

Coombe Bissett and Homington Neighbourhood Plan (CB&HNP) - Summary of Environment, Landscape Character and Vistas Topic Paper

Prepared by Dr. Amy Burnett (Development in Transition, DInT) for comment by Coombe Bissett Parish Council

Version for community consultation (July 2020). 3rd July 2020.

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List of Abbreviations

Acronym	Full name
AECOM	Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance Technology Corporation
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CB&HNP	Coombe Bissett and Homington Neighbourhood Plan
CCWWD AONB	Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
DinT	Development in Transition
LLCA	Local Landscape Character Area
SDC	Salisbury District Council
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SSSI	Site of Specific Scientific Interest

1. Document Purpose

This document sets out the landscape typography of the area, complementing the AECOM¹ 2019 Design Guide, with a view to documenting key local landscapes that should be protected from development in the Coombe Bissett and Homington Neighbourhood Plan (CB&HNP), wherever possible. It is particularly important to ensure that any adverse landscape impacts on the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (CCWD AONB) are avoided and that the area retains its rural character in the event of any new development facilitated through the Neighbourhood Plan.²

¹ [AECOM](#) are an independent company contracted to carry out technical support under the Locality Neighbourhood Plan grant programme.

² NB: a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), if deemed necessary by Wiltshire Council, may well address some of these issues but will be less focused on local views and vistas.

2. Landscape typology and characterisation

Coombe Bissett and Homington is situated in a sparsely settled area of lowland England. Coombe Bissett and Homington are both classed as an ancient parish within the AONB (CCWWD AONB Historic Land Characterisation Project, 2008 p.69). Natural England characterise this region as 'strongly rural and agricultural [...] characterised by large open fields of pasture and arable, punctuated by blocks of woodland all draped over an undulating chalk topography' (Natural England, 2013).

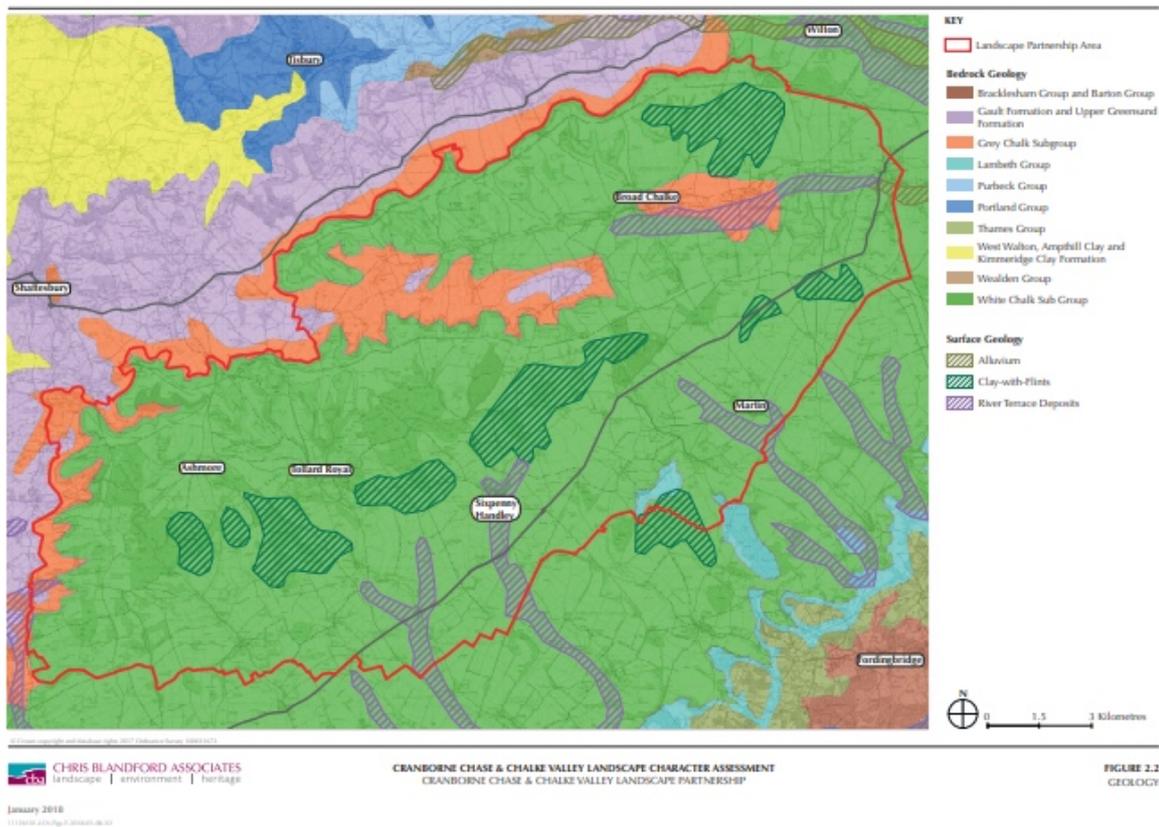


Figure 1 – Geology in the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Character Area (Chris Blandford Associates³/AONB, p.9).

Materials and geology

The CB&HNP Design Guide prepared by AECOM sets out how local character is shaped by local resources within the area's geology. Flint is a material characteristic of the chalk geology as the chalk was deposited, and can be found within the surface materials in local buildings (see the Design Code, AECOM, 2019). These are particularly prominent in the surface geology to the north west of Broad Chalke, and also in a broken band from the south of Ashmore, through Vernditch

³ Chris Blandford Associates carried out landscape character assessments for both Salisbury District Council and the AONB. See References for more detail.

Chase to the south of Coombe Bissett Down (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.8).
Coombe Bissett's geology is mainly white chalk (see AECOM, 2019).



Figure 2 – Stone and flint (AECOM, 2019, p.39).



Figure 3 – Flint, brick and picket fence (AECOM, 2019, p.21).



Figure 4 – Knapped flint within the boundary wall (AECOM, 2019, p.21).

Landscape typologies

The parish is within the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area⁴ (see Figure 5). The landscape characteristics of this wider area is of steep chalk escarpments to the north and west (with some dating 100 million years ago) and downland areas in the southern side; the eastern side is drawn along a dry valley where there is a change in the topography at Coombe Bissett (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, p.6).

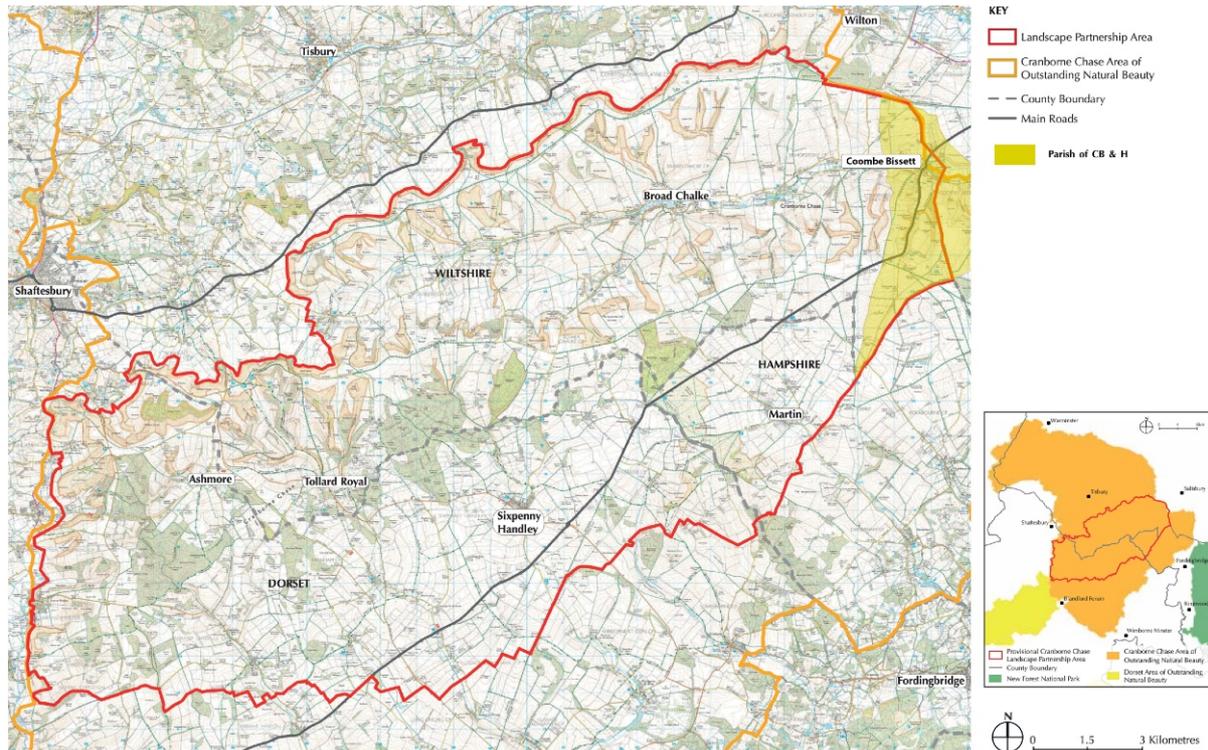


Figure 5 - Landscape Partnership Area (full area with parish boundary indicated in yellow) (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.5 and adapted by Alastair Lack).

⁴ The Landscape Partnership area is a part of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB which was set up to enhance the area depicted in Figure 5. This area sits within the southern England chalk formation and lies between the market towns of Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum, on the western edge, and the village of Coombe Bissett on the east. The area measures 254 square kilometres. See <https://cranbornechase.org.uk/landscape-partnership-scheme/> for more information.

