



Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan

Description of Key Views

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Position Director
Date 29-03-2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Sherborne St. John Parish Council (SSJPC) commissioned Scarp Landscape Architecture Ltd. in January 2023 to identify 'key views' within the parish to support the preparation of a draft review of their Neighbourhood Plan in April-May 2023.
- 1.1.2 A community engagement exercise was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group between December 2022 and January 2023 to identify key views that are valued by the local community.
- 1.1.3 In January 2023, Scarp met with representatives of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to discuss the approach to the study and to jointly visit the locations of key views that had been identified through the community engagement exercise.
- 1.1.4 Scarp subsequently undertook additional field survey work to review the key views identified in the adopted Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan (2011-2029) and to identify other views that could be classified as 'key views'.
- 1.1.5 For the purposes of this study, a "key view" is defined as a view that provides a positive contribution to Sherborne St. John's unique character and sense of place.

2.0 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

2.1 Local Landscape Character

- 2.1.1 The parish of Sherborne St. John lies within a bowl-shaped landform at the foot of the chalk downland that rises up on the southern side of the parish. The village is a spring-line settlement and is relatively compact. It is predominantly low-lying although some peripheral areas extend up onto higher land to the north and south.
- 2.1.2 The built-up area of Basingstoke is located approximately 0.78km east and 0.62km south of the village. A ridge of high land located south of the village provides visual separation between the village and the built-up area of Basingstoke to the south. The screening effects of landform and woodland on the eastern side of the village also provide some visual separation between the village and the built-up area of Basingstoke to the east.
- 2.1.3 The western part of the village straddles the A340 and the eastern part is centred on a historic core of buildings that includes St Andrew's Church. The village has a wide variety of building ages and styles as well as a mosaic of ponds, watercourses, tracks, roads, open spaces and vegetation. Greenspaces include allotments, the Chute Recreation Ground, the churchyard and cemetery, Vyne Meadow and various small paddocks.
- 2.1.4 The Vyne, a 16th century mansion set within parkland and woodland, is located approximately 0.8 to 1km northeast and north of the village.
- 2.1.5 Wey Brook passes west-east along the northern side of the village before heading northwards. A large pond lies close to St Andrew's Church and drains into Wey Brook.
- 2.1.6 Native hedgerows define the boundaries of agricultural fields around the village as well as some property boundaries on the village periphery. Many houses are set within large gardens and are set back from roads into the village, thereby contributing to a well-treed village character in many places. Extensive mature deciduous and mixed woodland lie to the north, east and west of the village. Woodlands, tree belts and tall roadside hedgerows provide a sense of enclosure for people travelling along the approach roads to the village.

2.1.7 A network of public rights of way emanate out from the village in all directions, providing access to the surrounding countryside.

2.2 Landscape and Heritage Designations

2.2.1 The Vyne is a Grade II listed park and garden that is owned by the National Trust. The historic western and eastern parts of the village have been designated as the Sherborne St. John Conservation Area (see **Figure 1: Neighbourhood Plan Key Views**). The conservation area include a variety of listed buildings that contribute positively to the character of Sherborne St. John, including the Grade 1 listed St Andrew's Church.

2.3 Valued Characteristics

2.3.1 Key characteristics are 'those combinations of elements which help to give an area its distinctive sense of place. If these characteristics change, or are lost, there would be significant consequences for the current character of the landscape'¹. Although key characteristics tend to be positive, they can also include negative aspects of a landscape.

2.3.2 For the purposes of this report, a 'valued characteristic' is a key characteristic which contributes positively to the character and sense of place within the Parish. They create a distinctive sense of place that should be conserved and enhanced.

2.3.3 Scarp Landscape Architecture has undertaken a review of published landscape character assessments. These include the district level landscape character areas identified in the Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Assessment (May 2021) (see extracts in **Appendix A**) and the Local Landscape Character Areas identified in the Basingstoke, Tadley and Bramley Landscape Capacity Study (February 2008) (see extracts in **Appendix B**). The three Local Landscape Character Areas identified around Sherborne St. John in the Landscape Capacity Study are identified on **Figure 2: Landscape Character Areas**.

2.3.4 The key landscape characteristics of the above local and district level landscape character areas have been used to inform a schedule of Sherborne St. John's most valued characteristics.

¹ Page 51, An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, October 2014.

2.3.5 The following schedule summarises the characteristics that contribute most prominently to the character and sense of place of the Parish overall:

- Areas of scenically attractive open countryside around the village, including woodland, tree belts and agricultural fields that collectively provide a strong rural setting to the village.
- A ridge of high land that separates the built-up area of Basingstoke from the open agricultural fields on the southern side of the village.
- Woodland and landform that separates the built-up area of Basingstoke/Popley from the open agricultural fields on the eastern side of the village.
- A network of public footpaths that emanate out from the village in all directions, providing easy access and a strong sense of connection to the surrounding countryside.
- A well vegetated village edge imparted by peripheral greenspaces and numerous houses set within well-treed plots.
- Inter-visibility between peripheral greenspaces and the surrounding countryside, which provides a strong relationship between the village and its historic agricultural hinterland.
- Inter-visibility between the village and the surrounding predominantly undeveloped and relatively high-lying landform, which contributes to a strong rural setting for the village.
- The stream corridor of the Wey Brook, which contributes to a scenically attractive setting for the northern side of the village.
- An attractive village character, which is imparted by a wide range of characterful buildings, narrow lanes, footpaths, greenspaces and trees, including large groups of mature trees both within and on the periphery of the village.
- A relatively compact, nucleated settlement pattern with two focal points.
- The spire St Andrew's Church as a local landmark.

