

2.4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

At a local level, as illustrated on the plan adjacent, the site falls across two Landscape Character Areas, LCA N1 Holme Green Pastoral Sandy Lowland and LCA M1 Finchhampstead Forested and Settled Sands. The majority of the site falls within area N1. This LCA “is characterised by its predominantly pastoral land use with smaller areas of arable land. The landscape here is gently undulating, opening out into flatter areas east of Holme Green and is set within a partially wooded context created by the Settled and Forested Sands to the south and the urban areas of Wokingham in the north”. The key characteristics of this LCA which are relevant to the site and its immediate context are listed below:

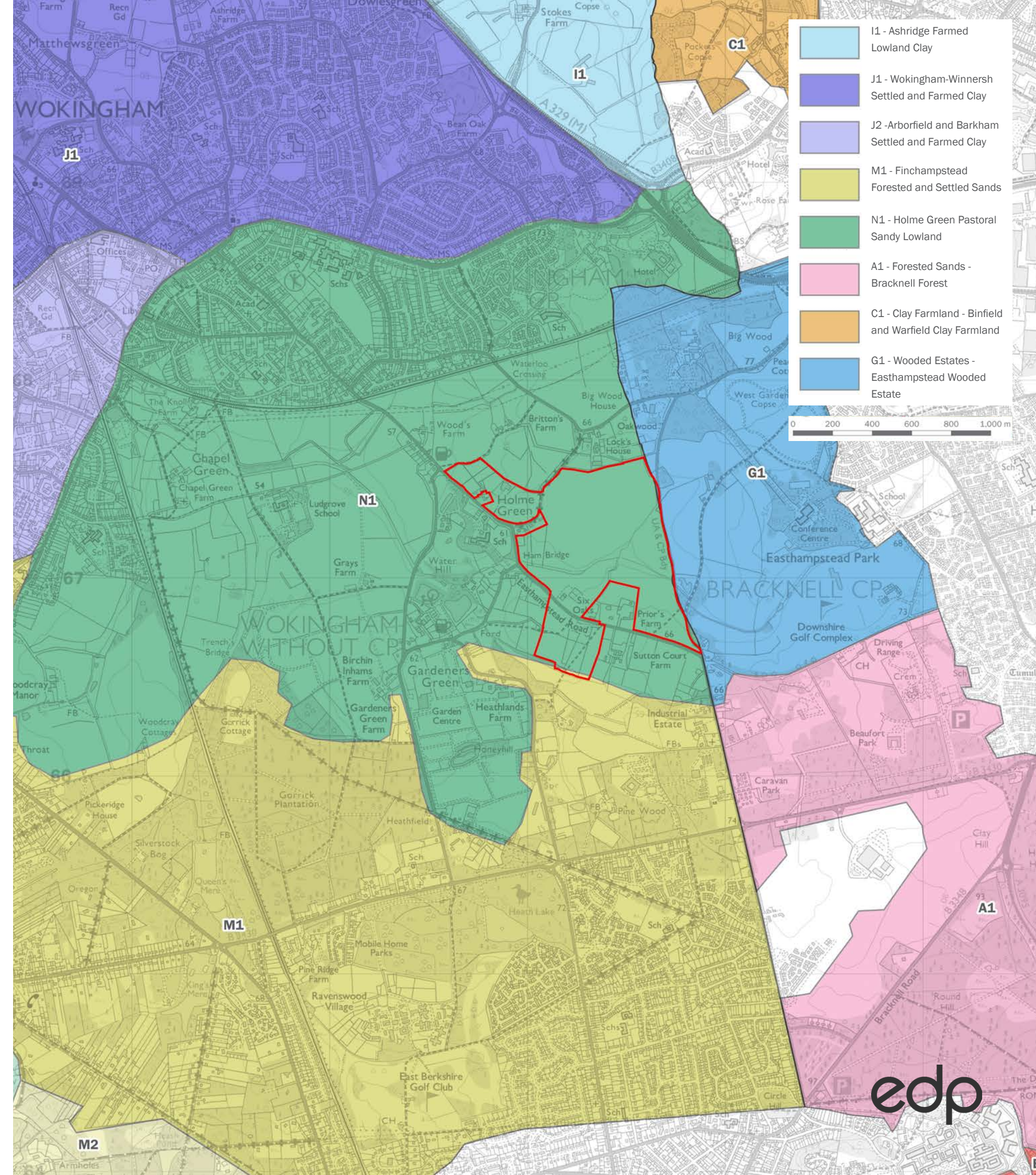
- An agricultural landscape defined predominantly by pastoral farming contained within medium-sized and geometrically shaped fields and largely divided by post and wire and rough timber fencing;
- Small scale ‘hobby’ farming including a number of equestrian paddocks and exercising areas bound by often unkempt fencing and supported by temporary looking facilities such as caravans and sheds;
- Presence of small businesses indicates economic diversification aside from agriculture;
- Scrubby vegetation including wooded tributaries, shelterbelts with gorse, bramble and bracken;
- Recreational value in the form of numerous footpaths and bridleways;
- Views of the southern fringes of Wokingham.

2.5 EDP SITE ASSESSMENT

As acknowledged within the published LCA N1, the site is dominated by medium sized open pastoral farming with enclosing trees and hedgerows in declining condition, and settlement edge equestrian and hobby farm use, the existing watercourse bisects the site, along which can be found scrubby vegetation.

Existing trees and woodland blocks surrounding the site provide the main bulk of the existing GI, with the intra-site hedgerows and trees providing connectivity between the vegetated site boundaries. In turn, as identified within the LCA, these mature and maturing features serve to enclose the site and restrict views of the site to the local area. A combination of local topography combined with the presence of maturing landscape features both within the site and its immediate context provide an enclosed site character. This is predominantly experienced through a lack of longer distance outward

Published Landscape Character Areas Plan 1:20,000 @ A3



2.6 SITE PHOTOS



Internal view along watercourse looking east towards Old Wokingham Road.



View from Public Right of Way WOKW BW 30I looking north west towards Pearces Farm.



View from Public Right of Way WOKW FP 7I looking east towards farm buildings.



View from Public Right of Way WOKW FP 5I looking south east towards Pearces Farm.



View from Public Right of Way BRAC FP 15I looking west towards the eastern site boundary.



View from Public Right of Way WOKW FP 6I and Old Wokingham Road along the eastern site boundary looking west into the site.