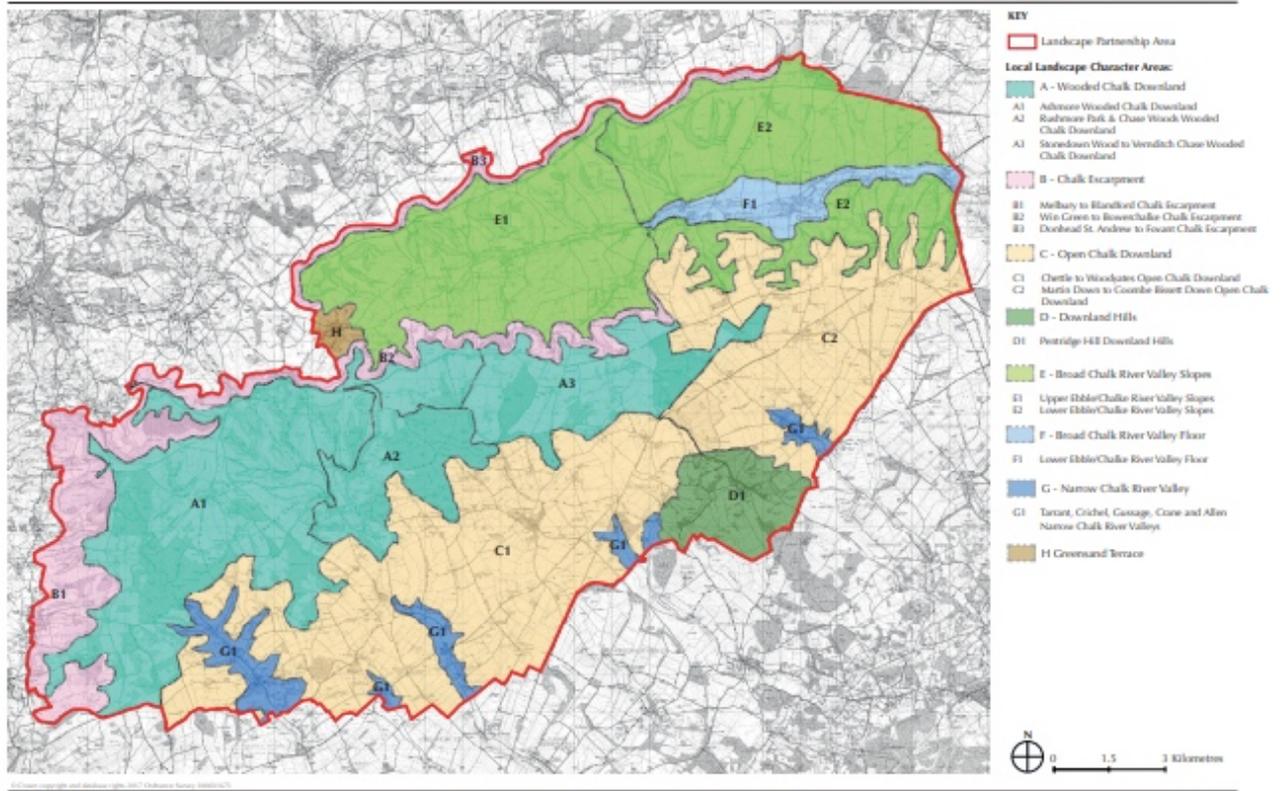


Figure 6 – Geology within the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.24).

Figure 7 – Close-up of the Eastern boundary of the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area in the Coombe Bissett area (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, p.5).



The landscape of the Coombe Bissett and Homington Neighbourhood Plan Area is also described within several district-level character assessments. These assessments have been published by Wiltshire County Council (2005), Salisbury District Council (2008) and the Cranborne Chase & Chalk Valley Landscape Partnership (2018).⁵

Character Areas define the rural areas of the Neighbourhood Plan Area outside of the main settlements.

The Character Areas that cover the Coombe Bissett and Homington Neighbourhood Plan Area are identified by the Salisbury District Council (SDC) 2008 South Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment as⁶:

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA	SDC CLASSIFICATION	CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES	FIGURE
EBBLE BROAD CHALKE RIVER VALLEY SLOPES	B2	E2	Figure 9
EBBLE BROAD CHALKE RIVER VALLEY FLOOR	C2	F1	Figure 12
CRANBORNE CHASE CHALK DOWNLAND	D7	C2 ⁷	Figure 8

⁵ See also Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs (CWWD) CCWWD AONB AONB/The Landscape Partnership, 2007).

⁶ NB: these are classified differently in the SDC and the Chris Blandford Associates character assessments; the code for each is provided above. For planning purposes the most recent classification from the Chris Blandford Associates document should be referred to.

⁷ Classified as Martin Down to Coombe Bissett Down Chalk Downland.

AECOM also indicate these character areas in the CB&HNP Design Guide, set out in Figure 8, below:

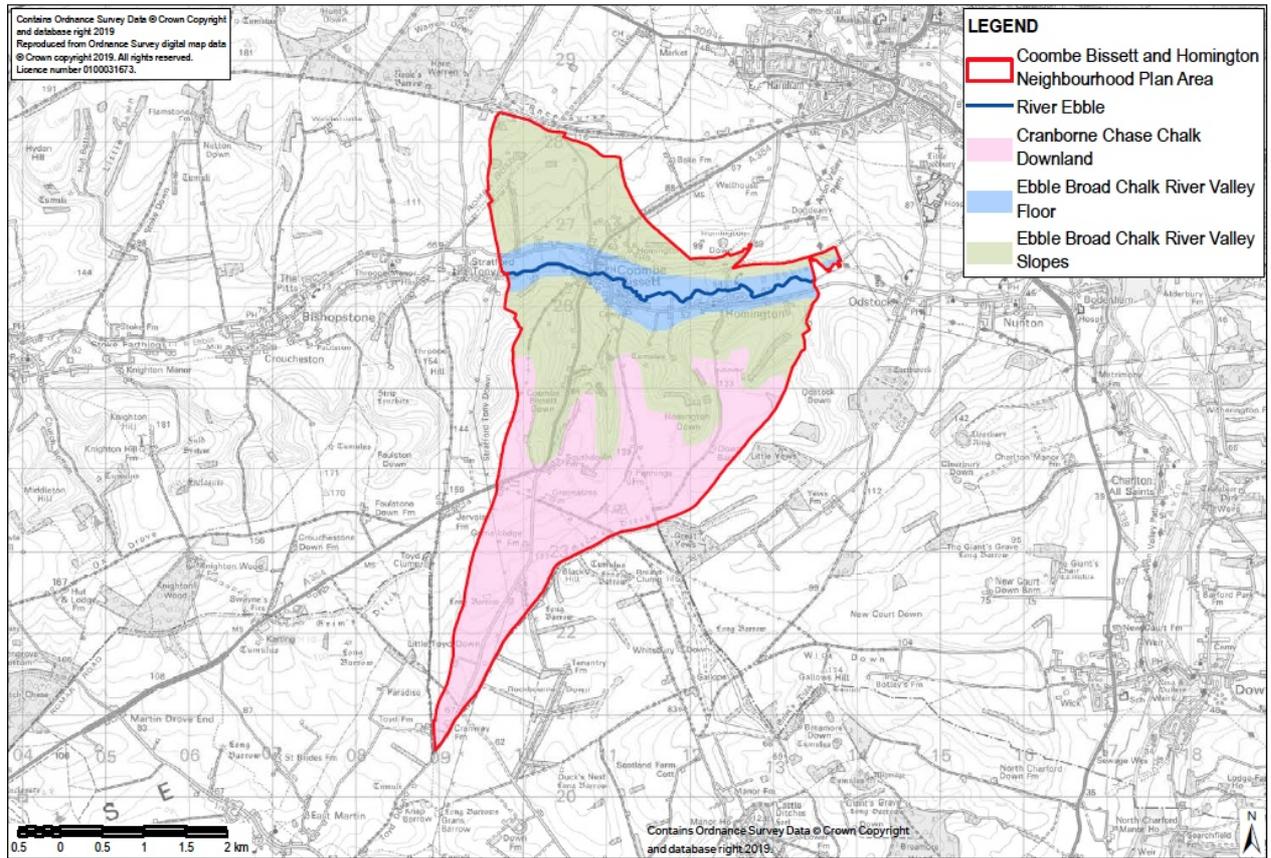


Figure 8 – District Character Areas in the parish (AECOM, 2019, p.15)

B2 - Ebble Broad Chalk River Valley Slopes

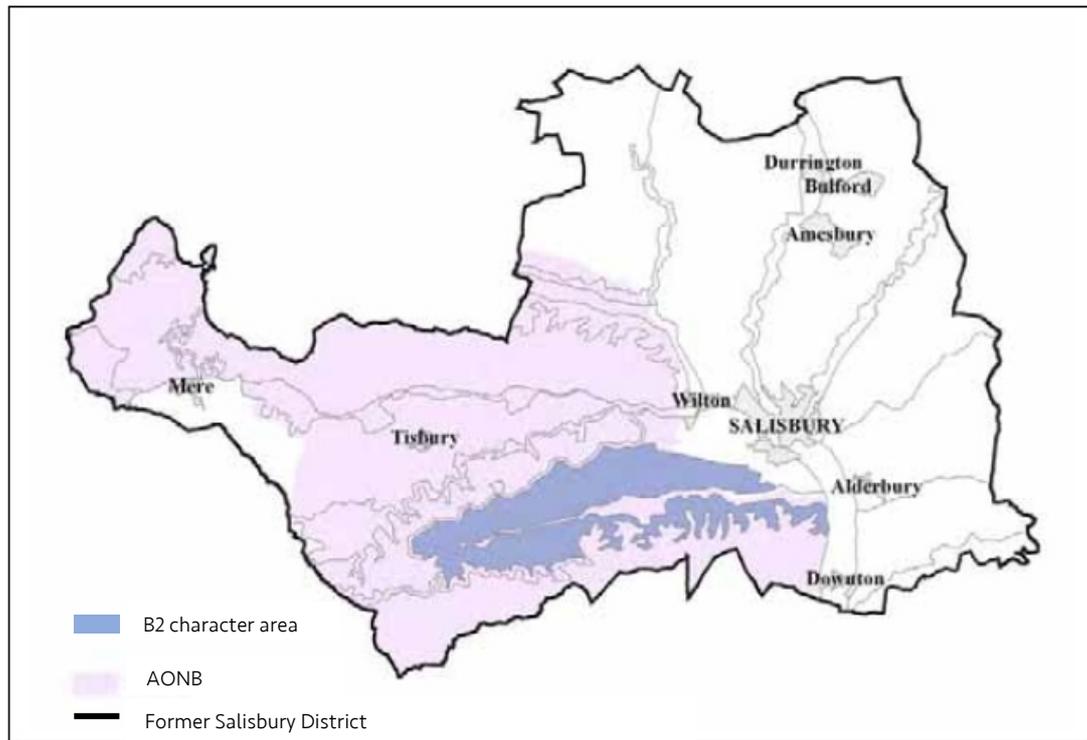


Figure 9 – B2 Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Slopes – shown in purple (Salisbury District Council⁸, 2008, p.55)

The Ebble River Valley is situated towards the centre of Salisbury District and falls entirely within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. This landscape Character Area surrounds and forms a visual cohesive unit with Ebble Chalke River Valley Floor (Landscape Character Area C2) (SDC, 2008, p.54).

The Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Characterisation also further defines character areas E, E1 and E2, the relevant areas for the CB&H area are set out in Figure 10 and Figure 11. This is defined as E/E2 in the Chris Blandford Associates/AONB report (2018).

⁸ The figures that were produced by SDC cover the entire previous Salisbury District, which extended to Mere in the North West Downton in the south and Durrington in the north east of the district. Some of the landscape character areas extend much beyond the parish boundary.

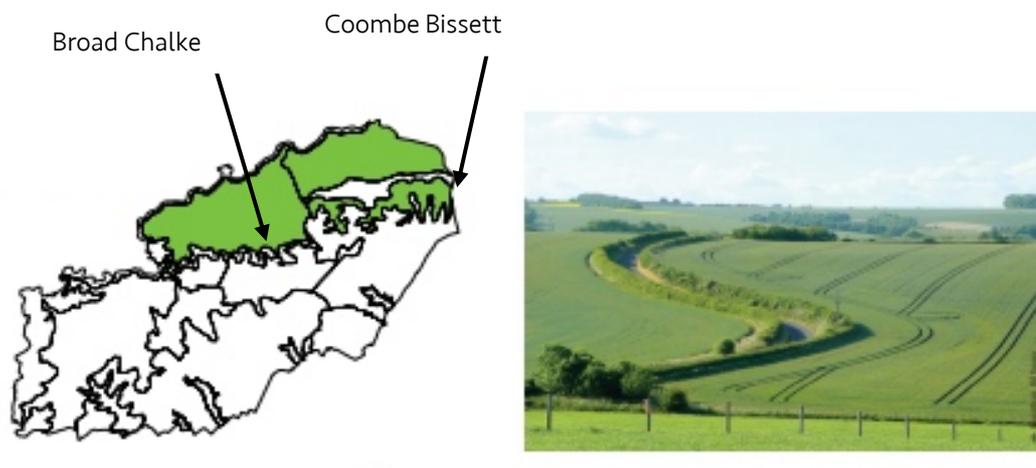


Figure 10 – Broad Chalke river valley slopes map and an example view (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.83).

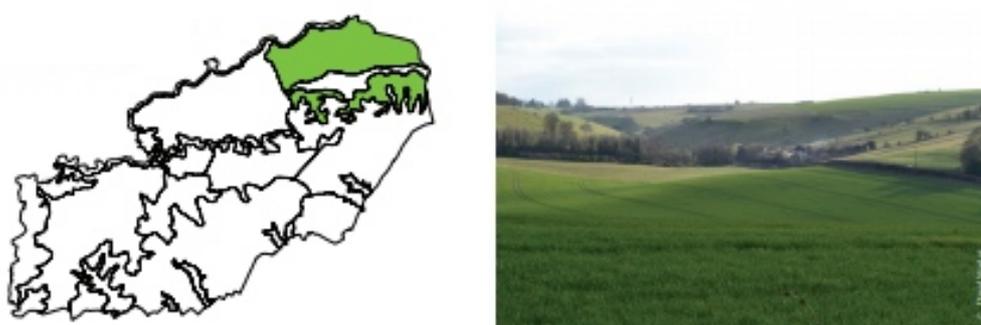


Figure 11 – Lower Ebble/Chalke River valley slopes map and an example view (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.83).

This Character Area is the lower part of the Ebble / Chalke River Valley and is located in the north-west of the Landscape Partnership Scheme area, bound to the north by the Donhead St Andrew to Fovant Chalk Escarpment Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) (B3). To the south it is bound by the Martin Down to Coombe Bissett Down Open Chalk Downland LLCA (C2). The Lower Ebble / Chalke Valley River Valley Floor LLCA (F1) cuts through E2 in the centre. The E2 Character Area stretches from Knapp in the west to Coombe Bissett in the east, although these two settlements are actually within the Lower Ebble / Chalke River Valley Floor LLCA (F1) (see Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, pp.91-95).

B2 Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Slopes: (see SDC, 2008, pp.54-7)

- Small areas of unimproved chalk grassland and rough pasture on steeper slopes.
- Intensive arable production. Some rural diversification present where converted farm buildings are let to other businesses.
- Settlement generally absent.
- Numerous tumuli and surviving elements of Roman roads

E2 - Lower Ebble/Chalke River Valley Slopes (see Chris Blandford Associates/AONB 2018, pp.91-95)

Key Characteristics

- Wide, extensive valley slopes, underlain by chalk geology.
- General sense of openness on the Valley Slopes, in contrast to the more enclosed nature of the Valley Floor.
- The main A354 between Salisbury and Blandford Forum passes through the LLCA reducing tranquillity along its course.
- Beech lined roads are a feature.
- Field boundaries and footpaths often reflect historic tracks and paths.
- High quality habitats including unimproved calcareous grassland, with most of Knighton Down and Wood SSSI falling within this LLCA.

High density of archaeological remains, typical of the wider area.

C2 - Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Floor

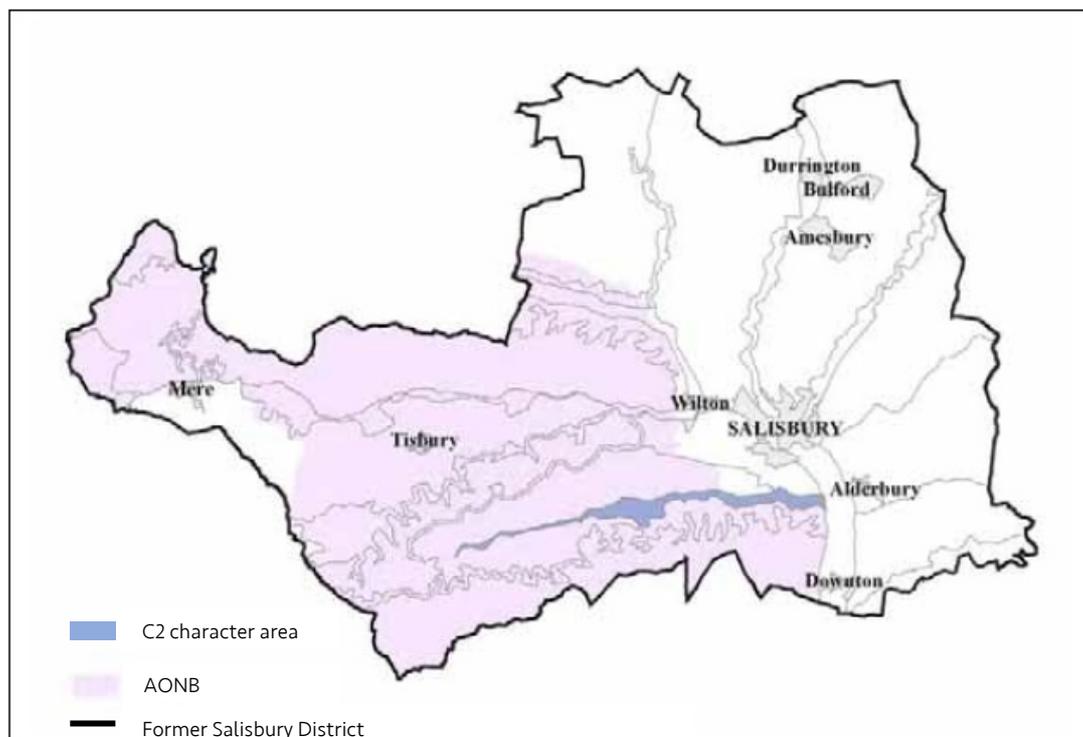


Figure 12 - C2 Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Floor Landscape character area, the course of the River Ebble within its floodplain - shown in dark purple. Boundary is (Salisbury District Council, 2008, p.67).



Figure 13 - C2 Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Floor Landscape character area (Salisbury District Council, 2008, p.67)

The Ebble River Valley falls entirely within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. This Landscape Character Area is surrounded to the north and south by Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Slopes (Landscape Character Area B2) (SDC, 2008, p.54).



Figure 14 – F1 Lower Ebble/Chalke Valley River Valley Floor map and an example view (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.97).

C2 Ebble Broad Chalke River Valley Floor (see SDC, 2008, pp.54-7)

- A semi-enclosed character as a result of riparian woodland, mature hedgerows and lines of willow and poplar trees.
- Patchwork of grassland with remnant water meadows and watercress beds.
- Picturesque hamlets and villages located along the valley bottom in a linear pattern, spaced at close intervals.
- Brick, flint, thatch and slate are common building materials.

- A strong sense of tranquillity and a rural character; some settlements extend up and onto the downland

F1 - Lower Ebble/Chalke Valley River Valley Floor (p.97-9)

This character area is located within the north-west of the Landscape Partnership Scheme area. It stretches from the hamlet of Knapp in the west to the village of Coombe Bissett in the east.