2.3.6 The key views identified in the following section feature include one or more of the above valued characteristics.

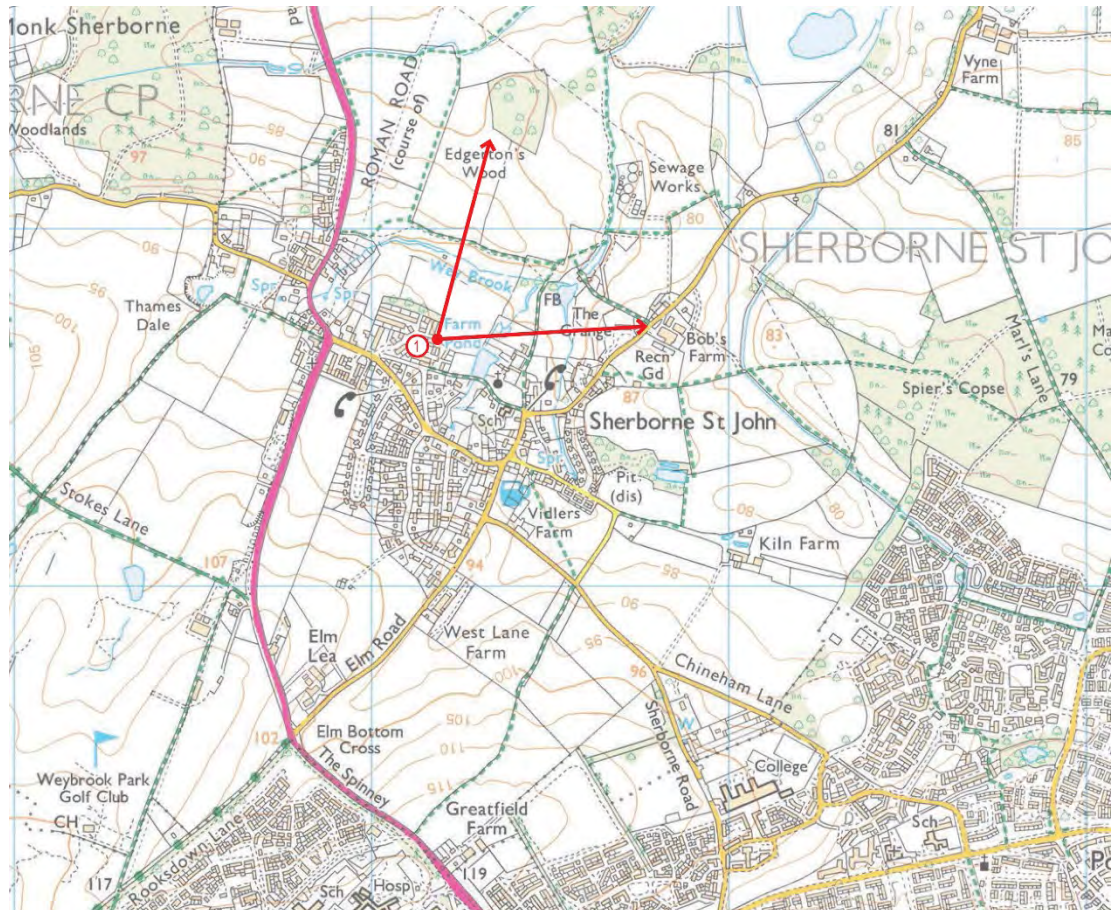
3.0 SHERBORNE ST. JOHN'S KEY VIEWS

3.1.1 This section provides descriptions of fifteen key views that have been identified by Scarp Landscape Architecture within the Parish. These key views have been informed by:

1. a review of key views identified in the adopted Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan (2011-2029);
2. a review of the other potential views that have been identified through the community engagement questionnaire. The results of this questionnaire are provided in **Appendix C**.
3. field survey work by Scarp Landscape Architecture to verify the above key views and consider any others that would be appropriate.

3.1.2 **Figure 1: Neighbourhood Plan Key Views** identifies the photographic viewpoints for these key views. All viewpoints have been selected from publicly accessible locations and include public rights of way and public spaces within the village. **Figure 2: Landscape Character Areas** identifies the photographic viewpoints in the context of the Local Landscape Character Areas. An illustrative photograph for each key view is provided in **Appendix D**.

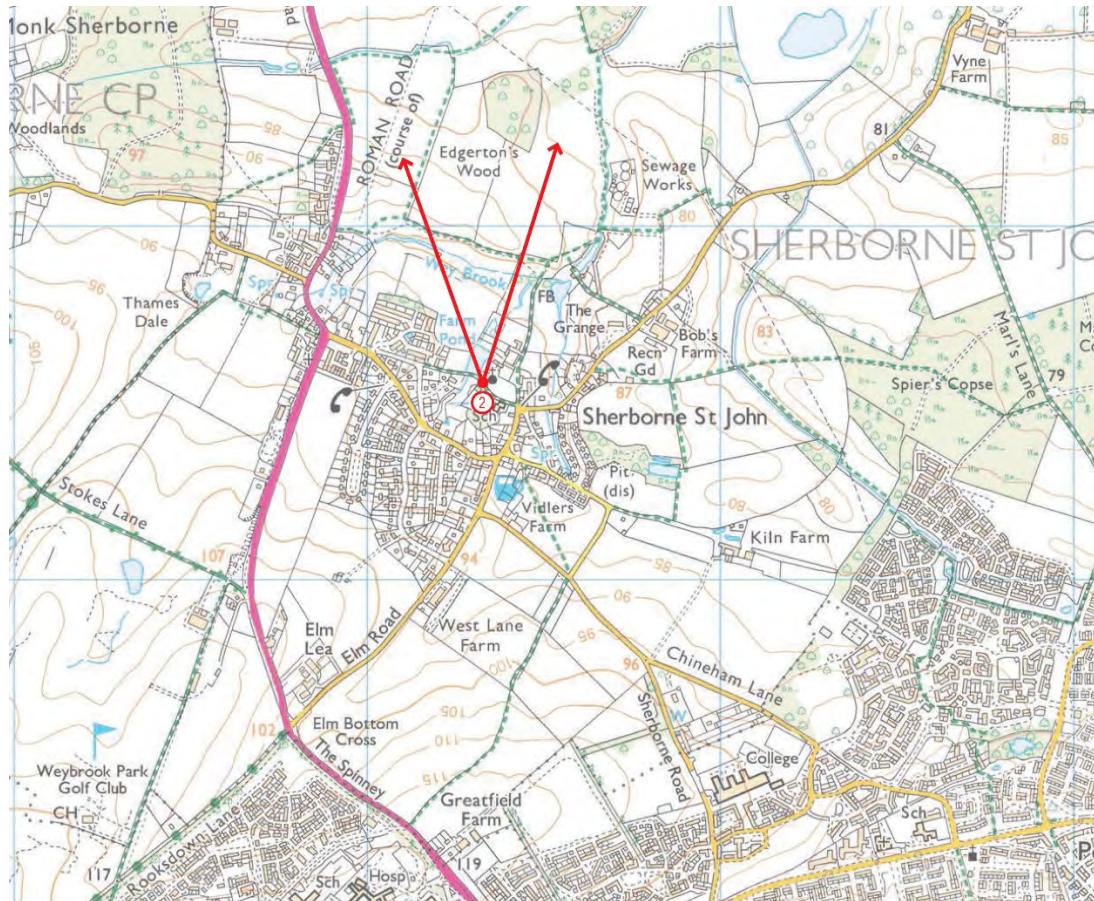
View 1: View looking north and northwest from Cranesfield Play Area



View 1 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.3 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the Cranesfield Play Area and is accessed from Cranes Road and Cranesfield.
- 3.1.4 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by parents and children using the play area.
- 3.1.5 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how the agricultural fields and trees on the edge of the village and the visual backdrop of Morgaston Wood provide a strong contribution to village character and rural setting and to the strong relationship between the village and its historic agricultural hinterland.

