



Distance to Site: 0.00 km  
Viewpoint Coordinates: E 471992, N 162888  
Date & time of photograph: 03/07/2026 09:53  
AOD & Viewing height: c. 75.7m AOD 1.6m  
Weather conditions Clear, good visibility

Viewpoint 6 (Panorama Image for Context Only)  
Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Vertical Field of View: 27°

N.B. IMAGES TO ILLUSTRATE THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE CONTEXT ONLY. Panoramas are created from multiple photographs taken using a crop sensor camera with 35mm lens in line with best practice and current guidance. Images illustrate a horizontal field of view of 90° and when printed at A3, should be viewed at a distance of 542mm curved through the same radius in order to correctly illustrate the existing landscape context. To ensure considered judgements are accurately assessed, images should not be substituted for visiting the viewpoint.



Viewpoint 6 (Single Frame Image)

Residential properties associated with St Legers Way

Approximate extent of site



St Legers Way

Site located beyond intervening vegetation



Distance to Site: 0.18 km  
Viewpoint Coordinates: E 472289, N 162929  
Date & time of photograph: 03/07/2026 09:57  
AOD & Viewing height: c. 64.1m AOD 1.6m  
Weather conditions Clear, good visibility

Viewpoint 7 (Panorama Image for Context Only)  
Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Vertical Field of View: 27°

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Viewpoint 7 (Single Frame Image)

Approximate extent of site



Bull Lane located beyond  
existing vegetation

Site located beyond intervening  
vegetation



Distance to Site: 0.21 km  
Viewpoint Coordinates: E 471495, N 163017  
Date & time of photograph: 03/07/2026 10:12  
AOD & Viewing height: c. 77.8m AOD 1.6m  
Weather conditions Clear, good visibility

Viewpoint 8 (Panorama Image for Context Only)  
Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Vertical Field of View: 27°

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Viewpoint 8 (Single Frame Image)



Distance to Site: 0.22 km  
Viewpoint Coordinates: E 471508, N 163139  
Date & time of photograph: 03/07/2026 10:19  
AOD & Viewing height: c. 79.0m AOD 1.6m  
Weather conditions Clear, good visibility

Viewpoint 9 (Panorama Image for Context Only)  
Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Vertical Field of View: 27°

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Viewpoint 9 (Single Frame Image)

Existing residential properties associated with School Road

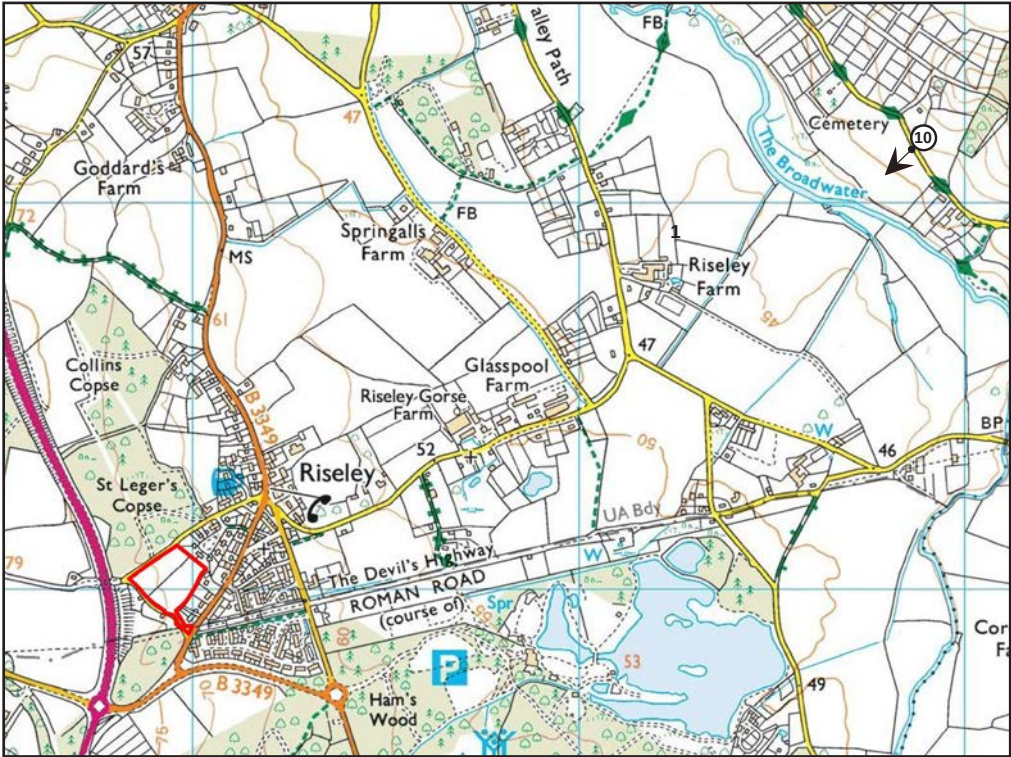
Approximate extent of site

Glimpsed view of Riseley Farm



Broadwater Stream

Site located beyond intervening vegetation



Distance to Site: 0.33 km  
Viewpoint Coordinates: E 473870, N 164137  
Date & time of photograph: 03/07/2026 10:54  
AOD & Viewing height: c. 54.0m AOD 1.6m  
Weather conditions Clear, good visibility