- Flat river valley floor, underlain by chalk geology.
- Small woodland belts and scattered trees, with willow and poplar lining the route of the river in places.
- The clear fast flowing chalk river is a key habitat although small areas of unimproved chalk grassland and rough pasture are also present.
- Ecological interest in its water courses and meadows with high water quality and rich biodiversity.
- Cress beds (dating from the post-medieval and modern periods) as well as remnant water meadows, woodland blocks and belts can be found on the floodplains of the area (traditional water meadow management is generally no longer practiced). The loss of traditional land management methods such as water meadows has led to decline in ecological value of the wet grasslands
- Settlement is denser than in the upper valley floor and with greater traffic volume on the roads, it is less tranquil. Comprises linear villages and hamlets of compact well-kept villages such as Combe Bissett, Stratford Tony, Bishopstone and Broad Chalke along the course of the river. Use of varied local materials.
- A number of footpaths following the east-west path of the River Ebble, allowing access along the river from Broad Chalke to Coombe Bissett and beyond.
- There is no ancient woodland within this LLCA.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees give an enclosed feel to the valley. Some hedgerows in poor condition.

D7 - Cranborne Chase Chalk Downland

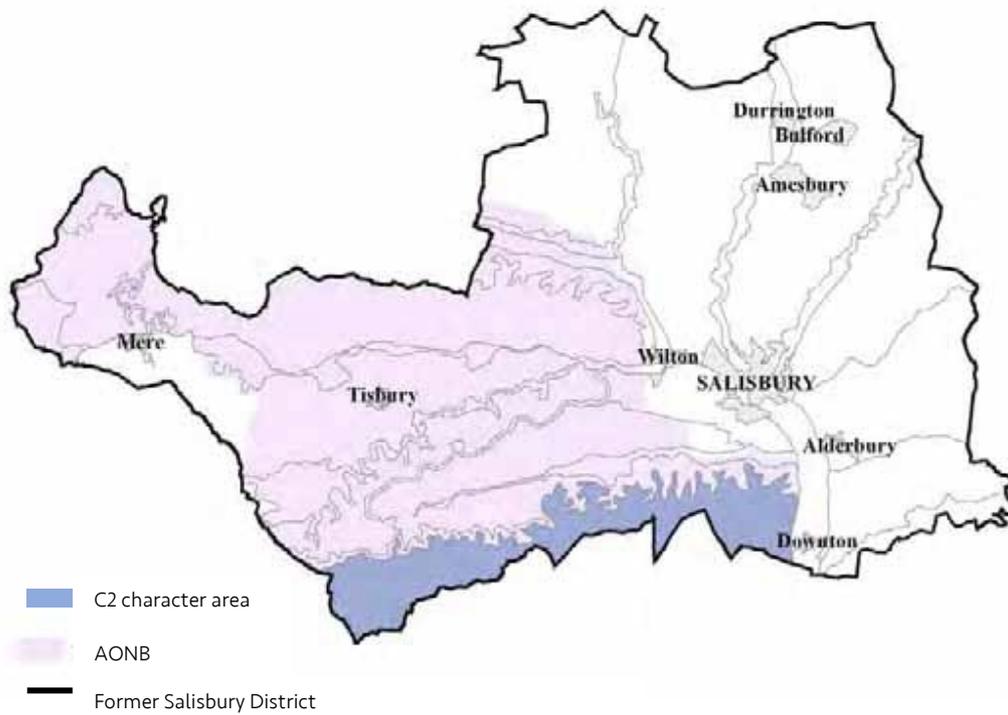


Figure 15 – D7 Cranborne Chase Chalk Downland Landscape character area, the course of the River Ebble within its floodplain – shown in purple (Salisbury District Council, 2008, p.107).

This Landscape Character Area is situated at the southern edge of Salisbury District and falls within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB. To the north, the landscape gives way to the southern slopes of the Ebble Valley (LCA C2), whilst to the west and south, a continuation of the Chalk Downland landscape is visible. This is defined as C2 by the Chris Blandford Associates.

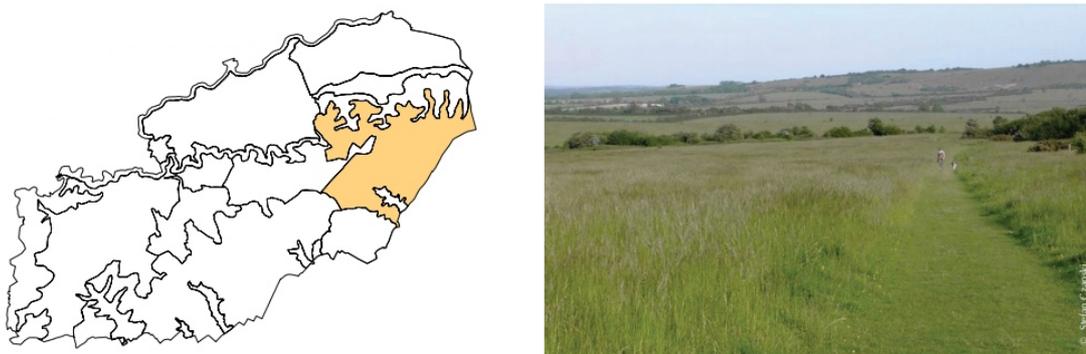


Figure 16 - Open Chalk Downland map and an example view (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.62).

D7 Cranborne Chase Chalk Downland:

- I. Elevated downland, deeply eroded to create a dramatic series of coombe valleys and ridges.
- II. A mosaic of both pastoral and arable land uses.
- III. Chalk grassland and ancient woodland provide important nature conservation.
- IV. Low density settlement pattern with few villages and dispersed farmstead.
- V. Neolithic and Bronze age barrows, late prehistoric to Roman artworks

C2 - Martin Down to Coombe Bissett Down – Open Chalk Downland (see Chris Blandford Associates/AONB 2018, pp.91-95)

- An elevated and exposed, large-scale, chalk landform of broad rolling hills with dry river valleys.
- Settlement is very sparse, limited to a few farmsteads. There is also very little woodland cover. Low density scattered settlement of farmsteads and the occasional downland village.
- An intensive agricultural landscape, dominated by arable production and large fields.
- Large, open skies and panoramic views over adjacent landscapes and towards the Dorset coast.
- High quality habitats of unimproved calcareous grassland (e.g. Martin Down National Nature Reserve).
- A number of footpaths cross the area, with one following the route of Ackling Dyke Roman road.
- The LLCA is crossed by the main A354 between Salisbury and Blandford Forum, increasing access, but reducing on tranquillity.
- A high density of upstanding and known buried archaeological remains including prehistoric sites and a Roman road.
- Flint is visible in places on the surface soil of ploughed fields.

There are three different landscape areas that cut across the parish: C2, E2 F1 (the central area of Coombe Bissett is featured in F1). To the east of Coombe Bissett is one of the lowest areas in the character area, with a height of 56m.

3. Landscape and Visual Sensitivities within the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area

This section is from the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Character Assessment (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018). Key positive landscape and visual attributes that, if lost or altered, would change the character of the landscape in the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area are:

- Seasonal flood meadows, grazed pastures, marsh and damp woodlands.

- Rich floodplain landscape of small scale grazed pastures, riparian vegetation and damp woodlands.
- Narrow, winding roads often enclosed by hedgerows.
- Small distinctive villages built of rich variety of local materials.
- Peaceful rural landscape away from major roads.
- Remnants of water meadows including a few in active management, together with watercress beds.

Key pressures, trends and threats to the character of the landscape, and opportunities for strengthening landscape character are noted in the CC&CVLP Landscape Character Assessment. Those the Neighbourhood Plan that might influence these are listed below⁹:

- Nutrient pollution from riverside arable land plus road and urban run-off affecting the high water quality and appearance of the streams and rivers.
- Wet woodland is now mostly restricted to a narrow line of willow and alder along the immediate riverbanks.
- Loss of hedgerows boundaries and particularly mature hedgerow trees, plus poor management of remaining hedgerows.
- Increased traffic on the road network, plus improvements to the lanes including kerbing, widening, signing which, in places create a more 'urban' character.
- Development pressures, particularly for new housing which will affect the character of the existing small settlements - villages may appear to coalesce along the valley side roads.

Recommendations for positive landscape management

The Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area Landscape Characterisation Assessment suggests a number of positive recommendations to preserve the landscape and special characters of this area:

The report suggests that the landscape priorities for this character area should be to:

“Conserve the tranquil, intimate and rural character of the landscape. This will include maintenance, and restoration as appropriate, of key features including pasture, wet grassland and riparian woodlands, hedgerows and historic features associated with the water meadows and watercress beds.” (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.101)

The report recommends the following activities to preserve local landscape character; how CB&HNP might support these endeavours is detailed in the table below:

⁹ These issues could be considered within the Neighbourhood Plan policies or be incorporated into broader action points arising from the Plan for the Parish Council and other local partners to address collaboratively (see also Table 1).