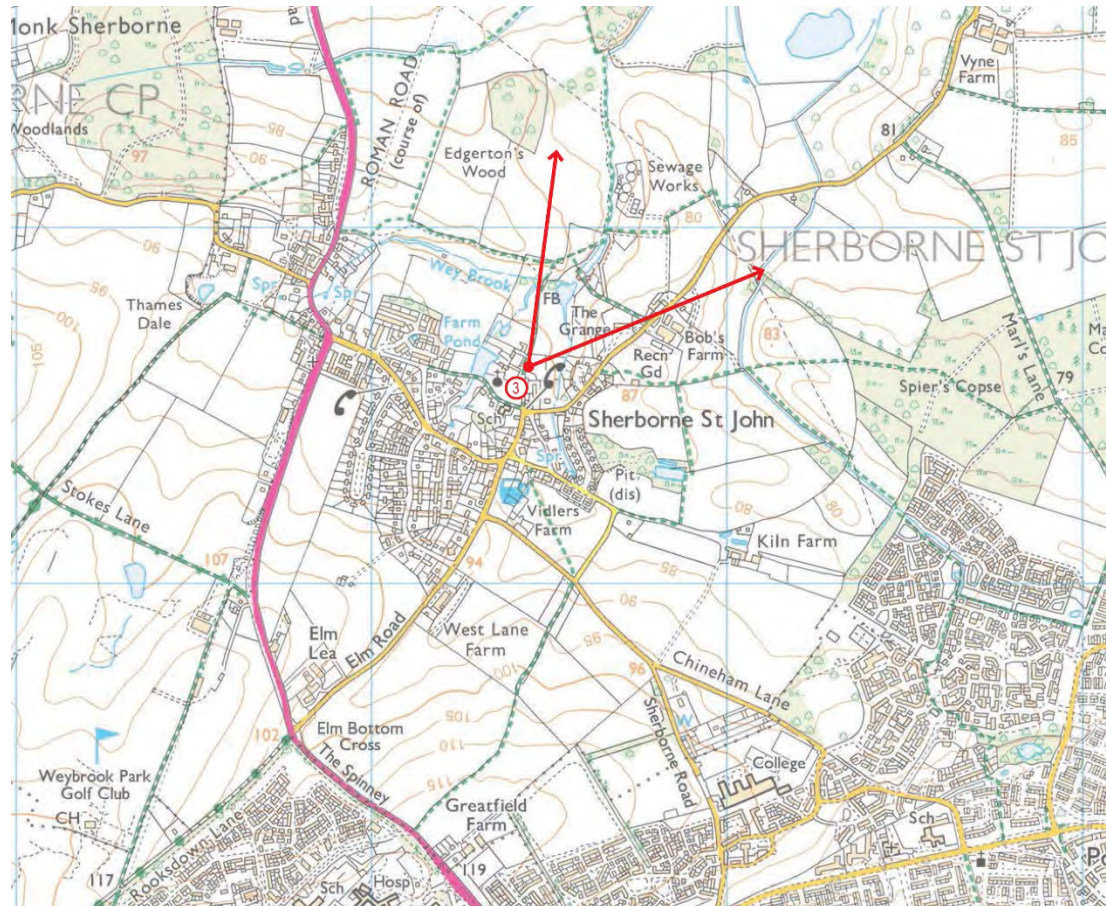
View 2: View looking northeast across Farm Pond



View 2 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.6 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from Church Path, which is a public footpath that connects Cranes Road with Vyne Road and also provides access to St Andrew's Church and its nearby cemetery.
- 3.1.7 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by walkers passing through the village core. A bench located on the southern edge of the footpath reflects its value to the local community.
- 3.1.8 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how the agricultural fields and trees on the edge of the village and the visual backdrop of Morgaston Wood provide a strong contribution to village character and setting and to the strong relationship between the village and its historic agricultural hinterland.

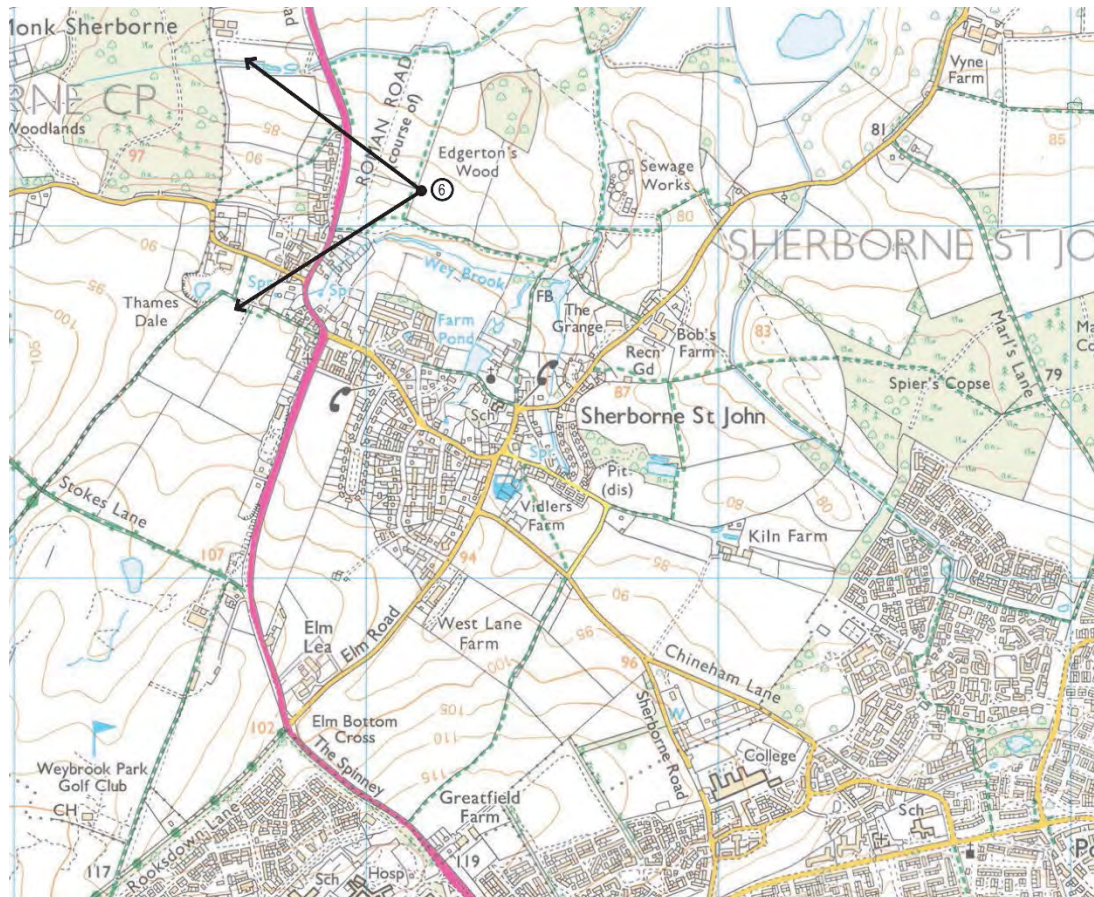
View 3: View looking north and northeast from public footpath leading to Wey Brook



