, the exterior of the Gothic library is rendered, and the front elevation of the late 18th century Old Estate Office is faced with flint with red brick quoins and dressings, while some of the follies use less common, and ornamental materials including pebbles, shells and Purbeck stone. Main Staunton Park buildings are found to the south, which are severed by the road called Middle Park Way from the rest of the park. These buildings could become more associated with the urban edge of Leigh Park rather than the park and gardens located to the north	Very varied and inconsistent styles. Predominantly red brick and clay tiles (flintwork not typical).		The only built form on the site is the telecommunications mast and compound to the eastern boundary. The Warren, which lies to the south of the site dates from approx 1965-80 and comprises mostly brick-built, flat-roofed houses and blocks of flats/maisonettes up to 3 storeys. Staunton Country Park is contained by parkland railings.

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Openness/enclosure	Areas of openness to the north with areas of enclosure to the south within the designed grounds of the park Long open views from the west across to the undeveloped South Downs enhance this rural character whilst the surrounding mix woodlands provide containment, colour and texture to the open areas of grassland From the west there are views across the open areas of grassland, over the surrounding woodlands to the South Downs.	Woodland creates a secluded landscape, contrasting with the adjoining major towns, although there are strong urban fringe influences around large settlements.		The site enjoys a fairly good sense of enclosure due to the adjacent woodlands and on site vegetation. There are some partial views from the north-east across the expanse of Deer Slaughter Plain
Specific key issues	The impacts of public access on biodiversity The development of the reservoir will fundamentally alter the wider landscape setting of the historic park and its associated listed structures and follies, and will significantly alter the (currently) relatively authentic view from the terrace of William Stone's former mansion. The visual impact of the northern built edge of Havant, in particular the three-storey buildings along Swanmore Road, which are visible from within the designed park and throughout the areas of rough grassland Impact of telecommunication masts and other tall structures on wooded horizons Areas adjacent to urban areas will be under demand for housing, with high density development putting pressure on the retention of the wooded character Further expansion of the residential areas could encroach on the setting of the 19th century houses, and interrupt designed vistas.			