Table 1 - Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area recommendations on local issues and how CB&HNP could address them

Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Area	How CB&HNP can support these recommendations
Conserve and consider opportunities for reconnecting and recreating wetland habitats such as wet woodland, fen, marsh and swamp.	Identify these areas and ensure development does not take place on or adjacent to these ecological and habitat areas.
Where appropriate, minimise hedgerow loss and conversion to fencing, which could result in loss of the sense of enclosure and along roads and tracks.	Protect existing hedgerows by ensuring that new development does not allow for their destruction. Awareness-raising among local people. Address in Design Guide.
Restore fragmented and poorly managed hedgerows where appropriate including planting of hedgerow trees, and willows should be retained along field boundaries and the course of the river.	Awareness-raising among local people. Address in Design Guide.
Where appropriate, enhance public access to views of the landscape, by carefully siting any new or reinforcement hedge planting.	List which landscapes would be at risk from development (high, medium, low) and prevent development in high or medium risk areas, or that appropriate mitigation is taken. Ensure views within the AONB are duly respected.
Where possible, limit incremental change to the road network such as that associated with signage and change to road class, which could change the rural peaceful character of the landscape.	Respect rural character whilst seeking to improve crossing points and access for those with mobility issues or safety hotspots.
Conserve and restore remnant water meadow systems and watercress beds that are an important historic landscape feature – and consider opportunities for reinstatement of traditional management techniques.	Consider the historic value of the water meadows and watercress beds. Liaise with landowners about possibility for reinstatement of traditional management techniques on water management as part of a wider flood management scheme.
Consider developing guidance for built development to ensure both future construction and changes to existing buildings are designed to integrate with the existing character and settlement pattern.	Institute a Design Code for the parish (and encourage other communities to do the same).

Heritage

Within the Lower Ebble/Chalke Valley River Valley Floor character area, the landscape assessment points to positive re-use of historic buildings where “the use of historic properties for modern and creative purposes creates a feeling of connection to the history of the area and enables good

maintenance of historic buildings” (Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.98), citing the café and stores in Broadchalke as an example of this.¹⁰

There are distinctive features that connect the Parish to its past, such as the Packhorse Bridge in Coombe Bissett (scheduled monument), a Georgian toll building (Toll House, Coombe Bissett) and the valley was used as a transport corridor with the road passing alongside the river. The bridge in Homington was historically on the main Salisbury to Cranborne road while the Old Blandford Road used to be the main thoroughfare towards Dorchester, which crosses the footpath CBIS1.

There are also distinctive features relating to past management of the floodplain, including the water meadows (see Chris Blandford Associates/AONB, 2018, p.99). The Neighbourhood Plan could protect these heritage assets by creating a list of listed and non-listed heritage assets that should be protected or enhanced by development.

4. Environmental Designations in the parish

There are also important environmental designations within the parish, including Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) and County Wildlife Sites (CWS). This section provides information on the SSSIs and CWS in the area (NB: additional information may also be provided by a Strategic Environmental Assessment, if required).

¹⁰ A separate Topic Paper is being prepared for historic and community assets which documents both listed and non-listed historic assets as well as compiling suggestions on their management based on feedback from the 2018 Community Questionnaire.

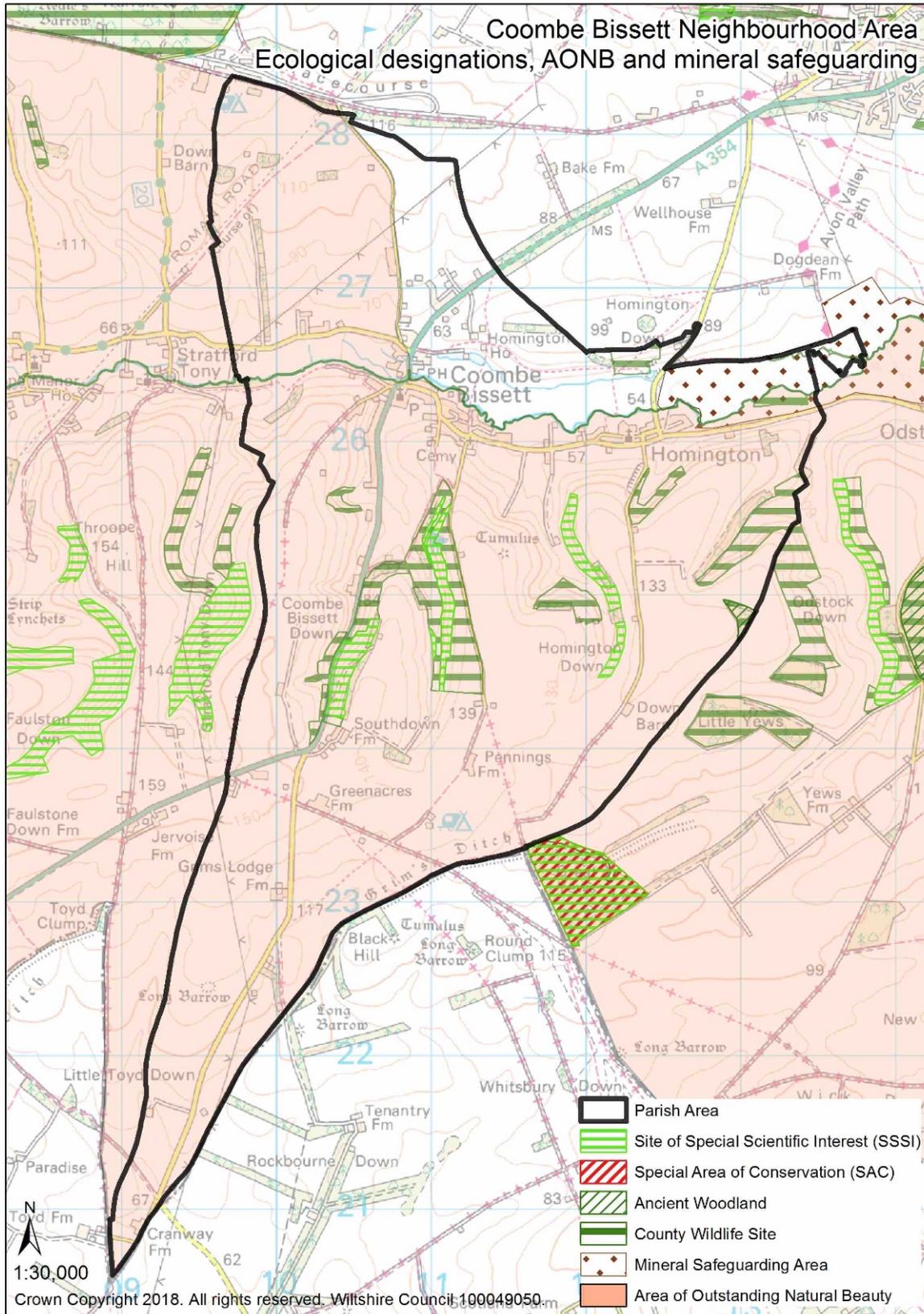


Figure 17 – Environmental designations and the AONB boundary in the Coombe Bissett and Homington parish

Homington and Coombe Bissett Downs SSSI

Coombe Bissett Down nature reserve is a 70.6 hectares chalk downland valley south west of Salisbury. It's a large haven for wildlife protected by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, supported with grant funding from the National Lottery and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the rare flora and fauna found here. Several rare or uncommon animal and plant species are well established on parts of the downs with several blocks of botanically rich chalk grassland.

From May to September there are wildflowers, from cowslip and harebells to kidney vetch and Devils-bit scabious. These attract lots of butterflies including adonis blue and dingy skipper. Yellowhammer, skylarks and whitethroat can be heard singing from scrub or overhead and kestrels hover over small mammals below.

People have also had a close relationship with this site for many years. There have been artefacts from the Neolithic Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period on Coombe and the surrounding downs. Steep slopes on the site are patterned by medieval terraces called strip lynchets which were used for grazing. We have a flock of hardy Herdwick sheep and light footed Dexter cattle that crop the grass, maintaining the chalk downland habitat.

Dogs are kept on leads on the site with a number of accessible footpaths from this area (e.g. see Coombe Bissett and Homington Footpath Map, Footpath Topic Paper).¹¹

¹¹ <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=257eb893-185b-4324-a441-454b0c391f8e>



Figure 18 – Extent of SSSI on Coombe Bissett Down (Magic, 2019)

Some of these are in a good condition, others require additional management:

Site: Homington and Coombe Bissett Downs SSSI

Report generated on: 14 Feb 2020

	Sites	Units	Units Assessed					
Total number	1	4	4					
Total area (ha)	25.11	25.11	25.11					
	% meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Recorded
Area (ha)	24.45	15.98	8.47	0.00	0.66			
Percentage	97.36%	63.62%	33.74%	0.00%	2.64%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Figure 19 – Homington and Coombe Bissett Downs SSSI Condition Report (Natural England, 2020)¹²

While information on SSSIs is publicly available on Natural England’s website, information on County Wildlife Sites is less readily available. The steering group contacted the Wiltshire and

¹² Generated from <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportConditionSummary.aspx?SiteCode=S1004319&ReportTitle=Homington%20and%20Coombe%20Bissett%20Downs%20SSSI>

Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC), which holds records on biodiversity and protected environmental sites with a request for additional information on County Wildlife Sites (CWS).