View 3 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.9 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath that heads north across the Wey Brook from Vyne Road in the eastern core of the village.
- 3.1.10 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.11 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates the contribution to village landscape character provided by small scale fields that extend from the open countryside in towards the village core. It also demonstrates how Morgaston Wood and mature trees at the Mill House pond provide an important contribution to village setting and a strong sense of connection to the surrounding countryside.

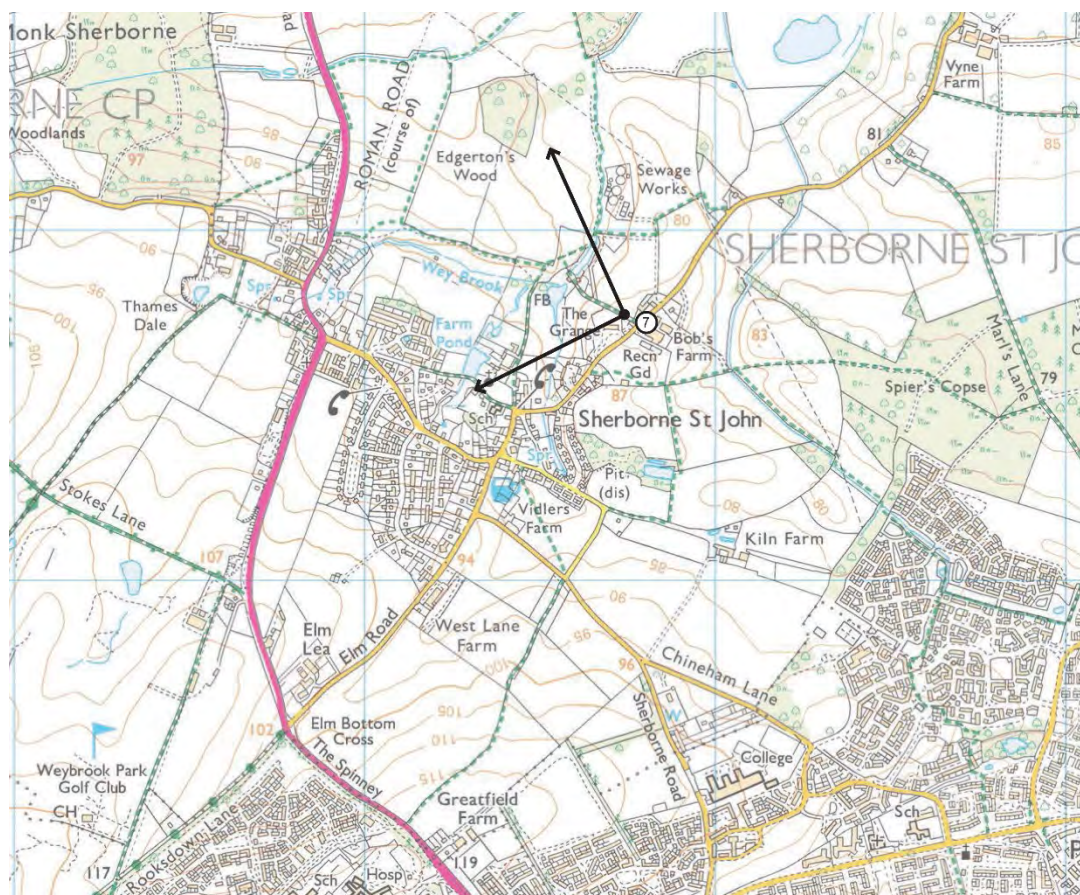
View 6: View looking west and southwest towards western part of village



View 6 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.18 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath that passes north-south between Morgaston Wood and the east-west footpath along the northern side of Wey Brook.
- 3.1.19 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.20 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how the western part of the village has a wide range of characterful buildings and how mature village periphery trees contribute to village character. It also demonstrates the low-lying nature of the settlement and the contribution of both higher-lying land west of the village and trees/fields alongside Wey Brook to the landscape setting of the village.

