

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE:

### Greensand Terrace

Found in association with Greensand Hangers – limited to East Hampshire.



#### SIMILAR AND ASSOCIATED TYPES HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT AND BOROUGH LEVEL ASSESSMENTS

<b>Basingstoke:</b>	Open Arable on Greensand
<b>East Hampshire</b>	Greensand Terrace (includes the scarp hanger face)
<b>Eastleigh</b>	n/a
<b>Fareham</b>	n/a
<b>Gosport</b>	n/a
<b>Hart</b>	n/a
<b>Havant</b>	n/a
<b>New Forest</b>	n/a
<b>Rushmoor</b>	n/a
<b>Test Valley</b>	n/a
<b>Winchester</b>	n/a

#### SIMILAR AND ASSOCIATED TYPES IN NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITY ASSESSMENTS

<b>Dorset</b>	n/a
<b>West Berkshire</b>	n/a
<b>West Sussex</b>	Scarp Footslopes includes areas outside the extent of the Upper Greensand.
<b>Wiltshire</b>	Greensand Terrace

## KEY IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND BOUNDARY DEFINITIONS

- Upper Greensand geology gives rise to rich brown earth soils which support predominantly arable crops.
- A distinct terrace formed from the Upper greensand - an indistinct dip slope of the escarpment.
- Strong historic associations with hop growing – a legacy of oast and hop kilns are now often found converted to modern residential use – poplar shelter belts remain. Orchards were also historically associated with the area.
- Varying degrees of prehistoric archaeology between the two extents in Hampshire, the location in East Hampshire being richer in evidence – particularly overlooking the R. Wey.
- Dominated by large regular formal field pattern where the terrace is widest and easily accessible from adjoining chalk and gault clay based landscapes – early informal enclosures and assarts where the terrace is narrow and less accessible.
- Frequently a sense of enclosure induced from the adjoining hangers and steep topography.
- Distinctive traditional building material distribution of cream stone known as malmstone or clunch.
- Small springline settlements located on the boundary with the chalk scarp and dammed streams which form mill ponds.
- Generally undeveloped rural farmed landscapes with high degree of tranquillity and visually isolated from surrounding larger settlements and busier main and trunk roads.

## PHYSICAL

### GEOLOGY, LANDFORM, ELEVATION:

**Bedrock and Superficial Geology:** Formed from Upper Greensand, a calcareous sandstone and siltstone. Historically an important building stone; know as malmstone

**Landform and Elevation:** On the terrace/dip of the Greensand Hanger. Often Sloping away from the greensand scarp edge down to the foot of the chalk scarp, which forms the other boundary of this type.

### SOILS TYPES:

**Typical soil type pattern:** Fine loamy and fine silty over soils and sandstone 571i, 572k and 571g variable drainage but only slight seasonal waterlogging. Well drained calcareous fine silty soils over chalk rubble, where the terrace is narrowest, type 511g.

### FUNCTIONS:

**Hydrological function:** Often over major source protection zones. Relatively free draining soils.

**Food and Biomass:** Typically fertile soils. The Cranfield soils function based methodology suggests this are has high biomass potential. They give rise to rich brown earth soils and favoured for arable production and the relatively high availability of phosphate to plant roots.

**Biodiversity potential:** Very little biodiversity potential in chalk and heathland creation / opportunity and few cases for potential for ancient woodland reversion.

**LANDCOVER AND LAND USE PATTERN:**

A high proportion of arable to improved grassland; similar to dowland landscapes. The terrace supports a mix of landcover of woodland and farmland of small pasture fields and paddocks. Field size is variable. Locally distinctive crops, historically, include hops and orchards the latter specifically around Selbourne.

**HYDROLOGY:**

Little or no standing water. Streams dissect the terrace flowing down to the lowland clay landscape.

**EXPERIENTIAL****ACCESS AND TRANSPORT ROUTES:**

Relatively dense RoW network, which links the high chalk landscape with the low clay vale landscape. Little open access or registered common land. Popular draw of the Hanger's way, National Trust land at Selbourne. Few major roads which are lightly trafficked.