Below is a map of CWS in parish with their respective code and a table of further information on what types of species have been found in these sites. ¹³

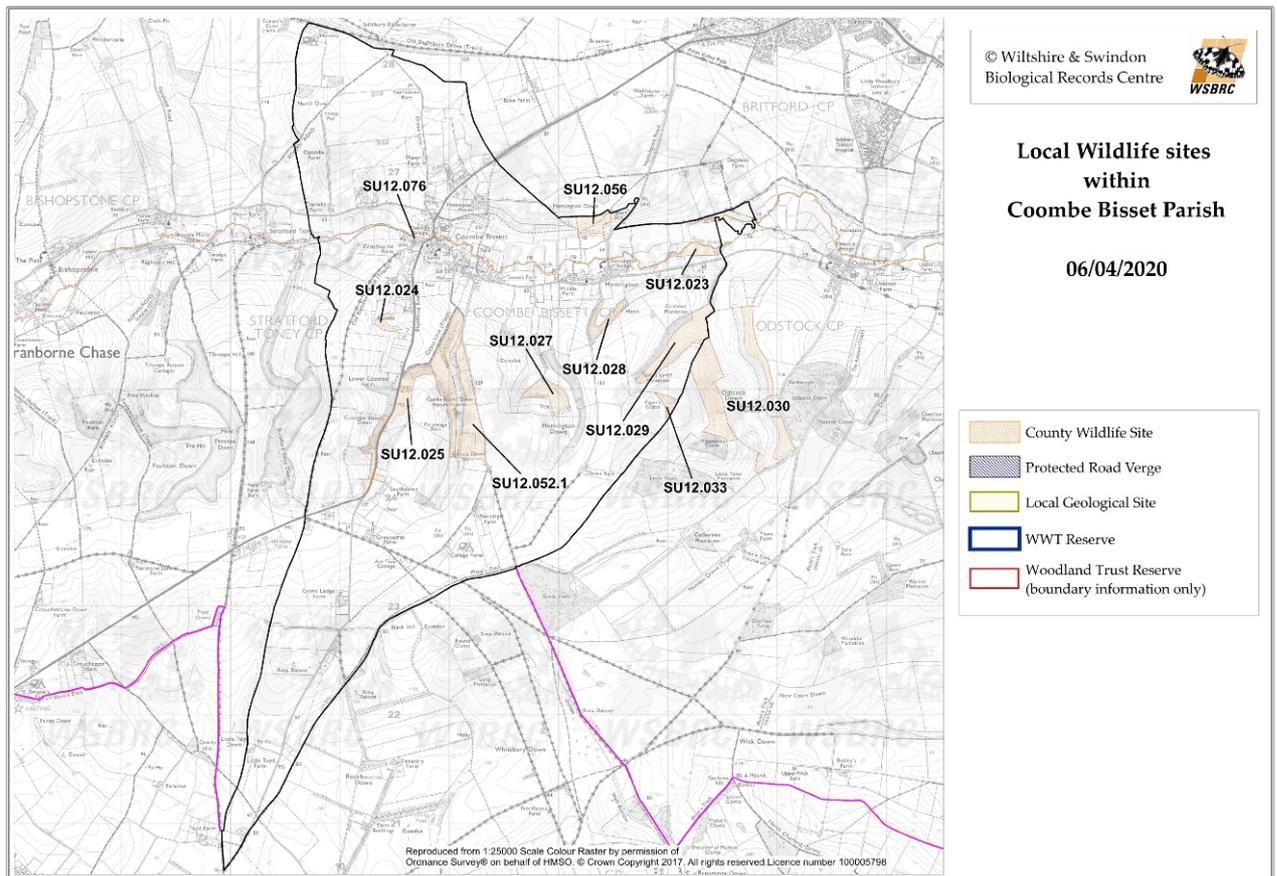


Figure 20 – County Wildlife Sites in the parish and their respective code (WSBRC, 2020)

¹³ A copy of the search data has been provided to the Parish Council.

In the table below, the presence of bats is highlighted since this can have constraints in terms of development and protecting priority species¹⁴. Other priority species are also indicated in bold. NB: some species may have been sighted some time ago, the date of the last recorded sighting is indicated in the table below¹⁵.

Table 2 – County Wildlife Sites and recorded species (information provided by WSBRC, 2020 and adapted with non-recorded sightings of local flora and fauna in italics)

CWS code and name	Site description	Flora	Birds	Mammals and insects	Butterflies and moths
SU12.023: Sidehams	Former water-meadow with a very complex mosaic of species-rich rush-pasture and fen communities on the banks of the River Ebbles		Green Sandpiper (2019) Kingfisher (2019) Yellowhammer (2000) Reed Bunting (2008) European Water Vole (2000) Brown Hare (2016)		
SU12.024: The Lynches Combe	A small chalk coombe with scrub	Meadow Brome (2014) Dwarf Spurge (1991)	Lapwing (2006) Yellowhammer (2005)	West European Hedgehog (2015)	Dingy Skipper (1996) Marsh Fritillary (1996) Adonis Blue (1996) Small Heath (1996) Chalk Hill Blue (1996)
SU12.025: Coombe Bissett Down Chalk	Calcareous grassland of a wide range of types in a narrow coombe on either side of the Blandford road	Dwarf Sedge (1998) Meadow Brome (2014) <i>Orchid – fragrant and pyramidal</i> <i>Gentian – unspecified</i>	Falco columbarius (Merlin) (2017) Lapwing (2006) Skylark (2004) Starling (2004) Yellowhammer (2005) Corn Bunting (2017) <i>Raven</i> <i>Red kite</i>	Beetle (Coleoptera) (2002) West European Hedgehog (2015) Eurasian Badger (2014)	

¹⁴ In Britain all bat species and their roosts are legally protected, by both domestic and international legislation. This means you may be committing a criminal offence if you: deliberately take, injure or kill a wild bat. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats. <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/bats-and-the-law>

¹⁵ More information on biodiversity in the county can be found at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (2008).

			<i>Sparrowhawk</i> <i>Buzzard</i>		
SU12.027: Homington Chalk Down	Chalk downland with fragments of remnant unimproved grassland on steeper slopes and lynchet risers	Burnt Orchid (2003) Meadow Brome (2014) Welsh Poppy (2017) Dwarf Spurge (1991) Large-leaved Lime (2017) Bastard-toadflax (1986) Deadly Nightshade (2003) Stinking Chamomile (1984) Corn Parsley (1998) Hound's-tongue (2011) <i>Fragrant orchid</i> <i>Bee orchid</i> <i>Gentian - unspecified</i>	Red Kite (2005) House Sparrow (2018) Linnet (2018) Yellowhammer (2018)	Brown Hare (2018)	Dingy Skipper (1997) Grizzled Skipper (1997) Small Heath (1997) Adonis Blue (2007) Chalk Hill Blue (2006) <i>Speckled white butterfly</i>
SU12.028: Homington Coombe	The banks of a small chalk coombe with calcareous and mesotrophic grassland and scrub communities	Welsh Poppy (2017) Hare's-foot Clover (2000) Knotted Clover (2000) Heath Milkwort (2000) Dwarf Spurge (1991) Large-leaved Lime (2017)	Red Kite (2005) Yellowhammer (2008)		Cinnabar (moth) (2008)
SU12.029: Barcombe	A broad and shallow chalk coombe with unimproved chalk grassland on the steeper north-facing bank and semi improved pasture elsewhere	Autumn Lady's-tresses (2002) Welsh Poppy (2017) Dwarf Spurge (1991) Large-leaved Lime (2017) Bastard-toadflax (1994)	Red Kite (2005) Skylark (2008) Yellowhammer (2008) Eurasian Badger (2006) Brown Hare (2017)		
SU12.030: Odstock Down Chalk	Compartments of downland buffering an area of SSSI in an arable landscape	Autumn Lady's-tresses (2002) Burnt Orchid (2002) Green-winged Orchid (1986) Dwarf Sedge (2006) Bastard-toadflax (2002)	Yellowhammer (2017)	Brown Hare (2017)	Small Heath (2006) Marsh Fritillary (1984) Chalk Hill Blue (2017) Small Blue (1984) Adonis Blue (1987)

SU12.033: Paget's Copse	A small isolated fragment of semi natural ancient woodland	Autumn Lady's-tresses (1997) Burnt Orchid (2002) Dwarf Spurge (1991) Bastard-toadflax (2002) Stinking Chamomile (1984)		Brown Hare (2017)	Chalk Hill Blue (2006)
SU12.052.1: Coombe Bissett Down	Calcareous and neutral grassland and arable reversion grassland within a narrow chalk valley managed as a WWT reserve but excluding SSSI areas.	Lesser Butterfly-orchid (2014) Greater Butterfly-orchid (2015) Burnt Orchid (2015) Dwarf Sedge (2019) Spreading Meadow-grass (2019) Meadow Brome (2014) Sweet-briar (1996) Green Field-speedwell (1996) Dwarf Spurge (1998) Bastard-toadflax (2011) Deadly Nightshade (2003) Corn Parsley (1998) Hound's-tongue (2019)	Grey Partridge (1998) Merlin (2017) Hobby (1996) Peregrine (2006) Lapwing (2006) Woodcock (1996) Herring Gull (1996) Grasshopper Warbler (1998) Wood Warbler (1996) Skylark (2008) Fieldfare (2003) Song Thrush (1996) Redwing (1996) Spotted Flycatcher (2001) Marsh Tit (1996) Starling (1996) House Sparrow (2018) Linnet (2018) Yellowhammer (1996) Reed Bunting (2001) Corn Bunting (2017)	Bastard-toadflax Bug (2004) Beetle (Coleoptera/Silpha obscura) (2007) Beetle (Coleoptera/Omaloplia ruricola) (2007) Devil's-Bit Jewel Beetle (2007) Beetle (Coleoptera/Paracorymbia fulva) (2002) Flecked General (soldier fly) (2001) Dotted Bee-fly (2004) Hornet Robberfly (2008) Grey-gastered Mining Bee (1998) Backthorn Mining Bee (1998) Orange-footed Furrow Bee (1998) Red-tailed Mason Bee (2002) Blunthorn Bee (1997) Painted Nomad Bee (1997) Brown-banded Carder-bee (2003) Red-tailed (Hill) Cuckoo Bee (2004) Common Lizard (2006)	Dingy Skipper (2015) Grizzled Skipper (2019) Small Heath (2019) Marsh Fritillary (2019) Small Blue (2003) Adonis Blue (2015) Chalk Hill Blue (2007) Cinnabar (moth) (1996)

