# A2: Historic Landscape and Settlement Analysis

## 1. Background

Great Britain has been an island, physically separate from continental Europe, since around 10,000BC. From this period onward, the island has developed a rich and varied landscape through a combination of natural and man-made processes. Much evidence for, particularly man-made processes, survives as visible remains and are increasingly recognised in planning policy guidance and European law. These guidances and directives recognise that archaeological remains are a 'finite and non-renewable resource' deserving consideration and protection for its own inherent properties and linked to the concept of sustainable development[1].

The concept of the landscape (the visual appearance of the land including its shape, form and colours) was recognised as part of this finite and non-renewable resource and needed to be quantified. Formal advice on 'landscape assessment' was first detailed in '*Landscape assessment: A Countryside Commission approach*' (1987). Since this first advice document, numerous landscape assessments have been undertaken at various levels of detail ranging from the county study, through District level to studies of specific areas of land.

Each of these studies has sought to understand the landscape as a dynamic system resulting from natural and human interaction over thousands of years. The degree to which the layers of interaction survive depends upon the level and extent of later impacts and the concept of time depth arises. This is a methodology to aid in the understanding of the multi-layered tapestry of the historic landscape. Our appreciation of the landscape is the result of 'the visual appearance of the land including its shape, form and colours'[2], time depth is measured by the survival of visible remnants of our past.

Hampshire itself has been the focus of a county-wide landscape assessment undertaken in 1993. The Landscape Character Types and Areas were later analysed for their historic characteristics in 1998. At this point, Hampshire County Council and English Heritage commissioned the Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants to undertake an historic landscape assessment of the entire county[3]. A two volume report on the results of the project were produced in 1999. Their approach to this study was essentially to classify landscape types and areas using primarily map-based and aerial photographic evidence to be followed by targeted ground testing. The Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (HHLA) clearly stated its aim to provide a supporting framework for future, district-level studies of the historic landscape[4]. Following this Hampshire landscape study, Test Valley Borough Council have commissioned Kirkham Landscape Planning Consultants, Gifford and Partners, and Countryscape to undertake a landscape character assessment of the District. The contents of this volume form the main results of the assessment of the historic landscape characterisation portion of the commission and provide supplementary information to the principal report. This appendix should therefore be consulted in conjunction with the main study.

## 2. Approach

Hampshire has been the focus of several studies into the changing ecological, historical and archaeological aspects of the environment, the most recent of which has been the Hampshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1999[5]. The HHLCA sought not to add a further layer of complex interpretation to an already well-studied but horizontally based appreciation of the landscape. Rather, the study attempted to quantify the landscape in terms of its historic complexity using the study to develop a vertical appreciation of the landscape through the introduction of time depth.

The results of the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment have formed the framework for this current study on the historic rural landscape of the Test Valley District (Figure 1). Consequently, the current study has focused upon the development of a vertical appreciation of the historic landscape (taken from available map-based and aerial photographic resources).

The Brief and Client requirements ensured that the general framework of the HHLCA formed the underlying framework of the historic landscape character assessment for the Test Valley District. Therefore, the current study has drawn extensively from the experience of the HHLCA using its classifications of Character Areas as and where applicable. Our approach was not to exhaustively copy the earlier study, but rather to assess its applicability on a point-by-point basis. The rural character areas were generally retained although specific groups were amalgamated to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the landscape as, for example, with parliamentary field systems. Where further information was available and warranted inclusion, specific character area descriptions were developed and employed to identify these inclusions to the map of the Test Valley District. Principally this included detailed reference to the results of the Water Meadow Survey carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit during 1996.

It is important to note that this study and its conclusions have been based upon secondary source material. Of necessity, much of this material is of a considerable age and has not been updated recently while much information is not currently available in a published form. It is therefore recognised that statements within this text may be out of sympathy with current academic archaeological and historical thinking which only future research and fieldwork may address. Therefore the following sections offer an historic and archaeological précis of the Test Valley and have been designed to offer an overview of the District's historic character rather than providing specific detailed interpretation of areas within the District. If the reader is interested in particular aspects of the District's history and archaeology or a specific area they are asked to consult the specialist literature on the subject.

An analysis of historic settlement development was undertaken and focused upon producing a broad understanding of historic change in the towns and villages of the District where sufficient data existed. It was found that the early development of the principal settlement forms was determined largely by the surrounding topography and underlying geology. Later settlement development and expansion from historic core areas during the post-medieval period appears to have been less restricted by topography and geology as construction techniques and the requirements of housing and industry pushed developments away from historic settlement cores. The '*Winchester District Landscape Assessment*' was found to provide a useful set of settlement types which approximated to the situation found in the neighbouring Test Valley District and so these were used throughout this study. A more detailed outline of the approach used is discussed in the 'Settlement Analysis' section of this appendix.

Where time depth is concerned (this will be defined and discussed in Section 6 of this appendix), the HHLCA quite rightly did not set out to produce detailed phase or period plans. Instead, time depth in the HHLCA sought to identify the chronological window where a broad brush view of the spatial and temporal complexity of an area could be gained. The general approach for this study was to identify clearly-visible historic representations of human activity at the landscape-wide scale and on a period-by-period basis. Relevant groups of extant historic monuments were also considered as the survivors of historic landscape form and this was particularly the case for the prehistoric period. Historic monuments in this context refer to the upstanding remains of human construction visible throughout the landscape. Elements such as Bronze Age barrows, medieval moated sites and post-medieval water meadow systems are all considered to be 'historic monuments'. The combination of surviving historic monuments and extant historic landscapes can be used to develop an overarching picture of time depth across the District to identify areas where the visible survival of monument is relatively higher or lower in relation with the associated landscape character areas.

## 3. Methodology And Applicable Studies

Mapping was carried out using the 1:25,000 OS "*Outdoor Leisure*" maps series for the Test Valley District. The existing GIS plot produced by the HHLA was taken as the basis for the map based checking which this project undertook. Where inconsistencies were identified with the character area designation or with the 'drawing up', amendments were made to the existing GIS plot. This information was overlaid onto the digital copy of the 1:25,000 OS "*Outdoor Leisure*" map. As with the HHLA study, the base map date for this study is 1996/7[6].

As the current study continued with the pre-existing general Historic Landscape Areas ascribed by the HHLA, a similar 'general rationale' was followed for the definition of adapted or wholly new landscape areas. Therefore:

- The assessment sought to characterise the present day landscape.
- The District should be mapped seamlessly.
- Historic characteristics should reflect different types of human interaction with the environment.
- The visible results of these interactions should be readily mappable.
- It should be able to reflect change through time.
- The assessment should be able to map current and relict land use.
- The assessment should not map areas which can only be defined by the evidence of below ground archaeological fieldwork or survey but should represent visible elements within the landscape.

In certain circumstances the decision was made to incorporate several HHLCA character areas into a single area for use within this study. This occurred primarily with the regular and irregular parliamentary field enclosures particularly in the central and northern portion of the District. Here the differentiation between different sizes and shapes of parliamentary fields was seen to hinder, rather than aid understanding of the landscape and provides little further understanding of time depth across the landscape. Conversely, evidence for water meadows was expanded for this study to provide a more detailed breakdown of the

river valleys of the District. The five types of water meadow demonstrate different approaches to water management dependent upon the topography of the valley floor and, potentially, the time period involved.

Linear features such as Roman roads, canals, navigations and railways were initially mapped as discrete landscape elements. It was soon realised that these features did not exist as distinct areas and so could not be clearly mapped under the criteria identified in our study, or that of the earlier OAU work. Instead, often these features remain evident within the historic landscape fossilized within the lines of field boundaries, tracks and the routes of later roads.

## 4. Historic Landscape Character Assessment

### 4.1. Agricultural Development in the Test Valley

4.1.1. The historic landscape character assessment has identified two general but distinct areas within the Test Valley dominated by different general types of historic landscape. Throughout the northern and central portions of the District, large areas of parliamentary fields systems have been laid out during primarily the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Figure 2). This process of formal enclosure by act of Parliament often involved the detailed surveying of field systems and the roads and tracks which ran through them. Within this area some discrete pockets of the earlier historic landscape continue to survive, most notably in a corridor to the northwest of Andover and in the northeastern corner of the Borough. Here, a patchwork of smaller, less regular fields dating to either the medieval or early post-medieval period, along with smaller assarted fields with some stands of pre-1810 woodland generally located upon capping deposits of clay with flints.

4.1.2. One result of such formal enclosure was often the substantial or total removal of earlier historic landscapes. However, within these newly laid out agricultural landscapes historic and prehistoric elements do survive. They are almost exclusively clearly visible and well defined earthworks such as barrows, long barrows, and hill forts and may have survived because of the relative difficulty of removing them with simple tools and manual labour. The only linear monuments which survive to any degree across the valley are Roman roads although these generally survive within track, road and field boundaries. Few upstanding earthworks related to the road system from this period survive within the Test Valley District although particularly within the north of the District their alignments are clearly visible in the historic landscape.

4.1.3. The southern boundary to the expanse of

parliamentary field systems approximates the line where the chalk upland (to the north) meets the lowland alluvial clays and gravels at the southern end of the valley. To the south of this in the zone of clays and gravels the landscape is dominated by the remnants of historic woodland with large areas of assarting surviving and some more significant stands of copse and woodland (Figure 2). Assarting is the process of informal field development formed by the process of deforestation and is known to have been carried out throughout the medieval and post-medieval period. Assarting carried out during the medieval period is generally characterised by the relatively small sized and irregular field systems it results in. Post-medieval assarting often resulted in the creation of larger individual fields which, grouped together, display a much more regular pattern with intersecting roads and tracks.

4.1.4. Throughout the District there remains discrete survivals of informal enclosure activity. The Oxford study found that this enclosure dated to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and resulted in a more organic form of field system which tended to retain old track ways and, in certain circumstances, general field boundary alignments. This is contrary to the parliamentary enclosure which was planned (or formal), and often altered whole areas of landscape. The informal enclosure of this period is often to be found within relatively smaller portions of land and probably represents the actions of individual farmers looking to rationalise their farming processes in the face of growing agricultural change. The largest area of such activity in the District can be found to the north and northwest of Andover around the villages of Penton Mewsey, Charlton, Hatherden and throughout the parish of Tangley. Here, a mixture of regular fields with wavy boundaries and regular ladder fields dominates the landscape and represents an unusual survival of an informally enclosed agricultural landscape within later parliamentary field systems. To the south, survivals are considerably more discrete possibly following the general pattern of smaller field systems and assarting upon the heavier clays and gravels. The best example from this area is a group of surviving regular fields with wavy boundaries to the east of Romsey close by Whitenap.

4.1.5. In conclusion, geological variations then would appear to have a significant impact upon the development of the historic landscape with the chalk upland in the north favouring the development of open arable farming through parliamentary field enclosure during the eighteenth and nineteenth century. In the south of the District on the clays and gravels, smaller and more discrete field systems and wooded areas survive. The deeper, richer soils would appear to favour

woodland development and this gave way during the later medieval and early post-medieval period largely to assarting and limited parliamentary field enclosure.

## 4.2. The Influence of Woodland on the District

4.2.1. This process of woodland retention and the development of an assarted landscape dominates the southern end of the Test Valley. Assarting and woodland stretch across the width of the valley and as far south as the heathland commons of Canada and Plaitford Green. This historic environment produces a more secluded and enclosed landscape with smaller tree and hedge-lined lanes which wind through medieval and early post-medieval irregular field systems. The southern portion of the District then retains numerous drove roads connecting the more forested regions with the upland areas and within the river valleys. The New Forest itself retains numerous such roads and trackways throughout its extent, linking the outer tracts of ancient forest farmland with the woodland heart and the areas where (throughout the medieval, post-medieval and into the modern period) rights of common can to this day still be invoked.