Viewpoint 10 (Panorama Image for Context Only)

Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Vertical Field of View: 27°

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Viewpoint 10 (Single Frame Image)



Distance to Site: **0.00 km**  
 Viewpoint Coordinates: **E 471878, N 162987**  
 Date & time of photograph: **03/07/2026 09:27**  
 AOD & Viewing height: **c. 72.5m AOD 1.6m**  
 Weather conditions **Clear, good visibility**

Viewpoint **A** (Panorama Image for Context Only)  
 Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
 Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
 Vertical Field of View: 27°

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Viewpoint A (Single Frame Image)

Existing vegetation within Site

Site's existing eastern  
boundary vegetation



Site

Glimpsed view of existing residential  
property associated with Yeosfield



Distance to Site: 0.00 km  
Viewpoint Coordinates: E 471974, N 162966  
Date & time of photograph: 03/07/2026 09:30  
AOD & Viewing height: c. 68.0m AOD 1.6m  
Weather conditions Clear, good visibility

Viewpoint B (Panorama Image for Context Only)  
Equipment & Focal Length: Canon EOS 2000D 35mm lens  
Horizontal Field of View: 90°  
Vertical Field of View: 27°

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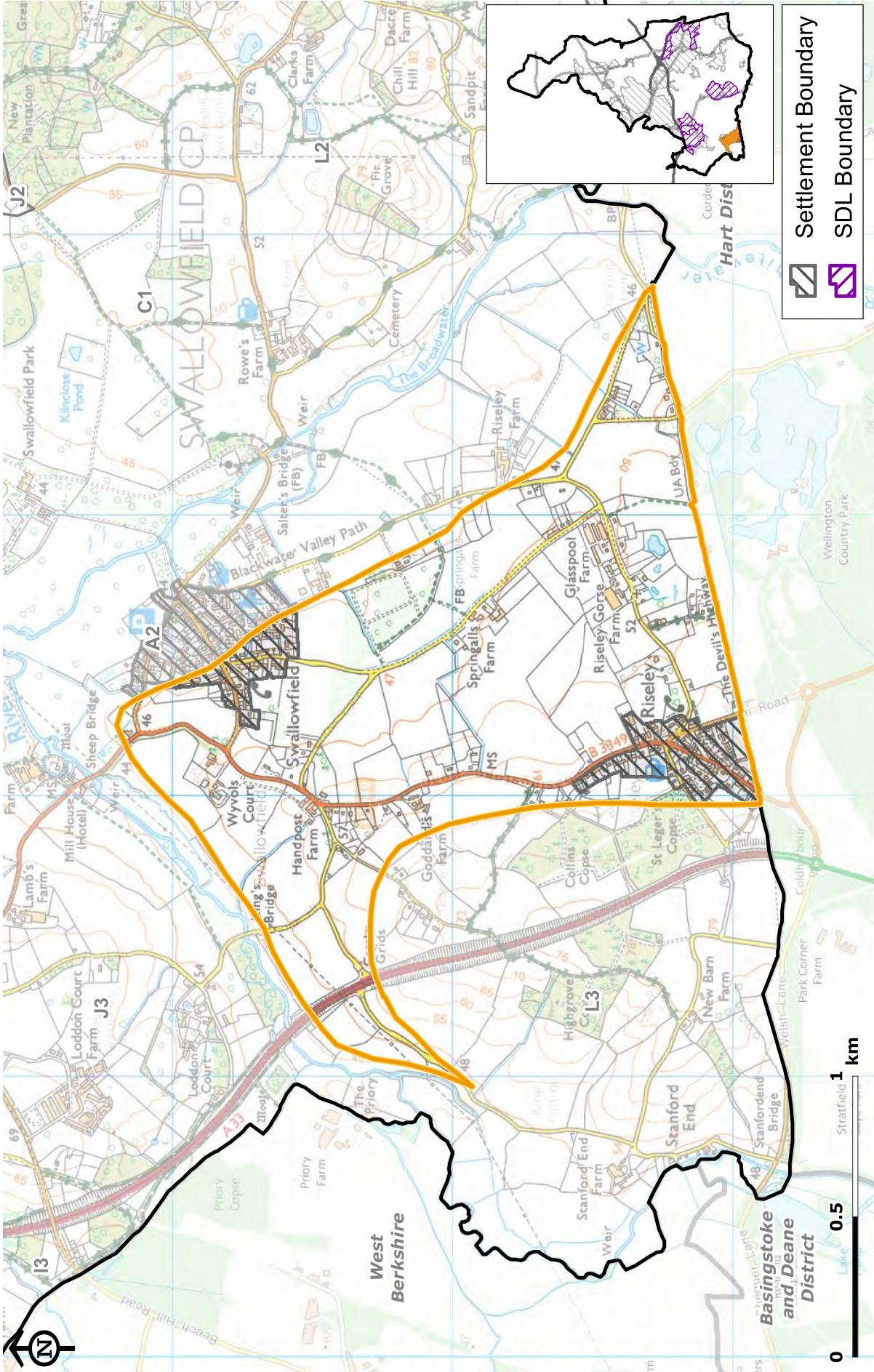