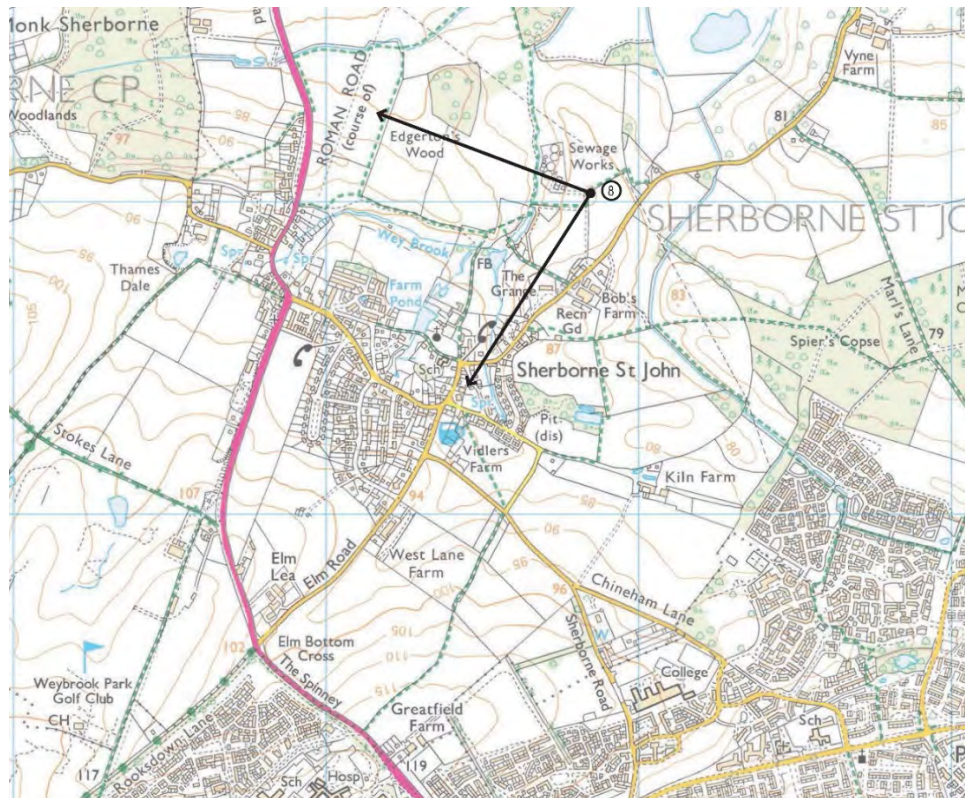
View 7: View looking west and northwest from public footpath leading down to Mill House



View 7 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.21 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath that extends northwest from Vyne Road to join the east-west footpath along the northern side of Wey Brook.
- 3.1.22 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.23 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how a cluster of characterful buildings, woodland around Mill Head and woodland/pasture fields in the undulating landscape further to the north and northwest are scenically attractive and provide a strong contribution to the landscape character and setting of the village. It also demonstrates how woodland on higher-lying land to the west and northwest west of the village provides an important visual backdrop and positive contribution to village landscape setting.

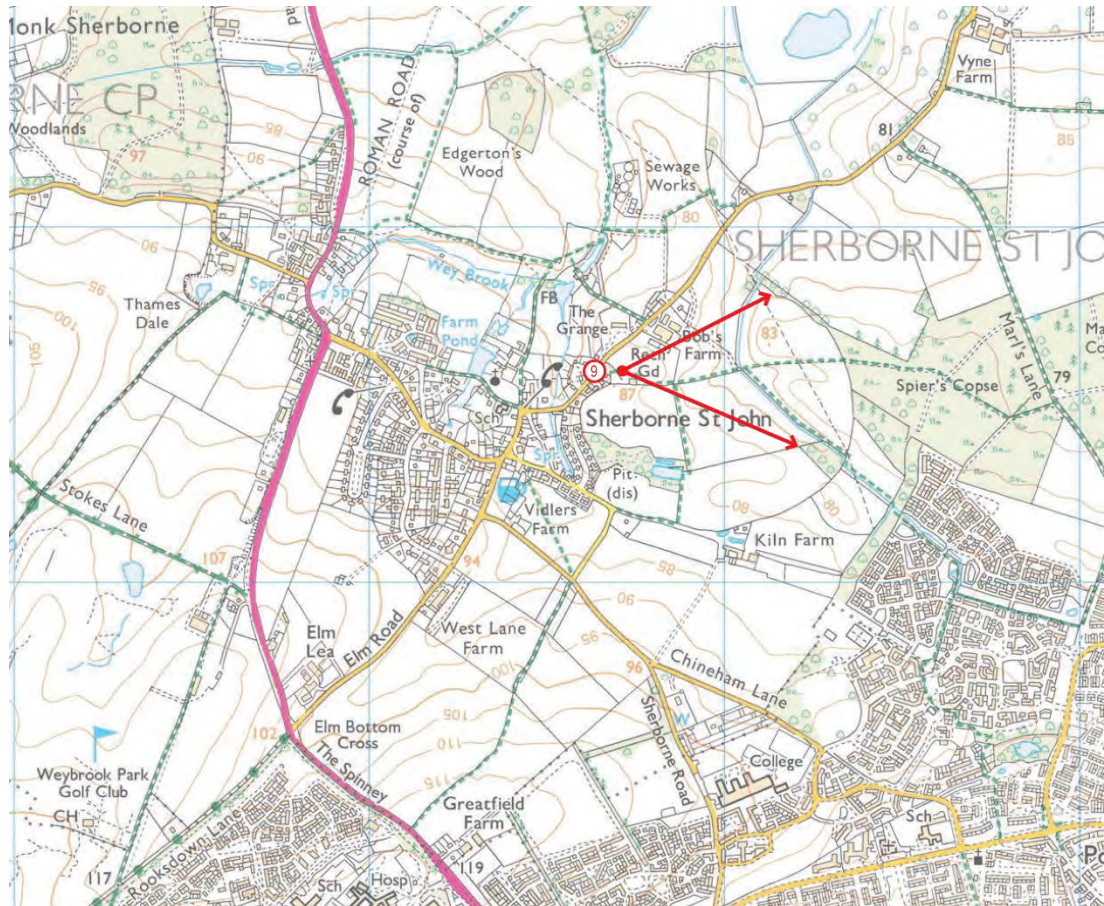
View 8: View looking west and southwest from public footpath near sewage works



View 8 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.24 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath that extends southwest from Vyne Road to join the east-west footpath along the northern side of Wey Brook.
- 3.1.25 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.26 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how the spire of St Andrew's Church serves as a local landmark, how trees associated with Wey Brook, residential properties and small-scale pasture fields in the northern part of the village contribute to the well-treed character and setting of the village. It also demonstrates how agricultural fields on the southern side of Wey Brook contribute to visual depth, how woodland and pasture fields northwest of Mill House are scenically attractive and provide a strong contribution to the landscape character and how woodland on higher-lying land surrounding the village provides an important visual backdrop and positive contribution to village landscape setting.