**TRANQUILLITY:**

Regarded as having a high level of tranquillity, being relatively undeveloped with high quality natural hanger landscapes fringing the terrace.

**CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS:****BIODIVERSITY**

The Greensand Terrace landscape character type is an open agricultural landscape comprising arable land with improved grassland and a network of hedgerows.

Arable land has limited habitat value but can support a range of specialist species; many insects complete their life cycle within arable fields, providing food sources for birds, including species such as curlew, corn bunting and grey partridge. Mammals supported by arable land include the harvest mouse.

There are occasional patches of neutral grassland within the Greensand Terrace landscape character type, both unimproved and semi-improved, along with small patches of marshy, freshwater grassland in the north of the area, adjacent to running water. Unimproved grassland is ecologically more valuable than agriculturally improved land, however it is an increasingly scarce and fragmented habitat due to pressures for productive land. There are some patches of calcareous grassland (unimproved or semi improved) in this landscape which can be very species rich; this represents a resource which has significantly declined in area over the last 50 years.

Woodland cover is more limited here than elsewhere in Hampshire, with very small woodland patches and strips that tend not to be interconnected but remain isolated within the agricultural landscape. Woodland types include broadleaved woodland (some of which is ancient, semi-natural woodland), mixed woodlands, coniferous plantations and patches of forestry scrub. There are also patches of felled woodland which, if unmanaged, may provide ecologically rich patches within the arable landscape.

There is a large orchard east of Selborne and further south, to the north of Hawkley there are further, much smaller orchards. Orchards represent relicts of past agriculture and can be high

in conservation interest.

The East Hampshire Hangers BOA exists within this landscape character type and identifies opportunities for lowland calcareous grassland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and lowland meadow habitat creation and enhancement.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### ARCHAEOLOGY

At the northern end, adjacent to the Wey valley there is a wide range of archaeological sites reflecting settlement and exploitation from the earliest times. Neolithic long barrow and finds, Iron Age settlement and field systems, and a complex Roman landscape suggest that this a farmed and settled area. However, to the south and in the isolated Greensand to the north of Beacon Hill there is remarkably little archaeological evidence. This may suggest that the Greensand is only heavily exploited where it benefits from proximity to other resources, such as the river valley

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

In East Hampshire where the type is more extensive, the enclosure patterns indicate medieval and post medieval informal enclosure and area of more planned formal enclosure, in places retaining elements of medieval field patterns. There is an absence of later formal enclosure. This appears to have been a favoured area for hop growing particularly where this type occurs in East Hampshire, in the 17th and 18th centuries The smaller area of this landscape type in the north west (in Echinswell and Kingsclere parishes) is more open and larger scale. Formal parliamentary enclosure in the east. In the west, field boundaries have a more wavy structure, suggesting origins of earlier more informal enclosure. This very different treatment might reflect the wider setting which is open downland and so reflects the land use practices of the area rather than merely those of that type.

### HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT

**Settlement types by form:** Typically pattern of spring line settlements along the junction with the base of the chalk scarp which frequently adjoins this type. Small settlements based on agricultural economy.

**Building materials and type;**

Clunch or malmstone, a pale cream stone, from the Upper Greensand is a particularly distinctive building material. Sometime sub angular and sometimes as dressed blocks – red brick detailing and clay tiles. The extent of its use is closely aligned with the extent of the Upper Greensand geology. Oast houses and hop kilns occur particularly where the Upper Greensand occurs in East Hampshire.

## VISIBILITY

**Prominency:** Locally elevated with respect to adjoining lowland mosaic landscape to the east and low lying compared with the surrounding dowland landscape. The sloping nature of the dip slope affords high visibility across the width of the terrace from the greensand scarp side.

**Enclosure:** Woodland hangers either side of the terrace, impart a strong sense of enclosure. Within the terrace landscape, field boundaries are variable in height and fields medium to large in size. There is a lack of woodland cover, allowing views over to the chalk scarp and chalk clay plateau landscape.

**Public perceptions:**