Viewpoint B (Single Frame Image)

### **APPENDIX 3**

EXTRACT FROM LCAS I2 AND L3 OF WOKINGHAM BOROUGH LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (2019)

I2: Riseley Farmed Clay Lowland



## SUMMARY

**A rural lowland area dominated by intensive arable farming in large open fields bounded by hedgerows and fences. Rural roads are lined with ditches, banks and mature oak trees. Settlement is confined to scattered farmsteads, Riseley village and part of Swallowfield.**

The Riseley Farmed Clay Lowland is a small area to the south west of the borough, bound to the north and east by the valleys of the Loddon and Broadwater (A2), and to the west by the ridge of L3: Stanford End Wooded Sand and Gravel Hills. The southern boundary is defined by the borough boundary, although the character extends into Hart District. The boundaries are defined loosely following the 45m contour line on the edge of the valley floor, and the 65m contour line in the southwest at the foot of the ridge.



## Key Characteristics

- **Gently shelving landform** from 45m to 65m AOD, underlain by London Clay bounded by alluvium from the river valleys to the north and river terrace gravels to the south east.
- **Historic deep water filled ditches** due to the water-logged soils often lined with pollarded willows.
- **Limited woodland** with only small blocks of BAP priority habitat lowland mixed deciduous woodland east of Charlton/Trowe's Lane and a small area of BAP priority habitat wet woodland (The Marshes, Riseley LWS and LNR).
- **Arable farming in large irregular fields dominates, with open pasture** and horse and pony paddocks on settlement edges. Fields are bound by gappy overgrown hawthorn hedgerows with veteran trees, often oaks, with some post and rail and post and wire fencing.
- **The GHQ Stop Line** (General Headquarters Line), a defensive zone built during the summer of 1940 to contain the threatened German invasion ran east from Bristol to the Thames Estuary.
- **Small scale settlement concentrated in the villages of Riseley and outskirts of Swallowfield.** Elsewhere scattered farmsteads, some Grade II listed, are linked by rural lanes. Victorian and modern buildings have a predominately polychromatic Reading brick character, with occasional traditional timber framing and traditional barge board detailing.
- **Rural lanes bounded by wide grassy verges, banks with wildflowers and overgrown mixed hedgerows.** The busy A33 cuts through the northwest of the area, bringing noise and movement to the area.
- **Lack of woodland and hedgerows results in an open landscape** where there are views across the flat fields to distant wooded horizons. Pylons and wires, large agricultural buildings and shelter belts are visually dominant within the character area.
- **Simple and unvaried agricultural landscape, with an isolated character** due to its location between the Loddon and Broadwater valleys, and relative inaccessibility by public rights of way, which results in a strong sense of tranquility and an experience of 'dark skies'.

## Natural Landscape

- 12.1 The underlying geology of the area is London Clay bounded by the Alluvium of the river valleys to the north and with gravel of the Third River Terrace to the south east. The ground shelves gently from west to east, from 65m AOD down to 45m AOD. The soils are liable to short-term flooding, which has resulted in the pattern of drainage ditches through the area with very wide and deep ditches by the side of many roads, lined by pollarded willow and poplar. There are no tributaries within the area, although there is a cluster of ponds south of Glasspool Farm, possibly caused by extraction of the underlying river terrace gravel.
- 12.2 The fertile soils support arable farming as the principal land use of the area, in large irregular fields. It is a simple landscape with little variety. Hedgerows bound the fields but these are overgrown and have frequent gaps. Hedgerow trees are sparse and often ancient. In places the hedgerows have been replaced with post and rail or post and wire fences. By the roads the hedgerows include a wide variety of trees: holly, poplars, oak and ash.
- 12.3 Large agricultural buildings, pylons and small shelter belts dominate the views over the open fields. Shelter belts vary from small plantations of conifers or deciduous trees to lines of poplar,

which are highly visible in the almost flat landform. There is limited BAP priority habitat lowland mixed deciduous woodland within this area. Wooded horizons and a sense of semi-enclosure is provided by the adjacent character area L3: Stanford End Wooded Gravel and Sand Hills and more distant L2: Farley Hill Wooded Gravel and Sand Hills.