4.2.2. Within the southwestern portion of the Test Valley District, the influence of the New Forest must be borne in mind when considering the development of the historic landscape. The New Forest was created as a royal hunting forest for the sport of deer and wild pig hunting by William I (also known as William the Conqueror) in 1079 when it was given the title 'Nova Foresta', literally the 'New Forest'. The process of forest law protected the environment for the rulers pleasure with a formal court of law developed to oversee the management of the forest and to punish transgressors of the Royal Law. The area covered by Royal Law and so part of the forest reached its greatest extent between 1220 and 1281 during the reigns of Henry III and Edward I. At this time the River Blackwater in the Test Valley demarcated the northern-most boundary of the 'Large Bounds' perambulatory. Concessions by later rulers resulted in the granting of what are now referred to under the blanket term as 'the rights of common'. This grants certain rights and privileges to plots of land both within and in the area surrounding the forest and relate to the gathering of fuel, digging of clay and the grazing of animals on the common land. The combined pressures of rising agricultural land requirements and the growth of the logging industry for shipbuilding resulted in a gradual but distinct alteration in the forest heartland and on its periphery.

4.2.3. The remains of the deforestation process are still visible in the historic landscape of the southern area of the Test Valley. Assarting and isolated woodland survivals are indicators of the gradual denudation of the New Forest and its periphery which occurred towards the end of the medieval period and throughout the post-medieval period. This process also affected what is known as the 'Ancient Forest Farmland', agricultural land which extended outside the formal boundaries of the forest but which retained links, either direct or indirect, to the management of the forest. The eighteenth and nineteenth century predilection for opening out farmland and formalising the agricultural landscape appears largely to have by-passed the southern area of the Test Valley. Areas of parliamentary field enclosure do exist within this area although these do not cover significant areas of land. Parliamentary field systems in the southern area of the Test Valley generally appear to be located close to the main river courses and this may have influenced field development during the later post-medieval period.

4.2.4. Recent work within Zion Hill Copse[7] in the south of the district has recovered significant evidence of the survival of previously unknown earthworks and other archaeological sites within a wooded environment. Work within the copse recovered a pottery indicating Bronze Age activity and the remains of a small ditched enclosure with settlement evidence dating to the middle to late Iron Age. The study at Zion Hill Copse indicates the potential for below ground archaeology and earthworks to survive within a forested environment. As such care must be taken not only when working in forested environments but also when planting new forests. A recent study in the Republic of Ireland has demonstrated the considerable impact that new plantations can have upon archaeological deposits[8]. It must also be borne in mind the potentially dramatic impact that many nineteenth century plantations may have already had upon archaeological deposits within them.

## 4.3. The Later Post-Medieval Impact upon Agriculture in the District

4.3.1. The later post-medieval period and particularly the later eighteenth century up to the middle of the nineteenth century witnessed rapid advances in agricultural technology and is commonly identified in text books as the 'Agrarian Revolution'. The laying out of parliamentary field systems identified in the previous paragraphs was accompanied by the substantial redevelopment of the floodplains and meadows of river valleys throughout the counties of England. This redevelopment of the floodplains resulted in the construction of systems of water meadows to provide fresh water to the formal fields which flanked the river courses. These meadows provided two crops of grass a year and allowed the storing of fodder for the over wintering of stock. Prior to this, an annual slaughter of livestock had taken place during November with

only breeding stock retained for the following year. The water meadow then provided a valuable source of food early in the year and a good supply of fodder through the winter months. It was also essential for pastoral farming which appears to have been particularly prevalent within the southern portion of Test Valley.

4.3.2. Water meadows also provided a good method of controlling water levels within the river basin and could often prevent flooding downstream by channeling water off into the flanking fields, holding it there for a day then reintroducing it into the river. This process could reduce a flood spike and save settlements downstream and is a method which has been used recently to protect the village of Downton on the River Avon in Wiltshire[9]. The potential of the water meadow was soon recognised by Test Valley farmers and their banks, ditches and sluice gates have been charted along the River Test and many of its tributary rivers. The main river valleys were furnished with large systems of bedwork meadows where water was directed to each field via a complex system of sluices and raised banks. Catchwork meadows were constructed along smaller rivers such as the Wallop Brook where gravity, not sluices, supplied the water to the fields. The dominant form of water meadow within the Test Valley is the bedwork system and this is to be found along almost the entire length of the River Test and upon many of the smaller tributary rivers. The location of water meadows within the District does not appear to be influenced by the underlying geology but is clearly dependant upon the topography of the river valley.

4.3.3. By the middle of the nineteenth century most of the river valleys within the District contained some form of water meadow system. However, during the latter part of the nineteenth century agricultural depressions, the development of improved farming techniques, new crops, insecticides and fertilizers resulted in their steady decline. Many were either left untended or their earthworks were levelled and their ditches backfilled. A desk-based study by the Oxford Archaeological Unit has identified many new and previously unknown water meadows within the Test Valley and field-testing may find that many areas of currently identified 'miscellaneous valley floor enclosures'. These may in truth be the remains of relict water meadow systems. The water meadow system, like the New Forest had an indirect effect upon the surrounding agricultural landscape. Many small tracks and roads were constructed to provide a direct link between upland pastures and the water meadows upon the valley floor. They survive today in part because their main drains and leets have become field boundaries and, the banks and drainage channels have weathered. They represent a form of enclosure and the further expense of opening out and modifying these low lying and often marshy

areas was not an option for many smaller farmers; it would have required groups to club together to provide the capital and labour for their construction.

4.3.4. Several areas of river valley common survive throughout the District. These areas of land provided common grazing rights for the settlements close by and formed an important resource for the farming communities of the river valleys. Examples survive along the principal river valleys although good examples survive at Common Marsh south of Stockbridge, Bransbury Common (west of Bransbury village) and Tidbury Common to the northeast of Barton Stacey. These valley floor commons often survive as marshy and considerably overgrown areas of marginal land and it is likely that these areas represented marginal land throughout the medieval and post-medieval period. Their continued survival attests to the relatively poor nature of the conditions they provide and today they provide a valuable natural and historical resource within the District.

4.3.5. The process of formal planting and reforestation appears to be present largely within the southern area of the Test Valley. In the southwest this is associated with the development of inclosures of formal plantations in the New Forest during the nineteenth century. In the southeast many of the existing forested areas were augmented by the laying out of plantations in the nineteenth century. These may have been laid out in an attempt to restock the nations rapidly dwindling stocks of timber. Evidence of this shortage may come from the increased importation of large supplies of pine from many of the Baltic countries. The replanting of areas of forest predominantly in the south of the District fits well with our understanding of the underlying geology and the impact this may have had upon the development of a forested environment within this area during historic and prehistoric times. The presence of clay deposits would not have favoured medieval and early post-medieval farming techniques associated with arable agriculture. Consequently, the growth of forested areas and favouring of pastoral agriculture developed within this area of Test Valley. During the nineteenth century, in particular, the laying out of new plantations and reforestation of previously assarted land resulted in a general increase in the total forested area of Test Valley.

4.3.6. The impact of eighteenth and nineteenth century land management on the historic landscape of Test Valley has been identified above in the setting out of large tracts of parliamentary field systems, the development of the water meadow system and the creation of larger assarted fields. These agricultural land management techniques indicate a rapidly developing industrialised farming landscape. Such developments inevitably impacted upon the historic landscape in

a relatively short period of time. Prior to this period farming techniques and field layout had changed and developed only gradually, the size and scale of developments during particularly the nineteenth century resulted in often dramatic alterations to the landscape. Such far-reaching developments required substantial capital investment and so, behind these changes was an increasingly wealthy, landed elite.

4.3.7. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries rising costs incurred through parliamentary enclosure, water meadow construction (where required) and the employment of new and expensive techniques and processes caused extreme hardship among many farming families. This coupled with a series of catastrophic agricultural depressions resulted in many farmers selling their land and moving into the rapidly developing towns and cities or falling upon the mercy of the local workhouse. During this period, substantial parcels of land were available at a relatively low cost and this permitted some wealthy individuals to purchase large tracts of agricultural land. The move towards parliamentary enclosure resulted in the opening up of field systems and a general increase in their average size while more modern farming techniques permitted greater efficiency in the farming of large farms. Consequently the number of individual farms declined while the average size of farms increased dramatically.

4.3.8. In conclusion, the Test Valley Borough retains pockets of medieval/early post-medieval landscape elements within the southern portion of the Borough and to the northwest and northeast of Andover. Elsewhere, the field systems are dominated by the formal parliamentary enclosure of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Here, large well planned field systems have, by and large, cleared away much of the earlier historic landscape. This development often represented a large scale planned redesigning of the landscape and so, its impact upon earlier elements was often more far reaching than previous, piecemeal landscape changes. It is for this reason that the southwestern, northeastern and northwestern portions of the District retain greater historic landscape diversity with a melange of landscape elements implemented often on an ad hoc basis.

## 4.4. The Influence of the Landed Classes and Large Estates upon the Development of the District

4.4.1. Many of the larger estates and country houses within the Test Valley were constructed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and owe much of their prosperity to the rich farmland in which they sit. Both the HHLCA undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit and the current study identified pre- and post-1810 estates and parkland based upon cartographic evidence. One consequence of this is that little direct analysis can be undertaken concerning the growth and development of sixteenth and seventeenth century estates. The current study shows that historic parkland, the 'Big House' and any associated farm complexes are generally evenly scattered throughout the District. In the southern portion of the District, where the underlying geology is clay and gravels, the parkland estates do appear to be more closely spaced and this may indicate a reduced sphere of influence. In these areas the impact of agricultural industrialisation is markedly smaller than in the north of the county and so, it is possible that greater numbers of small holders managed to retain ownership of land during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

4.4.2. It must be noted that the estate or parkland as it stands today often represents the formal gardens of the main house and possibly a home farm complex. This does not take into account its sphere of influence particularly upon any settlements which served the main house or upon the surrounding agricultural landscape it controlled and often rented out to tenant farmers. The tenant farmer, their family and hired labourers probably undertook the day-to-day management of the farm. It is difficult to estimate the level of overall control that the landowner exercised upon their farmland and this would vary from landlord to landlord. The overarching strategy and financing of major projects almost certainly rested with the landlord and their appointed representatives and so, reclamation, water meadow construction and the amalgamation of fields to increase their size was probably a strategic decision by the landlord.

4.4.3. This process of strategic control exercised by landlords may provide an explanation for several discrete anomalies within the overall pattern of the historic landscape. For example, the post-1810 parkland of Stanbridge Earls is located within a landscape dominated largely by parliamentary field systems. This runs contrary to the general historic landscape pattern which is one of small and medium sized assarted fields and some pre-1810 woodland. This anomaly may then represent the effect of a major landlord (based at Hursley and who owned both the Stanbridge Earls and Awbridge Danes estates) upon surrounding farmland. Other examples can be found in the north of the District at Hatherden House where regular fields with wavy boundaries (an informal enclosure process undertaken largely during eighteenth century) dominate the landscape surrounding the main house and its immediate grounds.

4.4.4. Large houses affected the surrounding landscape in ways other than the indirect management

of their farm estates. Throughout the later eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century the development of formal landscaped grounds and gardens close by the house expanded out into the landscape. Site lines and routes for promenading either on foot, on horse or by coach required that more of the landscape be set aside for the creation of 'gardens' with which to impress family, friends and visitors. Increasingly the informal garden landscape became fashionable with the creation of vistas and viewing points created at various points within the estate both to view the landscape and to admire the house within its landscape. With this in mind stands of trees were positioned upon ridgelines and throughout the landscaped gardens to provide interesting views and offer changes of scenery along with privacy and a change of experience for the visitor. This legacy has largely survived today with the landscapes surrounding many of the large houses retaining elements of their landscaped grounds.

4.4.5. The large house and estate often required a substantial labour force to ensure day-to-day maintenance of both the house, its grounds and estate farms in the immediate vicinity. In the Test Valley, many of the houses do not appear to have settlements directly associated with them. Such villages only appear to exist at Hatherden, Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton in the District. In these cases, the neighbouring estate is seen to influence the growth and development of the village, however this will be introduced in greater detail within the settlement analysis section of this appendix.

