

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.

Table 7.1: Landscape Classification

North Wessex Downs AONB Landscape Classification		
Landscape Type	Character Area	
1. Open Downland	1A	Marlborough Downs
	1B	Lambourn Downs
	1C	Horton Downs
	1D	Blewbury Downs
2. Downland with Woodland	2A	Brightwalton Downs
	2B	Ashampstead Downs
	2C	Lambourn Wooded Downs
	2D	Walbury Hill -Watership Down Scarp
	2E	Chute Forest – Faccombe
	2F	Litchfield Downs
	2G	Hannington Downs
3. Wooded Plateau	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
	5F	Liddington - Letcombe Open Scarp
6. Vales	6A	Vale of Pewsey
	6B	Shalbourne Vale
	6C	Wanborough Vale
	6D	Thames Floodplain
7. River Valleys	7A	Kennet Valley
	7B	Lambourn Valley
	7C	Bourne Valley
	7D	Pang Valley
8. Lowland Mosaic	8A	Hermitage Wooded Commons
	8B	Winterbourne Farmland
	8C	Wickham Wooded Heath
	8D	Hungerford Farmland
	8E	Highclere Lowlands and Heath
	8F	Ewhurst Parklands

Character of the North Wessex Downs

Figure 7.1:
Landscape Classification

Key

 North Wessex Downs
AONB Boundary

1. Open Downland

1A - Marlborough Downs
1B - Lambourn Downs
1C - Horton Downs
1D - Blewbury Downs

2. Downland with Woodland

2A - Brighthelm Downs
2B - Ashurst Wood Downs
2C - Lambourn Wooded Downs
2D - Walsbury Hill - Watership
Down Scarp
2E - Chute Forest - Foccombe
2F - Littlefield Downs
2G - Haslington Downs

3. Wooded Plateau

3A - Savernake Plateau

4. High Chalk Plain

4A - Salisbury Plain

5. Downs Plain and Scarp

5A - Avebury Plain
5B - Clarendon - Wiltshire Plain
5C - Hensford Plain
5D - Moreton Plain
5E - Cylfe Pyland - Badbury
Wooded Scarp
5F - Liddington - Letcombe
Open Scarp

6. Vales

6A - Vale of Pewsey
6B - Salisbury Vale
6C - Wiltshire Vale
6D - Thames Floodplain - Benson
6Dii - Thames Floodplain - Moreton
6Diii - Thames Floodplain - Stratfield
and Basingdon

7. River Valleys

7A - Kennet Valley
7B - Lambourn Valley
7C - Bourne Valley
7D - Pang Valley

8. Lowland Menial

8A - Hermitage Wooded Commons
8B - Winterbourne Fensland
8C - Wiltshire Wooded Heath
8D - Hungerford Fensland
8E - Highclere Lowlands and Heath
8F - Exton Parkland



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1 Open Downland



1A Marlborough Downs



1B Lambourn Downs



1C Horton Downs



1D Blewbury Downs

2 Downland with Woodland



2A Brightwalton Downs



2B Ashampstead Downs

All photography by Ann Seth

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2C Lambourn Wooded Downs



2D Walbury Hill - Watership Down Scarp



2E Chute Forest - Facombe



2F Litchfield Downs

3 Wooded Plateau



2G Hannington Downs



3A Savernake Plateau

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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



5F Liddington - Letcombe Open Scarp

6 Vales



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



7C Bourne Valley

8 Lowland Mosaic



7D Pang Valley



8A Hermitage Wooded Commons



8B Winterbourne Farmland



8C Wickham Wooded Heath

All photography by Ann Seth

CHARACTER OF THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS

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8D Hungerford Farmland



8E Highclere Lowlands and Heath



8F Ewhurst Parkland