- I2.4 The Marshes, Riseley, near to School Road and Riseley Farm is the only Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and LNR in the area, designated for its BAP priority habitat wet woodland. Along Bull Lane, west of Riseley, a small section of St Leger's Copse/Collin's Copse LWS lies within this area, however the vast majority is in L3: Stanford End Wooded Gravel and Sand Hills. The Loddon Valley South BOA extends north of Handpost Farm. This is mainly concentrated on A2: Loddon River Valley, however the farmland bordering the Loddon is potentially important for farmland birds such as Yellowhammer.
- I2.5 Elsewhere the most important wildlife habitats are likely to be the deep permanently water-filled ditches, which have stands of aquatic vegetation, and areas of improved grassland.

## Cultural Landscape

- I2.6 There is evidence of small Iron Age settlements at Riseley with later Romano-British settlement located close to the line of the Roman road between London and Calleva (Silchester), known locally as the Devil's Highway.
- I2.7 The established pattern of medium to large irregular fields indicates early enclosure, with recent amalgamation of fields resulting in boundary loss and loss of much of the former historic field system. The pattern of small rectangular fields north of the Roman road, indicates more recent enclosure at the edge of the former Riseley Common which is also fringed by a number of 16th and 17th timber-framed farms.
- I2.8 A more recent historic feature of the Loddon Valley is the GHQ Stop Line, a defensive zone built during the summer of 1940 to contain the threatened German invasion. The line ran east from Bristol to the Thames Estuary and included a section through the borough. This swathe of World War II defences consists of pillboxes (concrete defensive bunkers often hexagonal in shape) and the fortified natural defences of the rivers Loddon, Broadwater and Blackwater (including in-built chambers for demolition charges in the local bridges).
- I2.9 The Reading to Basingstoke turnpike, established in 1718, (now B3349) passes through the village of Riseley, with its adjacent network of lanes serving the farms. This road is increasingly busy with traffic, which has resulted in the erosion of verges. The area has a network of rural roads, often with wide deep ditches and sometimes banks topped by hedgerows with hedgerow trees (often mature oaks) or with lines of poplar. The ditches and banks, with native vegetation such as primroses beneath mature oak trees, contribute to the rural character. There are few rights of way within the area.
- I2.10 Settlement is composed of a regular pattern of farmsteads with the village of Riseley to the south and the outskirts of Swallowfield to the north. Buildings are predominately brick, some with traditional detailing including barge boards and polychromatic Reading brick. A number are Grade II listed, both within Riseley and the farmhouses and associated buildings in the surrounding countryside. Riseley also has 20th century and modern houses, often with an estate feel or linear development of bungalows along the roads, e.g. Bull Lane. Large farm buildings are prominent in the open landscape because of their scale. There are derelict agricultural buildings on the outskirts of Riseley.

## Perceptual Landscape

- I2.11 The working agricultural landscape, crossed by a network of rural roads has a tranquil character with an experience of dark skies. The area is isolated by its location between the valleys of the Loddon and Broadwater and semi-enclosed by distant wooded horizons in adjacent character areas at Stanford End and Farley Hill.

- 12.12 The landscape is simple and unvaried but can appear disjointed when large agricultural buildings, shelter belts and pylons dominate views over the flat open fields. Derelict agricultural buildings and unmanaged hedgerows introduce a neglected character to the area.
- 12.13 The writer Mary Russell Mitford (1787-1855) moved to Swallowfield in 1851 due to the number of repairs required to her cottage at Three Mile Cross (see I3: Grazeley Open Clay Lowland). The area has changed considerably since she wrote of her move:

*I walked from the one cottage to the other in an Autumn evening. Here I am now in this prettiest village, in the cosiest of all snug cabins; a trim cottage garden, divided by a hawthorn hedge from a little field guarded by grand old trees; a cheerful glimpse of high road in front, just to hint that there is such a thing as a peopled world; on either side the deep silent woody lanes, that form the distinctive character of English scenery.*

#### Valuable Landscape Attributes

- **Rural character of the working agricultural landscape** with its homogenous land use in large arable fields.
- **Lightly settled character** with rural villages and scattered farms, some Grade II listed.
- **Roadside verges and water-filled ditches** lined by overgrown hedgerows and trees along the rural lanes which provide scenic quality, as well as ecological interest.
- **Views across the open arable landscape** to wooded horizons in surrounding character areas, which provide a degree of distant visual enclosure.
- **Remote character** due to the scarcity of settlement and relative isolation between the river valleys of the Loddon and Blackwater which results in a strong sense of rural tranquility and 'dark skies'.