### 4.5. The Influence of Rapid Settlement Development during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

4.5.1. The influence of nineteenth and twentieth century settlement development appears not to have impacted substantially upon the majority of the Test Valley District. The major impact upon the historic landscape character of the valley appears to occur in the southeastern portion of the District. Here, the rapid growth of the Southampton conurbation and its commuter settlements of Chandlers Ford and Nursling, step hand-in-hand with noticeable housing developments in many of the smaller villages. Areas of larger assarted fields and plantations are found within and between the agglomerated settlements although these features are predominantly associated with landscape change during the nineteenth century. Further north, Romsey and Andover have also developed considerably from their medieval and early post-medieval cores. Elsewhere, the smaller villages have experienced substantially less impact from recent settlement development and the further north from

Southampton, the lower the relative level of recent housing.

4.5.2. The development of ancillary services such as sewage treatment stations and discrete areas for industrial development, has been associated with the growth of settlement within the District. The planning and construction of industrial estates is largely associated with the major settlement centres at Andover, Romsey and the Southampton conurbation. These developments would appear to contain light to medium industrial processes unlikely to substantially affect the surrounding historic environment. Gravel extraction, located primarily within the southern portion of the valley of the River Test has destroyed further evidence of historic landscapes and specific archaeological sites upon the valley floor. The growth of settlement and increase in free time during the latter part of the twentieth century, coupled with a move to increase levels of fitness particularly in schoolchildren has given rise to the setting aside of land for playing fields and the construction of numerous golf courses around settlement centres. The creation of such sporting areas may have dramatically affected the historic landscapes particularly around major areas of settlement and will have extended that impact out from the settlement focus into the surrounding countryside.

4.5.3. The communication network throughout the valley remains stable with relatively little new road development throughout the later twentieth century. The old central road along the first river terrace of the valley between Romsey and Andover remains the principal route from north to south in the valley. The road network within the District may provide an explanation as to the location and subsequent development of settlements within the District and in particular those away from the valley of the River Test. The low intensity nature of the road network throughout much of the District and particularly away from the valley floors may explain why only small amounts of new building within Test Valley's villages have been carried out. Similarly it may point to why the majority of housing developments have been close to the two major towns and the major arterial routes through the District (the A303 for Andover and the M27 and A338 for Romsey).

### 5. Settlement Analysis

### 5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. Settlement analysis focused upon the identification of types of settlement and their relationship to the surrounding landscape (Figure 3). In doing this it was recognised that a key determinant of most forms of settlement is the topography and,

to a lesser extent the geology, of the surrounding landscape. Our approach has therefore followed that outlined in the 'Winchester District Landscape Assessment'. These types were generally readily transferable to the context of Test Valley and provided a stable backdrop on which to hang the historic analysis of each settlement.

5.1.2. Within each settlement, existing historic information retained within the Sites and Monuments Record, Listed Buildings information and charted in the 'Hampshire Historic Villages Survey' was used to assess the historic growth of each settlement in Test Valley. Four main periods were identified for this historic assessment: historic core (medieval development); early post-medieval (AD1650-1810); later post-medieval (AD1811-1920) and modern (AD 1921-present day). This approach allowed the assessment of historic growth between settlements within the Test Valley District and at key periods in the historic development of the valley.

5.1.3. The Settlement types previously mentioned are briefly discussed below with their characteristics and historic development identified in general terms. Following this, there is a table including all settlements present within the study. These have been alphabetized and grouped according to settlement type for ease of reference.

## Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type

This settlement type is located along the geological line of change which runs through the Test Valley District. They tend to have one or more surviving historic cores and appear to have been well developed by the later medieval period. Springs and/or reservoirs can be identified within the area surrounding this settlement type. Four examples of this settlement type were identified during the study including Michelmersh and Braishfield.

The settlement pattern can either be dispersed nucleated, or linear development along a single road. They appear not have a specific form or pattern of growth and post-medieval development extends along several minor roads running away from the settlement. To the north of this line the landscape is dominated by the higher chalk uplands with extensive parliamentary field enclosure. To the south, we see a predominance of smaller field patterns, a more wooded landscape and the presence of assarting (particularly at the southern end of the District).

One or more well developed historic cores can be identified within such a settlement type which may or may not retain a manorial complex. Such settlements also often retain a church which contains surviving medieval fabric and this often represents the earliest

datable standing remains within the settlement. The settlement appears to form around a nodal point within the landscape, often the juncture of several roads and initial growth develops around this point forming the nucleus of future settlement growth. This generally occurs during the earlier medieval period and is followed by a more linear progression along principle roads leading into the settlement during the later medieval period.

By the post-medieval period, settlement continues to extend along the more minor roads but does not appear to occur around the historic medieval core areas. More modern settlement fills in the gaps and may well have resulted in demolition of some portions of the historic core leading to the survival of one or more such features within a single settlement. The presence of springs or wells was often the prime reason for the development of such settlements, as well as access to a varied and rich agricultural landscape (with chalk to the north and clays to the south). However, water is not such an issue by the later post-medieval period and reservoirs may now surround such settlements.

## Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type

The Dry Valley settlements of the chalk downland tend to conform to the shape of the valley they occupy and are often small, undeveloped linear settlements which conform to the contours of the valley in which they reside, as at King's Somborne and Vernham Dean . Within the settlements examined, only four were found to be of this type. Ridgeway tracks and drove roads are often associated with this settlement type and they may in fact be located upon such communication routes. This settlement type is often located some distance away from available sources of water and may rely upon wells sunk into the chalk aquifer and the presence of 'winterbourne' streams.

There is little evidence to suggest Anglo-Saxon precursors to this current settlement type and most examples appear to have developed during the population expansions following the Norman Conquest, as suggested by place name evidence. Where Chalk Downland: Dry Valley settlements have an associated manorial complex, they tend to be located a distance away from the main historic core of the settlement. However, at King's Somborne, the manor site was located at John of Gaunt's Palace located within the centre of the historic settlement core. The priest of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul at King's Somborne (a thirteenth century structure surviving within the later church)[10] administered to other communities (for example through the chapel at Stockbridge) and this may represent the presence of a classic minster church at King's Somborne[11].

## Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type

These settlements can either be nucleated or linear in form although the linear form clustering along the downland tracks and roads represents the dominant type in the District. Twelve examples of this settlement type were. Not surprisingly this group of settlements is restricted to the northern portion of the District and is often located on prominent positions within the landscape. They regularly occupy hilltops (as at Charlton north of Andover) or the upper slopes of the downland (as at Shipton Bellinger in the west of the District) and are connected by ridgeway tracks and drove roads down to lower lying fields. Often located away from a ready source of fresh water, these hill top settlements often historically relied upon wells sunk into the chalk aquifer and upon the presence of 'winterbourne' streams. These settlements are often located within an open environment with few substantial stands of trees, copses and woods. Those stands of trees present are often located upon ridgelines and are referred to locally as 'hangers'.

It has been suggested that, during the Anglo-Saxon period these upland areas remained largely uninhabited and that it wasn't until after AD1066 that large scale land management in these upland areas was undertaken. The presence of clay deposits would not have favoured medieval and early post-medieval farming techniques associated with arable agriculture. Consequently, the growth of forested areas and favouring of pastoral agriculture developed within this area of the Test Valley.

Within the small to medium sized examples, post-medieval settlement may extend a considerable distance away from the historic core generally along the main routes into and out of the settlement.

## Chalk River Valley Settlement Type

This settlement type is located within the principal river valleys running through the cretaceous chalk geology of the Test Valley and represent the largest single group settlement type for the District. In total, from those settlements for which historic information is available, twenty-eight settlements were of this type representing 36.8% of the total sample of seventy-six settlements. They are generally located upon the valley floor and can occupy one or both banks of the associated river. The Anna Valley provides excellent evidence of this with Upper Clatford and Abbot's Ann occupying a single bank of the Pilhill Brook while Goodworth Clatford straddles the watercourse. The river is often crossed by means of a ford or bridge as at Stockbridge and these settlements are generally located at points which allow the river to be crossed. Chalk River Valley settlements often stretch along the line of river creating a 'linear' type of settlement.

Historically the river valley settlements are probably occupied from the Anglo-Saxon period onward although the earliest physical evidence to date tends to point to a largely Norman occupation of the lower-lying areas of the Test Valley. The church is often the oldest surviving building and is either located within the settlement or close-by, associated with a manor house. Where a bridge exists it is generally of later medieval or post-medieval date although may be located close by its predecessor.

## Clay River Valley Settlement Type

The smaller examples of this settlement type tend to have a historic core which displays a well-dispersed linear pattern, often focused upon a main road running along the valley floor. The larger Clay River Valley settlements are often the focus of a network of roads and can straddle the main river channel or channels lying as they do on the floodplain. Such low lying settlements, operating as communications nodes, often develop in a more nucleated form over time although the settlement will tend to develop along the main arterial routes at a faster rate. This form of development is visible in the settlement plans at both East Dean and Awbridge. These settlements are often located within an open arable farmland landscape with water meadows and valley floor enclosures dominating the landscape close to the river. Further away, parliamentary field systems dominate the landscape both upon the floodplain and successive river terraces. Five examples of Clay River Valley Settlements were identified during the course of this study.

Historically, these settlements tend to be focused upon a small manorial complex which controlled the landscape. The manorial complex appears to be closely associated with the historic core of this settlement type and it may be that the 'village' settlement has developed around the manor after its foundation. The church is generally located within this settlement type and this almost always contains the earliest datable architectural fabric within the settlement. Within these settlements the church is often closely associated with the manorial complex.

Romsey is the largest example of a Clay River Valley settlement having developed from a small nucleus during the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. This settlement was focused traditionally around the Romsey Abbey complex which, archaeological evidence to date suggests, was a centre for significant industrial activity during the late Anglo-Saxon period (c.10th Century AD).

## Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type

Settlements within this area of Test Valley tend to be nucleated and located at the juncture of two or more

roads. They also tend to be reasonably well developed with a discernable historic core. Later post-medieval development extends away from the main settlement core a considerable distance and can form several sub-nuclei away from the main settlement as can be seen at Tangley and Appleshaw in the north of the District. Eight examples of this settlement type were identified during the study.

The historic core is generally medieval in date and often retains an early medieval church and manorial farm. The settlement pattern across the areas of clay upland and plateau is one of extended settlements located relatively close together as opposed to the more open pattern on the chalk geology. This landscape offered a well-mixed and diverse environment suitable for both arable and small-scale pastoral farming and as such may have been well-populated from an early date.

## Common Edge Settlement Type

Settlements belonging to the common edge type tend to have a relatively well-developed and nucleated historic core with often a single road extending through the settlement. Later post-medieval and modern development appears to extend along roadways and do not appear to surround the historic core of the settlement. Three examples of this settlement type were identified during the study.

This settlement type appears generally to have a well-defined historic core which may relate to an increase in squatting on common land which is documented during the later sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as populations rose. Late post-medieval and modern growth has extended along the main roads through these settlements. A 'green' area and nucleus can often be identified within the historic core of these settlements. Where a medieval church survives, it generally retains the earliest datable architectural fabric within the settlement and is often closely associated with the manorial complex.

## Estate Village Settlement Type

Such settlements may either have developed over hundreds of years but have subsequently come to service a nearby estate, or may have been specifically located and constructed for this purpose as at Hatherden and the Pentons northwest of Andover. These settlement types tended to develop or experience significant growth during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and this often saw the construction of a new church or chapel and possibly a small schoolhouse. Three examples of this settlement type were identified during the study.

Their plan form can be either simple or relatively well-developed depending upon the later history of

the settlement but in all cases these settlements are located close to the formal boundary of the estate complex. Settlement development during the eighteenth and nineteenth century generally occurs at or along this boundary and often the main road to the estate or along its boundary extends through the village. The settlement was often the principal source of labour for the nearby estate providing staff for the house, and gardens and farm labourers to work the home farm fields. The estate became the defining influence in the development of the settlement and may have resulted in the re-siting of village buildings or the extension of the village. Such villages were often well-maintained (or at least appeared to be so) forming part of the overall impression a visitor to the estate may develop.