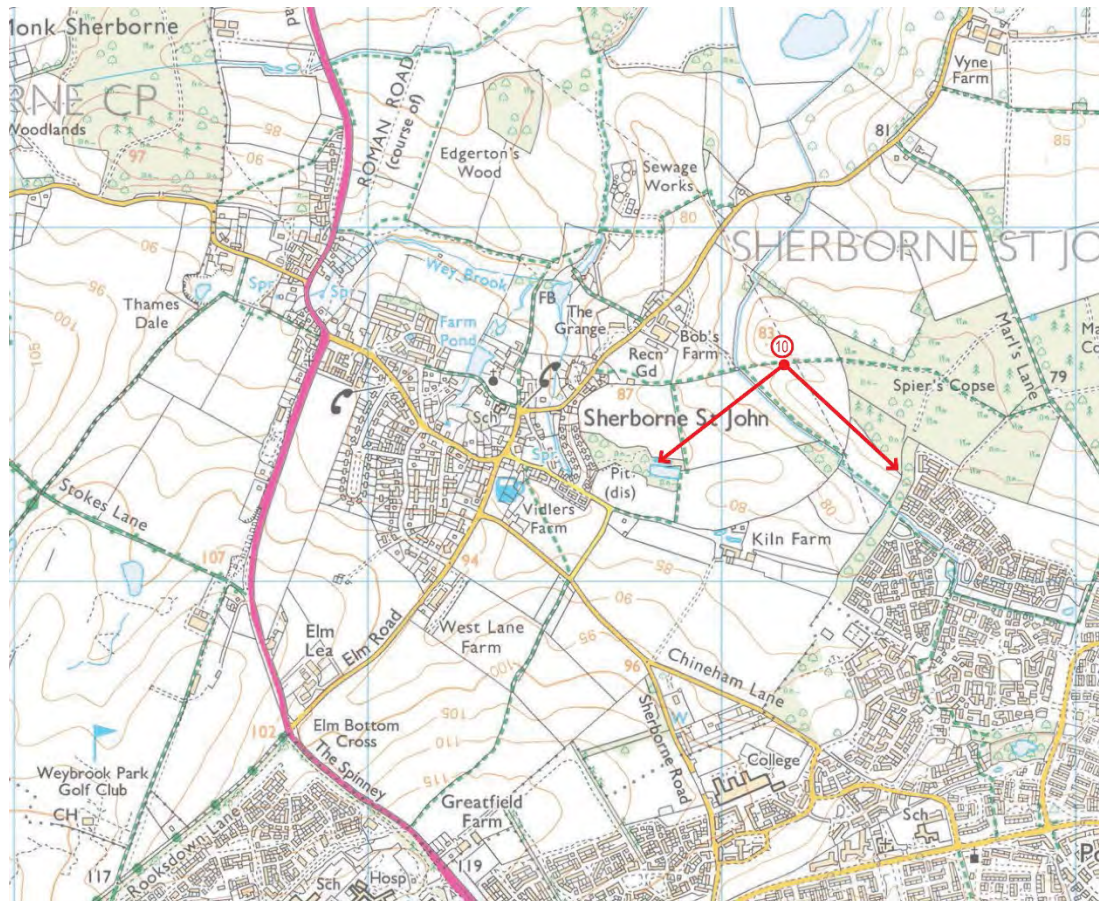
View 9: View looking east from Chute Recreation Ground



View 9 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.27 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the recreation ground and is also representative of views from the public footpath that passes along the southern edge of the recreation ground.
- 3.1.28 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.29 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how the recreation ground and its associated trees, agricultural fields further to the east and Spier's Copse in the background provide a strong contribution to rural character, landscape setting and the strong relationship between the village and its historic agricultural hinterland.

View 10: View looking south from public footpath between Spier's Copse and Chute Recreation Ground



View 10 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.30 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath that connects the recreation ground with Spier's Copse.
- 3.1.31 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.32 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how village edge woodland and agricultural fields on the eastern side of the village provide a strong contribution to open rural character. It also demonstrates how rising landform and woodland separates this open countryside from the built-up area of Basingstoke/Popley.

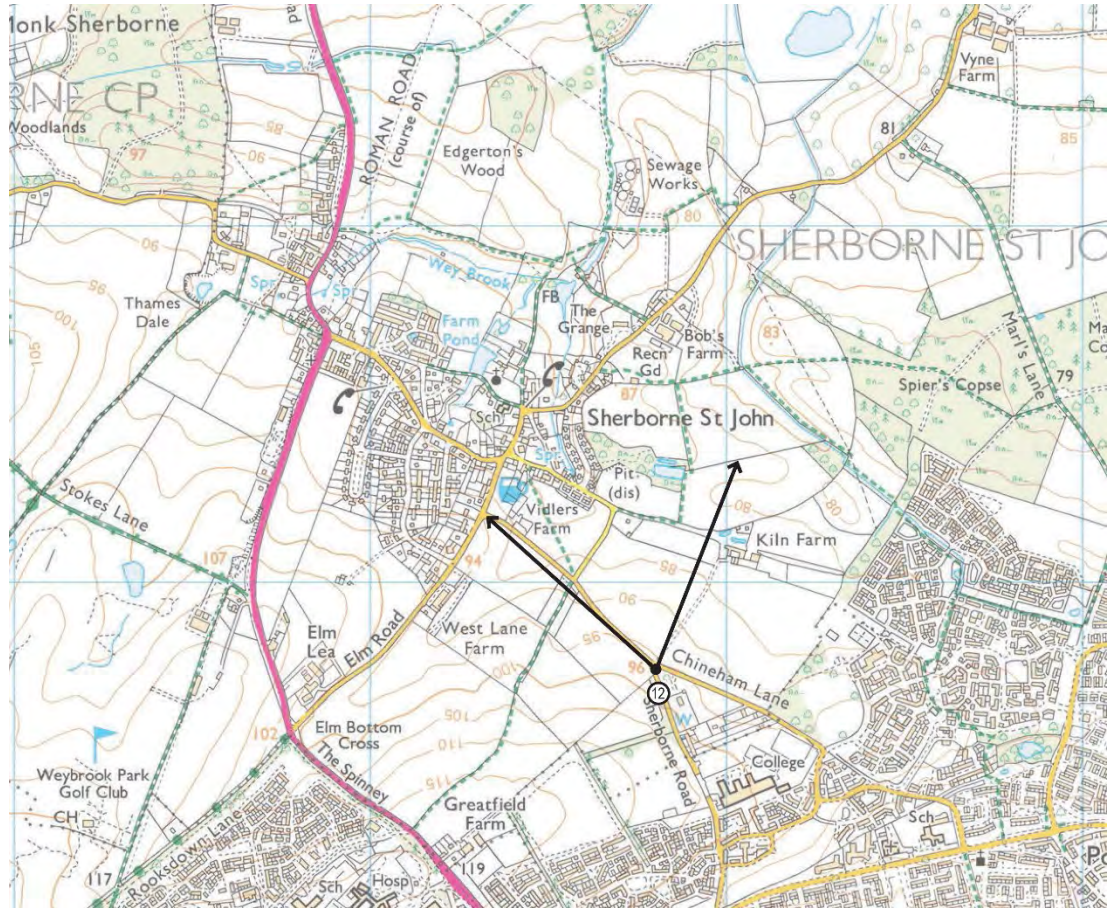
View 11: View looking southeast across Vidlers Field from public footpath near the Swan Public House