#### Landscape Condition

The rural land use with arable and some pasture set in large open fields and small-scale local features such as drainage ditches and roadside banks and verges are in **moderate condition**.

Non-native shelter belts, both derelict and large agricultural buildings and pylons disturb the openness and scale of the landscape. Elements to improve include the scrubby hedgerow boundaries and intensively farmed arable land.

#### Key Issues

- Effects on tree health or species composition of woodland and wet woodland as a consequence of pathogens and climate change. Climate change is also likely to result in increased seasonal variation in river flows.
- Hedgerow loss and soil erosion associated with the expansion of fields and intensification of agriculture.
- Past use of fertilisers and pesticides resulted in a polluted run-off affecting water quality and biodiversity within the water filled ditches.
- Lack of the recruitment of young trees (through natural regeneration or planting) required to rebalance the age structure of parkland and hedgerow trees is an on-going threat to the character of the landscape.
- Introduction of non-native shelter belts which are visually dominant in the flat landscape.

- Potential pressure for horse/pony paddocks, particularly at settlement edges leading to a decrease in rural intactness.
- Demand for housing resulting in dereliction and loss of traditional dwellings, dilution of vernacular character and loss of distinct architectural style.
- Pressure for expansion within existing settlements, leading to the linear spread of development leading to the loss of individual settlement identity and potential amalgamation of adjacent settlements.
- Decline or decay of historic features including the GHQ Stop Line.
- Increasing demand for large-scale agricultural buildings leading to visual intrusion of these elements.
- The A33 brings noise and movement to the area, disturbing the tranquillity. There has been an increase in traffic on the B3349, which may lead to demands for upgrading the winding network of rural lanes with new signage, line painting and widening. This will threaten the intimate rural character of the lanes.
- This character area contains a reservoir of 'dark skies'. Light pollution is a key issue affecting the night landscape.
- Increasing demand for communication masts, pylons and poles leading to visual intrusion of these elements in the open landscape.

### Landscape Strategy

To maintain the landscape character of the *Riseley Open Clay Lowland* the following strategy is required: to conserve and enhance the existing remote rural character of the agricultural landscape.

There are opportunities to improve the condition, intactness and presentation of the farmed landscape without affecting the sense of openness which is central to the character of the landscape. In particular there is an opportunity to strengthen the hedgerow network and consider restoration of pollarded willows and native, rather than coniferous, shelterbelt planting.

In terms of development, the aim is to conserve the rural settlement pattern.