## Heath Associated Settlement Type

This settlement type tends to be a post-medieval/modern development focused upon the main roads running through the area. Where a historic core does exist it is as one or more farmsteads with the more modern settlements developing around these farms in one or more directions. The presence of roads are the principal driving factor behind the development of this more modern settlement. These settlements although generally located close by a main road are nucleated in nature and represent what may be a single phase of wholesale modern development rather than the gradual, more organic growth of either the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Five examples of this settlement type were identified during the study including West Wellow and Ampfield, both in the south fo the District.

As the majority of the heath land settlement in the Test Valley appear to be largely later medieval, post-medieval and modern constructs retain post-medieval churches and no evidence of manorial complexes. The pattern of more 'modern' wholesale design and settlement construction has often resulted in relatively complex, rectilinear street patterns associated away from the main arterial routes.

Increasing cultivation of marginal land has seen the landscape surrounding many common land settlements change radically particularly since the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During this time much of the District's common land was enclosed by act of Parliament creating a settlement largely surrounded by parliamentary field enclosures.

## Scattered Clay Lowland Settlment Type

Much like the Clay River Valley Settlement Type, the smaller examples of this settlement type tend to have a historic core which displays a dispersed linear pattern, often focused upon a principal road. These settlements

are associated with a much more wooded environment and a mixture of wood, copse and assarted field systems dominate particularly the southwestern portion of the Test Valley District. Four examples of this settlement type were identified during the study.

Where the Scattered Clay Lowland settlement has a historic core extensive post-medieval development does not appear to have occurred. However, some examples do appear to be wholly post-medieval in date (such as Awbridge and Buckholt). The relatively close proximity of Romsey and Southampton may have influenced the development of such new settlements. However, it may equally be the case that, ownership by a single landowner, coupled with areas of small

enclosures in private holdings made the development of land for agricultural purposes untenable. Instead, such areas would be better suited to later post-medieval housing development and hence the growth in settlement activity during this period.

Where a historic settlement core is present, it tends to be nucleated and closely associated with a manor house and medieval church. Generally several separate roads serve each settlement and these largely delineate the extent of medieval development within the settlement nucleus. Where a medieval church survives, it generally retains the earliest datable architectural fabric within the settlement and is often closely associated with the manorial complex.

## 5.2. Settlements and Settlement Type

| Settlement Name | Settlement Type | % of Group |
|---|---|---|
| Braishfield | Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type | 5.2% |
| East Tytherley | Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type | |
| Michelmersh | Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type | |
| West Tytherley | Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type | |
| | | |
| Barton Stacey | Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type | 5.2% |
| King's Somborne | Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type | |
| Leckford | Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type | |
| Vernham Dean | Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type | |
| | | |
| Andover (post-medieval) | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | 15.6% |
| Ashley | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Charlton | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Faccombe | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Grateley | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Kimpton | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Linkenholt | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Little Somborne | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Netherton | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Quarley | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Shipton Bellinger | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |
| Up Somborne | Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type | |

| Settlement Name | Settlement Type | % of Group |
|---|---|---|
| Abbot's Ann | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | 36.4% |
| Andover (historic core) | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Bossington | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Bransbury | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Broughton | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Chilbolton | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Fyfield | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Goodworth Clatford | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Horsebridge | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Houghton | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Hurstbourne Tarrant | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Ibthorpe | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Little Ann | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Longparish | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Longstock | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Lower Bullington | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Middle Wallop | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Monxton | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Mottisfont | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Newton Stacey | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Nether Wallop | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Over Wallop | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Sarson | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Stockbridge | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Upper Bullington | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Upper Clatford | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Upton | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Wherwell | Chalk River Valley Settlement Type | |
| | | |
| Amport | Clay River Valley Settlement Type | 7.7% |
| Awbridge | Clay River Valley Settlement Type | |
| East Dean | Clay River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Kimbridge | Clay River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Romsey (historic core) | Clay River Valley Settlement Type | |
| Romsey (post-medieval) | Clay River Valley Settlement Type | |

# A2: Historic Landscape and Settlement Analysis

| Settlement Name | Settlement Type | % of Group |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Appleshaw | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | 10.4% |
| Clanville | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| Enham Alamein | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| Smannell | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| Tangley | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| Thruxton | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| Weyhill | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| Wildhern | Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type | |
| | | |
| Canada | Common Edge Settlement Type | 3.9% |
| East Wellow | Common Edge Settlement Type | |
| Plaitford | Common Edge Settlement Type | |
| Hatherden | Estate Village Settlement Type | 3.9% |
| Penton Grafton | Estate Village Settlement Type | |
| Penton Mewsey | Estate Village Settlement Type | |
| | | |
| Ampfield | Heath Associated Settlement Type | 6.5% |
| Chilworth | Heath Associated Settlement Type | |
| North Baddesley | Heath Associated Settlement Type | |
| Nursling | Heath Associated Settlement Type | |
| West Wellow | Heath Associated Settlement Type | |
| | | |
| Buckholt | Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type | 5.2% |
| Lockerley | Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type | |
| Melchet Park | Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type | |
| Sherfield English | Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type | |

## 5.3. The Development of Test Valley's Principal Settlements

### Andover

The name Andover may derive from two separate Celtic words 'An' or spring and 'Dwr' meaning water or more likely derives from the British word 'Onnudubri' meaing 'ash water'[12]. Settlement at Andover would appear to have its roots in the Anglo-Saxon period following the withdrawal of the legions from the British Isles in AD410. Archaeological investigations around Andover have identified settlement evidence at Old Down Farm (interpreted as a medium-sized Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead). To the north at Charlton, work to the north of the Portway during the 1960s recovered considerable evidence of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon activity including pottery, animal bone and metal working evidence. This material would suggest the presence of settlement and industrial activities close by Andover probably associated with the two Roman roads. Two Roman roads intersect close by and recent excavations have recovered evidence of Roman burials in the southeastern area of Andover. The first historical reference to Andover comes in the 10th Century when the will of King Eadred bequests 'Andeferas' to the new Minster at Winchester however, by Domesday the manor appears to remain in Royal hands.

The Domesday Book indicates the presence of a substantial settlement with around 500 inhabitants and six watermills. The presence of so many mills at Andover supports the location of the historic core on the valley floor and its excellent location caused the settlement to thrive with the woollen industry the principal reason for its success. It is estimated that, by the fourteenth century, the population may have swelled to 1,200 people. In 1175, Andover was awarded a charter giving the guild of merchants similar rights to those in Winchester and in 1256 a court was provided for the small market town. The main High Street is recorded for the first time in 1298[13] and the area around this early thoroughfare appears to have been the focus of the medieval settlement. Two areas of medieval suburban growth are indicated by the archaeological and historical record; to the northeast of the medieval church and at the southern end of the town. However, some limited settlement shrinkage does appear to have occurred towards the end of the medieval period.

The later medieval and early post-medieval period saw a dramatic diversification in the range of trades present within Andover with leather workers, weavers, drapers and the beginnings of a thriving silk industry in the town. The growing prosperity of the town was recognised when, in 1599, a new charter was awarded turning the merchants guild into a corporation run by a bailiff and increasing the number of annual fairs from one to three. By the end of the sixteenth century the population may have reached 2,000 inhabitants and many more temporary residents although the town does not appear to have expanded considerably away from the lower lying valley floor regions.

Plague and fire were ever-present fears within the medieval and early post-medieval town. Andover itself suffered from three serious fires (in 1141, 1435 and again in 1647) while the plague struck in 1603-05, 1625-26 and finally in 1636 and these occurrences must have had a dramatic effect upon the development of Andover. Consequently, the seventeenth century was a period of relatively minor growth for the town although by the end of the century archaeological evidence suggests limited settlement development (with chalk cob walls identified at London Street) upon the slopes of the river valley. The Hearth Tax Assessment for Andover taken in 1665 identified a total of 425 households in the town[14] and by this time the town appears to have been overcoming the deprivations of the medieval period.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw Andover's gradual development on the stagecoach route and throughout this period the town centre was substantially redeveloped and the first recreational parks and walks were laid out. While traditional industry such as fulling and silk weaving declined, newer industries developed such as the iron foundry, which was opened to insure the continued economic prosperity of the town. However, the 1850 Tithe Apportionment map indicates relatively little substantial settlement growth. A rise in the growth of Andover only really occurred during the second half of the nineteenth century and particularly towards its end. By 1861 the population had risen to 5,221 with the main settlement spreading along Weyhill Road, Millway Road and Salisbury Road.

The records show that as late as 1960, Andover was still a relatively small country town with a population of around 17,000. Subsequently the decision was taken that it should be designated an overspill settlement for London and plans were drawn up to expand the housing allocation for the town. New council houses were constructed along with schools and other ancillary services and by 1981 the population had risen to 51,000.
Romsey

Coates[15] interprets the name Romsey as a corruption of 'Rum's' meaning an area of dry land surrounded by marsh. According to tradition, the Benedictine monastery was founded in 907AD and quickly became the focus of a thriving market and settlement[16]. Local tradition suggests that Romsey was burned by the Danes in 993AD the monastic buildings were rebuilt and continued to develop through to the Dissolution in 1539. Archaeological evidence suggests that the abbey site and surrounding area may have been the focus of a substantial iron smelting operation during the middle-late Saxon period and was possibly operating under Royal direction. The settlement appears to have thrived making full use of its location close by the River Test and the rapidly developing port of *Hamwih* and subsequently Southampton. Recent work, supported by archaeological investigations has allowed for the modelling of the historic development of Romsey. Properties were located away from the main street frontages within the settlement and were generally centrally placed within their respective properties. This suggests that during the Saxon and early medieval periods Romsey was essentially a rural settlement located close to a substantial ecclesiastical centre.

By the early 12th Century, Romsey was granted a charter confirming the right to hold markets on a Sunday and a fair in May. This was augmented during the thirteenth century when the town was permitted a second fair in October. It is possible that, during this period, Romsey had a population as large as 1,000 inhabitants although this figure is far from certain. With the market in place by 1300 and the majority of property boundaries and routes through the settlement core well-defined and the plan form by this time would be similar to the one we are familiar with today. The town thrived on the fulling industry, wool production and tanning with goods shipped south to Southampton for transit along the coast.

During the medieval and early post-medieval period Romsey was struck by two distinct episodes of plague, the first coming in 1348-49[17] with a second outbreak in 1526. These episodes undoubtedly affected the Abbey and surrounding town and it took many years for the towns population to recover while it was a blow from which the Abbey could not recover. Following the Dissolution, the inhabitants purchased the Abbey church from the King for £100 to use as a place of worship. As has been previously stated, the largely rectilinear plan was probably in place by the fourteenth century, centred around the triangular market place. The plague struck again in 1526 but Romsey appears to have recovered from

this epidemic relatively quickly and may have had a population of almost 1,500 inhabitants by the mid sixteenth century.

Romsey became a borough by Royal decree in 1607 and suffered greatly at the hands of Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War with both sides plundering the town. Following the unrest rising competition from the woollen industry in the north of England saw the steady decline of Romsey as a centre for fulling and production of garments. By the eighteenth century wool production had effectively ceased in the town. The decline of the woollen industry was counter-balanced to some degree by the growth of brewing, paper and sack making within the town and it continued to be an important centre of population. Broadlands was constructed in 1767 to the south of Romsey.

The 1801 census registered the population of Romsey at 4,274 equating to a fair sized market town. However, throughout the nineteenth century the population grew slowly. By 1851 the population had risen to 5,654 but by 1901 it had fallen slightly to 5,597. The population of Romsey remained relatively stable throughout the early twentieth century and by 1960 the town had around 8,000 inhabitants. As at Andover during this period, Romsey experienced a process of substantial and planned development. Whitenap housing estate was constructed during the early 1960s and this was followed in 1964 with a further planned expansion of the housing stock of the town. In support of this further schools and amenities were built away from the historic core of the settlement and new industrial estates were planned (most notably at Budds Lane).

