PART 2:

THE CHARACTER OF THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB

# 7. THE CHARACTER OF THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB

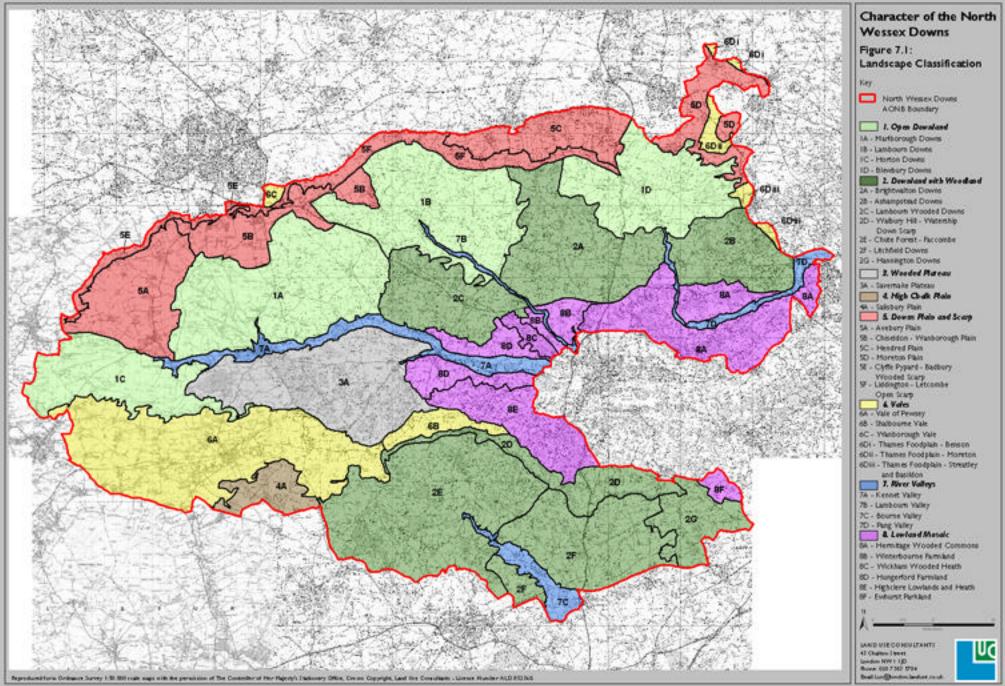
### Introduction

- 7.1. The physical, cultural, social and economic influences described in the previous chapters have combined to create the unique and distinctive character of the North Wessex Downs AONB. The area is characterised by a diversity of landscapes and these variations and differences are represented by eight **landscape types**.
  - 1: Open Downland
  - 2: Downland with Woodland
  - 3: Wooded Plateau
  - 4: High Chalk Plain
  - 5: Downs Plain and Scarp
  - 6: Vales
  - 7: River Valleys
  - 8: Lowland Mosaic
- 7.2. Each of the generic landscape types has a distinct and relatively homogenous character with similar physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, land cover, and historical evolution. The landscape types can be further sub-divided into component **landscape character areas**.
- 7.3. These are discrete geographic areas that possess the common characteristics described for the landscape type. Each character area has a distinct and recognisable local identity.
- 7.4. The landscape classification for the AONB is set out in Table 7.1 (overleaf) and illustrated on Figure 7.1. Figure 7.1 has been prepared on a Geographic Information System (GIS), with mapping undertaking at a scale of 1:25,000 and with a viewing accuracy at 1:50,000. It should however be noted that there are subtle differences between and within the individual landscape types and character areas. The boundaries illustrated, therefore usually indicate transitions rather than marked changes on the ground.

1A	Marlborough Downs
1B	Lambourn Downs
-	Horton Downs
1D	Blewbury Downs
2A	Brightwalton Downs
	Ashampstead Downs
	Lambourn Wooded Downs
	Walbury Hill - Watership Down Scarp
	Chute Forest – Faccombe
	Litchfield Downs
26	Hannington Downs
3A	Savernake Plateau
4A	Salisbury Plain
5A	Avebury Plain
	Chiseldon – Wanborough Plain
	Hendred Plain
-	Moreton Plain
	Clyffe Pypard - Badbury Wooded Scarp
51	Liddington - Letcombe Open Scarp
6A	Vale of Pewsey
-	Shalbourne Vale
	Wanborough Vale
6D	Thames Floodplain
7A	Kennet Valley
	Lambourn Valley
	Bourne Valley
70	Pang Valley
8A	Hermitage Wooded Commons
	Winterbourne Farmland
	Wickham Wooded Heath
	Hungerford Farmland
	Highclere Lowlands and Heath Ewhurst Parklands
	1C 1D 2A 2B 2C 2D 2E 2F 2G 3A 4A 5A 5B 5C 5D 5E 5F 5F 6A 6B 6C 6D 7A 7B 7C 7D

## Table 7.1: Landscape Classification

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#### 1 Open Downland



1A Marlborough Downs



18 Lambourn Downs



1C Horton Downs

2

Downland with Woodland



1D Blewbury Downs



2A Brightwalton Downs



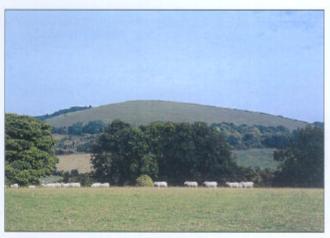
2B Ashampstead Downs

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2C Lambourn Wooded Downs



2D Walbury Hill - Watership Down Scarp



2E Chute Forest - Faccombe



2F Litchfield Downs

3 Wooded Plateau



2G Hannington Downs



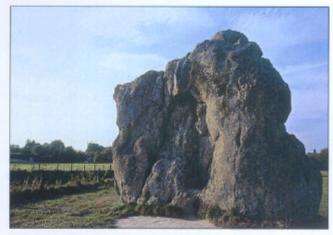
3A Savernake Plateau

#### 4 High Chalk Plain



4A Salisbury Plain

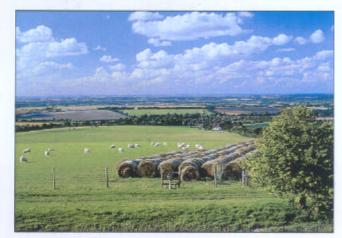
#### 5 Downs Plain and Scarp



5A Avebury Plain



5B Chiseldon - Wanborough Plain



5C Hendred Plain



5D Moreton Plain



5E Clyffe Pypard - Badbury Wooded Scarp

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5F Liddington - Letcombe Open Scarp





6A Vale of Pewsey



6B Shalbourne Vale



6C Wanborough Vale

7 River Valleys



6D Thames Floodplain



7A Kennet Valley

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7B Lambourn Valley



7D Pang Valley



7C Bourne Valley

8 Lowland Mosaic



8A Hermitage Wooded Commons



8B Winterbourne Farmland



8C Wickham Wooded Heath

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8D Hungerford Farmland



8E Highclere Lowlands and Heath



8F Ewhurst Parkland

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