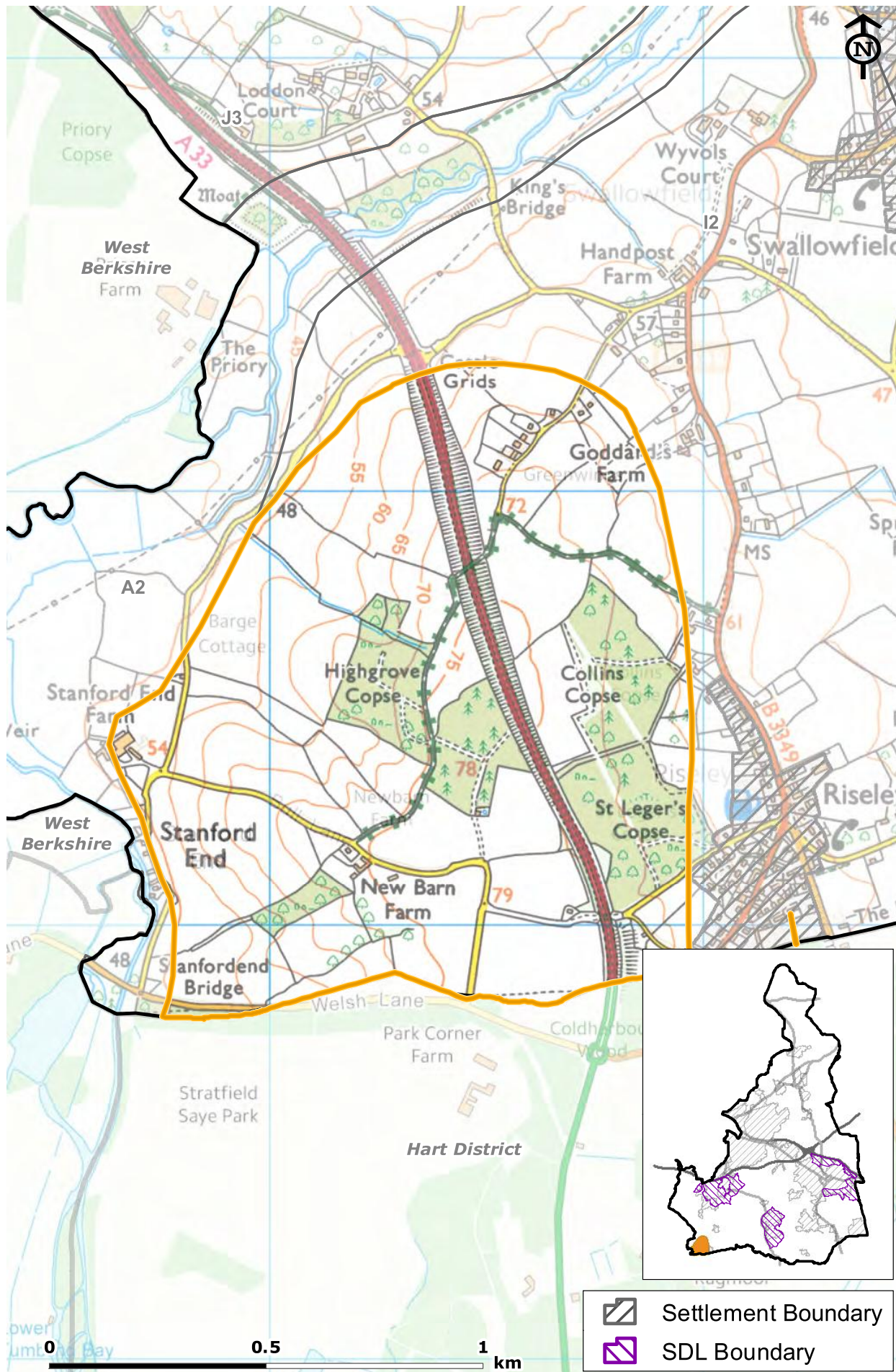
### Landscape Guidelines

- **Conserve the open and rural qualities of the farmed landscape.** Manage and enhance the wildlife interest of agricultural fields by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins and other wildlife-friendly farming methods around intensively farmed arable fields.
- **Reinstate or repair hedgerows with native species** where there are opportunities to do so. Plan for the next generation of hedgerow trees with a programme of tree planting.
- **Increase the limited extent of BAP priority habitat deciduous shelterbelts and woodland** using locally occurring native species linking to existing woodland sites in adjacent character areas in particular, encourage restoration of pollarded willows, which are an important feature in the landscape.
- **Manage the integration of equine related activities into the landscape** through the maintenance of existing boundaries or restoration of hedgerows and control of associated built elements.
- **Conserve, enhance and manage farmland and woodland habitats** particularly protect from changes in land use. A strip of land in the north of the character area is part of the Loddon Valley

South BOA. This network of natural habitats has been identified as a target for habitat creation and restoration and positive management of lowland meadow and wet woodland. There are opportunities for meadow and woodland creation in this area along the Loddon.

- **Conserve the rural character of the open farmed landscape** between adjacent village centres, to protect the individual identity and rural character as well as retaining their sense of physical and visual separation, resisting the spread of linear development.
- **Conserve the features associated with the GHQ Stop Line.**
- **Maintain and enhance the character of rural lanes with their roadside verges and water-filled ditches** resisting unsympathetic highways improvements, infrastructure and signage.
- **Use appropriate tree and hedgerow planting to help integrate new or existing roads, such as the A33 into the landscape.** Encourage the retention and reinstatement of native roadside trees.
- **Protect open views to adjacent areas.** Particular care should be taken in the siting and design of large agricultural buildings, pylons and wires or other vertical elements, which have the potential to be highly visible in the open landscape.
- **Protect the strong perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness in the landscape,** through the careful and strategic management of development.

### L3: Stanford End Wooded Sand and Gravel Hills



## SUMMARY

**A small but topographically distinct area of higher ground, characterised by sparse settlement linked by sunken rural lanes. The area is predominately used for arable farming with a strong network of low hedgerows, interspersed by heathy woodland blocks. An isolated and rural character bisected and disturbed by the busy A33.**

The Stanford End Wooded Sand and Gravel Hills area is located at the south west corner of the borough. It is topographically distinct from the surrounding lowland areas, the A2: Loddon River Valley to the west and I2: Riseley Farmed Clay Lowland to the north and east. The southern boundary coincides with the borough boundary. The western boundary marks the base of the slope from the River Loddon valley floor, based on the 50m contour line. To the east the hillside is less steep and the rise of the hill less defined, here the boundary follows the 70m contour and skirts the western edge of the settlement of Riseley.