### Stockbridge

Stockbridge today lies within a complex landscape which has been partially identified through the mapping and field investigation of the Danebury Environs Project[18]. The mapping of aerial photographic evidence indicates a rich and varied landscape particularly to the north and northeast of Stockbridge including widespread cropmark evidence of prehistoric field systems, Bronze Age barrows, hill forts (at Danebury and Woolbury) and several other smaller enclosures thought to be farmsteads.

There is no physical evidence to suggest the presence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement at Stockbridge and the Domesday survey of 1086 does not refer directly to the settlement. However, there are two settlements within the Somborne hundred which may be the settlement; one called 'Stoche' and the second called 'Somborne'. A small cemetery on Meon Hill to the west of the modern town suggests some activity in the

area although no settlement evidence of an equivalent date is known and it has been suggested that such a cemetery housed execution victims rather than members of the general populous. If this is the case they may have functioned more as boundary or territory markers.

Today there are three buildings in the S.M.R. recorded as being of medieval date although the form and style of numerous others suggests that earlier material may hide behind their eighteenth and nineteenth century facades. The first documentary evidence comes in 1141, refers to the town as 'Stret' and relates to the capture of Robert, Earl of Gloucester during the first English Civil War between Stephen and Mathilda. In 1200, a charter confirmed the grant of market at Stockbridge followed in 1221 with the granting of an annual fair. In 1264, some sixty-four burgage plots were recorded and this figure had risen to ninety-seven indicating the steady growth of the town in a prosperous position upon the valley floor of the River Test. The town increased in importance until an outbreak of the plague may have devastated the settlement during the mid-fifteenth century. Archaeological and architectural evidence[19] suggests that the chapel at Stockbridge is late twelfth century in date and appears to have always been a chapelry to King's Somborne. The town continued to be referred to as 'Strete' into the early sixteenth century. Elizabeth I re-granted the market in 1592/3 and by the hearth tax records of 1665 a total of fifty-five households are recorded[20].

During the post-medieval period Stockbridge appears to have stagnated with relatively little further development other than rebuilding and reconstruction within the historic core. The town continued to be dominated by the single main street which crossed the River Test via what is thought to be a manmade causeway and a series of small stone bridges. The main area of new development dates to the seventeenth or eighteenth century and lies to the east of the main settlement centre with roughly square land plots as opposed to the long rectangular medieval burgage plots present within the centre of the settlement.

Stockbridge then appears to have developed little from its medieval form with a single road crossing the River Test and a series of closely spaced burgage plots extending back from the main street on both sides. This plan form is unusual as the majority of valley floor are aligned north-south along the course of the river and so not straddle the watercourse to such a significant degree. Stockbridge has not been the focus of large-scale development during the nineteenth and

twentieth centuries although some recent residential development has impacted upon the burgage plots at the eastern end of the southern area of High Street.

## 5.4. General Conclusions of the Settlement Study

5.4.1. Within the settlements of the Test Valley it is almost universally the case that the oldest buildings or structural elements within buildings are associated with ecclesiastical architecture. The church at this time was often the only landowner able to build in stone and who owned buildings for a significant period of time. Similarly the church had the funds to repair and undertake renovations as and where necessary and the desire to update their structures when fashions and architectural styles changed. Almost all of the chalk river valley settlements retained medieval churches at their heart and while other settlement types were also furnished with churches this was not exclusively the case. In this case they either shared a church with other settlements or had a smaller 'daughter chapel' which a priest from a larger parish church would visit to perform services on prearranged occasions. Often, but not exclusively associated with the parish church is the medieval manorial complex. Here the local landowner or their representatives resided and controlled the manorial landscape. Evidence of this can often be found in street or property names with 'Manor Farm' or Manor House' to be found throughout the District. This relationship between church and manor is visible at Houghton and West Tytherley.

5.4.2. Hughes[21] suggests that by the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the majority of fertile, low-lying land had already been occupied and was under cultivation. The rising population forced groups within Test Valley to settle on previously marginal land such as the chalk downs in the north and west of the District (as at Shipton Bellinger) and onto the common and heathland associated with the New Forest (Plaitford). However, there is little evidence to indicate that the common edge and heath land associated settlements within Test Valley date from this period of settlement expansion. Hughes uses this analysis to suggest that the Test Valley area was in fact one of the more prosperous and well populated areas of Hampshire during the medieval period.

5.4.3. The majority of settlements within the Test Valley District are located within the chalk river valleys. These villages take advantage of the low lying conditions and are situated within fertile farmland. They are often to be found associated with the remains of extensive water meadow systems which dominated the lower lying environs of the river valleys during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Most of the historic chalk river

valley settlements lie above the line of the first river terrace and so are not located upon the flood plains of the principal rivers. However, one or two settlements do exist at bridging or fording points across the wider rivers where the benefits of ensuring cross water communication, land borne and some water borne trade often outweighed the potential threats from flooding. These medieval bridging or fording points were highly valued as they controlled river crossing and connected the eastern and western portions of the Test Valley, focusing traffic and trade through a bottleneck and encouraging the growth of thriving settlement centres as at Stockbridge on the River Test. The main road often extends along the line of the river valley and predominantly favours a single bank as at Broughton and the Wallops. Here, the main road crosses intermittently via spur roads to provide access to residences on the opposite bank. In the case of the Wallops (Nether, Middle and Upper Wallop) three separate settlements have extended along the river valley to such an extent to become a single, elongated settlement. A similar occurrence can be observed at Longparish.

5.4.4. Most of the development within the historic core of these Chalk River Valley settlements appears to date to between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. This fact may be explained by the episode known as the 'Great Rebuilding' where increasing population pressure, new building techniques, a rise in the desire for privacy and the rising wealth of the yeoman farmer combined to increase house building during the later medieval period. This in turn resulted in the dramatic expansion of settlements during the later medieval and early post-medieval period. An alternative argument may be that earlier medieval buildings simply do not survive episodes of fire, flood and the process of gradual decay and so there are few early medieval buildings surviving save for the well tended and built parish churches within the historic settlement cores. We know from Andover that settlements can and have suffered from a series of catastrophic fires which, in the context of the time, could potentially destroy entire settlements. Edward Roberts[22] in his volume on Hampshire houses has sought to address these issues within the context of the county, for fuller discussions concerning the Great Rebuilding  the reader is advised to consult the Hoskins[23] paper entitled 'The Rebuilding of Rural England 1570-1640', Machin's[24] response entitled 'The Great Rebuilding: A Reassessment' and finally Matthew Johnson's[25] book 'Housing Culture'.

5.4.5. A line crosses the District roughly from east to west where the chalk and clay geologies meet. This meeting of the chalk and clay has resulted in the formation of a series of springs which extend along the boundary between the two geologies. Four settlements

have been located close to this line to take advantage of the presence of springs during the medieval period and in each case have a distinct and quite extensive medieval and early post-medieval nucleated core. In the case of Michelmersh and possibly Braishfield there may have in fact been more than one historic core which became subsumed within later settlement development. Later settlement development generally extends away from the historic core in a linear pattern running along the main roads to and from the settlement.

5.4.6. During the later seventeenth and eighteenth centuries many buildings within these settlements and particularly those fronting onto major thoroughfares had their timber framing either in-filled with more fashionable brickwork or were partially or wholly encased in brick. It is possible therefore that the historic cores of many settlements may be more extensive and earlier in date than is currently thought with evidence remaining hidden within later private buildings. Eighteenth century settlement development generally occurred either upon the thoroughfares within the settlement centres (as previously stated) or further away from these centres. However, communications within the District were sufficiently poor to result in relatively little movement between settlement centres except for the purposes of trade or business and the general populous often resided close to where they were employed.

5.4.7. This settlement landscape and relatively immobile population continued into the nineteenth century when rising rural populations servicing the burgeoning agricultural revolution resulted in the extensive development of nineteenth century housing close by pre-existing settlements. The collapse of English agriculture and the subsequent depressions in the farming industry led to an exodus away from the countryside and to the growing towns in many parts of the country. In the Test Valley there were few of the major urban and industrial centres for the dispossessed of the countryside to move to. During this period, many of the major settlement centres and parishes formed workhouse unions to provide relief for the poor. Andover, Hursley and Romsey each formed a union in 1835 although Hursley had maintained a workhouse since 1828 while Romsey is reputed to have retained two eighteenth century examples. One is thought to have been located in 80, The Hundred (to house women) while a second dated to 1774 was constructed on Winchester Road to the northeast of the town. The workhouse was the principal vehicle for the care of the needy following the 1834 Poor Law Reform act and each union retained their own institution. The most famous or infamous of the Test Valley workhouses was at Andover. This house opened in 1837 and was subsequently the focus of a scandal

concerning the inmates and the atrocious conditions they were kept in.

5.4.8. Throughout the nineteenth century, population movement in the District most probably focused upon the coastal towns such as Southampton. Here the Harbour Commissioners were concentrating on developing the quay and dockyard facilities with the Watergate area developed in 1804 with new pier, harbour and basin developments in place by the mid-nineteenth century. During the mid-late nineteenth century the coastal towns witnessed therefore a rapid growth in population numbers. The rapidly developing railway network particularly along the south coast but also through the Test Valley District saw the development of a new phenomena during the twentieth century, namely the commuter or dormitory settlement. This development saw the widening of the hinterland for the major commercial centres of the District and the increasing influence of Southampton upon the settlement and population patterns of particularly the southern portion of the Test Valley.

5.4.9. The Heath Associated and Common Edge settlement types appear to be significantly affected by these nineteenth and early twentieth century developments in the patterns of settlement growth and transportation developments. Many of the previously enclosed heathland enclosures, given their location and relatively small size, would not have been suitable for efficient farming and may have been retained by families rather than being sold on. Consequently, during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries previously undeveloped land became available for settlement expansion. This was particularly the case for settlements such as North Baddesley and Nursling where they are almost exclusively made up of later nineteenth and twentieth century housing and associated amenities. This also occurred at settlements close to the northern borders of the New Forest with Canada, Plaitford and East Wellow as sites of extensive nineteenth and twentieth century housing development.

5.4.10. From the middle of the twentieth century, a further transportation breakthrough allowing affordable motor cars, combined with sufficiently well metalled roads meant that commuters could now live at distances from their place of work but were not dependant upon proximity to a functioning railway station. This process of transportation improvements saw a reverse in the trend of population movement from the rural countryside to the urban centres. Instead, families were moving away from the major urban population centres out into the countryside. This process resulted in the rapid development of numerous settlements particularly within the southern area of Test Valley although Andover had a similar although

somewhat lower key effect upon the settlements in the north of the District.

5.4.11. The chalk downland and dry valley settlements particularly in the north of the District appear to reflect Mike Hughes'[26] suggestion that the more marginal downlands were occupied slightly later during the medieval period. Within these settlements the medieval development appears to have been less substantial than in the chalk river valleys of the District.

## 6. Time Depth In The Test Valley District

### 6.1. Introduction and Methodology

6.1.1. The concept of time depth is defined in the groundbreaking study 'Cornwall's historic landscape' as 'the visible evidence in the landscape for change and continuity over time'. Therefore, an area with considerable time depth will retain visible evidence attesting to human activity over large periods of time while one with little depth may have expanses of nineteenth century field systems but little else.

6.1.2. Time depth is not concerned with archaeological or historical material 'hidden from view' either through its intangibility or because it survives as sub-surface archaeological deposits only. This means that the majority of material held on County and District Sites and Monuments Records (S.M.R.s) will not be relevant to a study of time depth, charting as they do developments and change through the 'hidden' archaeological record.