				Grass Snake (2008) Serotine (bat) (2004) Pipistrelle (bat) (2014) Eurasian Badger (1995) Brown Hare (1967) West European Hedgehog (2015)	
SU12.056: Homington Down	A small south-facing chalk site in the Ebble valley with species-rich unimproved grassland throughout	Autumn Lady's-tresses (1998) Bastard-toadflax (2017) Dodder (2011) Dwarf Sedge (2017) Field Fleawort (1998) Marsh Willowherb (2017) Meadow Brome (2017)		West European Hedgehog Common Frog (1967) Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (1996) Iris Weevil (1977)	Adonis Blue (2014) Chalk Hill Blue (2012) Grayling (1993) Silver-spotted Skipper (1967) Small Heath (2014) White-letter Hairstreak (2011)
SU12.076: River Ebble	A chalk stream tributary of the Salisbury Avon with some winterbourne above	Autumn Lady's-tresses (1988) Dwarf Sedge Field Fleawort Fat Duckweed Lichen (<i>Lecanora horiza</i>) Marsh Willowherb Meadow Brome Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea Sainfoin Slender Tufted-sedge Stinking Chamomile Stinking Hellebore Tuberous Thistle	Barn Owl Fieldfare Green Sandpiper Grey Wagtail Little Egret Kingfisher Reed Bunting Red Kite Redwing Song Thrush Skylark Yellowhammer	Serotine (bat) Unidentified Bat Daubenton's Bat Whiskered Bat (bat) (2015) Pipistrelle (bat) (1998) Common Pipistrelle (bat) (2013) Soprano Pipistrelle (bat) Brown Long-eared Bat (1998) European Water Vole (2016) Brown Hare (2016) West European Hedgehog Grass Snake Slow-worm Common Lizard Common Frog Common Toad	Chalk Hill Blue Adonis Blue Small Blue Large Tortoiseshell Grayling Small Heath Silver-spotted Skipper

				Cottus gobio (bullhead, fish) Brown/Sea Trout Iris Weevil (beetle) Desmoulin's Whorl Snail	
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If the table below is lacking species then it highlights the importance of local people being engaged in biodiversity recording. Correspondence with the WSBRC indicated that they are keen to engage with parish councils and local groups about how they can support more extensive monitoring of these sites with publicly-generated information (such as recording on IRecord¹⁶) since effective species monitoring relies on routine uploading of information to understand trends in biodiversity. This could be a possible action for the Parish Council to take if they were interested in supporting this endeavour.

¹⁶ <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/> see <http://wsbrc.org.uk/wildlife-recording/submit-records/> for more information.

5. Important views and vistas

The Community Questionnaire (2018) identified a number of important views and vistas the community felt it was important to protect. These are listed on the map in below. This is a draft list and will be finalised after input from the Parish Council and engagement with the community.

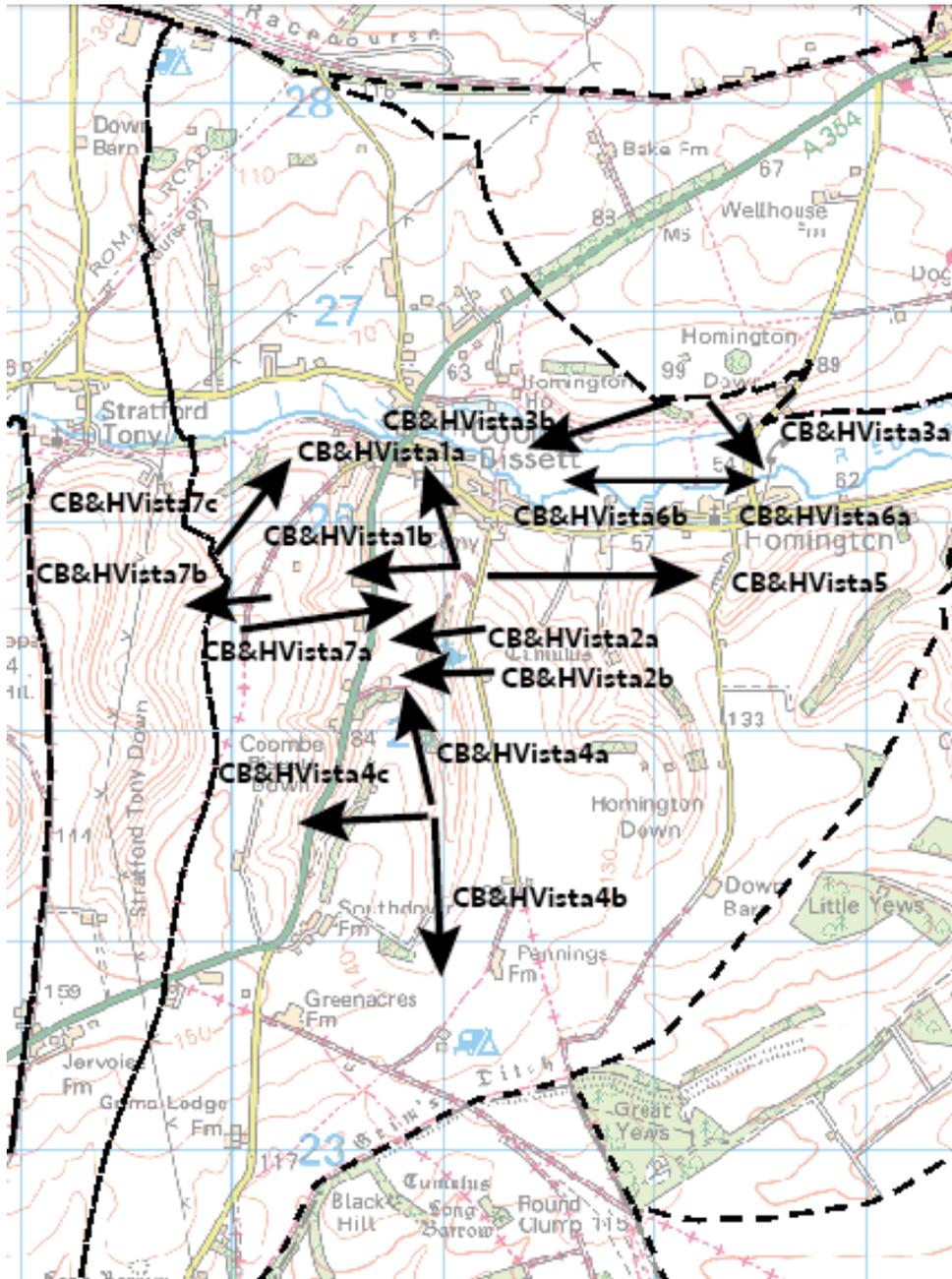


Figure 21 – Identified Views and Vistas

The wider landscape impact areas and their intersection is detailed in the map below (draft):

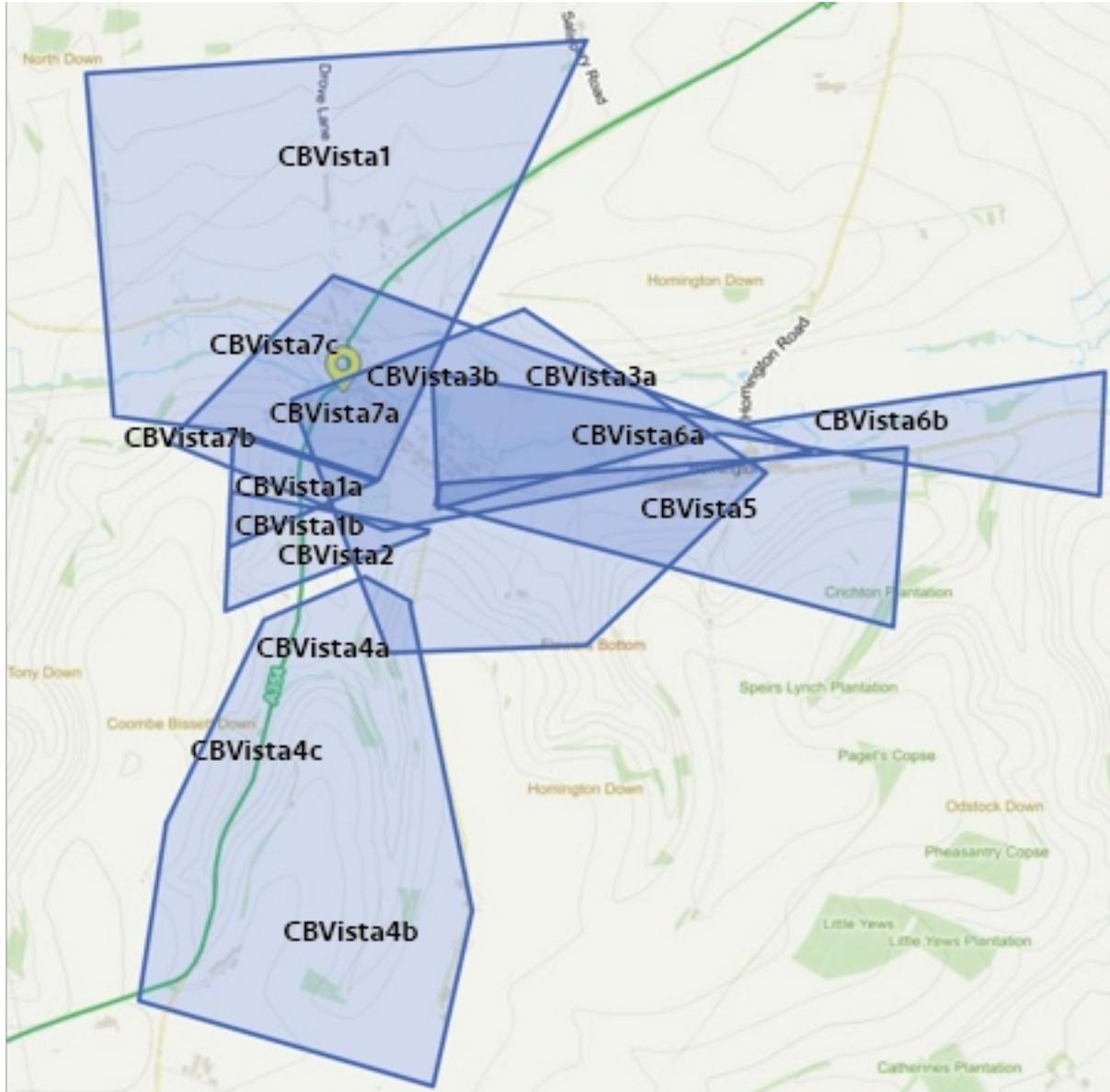


Figure 22 – Views and Vistas - areas to protect from adverse impacts arising from development – see Appendix 1 for full list and details (see following figures for where potential assessed sites may have an impact on the landscape)

6. Images of identified Views and Vistas

The following photos are taken from the AECOM Design Guide or by CB&HNP Steering Group member David Parson (and credited accordingly). Please refer to Table 3 for more detail on each identified vista.