## Key Characteristics

- **Northern end of a pronounced ridge of clay hills**, overlain by sandy deposits and extending beyond the borough boundary.
- **Topographically distinct from the surrounding lowlands**, particularly the steeper western slopes rising from the Loddon valley, from 50 to 75m AOD.
- **Native coniferous and mixed woodlands form a wooded backdrop** to the surrounding farmed landscape and accentuate the landform.
- **Concentration of BAP priority habitat and ancient woodland** including Highgrove Copse, St Leger's Copse, and Collin's Copse LWS.
- **An irregular pattern of arable farmland** with some sheep pasture.
- **Field sizes are varied** but larger on the lower slopes bound by sinuous lines of hedgerows rising to the higher ground. On higher ground hedgerows are thicker and denser with mature oak standards.
- **Very sparsely populated**, with scattered modern red brick farmhouses.
- **The GHQ Stop Line** (General Headquarters Line), a defensive zone built during the summer of 1940 to contain the threatened German invasion ran east from Bristol to the Thames Estuary and included a section along the Blackwater.
- **Single-track lanes**, deeply sunken and bounded with banks, ditches and hedges on the higher ground.
- **Tranquil and remote character**, which has dark skies, locally **interrupted by the busy A33**, which bisects the area, isolating the western half from the rest of the borough.
- **Extensive views over the Loddon Valley** from the ridge.

## Natural Landscape

- L3.1 This area reflects its simple underlying structure as the northern end of a larger area of Sixth River Terrace gravels overlying the sandy geology of the Bagshot Formation, which in turn overlies the London Clay. The steeper gradients on the undulating western slopes are striking because of the contrast with the adjacent River Loddon valley. Here the land rises from 50m to 75m AOD. To the east the land shelves even more gently down to I2: Riseley Arable Open Clay Lowland.
- L3.2 Arable farming dominates the landscape, including sunflowers and maize supported by fertile loamy soils. The lower western and northern slopes of the ridge are devoted mainly to arable farming with a small amount of sheep pasture. Fields are large, bounded by sinuous lines of hedgerows with mature or over mature hedgerow trees rising up the slopes to the wooded ridge. The mature hedgerow trees silhouetted against the sky and the dark woodland on the higher ground form a visual counterpoint to the open arable fields and accentuate the curves of the landform.
- L3.3 Farmland is interspersed with blocks of mixed and coniferous woodland, often BAP priority habitat lowland mixed deciduous woodland. There is heathy vegetation on the higher ground, reflecting the underlying sandy geology. The wedge of woodland between Highgrove Copse and the A33 is

a conifer plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS) while St Leger's Copse contains hazel coppice, along with more heathy vegetation such as birch and broom. Both Highgrove Copse and St Leger's Copse/Collins Copse are designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

## Cultural Landscape

- L3.4 There is evidence of a Mesolithic site in this area with a later small Roman settlement also occupying this higher land overlooking the Loddon valley. However, in recent times settlement has developed on the lower lying ground at the edge of the valley such as the settlements of Riseley and Stanford End.
- L3.5 The irregular outlines of the surviving woodland suggest assart incursions. There are small regular fields with wavy boundaries, and less regular fields, surrounding the woodlands, which may represent informal enclosures of late medieval and post-medieval date, possibly the result of rationalisation of small assarts. Some of this pattern has remained well preserved, particularly to the west of the area.
- L3.6 A more recent historic feature of the Loddon Valley is the GHQ Stop Line, a defensive zone built during the summer of 1940 to contain the threatened German invasion. The line ran east from Bristol to the Thames Estuary and included a section through the borough.
- L3.7 This area contains a loose network of noticeably sunken winding lanes with deep banks and some roadside ditches, linking the farmsteads. The Reading to Basingstoke turnpike, established in 1718, passing through Riseley to the east has since been replaced by the A33 trunk road cutting which runs through the heart of this area, separating the eastern and western halves.
- L3.8 Settlement is sparse with just a few farms of 19th or 20th century red brick.

## Perceptual Landscape

- L3.9 The mature hedgerow trees silhouetted against the sky and the dark woodland on the higher ground form a visual counterpoint to the wide open arable fields and accentuate the curves of the landform.
- L3.10 Away from the busy and intrusive A33, the area has an enclosed and rural character, enhanced by the sunken and winding lanes.