6.1.3. This definition of time depth allows for a range of evidence types to be included in the assessment of any given area. Such evidence may include visible earthworks, field boundaries, hedgerows, communication networks and settlement evidence. This information can be gained from a variety of sources but is principally derived from the consultation of historic maps, aerial photographic evidence and from visual identification in the field.

6.1.4. Time depth is recognised as a useful tool in determining development strategies for the wider landscape but is not necessarily restricted to the archaeological and historical arena. Recent work on historic hedgerows has helped to develop an understanding of the processes of change involved, their development through time and the classification and identification of the historic hedge in the landscape. For example, the older surviving hedgerows appear to have a significantly greater variety of component plants, shrubs and trees. As such they represent an important document identifying historic boundaries but also harbouring groups of important plant and animal species.

6.1.5. A landscape is decipherable at numerous levels. Access to these is largely reliant upon the interpreter's level of understanding, the quality of the source information available and in certain cases the conditions (season and weather) during which either the photography was undertaken or the field investigation carried out. So, for example, the evidence for human activity during the medieval period may rely upon the presence of faint ridge and furrow earthworks within later field systems which are only visible at a specific time of day or when covered by a light dusting of snow. Such ephemeral forms of evidence may not be readily observable by members of the public. During this study then we have worked with clearly identifiable field monuments and field systems and avoided the more ephemeral forms of evidence which archaeological specialists work with. It is recognised that this process will result in a broader understanding of time depth within the District. However, this is balanced by opening up the concept to all who wish to interact with the historic landscape.

6.1.6. Time depth, then, is a broad-brush approach to understand areas in the landscape where it is indicated that evidence of progressively younger characteristics (of change and continuity) can be identified within the spatial and morphological features of the landscape[27]. This approach, when used at the county level does not attempt to identify detailed information (pertaining to individual houses in settlements or trees in a wood), rather to paint a general picture of time depth across the wider landscape. A course distinction is made with the cut off point taken generally as 1810 and the production of the first reliable 1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps for the county.

## 6.2. Identifying Levels of Time Depth in the Test Valley

6.2.1. Time depth in the context of the Test Valley Landscape Characterisation project was identified as the visible and clearly defined product of man's interaction with the landscape. This is best displayed through the remains of visible monuments, defences, settlements and systems of agriculture that remain fossilized in the landscape of the present. This assessment of time depth has deliberately not entered into the debate of personal perceptions and so has sought to avoid the questions of personal knowledge and experience which we bring to the assessment of an historic landscape.

6.2.2. Similarly this study has not assessed levels of survival and the conditions under which surviving historic landscapes can be appreciated. For example, the earthworks associated with Iron Age 'Celtic' field systems may only be observable under the low

'slanting' light conditions present in the early morning or evening or after a light snowfall.

6.2.3. Instead, we have sought to assess 'clearly visible' field monuments and systems which can be observed, identified and appreciated by members of the general public. We have attempted to correlate evidence from all periods to develop a broad picture of time depth for the District and so open with a discussion on the general trends identifiable from surviving prehistoric through to early-medieval monuments. This information has been recovered from the County Sites and Monuments Record and so relies on the accuracy and up-to-date nature of this repository. This information, identified broadly by period, has been cross-referenced with the evidence of historic landscape development to produce a broad understanding of time depth for the District.

6.2.4. The key sub-divided periods are identified below:

1) Prehistoric Period: Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age surviving monuments
2) Roman and Post-Roman Period: Roman and Anglo-Saxon surviving monuments
3) Medieval Period: Field monuments and field enclosures. Map 2
4) Early post-Medieval Period: Field monuments and field enclosures. Map 3
5) Late post-Medieval Period: Field monuments and field enclosures. Map 4
6) Modern Period: Field monuments and field enclosures. Map 5

6.2.5. Time depth should not relate to the survival of a single historic or archaeological feature. For example, the survival of a single Neolithic long barrow does not point to an extensive and complex time depth for a specific area of land. When assessing time depth the broader picture must always be at the fore to fully appreciate the historical and archaeological complexity of the ever-changing landscape. Therefore sole or exceptional survivors are treated in this study as anomalies and do not add significantly to the time depth of an area.

## 6.3. General Assessment of Time Depth During the Prehistoric Period

6.3.1. Time depth would appear to be at its greatest within the upland chalk downland areas of the Test Valley District. This area away from the principal river valleys retains numerous prehistoric burial monuments dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Traditionally, these have thought to have been located upon prominent ridgelines to maximise visibility while functioning as possible territorial boundary markers.

Also important is the traditional concept of intervisibility, a factor which would be improved by the monuments presence within upland areas where they were visible both from within the upland areas but also from the valley floor. Recent proposals point out that the reason monuments do not survive within river valleys is the potential erosive action of the river channels coupled with the build up of silts over time laid down during flood episodes. A second natural process also acts to mask earlier archaeological deposits; colluviation or hill wash can move material from upslope into the valley floor. Finally the action of man may also mask earlier archaeological features. For example the construction of water meadows frequently resulted in the movement of large amounts of material across the valley floors to improve fertility while inadvertently obscuring early landscape features. Consequently barrows are known particularly in the upper reaches of the River Test valley.

6.3.2. The presence of numerous burial monuments on marginal land may also have improved their chances of survival with a lower chance of destruction from intensive agricultural activities. Several areas within the north of the District retain groups of particularly Bronze Age barrows which are to be found within later medieval and early post-medieval farming landscapes. This is particularly the case around Isle of Wight Hill to the west of Over and Nether Wallop in the west of the District.

6.3.3. The survival of prehistoric monuments throughout the Test Valley District would appear to be related, not only to the underlying geology and topography of the landscape, but also to past and present human interventions. Monument location may also relate to the relative fertility of the soil when farmed used relevant prehistoric farming techniques. It has also been suggested that visibility and intervisibility of particularly funerary monuments played an important role in their location with long barrows and smaller barrows sited as territory markers. These upland areas may also have functioned largely as open pasture although in there have been several instances where Neolithic ard (a crude form of plough) marks have been found beneath Bronze Age barrows. It is possible that the upland areas with their relatively thin soils may have initially been cultivated leading to a relatively rapid decline in fertility. Following this, crop yields would reduce and it may have been more efficient for it to function as pastoral land. This would have permitted the survival of greater concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments. Similarly, the marginal heath land associated with the northern boundaries of the New Forest, which extends into the southern portion of the Test Valley District, also retains several groups of Bronze Age barrows. It should however be stressed that deposits of alluvium and colluvium within valley floor contexts may be masking prehistoric monuments

such as barrows from our current methods of detection. Only further research and fieldwork in these low-lying contexts will illuminate such concerns.

6.3.4. Monuments relating to the later prehistoric period generally known as the Iron Age are more usually defensive in nature and include large enclosures such as hill forts and smaller earthworks like banjo enclosures. Quite often the larger earthworks like hill forts survive in part of whole, as they would represent a considerable investment in time and labour to level. Hill forts are predominantly to be found in the north of the District occupying high spots within the chalk landscape. They do not exclusively occupy downland environments but can be found within the more rolling chalk arable landscape as at Danebury hill fort. Relatively extensive field systems also survive from this period as evidenced through the Danebury Environs Project. Similar field systems survive elsewhere in isolation throughout the Test Valley at Faccobe Wood. Iron Age sites do survive within the lower Test Valley as at Toot Hill, Dunwood Camp, Lockerley Camp and Zionshill Copse although they are not obvious landscape features as monuments in the north of the District.

6.3.5. The current study has indicated the relatively high survival rate of earthworks within the northern areas of the Test Valley District when compared to earthwork survival in the south. This higher rate of earthwork survival and visibility in the chalk uplands places a number of fragile and historically significant monuments within areas of traditionally intensive agricultural exploitation. Post-medieval agricultural exploitation from informal enclosure through to the construction of parliamentary field systems and more recently the development of large prarie fields must have impacted heavily upon earthworks in the northern uplands of Test Valley. What survives today is a small proportion of what must have existed previously within the landscape. Where previously the size and scale of earthworks must have acted to some extent as a barrier to their own destruction, in more recent times mechanisation has permitted their removal with relative ease. These earthworks are the remnants of man's cultural heritage and beliefs made manifest in the landscape and, as such, every effort should be made to protect them. Many of the surviving earthworks are protected by law as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and further legal protection (1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act) would seem unwarranted. Rather, the development of sympathetic management and conservation plans should be promoted with the inclusion and cooperation of landowners and farmers of paramount importance in this process.

## 6.4. General Assessment of Time Depth During the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon Periods

6.4.1. Very little above-ground evidence survives from these periods as most Romano-British structures have since been almost wholly destroyed in their above-ground form and often only survive as below-ground archaeological deposits. The most prominent and clearly recognisable form of upstanding earthwork is the road network which criss-cross the countryside. These extend across the Test Valley District often running between or close by significant settlements and can survive either as clearly visible earthworks or fossilized within field and property boundaries and beneath later roads. These roads are generally known to have extended through the central and northern portions of the District with a crossroads located close to the modern settlement of Andover.

6.4.2. Where elements of the Roman road survive either as earthworks or as fossilized remnants within a later landscape, the have been taken to add to our understanding of time depth for the area. In this way, the influence of the earlier Romano-British structure can be identified within later field boundary and transportation layouts. Consequently the majority of Romano-British elements of time depth are to be found as linear features crossing the central and northern areas of the Test Valley District. These linear features which extend across the landscape have tended to be considered as elements of the larger Landscape Character Types. Within these landscape types it is maintained that every effort be made to preserve the landscape features which have fossilized the line of the Roman road. This process may include the retention of tracks, roads, hedges and field boundaries to ensure that, in the future these Romano-British linear features are visible both on the ground and as plan data during future national mapping exercises.

6.4.3. The Anglo-Saxon period is characterized by a distinct lack of survival of either earthworks or stone built structures. Some churches and other forms of ecclesiastical architecture survive from this period as at Romsey Abbey with its Anglo-Saxon roods and surviving foundations below the later Norman Abbey. Very little is thought to survive of domestic forms of architecture. Similarly, no defensive structures (such as King Alfred's system of defended settlements or burhs) are thought to have been located in Test Valley with the nearest example to be found at Winchester to the east. Another problem arises with their penchant for the reuse of Bronze Age burial mounds and their method of constructing fresh mounds over their dead. The only way to verify the authenticity of Bronze Age barrows is through excavation and so, a proportion of the burial mounds located particularly in the north of the District

may in fact be Anglo-Saxon constructions.

6.4.4. In general, the Sites and Monuments Record (S.M.R.) indicates only a relatively rare survival rate of earthworks or architectural elements within the Test Valley District and these have been treated as anomalous survivals for the purposes of time depth as no general picture can be developed from these unusual survivals. An assessment of the settlements identified within the Domesday survey of AD 1086 points to several clusters of Anglo-Saxon settlement throughout Test Valley. In general, the settlements appear to favour either the higher land in the north of the District or else locations away from the valley floors. Along the River Test the settlements are reasonably well spaced although they do appear to be clustered closer together in the upper reaches of the river and within the area of chalk geology[28]. This information points to a general focus of settlement activity within the more upland areas of the District associated with the underlying chalk geology.

## 6.5. Assessment of Time Depth During the Medieval Period (Map 2)

6.5.1. The time depth map for the medieval period indicates the survival of greater quantities of medieval landscape elements in the southern portion of the Test Valley and particularly to the south of the Roman road which crosses the River Test at Horsebridge. A large quantity of these medieval field parcels and landscape features appear to be associated with the New Forest to the southwest and indeed the River Blackwater was once the northern most boundary of the New Forest Greater Perambulation between AD 1221 and 1280. The increased survival of medieval landscape features appears to be associated not only with the geological aspects of the Test Valley District, but also with the survival of elements of medieval forest in the south of the District. This focus upon the farming of agricultural land and particularly land for the cultivation of arable crops may have resulted in the removal of earlier earthworks. This may provide a pointer as to why there are so relatively few prehistoric earthworks in the south of the District. However, the field systems were still relatively small in size, not intensively farmed and as such the impact upon earthworks from earlier periods would probably have been quite low level.