View 11 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.33 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath that connects Kiln Road (and the Swan Public House and associated garden) with Sherborne Road.
- 3.1.34 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by residents, recreational walkers and users of the garden at the Swan Public House.
- 3.1.35 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how agricultural fields, hedgerows and trees on rising land southeast of the village provide a strong contribution to rural character and the strong relationship between the village and its agricultural setting.

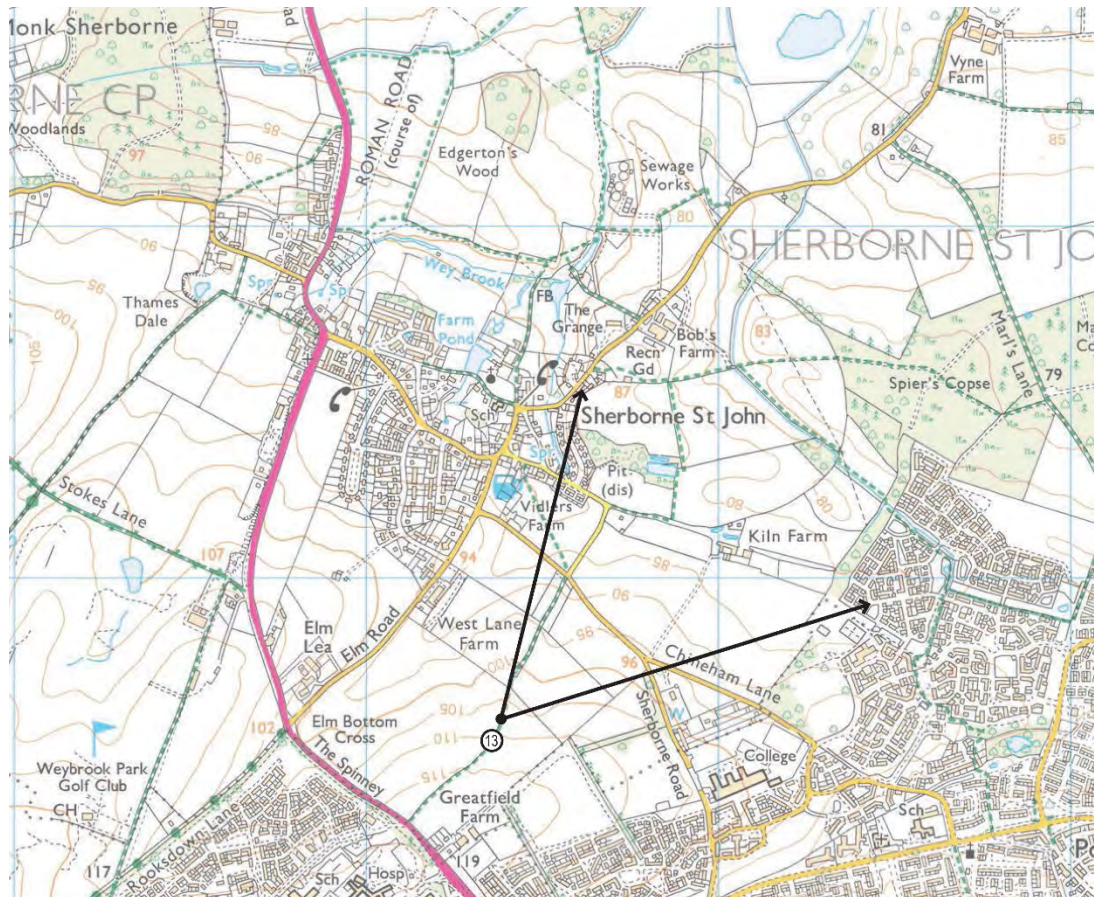
View 12: View looking northwest from Sherborne Road



View 12 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.36 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from a location on Sherborne Road near the Sherborne Road/Chineham Lane junction.
- 3.1.37 **View Representation:** This view is representative of views experienced by people approaching the village by road from the southeast.
- 3.1.38 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how woodland, agricultural fields, hedgerows and an isolated farmhouse contribute to a strong rural landscape setting for the village. It also demonstrates the low-lying nature of the settlement, the role of St Andrew's Church as a local landmark and the contribution of woodland on higher-lying land to village setting. The Vidlers Farm flats, glimpsed through the middle distance hedgerow, are an incongruous component of the view.