### Valuable Landscape Attributes

- **Rural farmed character** due to the mosaic of irregular fields of varied size, woodland and sparse settlement.
- **Variety of the mixed and coniferous woodlands** including BAP priority habitats and of ancient origin and network of thick hedgerows with hedgerow trees which provide ecologically important habitats.
- **The wooded skyline** which provides a distinctive backdrop to surrounding areas, including in adjacent boroughs.
- **Deeply sunken and winding lanes** on higher slopes which contribute to scenic rural quality.
- **Network of mature hedgerows** with mature oak standards which are silhouetted against the sky, giving an enclosed character and sense of place.
- **Views to Loddon Valley** over the surrounding landscape gives a sense of place and orientation.
- **Strongly tranquil and remote character**, with experience of dark skies due to sparse settlement.

### Landscape Condition

The pattern of arable and pastoral fields with mixed woodland, linked by rural lanes and little settlement is intact and in overall **good condition**. The busy A33 is a detracting element, and disturbs the rural character and tranquility of the area. There are opportunities for woodland and hedgerow habitat recreation and strengthening.

### Key Issues

- Effects on tree health or species composition of woodland and wet woodland as a consequence of pathogens and climate change.
- Loss of structure and species diversity of the traditionally coppiced woodlands has occurred in the past through cessation of coppice management. However, there are positive signs that woodlands are being brought back into management.
- Spread of sycamore, rhododendron and other invasive/exotic species into native deciduous woodland is threatening the locally distinctive species composition of these woodlands.
- Influence of woodland fell cycles on wider landscape character, in particular affecting wooded ridgelines.
- Hedgerow loss associated with past expansion of fields and intensification of agriculture. Lack of the recruitment of young trees (through natural regeneration or planting) required to rebalance the age structure of hedgerow trees is an on-going threat to the character of the landscape.
- Decline or decay of historic features including the GHQ Stop Line.
- Demand for built development on the skyline is leading to loss of wooded ridges which are characteristic of the Wokingham landscape.
- This character area contains a reservoir of 'dark skies'. Light pollution is a key issue affecting the night landscape.
- The A33 brings noise and movement to the area, disturbing the tranquillity. Demands for upgrading the winding network of rural lanes with new signage, line painting and widening is threatening the intimate rural character of the lanes and, by encouraging greater traffic volumes, also threatens the tranquillity of the area.
- Increasing demand for communication masts, pylons and poles leading to visual intrusion of these elements in the open landscape.

### Landscape Strategy

To maintain the landscape character of the *Stanford End Wooded Sand and Gravel Hills* the following strategy is required: to conserve and enhance existing rural and wooded character of the ridge.

The key aspects to be conserved are the inter-visibility of this area with the surrounding landscape, (particularly views to/from the Loddon), the rural character, mixed woodland and ancient woodland, sparse settlement and rural lanes, dark skies and relative tranquillity away from the A33. There is an opportunity to consider restoration of the hedgerows, and further integration of the A33 into the landscape.

In terms of development, the aim is to conserve the sparse settlement pattern.

### Landscape Guidelines

- **Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape**, including ancient woodland. Continue to promote appropriate management through natural regeneration, control of non-native species and coppicing as a management tool for neglected woodland.
- **Conserve enhance and manage valued woodland habitats** including BAP priority habitats and those designated as LWS. Increase the extent of native deciduous woodland, using locally appropriate native species.
- **Conserve and manage hedgerow field boundaries**, with standard trees as important wildlife habitats and landscape features, as well as the links they provide across the landscape and between areas of woodland. Reinstate or repair hedgerows with native species where there are opportunities to do so. Plan for the next generation of hedgerow trees with a programme of tree planting.
- **Conserve and protect the rural qualities of the farmed landscape** with its pattern of mixed pasture and arable fields interspersed with woodland.
- **Manage and enhance the wildlife interest of agricultural fields** by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins and other wildlife-friendly farming methods around intensively farmed fields.
- **Maintain and enhance the character of rural sunken lanes** resisting unsympathetic highways improvements, infrastructure and signage.
- **Conserve the features associated with the GHQ Stop Line.**
- **Use appropriate tree planting to help better integrate the A33 into the landscape.** Encourage retention of wooded edges and boundaries along roads and minimising fencing and other boundary structures.
- **Conserve distinctive wooded character of undeveloped skylines.** Consider the impact of any development on skylines, particularly vertical elements which would have the potential to be highly visible from adjacent character areas. Develop sympathetic fell cycles to maintain positive character, particularly phased cycles along sensitive skylines to ensure that the wooded backdrop is maintained.
- **Particular care should be taken in the siting of communication masts or other vertical elements**, which have the potential to be highly visible in this elevated landscape.
- **Protect the strong perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness in the landscape, including the experience of dark skies**, through the management of development.

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aspect

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