6.5.2. Surviving deer parks from the medieval period are generally to be found in the south of the District close to or within the borders of the New Forest[29]. The most northerly park within the District identified during the desk-based study by Mr. Anderson for his MA was identified at Houghton Park near King's Somborne. It, however, remains a possibility that other deer parks survive within areas of ancient woodland in the north

of the District although further fieldwork investigations would be required to clarify this issue. Parks such as Red Rice and Tangley do not appear to be based upon earlier deer park enclosures as their boundaries are extremely regular suggesting an eighteenth or nineteenth century date for their foundation. During the medieval period the New Forest appears to be undergoing a gradual process of assarting and the development of early field patterns. These medieval landscape features survive well within the New Forest.

6.5.3. To the north of the Horsebridge Roman Road and the chalk clay spring line there is relatively little evidence of surviving medieval landscape features. Some features do survive, such as Harewood Forest, or to the north of Andover in the northeastern corner of the District. The medieval landscape in the central portion of the District appear to have been removed by the later development of the open system of parliamentary field systems implemented predominantly during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

6.5.4. The time depth map also indicates a fairly random survival of medieval landscape features within the river valley bottoms of the District. These elements are predominantly survivals of rough grazing pasture and wooded valley floor enclosures, however, the majority of valley bottom medieval features do appear to have been cleared away during the post-medieval period. This saw the industrialisation of agriculture and the large scale construction of water meadow system which removed the earlier medieval landscape. The emphasis that medieval settlement and land use placed on lower lying areas is exemplified in the distribution of moated sites throughout the District. These sites were often the manorial complexes of relatively wealthy landowners and were typified by a terraced central area upon which the main residence and its ancillary buildings were located. Demarcating this central area was a clearly defined moat which may have functioned either as a fishpond or water filled midden. Such sites are to be found throughout the lower reaches of the River Test although several are to be found on the upper reaches of the Test and other the rivers in the north of the District.

6.5.5. There is relatively little settlement surviving from particularly the early and mid medieval period with possible explanations ranging from the relatively poor build and average life expectancy of a timber framed house to the concept of a 'Great Rebuilding' towards the end of the period during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Evidence for settlement growth then comes largely from the evidence of church locations and manorial sites. From this, settlement growth appears to have been a phenomenon predominantly to be found within the southern portion

of the Test Valley District. This may be coupled with the favourable agricultural conditions to be found particularly within the valley floors and more clayey, brick earth soils in the south. Rapid settlement expansion during the medieval period was followed by settlement contraction and often desertion particularly during the periods when plague swept across the country. Hughes'[30] map of deserted settlements indicates that the majority of the examples to be found within the Test Valley District are located on land below 200 feet and within the area of chalk with clay geology. This may point to the overexploitation of the more fertile southern Test Valley during this period. This increase in exploitation probably initiated a considerable programme of assarting. It is possible that some areas of assarting and particularly those which resulted in smaller field sizes may represent this process of medieval woodland clearance for agricultural or settlement development purposes during this period.

6.5.6. Taking into account the surviving archaeological monuments, the northern area with its underlying chalk geology appears to be largely unaffected by the changing agricultural environment present within the southern portion of the Test Valley District during the medieval period. These upland areas may well have continued to be dominated by pastoral or mixed agricultural farming. Consequently there was probably only relatively low-level impact upon the open downland fields and the extant monuments and earthworks within them. The Roman roads which cross the District do appear to have provided some form of physical boundary in either the developments or survival of medieval landscape features as at Harewood Forest and along the eastern section of the road which crosses through Horsebridge.

6.5.7. In conclusion, evidence for time depth within the Test Valley District indicates the presence of medieval land parcels concentrated within the southern portion of the District and particularly associated with the New Forest. Medieval historic character therefore survives 'best' within the southern portion of the valley and particularly where associated with the New Forest. Further north, within the chalk region of the District, time depth is considerably shallower with pockets of medieval landscape surviving, for example, to the north west of Andover and in the northeastern corner of the District. Within the central portion, parliamentary enclosure has removed much of the medieval and earlier landscape although once again, small pockets survive with the largest of these being Harewood forest.

**6.6. Assessment of Time Depth During the Early Post Medieval Period (Map 3)**

6.6.1. Early post-medieval (sixteenth and seventh

century) activity saw a rise in the agricultural development of field systems and population centres particularly in the southern clay and gravel geology of the Test Valley. There is also a rise in activity along most of the river valleys throughout the District primarily associated with the development of formal valley floor enclosures and some early water meadows of Type 1 and Type 3 (refer to Glossary for further details) style as identified by the Oxford Archaeology Unit in the 'Hampshire Water Meadow Survey'[31].

6.6.2. Within the southern portion of the District during the early post medieval period several areas of assarting and large parcels of regular fields with wavy boundaries survive. This was associated with the increased opening up of the New Forest environs and the development of more intensive farming methods within the area associated with the forest.

6.6.3. Up on the chalk geology to the north of the chalk/clay spring line little from this period of activity survives, having being removed in later episodes of parliamentary enclosure. Areas of regular ladder fields also dating to the sixteenth and seventeenth century are only found north of the chalk/clay spring line.

6.6.4. Within the Test Valley District, late medieval/ early post-medieval periods provide us with the first substantial evidence of upstanding settlement development. Prior to this interest focused upon extant remains within stone churches and manorial complexes, earthwork features and evidence recovered from archaeological investigations. Only relatively rarely do small vernacular buildings from this period survive. By the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries agricultural, economic and social conditions were changing rapidly producing more stable settlements. Individual families within these settlements were now better able to invest in more permanent dwellings and, more importantly, were willing to invest in their upkeep and maintenance. Settlement development through this period tends to be along the main valley of the River Test and its tributaries and is particularly prevalent in the south of the District.

## 6.7. Assessment of Time Depth During the Later Post Medieval Period (Map 4)

6.7.1. The post-medieval period represents the period of greatest change to date within the Test Valley. Within the rural landscape the widespread development of parliamentary field systems particularly across the central and northern portion of the District were during this period to dominate the landscape of particularly the north and central Test Valley region. The imposition of this field system included the surveying and realignment of many smaller roads and resulted in the removal of much of the medieval and early post-medieval rural

landscape from within this area of the District.
6.7.2. This process heralded an intensification of agricultural practises which greatly impacted upon many of the more ephemeral earthworks in the countryside. It also resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of farms where parliamentary enclosure occurred and a concomitant rise in the farm size and importantly in field size and boundary organisation. This process has resulted in the removal of many medieval field systems and these now only survive within very specific areas of the District. It is interesting to note that in several instances these survivals are closely associated with large country house estates and may represent large landowners with the will and the funds to be resistant to calls for change.

6.7.3. In the south of the District there is considerably less evidence of the large scale remodelling of the agricultural landscape visible in the northern area of Test Valley. The impact of later medieval and early post-medieval assarting is still evident particularly in the areas bordering the boundaries of the New Forest. The patchwork quilt effect (Figure 2) evidence is a clear testimony to the survival of smaller enclosures across this area of the District, an effect which extends across the whole south of the valley occupying both sides of the Test. As has been previously stated, this landscape has resulted from medieval and early post-medieval assarting and does not appear to have been substantially altered following this period of activity. The exceptions to this are to be found in the river valleys in the south of the District with parliamentary field systems present on the valley slopes. This may have something to do with the more widespread development of water meadows within the river valleys and general move towards agricultural intensification within the river valleys of the District. Away from the river valleys in the south of the District a number of factors may have contributed to the survival of the historic landscape. The presence of heavier brick earth soils, large degrees of compartmentalisation and possibly large numbers of small holdings and small holders may have meant the development of large scale parliamentary field systems was simply not an economically viable option, even for large landowners.

6.7.4. The process of parliamentary field enclosure was often accompanied by the formal surveying in of straight field boundaries and this was often accompanied by the straightening of roads and tracks which extended between fields. This work has had a significant impact upon the landscape particularly within the chalk geology of the central and northern portions of the Test Valley District.

6.7.5. The agricultural revolution also witnessed the rapid growth of water meadow systems throughout the river valleys of the Test Valley. These systems

maximised grass crop yields while protecting young shoots from late frosts and improved the farmers' ability to maintain their herds and flocks through the winter months. These features can be found within both the wider open main river valleys and in the narrower valleys where land use was maximised to the fullest.

6.7.6. There appears to have been less impact upon the southern portion of the Test Valley where medieval and early post-medieval agricultural landscapes survive relatively intact principally to the north and northeast of the New Forest. There is also an area of land unaffected by later parliamentary enclosure at the northern end of the District in a corridor to the northwest of Andover. This corridor stretches northwest to the very boundary of the District and is dominated by regular fields with wavy boundaries and pre-1810 woodland.

6.7.7. During the later post-medieval period there was a marked increase in the size and number of large estates throughout the District. There appears to be a cluster of smaller estates around Romsey in the south of the District. Further north and particularly within the chalk geology, the estates increase in size but also become more spaced out. Within the scope of this study the formal boundaries of each estate have been identified as they survive in the current and historic cartographic record. This study has not included within these estates their outlying estate owned farmsteads and field systems. It therefore does not take into account the role that the large estates played in shaping the landscape not just within their immediate vicinity but further abroad through determining farming practices and regimes of client farms.

6.7.8. The later post-medieval period also saw the rapid development of large urban centres coupled with a general move away from the countryside, followed by the development of transportation routes and the associated growth of the purpose-built dormitory settlement and a general move back out into the rural areas of the District. In the countryside dramatic changes in farming and land management techniques were implemented which have greatly affected the time depth of the District. These factors will be discussed in greater detail below.

## 6.8. General Assessment of Time Depth During the Modern Period

6.8.1. Within the rural areas of the Test Valley District the major change has been the process of industrialisation within the farming process. This has resulted in the creation of large 'prairie' fields where two or more parliamentary or other field types have their boundaries removed and they are amalgamated into a single open field. This process is associated with the mechanisation of farming and the growing need for large open fields to allow larger farm machinery greater freedom to operate. It has resulted in the loss of areas of older field systems and importantly their field boundaries in exchange for, often simpler to maintain, wire fencing where once hedgerows abounded.

6.8.2. Within the Test Valley the large scale prairie field systems have not to date been developed across the District. Instead the parliamentary field systems of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries continue to dominate the landscape particularly in the north of the District.

6.8.3. The greatest development within the District during this period has been the rapid expansion of settlement during the twentieth century. This has particularly been the case at the southern end of the District with Southampton expanding north and westwards creating a conurbation which includes North Baddesley, Chandlers Ford and Nursling. Settlement expansion and the redevelopment of numerous historic village cores have particularly impacted settlements in the south of the District. However, this expansion has not substantially affected the rich surrounding historic environment present close by to the New Forest. The tapestry of pre-1810 woodland, smaller assarted fields and late medieval/early post-medieval informal enclosure fields survive in good order along with the roads and trackways which interconnect these historic elements.

## 7. Conclusions

This study has demonstrated the presence of greater time depth within the predominantly southern portion of the Test Valley District and in particular the area to the west of the River Test. Other discrete areas of earlier historic landscape character survive in a corridor to the north west of Andover, potentially within Harewood Forest to the southeast of Andover and in the northeastern corner of the District in the parish of Faccombe. In these areas, it would appear that elements of earlier post-medieval and some medieval field systems survive within the historic landscape and add a special character to the surrounding environment. These historic elements have largely escaped destruction during the construction of parliamentary field systems which occurred throughout the District, largely during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As such, where areas of an earlier historic landscape survive, an effort should be made to ensure that this historic landscape elements survives and that all development permitted within its confines is designed and undertaken in a manner sympathetic to the historic environment. On a larger scale, the belt of later medieval and early post-medieval assarting which extends across the southern portion of the Test Valley

# A2: Historic Landscape and Settlement Analysis

District is an important distinct element of the historic landscape. Within this area earlier landscape elements survive and should be considered as important landscape elements when considering proposals which could have a negative impact upon the historic environment of the Test Valley.