Visible site – Bundy Field (Eastern end).

Eastern part of site not recommended for development by AECOM in site assessment report. Western section of site is better screened. See footnote in Table 3).



Figure 23 – Vista 1a – view from the Village Hall (looking North and down towards CB. The Racecourse is on the horizon) (DP)



Figure 24 - Vista 1b –view from the Village Hall (looking West with the Old Blandford Road on the horizon) (DP)

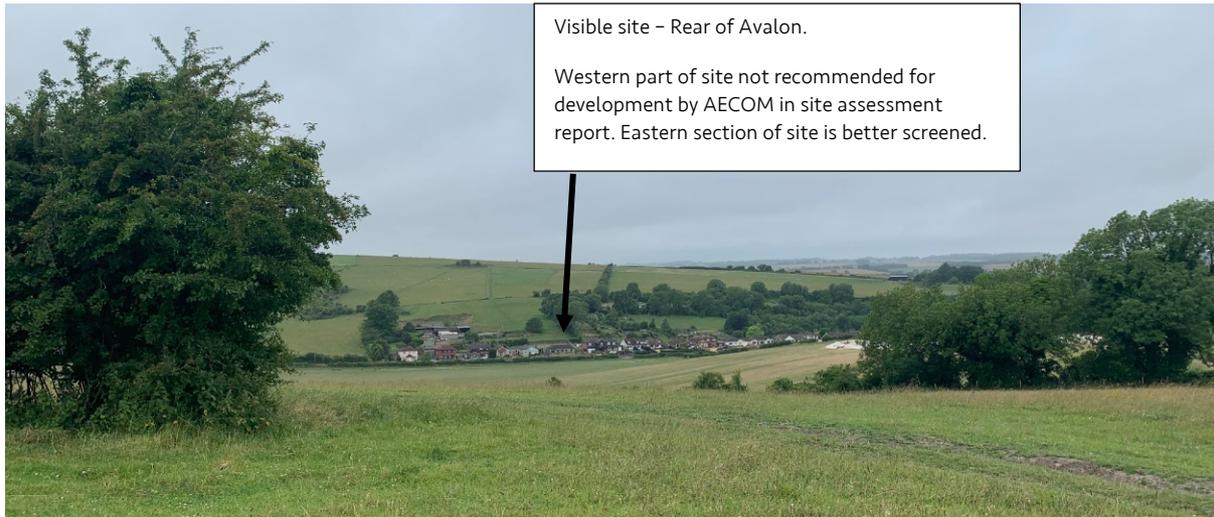


Figure 25 - Vista 2a - view from Pennings Drove/Shutts Lane (car park) looking West towards Blandford Road (DP)



Figure 26 - Vista 2b - view from Pennings Drove (half-way up, looking West towards Nature Reserve with Old Blandford Road on the horizon) (DP)



Figure 27 – Vista 3a – view from Homington Down North (looking South East to Homington. The downs behind Homington and Odstock are on the horizon) (DP)



Figure 28 - Vista 3b – view from Homington Down North (looking South West to CB with Old Blandford Road on the horizon) (DP)



Visible site – Rear of Avalon.
Western part of site not recommended for development by AECOM in site assessment report. Eastern section of site is better screened.

Figure 29 – Vista 4a- Nature Reserve (facing North towards Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett. The Old Blandford Road is on the horizon) (AECOM Design Guide, 2019, p. 7)



Figure 30 – Vista 4b- Nature Reserve (facing South) (DP)



Figure 31 - Vista 4c - Nature Reserve (facing West. Old Blandford Road is on the horizon) (DP)



Figure 32 - Vista 5 - Tennis Courts (East towards Homington) (DP)



Figure 33 - Vista 6a - Views from the broad Ebble Valley in Homington (looking East) (DP)



Figure 34 - Vista 6b - View from the broad Ebble Valley in Homington (looking West) (DP)



Figure 35 - Vista 7a - view from top of Old Blandford Road (facing East. Pennings Drove is on the Horizon) DP)



Figure 36 - Vista 7b - Old Blandford Road looking West (with Stratford Tony Down and Faulston Down on the horizon) (DP)



Figure 37 - Vista 7c - Old Blandford Road (facing North/North East. With Homington Down North and South on the horizon, and in the far distance a view of Pepper Box Hill) (DP)

7. Appendix 1 – potential views and vistas identified that might be impacted by development in the CB&H Neighbourhood Area

Table 3 – Potential views and vistas and potential visual impacts from assessed sites

Iconic vista/important view reference	Name of proposed view	Description and notable features	Location	Grid reference ¹⁷	Does the view/land have additional statutory protection?	Relevant landowner/s	Public accessibility of vista, e.g. via footpath or bridlepath number or no public access	Views from and towards	Possible assessed sites that may have an impact on view ¹⁸
CBvista1a	View from the Village Hall (looking North and down towards CB)	Panoramic view of the village towards Homington Road and the Church	Shutts Lane	SU109260	AONB, towards Conservation Area	Bundy, private gardens, school (WC), Radnor/Longford Estate, Garrets	Radnor estate	North towards CB	Bundy Field ¹⁹
CBvista1b	View from the Village Hall (looking West)	Panoramic view of the village towards Coombe Bissett Down and Old Blandford Road	Shutts Lane	SU109260	AONB	WWT, private houses West of A354	CB1S8	West towards Old Blandford Road	Rear of Avalon
CBvista2a	View from Pennings Drove/Shutts Lane (car park) looking West towards Blandford Road	Rolling countryside, settlement area/ribbon development along A354 (Blandford Road)	Pennings Drove/ Shutts Lane	SU111258	AONB, partially in SSSI	WWT, Radnor/Longford Estate, farmers	CB1S8	West	Rear of Avalon
CBvista2b	View from Pennings Drove (half-way up) looking West towards Nature Reserve	Rolling countryside, expansive open spaces	Pennings Drove	SU111256	AONB, partially in SSSI	WWT, Radnor/Longford Estate, farmers	CB1S8	West	N/A
CBvista3a	View from Homington Down North (facing South East to Homington)	Homington village and surrounding countryside	East of Marsh Lane	SU110266	Conservation Area	Radnor/Longford Estate	CB1S6	South East	N/A

¹⁷ Using www.gridreferencefinder.com

¹⁸ NB: Potential mitigation measures to be assessed through further consolidation of Evidence Base.

¹⁹ The view of the Bundy Field from CBVista1a currently extends only so far as the eastern section of the Bundy Field in the middle-left which is not suggested for development as per existing landowner proposals. Proposals for development as suggested by the landowner would extend the playing field into the southern end of the Bundy field site boundary (see landowner supplementary documents) which would raise up the ground to be level with the playing field and instate a 4-6ft (approx.) hedge to match the current north-facing hedge on the school playing field. This would have the effect of screening out the eastern end of Bundy Field from this vista. These changes would moderately affect the foreground view of CBVista1a overlooking the Bundy Field but would not impact on the majority of the view looking towards Coombe Bissett.

CBvista3b	View from Homington Down North (facing South West to CB)	CB village and surrounding countryside	East of Marsh Lane	SU110266	Conservation Area	Radnor/Longford Estate	CB1S6	South West	N/A ²⁰
CBvista4a	View from Nature Reserve (facing North towards Blandford Road)	Rolling countryside, expansive open spaces, CB southside	Pennings Drove	SU108256	AONB, SSSI	WWF, farmers	CB1S8, CB1S9	N/S/W	Rear of Avalon
CBvista4b	View from Nature Reserve (facing South)	Rolling countryside	Pennings Drove	SU108256	AONB, SSSI	WWF, farmers	CB1S8, CB1S9	South	N/A
CBvista4c	View from Nature Reserve (facing West)	Rolling countryside, expansive open spaces	Pennings Drove	SU108256	AONB, SSSI	WWF, farmers	CB1S8, CB1S9	West	N/A
CBvista5	Tennis Courts (East towards Homington)	Farmed downland	Pennings Drove	SU112259	AONB, SSSI	Lady Cobham and individual householders	CB1S8 to south	East towards Homington	N/A
CBvista6a	Views from the broad Ebble Valley (looking East)	Farmland, marshland (water meadow) and Homington village	River Ebble, Homington	SU112262	AONB	Lady Cobham	CB1S4	East	N/A
CBvista6b	Views from the broad Ebble Valley (looking West)	Farmland, marshland (water meadow) and CB village	River Ebble, Homington	SU112262	AONB	Lady Cobham	CB1S4	West	N/A
CBvista7a	View from top of Old Blandford Road (looking East)	Nature reserve, parts of CB village and Homington Down	Old Blandford Road	SU102259	AONB	WWT, Radnor/Longford Estate	CB1S1	East	Bundy Field
CBvista7b	View from top of Old Blandford Road (looking West)	Nature reserve, parts of CB village and Homington Down	Old Blandford Road	SU102259	AONB	Radnor/Longford Estate	CB1S1	West	N/A
CBvista7c	View from top of Old Blandford Road (looking North/East)	Nature reserve, parts of CB village and Homington Down	Old Blandford Road	SU102259	AONB	WWT, Radnor/Longford Estate	CB1S1	North/East	Bundy Field

²⁰ While some sites could be partially viewed in this vista, e.g. Rear of Avalon, E. Shutts Lane and The Old Vicarage the large coverage of trees (protected due to CB's Conservation Area designation) means these sites would not be visible.

8. References

AECOM (2019) *Coombe Bissett and Homington Design Guide*. CB&HNP/AECOM.

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