The previous paragraph does not disregard the survival of individual historic and prehistoric earthworks and other forms of site. These discrete landscape elements contribute to the overall landscape character of the District and do indeed survive within extensive areas of parliamentary field systems as at Danebury hill fort. However, these landscape features sit within the wider historic environment, an environment of open commons, field systems and river meadows which provide the underlying and unique historic character of the Test Valley. Where this survives in greater (time) depth strategies should be developed to safeguard its continued existence. Probably the best example of this (as has been stated previously in this paragraph) is to be found in the area surrounding Danebury hill fort. This landscape contains significant historic and archaeological elements including Bronze Age barrows, the Iron Age hill fort and associated field systems coupled with later evidence of Anglo-Saxon cemetery and medieval settlement development. This area displays the greatest time depth within the Test Valley although the landscape elements do not necessarily indicate this with much of the fragile and often below-ground archaeological evidence surviving within a landscape dominated by later parliamentary field systems. Clearly such fragile landscapes require special consideration given their location within an active and intensively farmed agricultural landscape and measures must be taken to ensure that sympathetic land management is in place to ensure their continued survival.

Taking the last paragraphinto account however, it must be borne in mind that this study is concerned with landscape change and development over time. To have fossilised the historic landscape at any point in the past would have significantly affected the historic environment we are familiar with today. The historic environment we have inherited from past generations is the result of continued land management over thousands of years and the impact of human management on the landscape cannot be underestimated. The landscape, then, represents a dynamic system and our decisions regarding how we manage that system will determine the type and quality of landscape that we pass onto future generations.

The strategic decision-making process must take into account the fragility of the historic environment while considering the forms, quantity and quality of change it is willing to permit within those areas where significant elements of the historic landscape survive. This task is an important one as it seeks to ensure the continued survival of an important historic landscape which has moulded the development of the Test Valley District and will continue to do so in the future.

## Period Details

| Term | Description |
| --- | --- |
| **Palaeolithic period 750,000-10,000BC** | Sub-divided into three phases (Lower, middle and upper) the Palaeolithic encapsulates much of the early development of hominids on earth. This period extends from around 750,000BC up until the end of the last Ice Age at c.10,000BC. Modern humans have occupied Europe since around 36,000BC and their remains are limited largely to fossil and stone tool evidence. Prior to this other hominids existed including most famously Homo Neanderthalensis although these appear to have died out shortly after modern humans entered Europe. |
| **Mesolithic period 10,000-5,000BC** | The Mesolithic equates with the final period of true hunter-gatherer society in the British Isles. The period extends from around 10,000BC and the end of the last ice age up until the beginnings of agriculture in the Neolithic at c.5,000BC. The Mesolithic was characterised by small, highly mobile family groups living in seasonal camps and using stone tools to capture game, gather plant foods and manage the forest environment. |
| **Neolithic period 5,000-2, 300BC** | A period characterised by the growth of settled societies, the development of pastoral and arable agriculture and the construction of large scale funerary and religious monuments such as long barrows, henges, ditched enclosures and stone circles. This period of activity occurred at around 5,000BC and continued until c.2,300BC. |

| Bronze Age 2,300-700BC | A period characterised by the first use of copper and bronze. Generally speaking this period dates in England from 2,300BC – 700BC. The monuments which survive from this period are most notably the barrows and ranch boundaries. Barrows survive in numerous forms and tend to survive best in upland locations while the larger linear ranch boundaries can run for many miles and are thought to represent territorial boundary markers. Elsewhere, small settlements (as Grimspound on Dartmoor) survive from this period where roundhouses dominate enclosures with field systems close by. |
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| Iron Age 700BC-AD43 | The Iron Age in England dates from 700BC to AD43. It is characterised by the use of iron and the construction of large hill forts. It is now thought that hill forts were only occupied at specific times of the year or when the local population were threatened. The evidence varies from site to site but the large sites appear to have acted as store houses and gathering places for fairs with kraals for housing large numbers of livestock. One of the better examples of a hillfort surviving in its landscape is to be found at Danebury in Test Valley. Here, a long running project has identified and mapped the field systems and settlements surrounding the hill. |
| Romano-British period AD43-410 | The period from AD43, when the armies of Imperial Rome invaded Britain. The process of Romanisation had been underway during the Iron Age with high quality goods being purchased by local nobility. Following the invasion a network of roads, forts and settlements were constructed within the landscape. While a large proportion of the population continued to live and farm in the traditional way, many villa estates were developed to more efficiently farm the landscape and supply the burgeoning towns and the requirements of the occupying army. This period extended up until the early 5th century AD when rising barbarian incursions throughout Europe forced the Roman army to withdraw in AD410 to protect the heartland of the empire. |
| Anglo-Saxon period AD410-1066 | The period traditionally dated to AD410-1066 when, following the decline of Roman power, England was settled by several Germanic peoples. Much of their material culture has disappeared with only elements of their stone constructions surviving in churches. Such examples can be seen in the foundations of Romsey Abbey. |
| Medieval period AD1066-1650 | This period usually dates from AD1066 up to AD1650. This period saw the development of the feudal system of rule and the rise of mercantilism/capitalism. During this period many settlements developed and much more of the landscape was brought into agriculture. Deer parks were developed across the country as nucleus estates developed for private use by the landed nobility. The period was marred by several epidemics of bubonic plague and this resulted in a dramatic reduction in population figures and the shrinking or reduction in size of many medieval towns and villages. |
| Post Medieval period AD1650- Present Day | Dating from AD1650 up until the present day. This period was dominated by the introduction of intensive agricultural techniques and the development of industrial processes. Coupled with these developments was the improvement of transportation networks linking town and country including turnpike roads, canals and navigations and the railway. This period also witnessed the significant growth of settlements throughout the country and particularly of the town and city. |

TEST VALLEY COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE PROJECT

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## Glossary

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| **Ancient Woodland** | Areas that have had continuous woodland cover since at least AD1600 and have only been cleared sporadically for scrub and timber production. |
| **Ard** | An ard is a primitive form of plough utilised throughout prehistoric Europe. Livestock usually pulled the ard with a single blade used to break the surface of the soil ready for sowing. |
| **Assart** | An enclosure or field formed by the clearance of woodland. |
| **Barrow** | An earthen mound erected over one or more burials predominantly constructed during the Bronze Age although sometimes barrows were constructed during the Anglo-Saxon period. Often referred to on Ordnance Survey maps as a tumulus. |
| **Character** | Characteristic; collective peculiarities, sort, style: distinction, individuality (COD 1983). |
| **Characterisation** | To describe by distinctive qualities; to be a distinguishing mark or quality of (Chambers 1994). |
| **Cropmark** | An archaeological site no longer visible on the ground due to the removal of upstanding remains by ploughing. The sites are recorded by differential crop growth over buried features such as pits and ditches which stand out in sharp contrast, especially under drought conditions. Often best visible by aerial photography. |
| **Deer Park** | First recorded during the medieval period these were areas where settlement was restricted as were grazing rights and the ability to clear ground for fuel. These areas were principally managed for their hunting and were surrounded by a bank and ditch surmounted by a fence (known as a park pale). |
| **Earthwork** | One or more archaeological features, such as a bank, wall, mound or setting of some kind, that appears in topographical relief in the ground surface, usually as a rise, projection or series of 'humps and bumps'. An earthwork is not necessarily made of soil; it may comprise stones and other materials too. |
| **Henge** | A ritual enclosure, usually circular or nearly so consisting of a bank and internal ditch. The henge retained one or more entrances and is thought to be the site of some form of prehistoric ritual activity. |
| **Hill Fort** | Defensive construction associated with the Iron Age. Usually, although not exclusively, located upon hill tops or upland areas, the hill fort was usually enclosed by one or more circuits of bank and ditch. These defensive sites can have one or more entrances and are generally thought to function as places of storage for agricultural produce and livestock. They would also have functioned as a defensive enclosure when the local population were threatened. |
| **Historic Landscape** | The physical manifestation in the landscape of people's interaction with their natural and cultural environment, through time (LDA/CAU 1994). |
| **Historic Landscape Characterisation** | The process by which historic components of the present day landscape are identified, described, categorised and evaluated both temporally and spatially in order to determine historic landscape character (LDA/CAU 1994). |
| **Ladder Fields** | Fields formed by short cross boundaries with long, parallel wavy boundaries which extend across the landscape. |
| **Long Barrow** | An elongated mound raised over one or more burials with flanking quarry ditches. Predominantly occurred during the Neolithic period and housed numerous individuals. |
| **Masking Deposit** | This material represents a build up of deposits through often natural processes which covers earlier evidence of human activity. Most commonly this occurs in valley floors where there is alluvium (from deposition during flooding episodes) and colluvium (from soil creep down hill) |
| **Natural** | Neither the work of, nor interfered with people. |

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| **Parliamentary Fields** | Fields created following an act of parliament. Often occurring during the later 18th and 19th century they are characteristically larger, more regular and have clearly surveyed, straight edges. |
| **Prairie Field** | The enclosures have been formed by loss of 19th century field boundaries by the expansion of field sizes during the 20th century. |
| **Regular Fields** | A group of fields within the landscape which retain similar dimensions and form. |
| **Roman Road** | Constructed largely by the army to aid in resupply, communication and to allow for the rapid redeployment of armed forces to trouble spots the Roman road is often one of the defining landscape elements of Roman rule in a country. These features are typically well surveyed and often cross the landscape in a roughly straight line although topographical features and earlier landscape elements may deflect them from this path. They sometimes survive as earthworks in wooded or more marginal land. In a more developed agricultural landscape, the course of a Roman road often survives fossilised within later tracks, lanes, hedge lines and field boundaries. It must be remembered that the large highways are not the only roads to date from this period although they are often the only communication routes which survive within today's landscape. |
| **Round Barrow** | Circular mound or other form of earthwork features raised over one or more burials. Predominantly occurred during the Bronze Age period although the Anglo-Saxons erected some examples. It was also the case that some Saxon burials were inserted into Bronze Age barrows. |
| **Scheduled Ancient Monument** | A nationally important archaeological site included in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments maintained by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the auspices of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological areas Act 1979. Permission (Scheduled Monument Consent) is required to carry out works on these sites and this includes metal detecting, other forms of geophysics and archaeological investigation. |
| **S.M.R.** | Sites and Monuments Record. A collection of known archaeological data held by local authorities for planning purposes. |
| **Time Depth** | The visible evidence in the landscape for change and continuity over periods of time (LDA/CAU 1994). |
| **Topography** | The physical configuration of the landscape, usually expressed with particular reference to relief and contour. |
| **Type 1 andType 3 Water Meadows** | These water meadows represent the simple and more comlex forms of catchwork water meadow. This was a system whereby gravity was used to distribute water across the meadow. At its highest point the water was carried to the site in a leet before being channelled out across the raised beds of the meadow and from there into the drains. These forms of water meadow tended to be constructed in smaller river valleys where space was at a premium and often the valley sides were watered as well as the valley floor. |
| **Type 2 and Type 4 Water Meadows** | These water meadow types represent the simple and more complex forms of bedwork meadows to be found generally upon the floors of the wider river valleys. Upon these sites a series of earthworks were often laid out in a rectilinear pattern with water abstracted from the river and raised to the level of the meadow using a system of leets and sluices. Once at the correct level the water was moved across the meadow before entering the drains and flowing back into the river channel. |
| **Water Meadow** | A meadow or piece of low-lying land which has been irrigated to improve fertility via a series of earthworks which transport water to the field, across the surface of the field and back to the river. The Oxford Archaeology study sub-divided these earthworks into essentially four types (with a fifth type for indeterminate systems). These are defined elsewhere in this glossary. |
| **Wavy Field** | Boundary to a field which displays a wavy as opposed to a straight alignment suggesting an un-surveyed nature. |

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