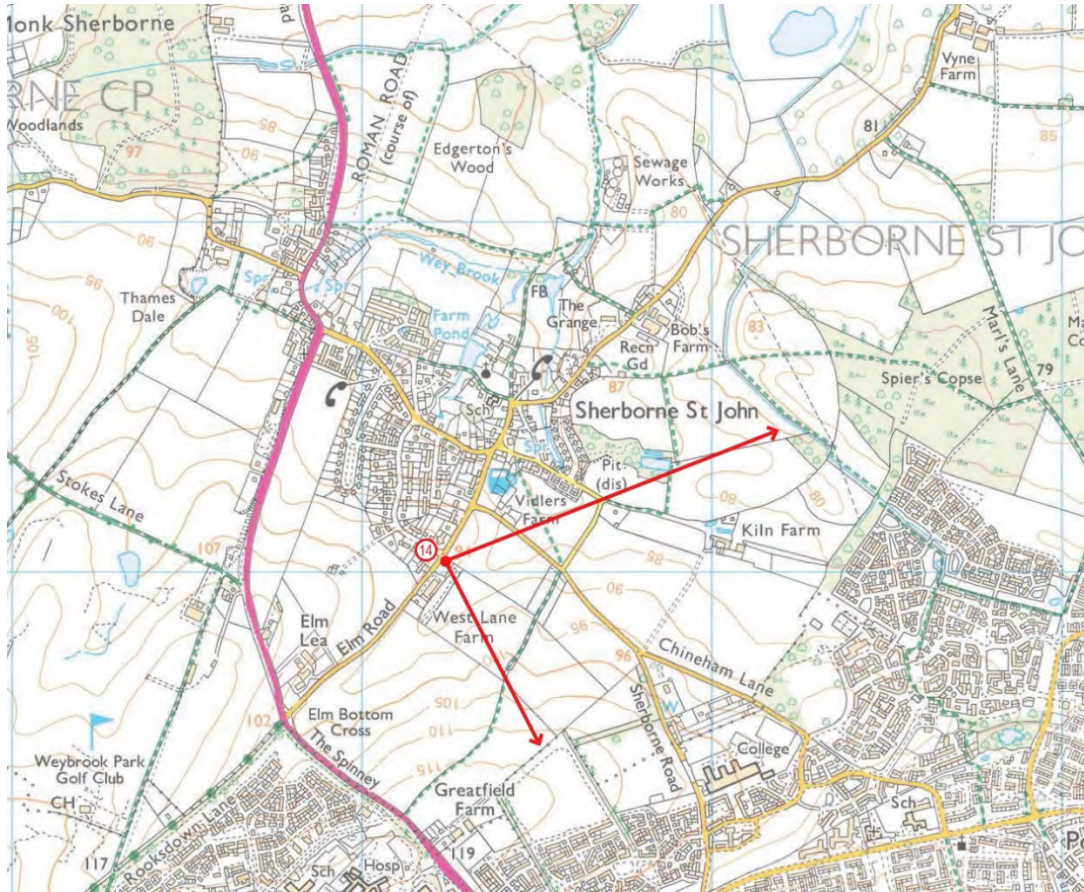
View 13: View looking northeast from public footpath between Aldermaston Road and Sherborne Road



View 13 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.39 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath between Aldermaston Road and Sherborne Road.
- 3.1.40 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.41 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how woodland, agricultural fields, hedgerows and farmhouse buildings on the eastern side of the village contribute to a strong rural character and landscape setting for the settlement. It also demonstrates how this land provides a strong sense of separation between Sherborne St. John (on the left hand side of the photograph) and Basingstoke/Popley (on the right hand side of the photograph).

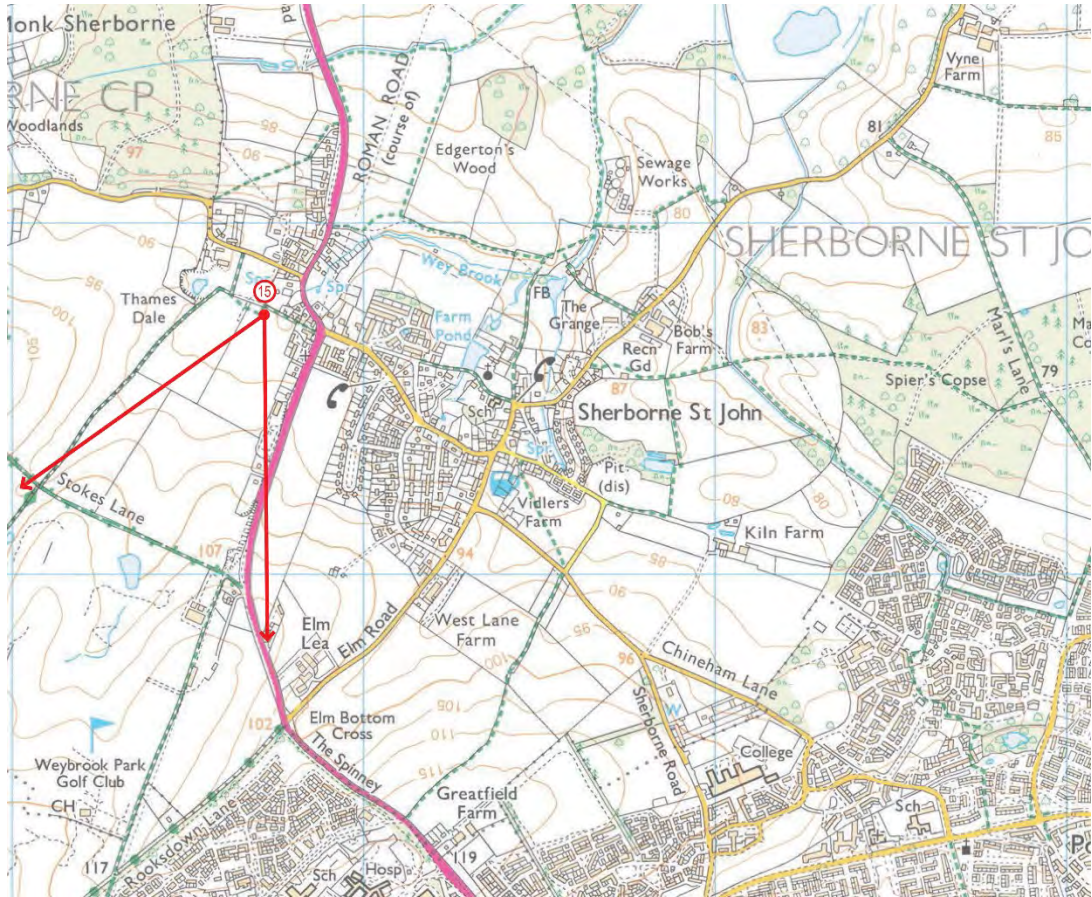
View 14: View looking east and northeast from Elm Road



View 14 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.42 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from a farm gate on the eastern side of Elm Road near the Elm Road/Manor Road junction.
- 3.1.43 **View Representation:** This view is representative of views experienced by people approaching the village by road from the southeast.
- 3.1.44 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how woodland and agricultural fields on the eastern and southern sides of the village contribute to a strong rural character and landscape setting for the settlement. It also demonstrates how this land provides a sense of separation between Sherborne St. John (on the left hand side of the photograph) and Basingstoke/Popley (on the centre right of the photograph). It is important that this sense of separation is not diminished. The Vidlers Farm flats are an incongruous component of the view due to their large footprints and visually harsh appearance.

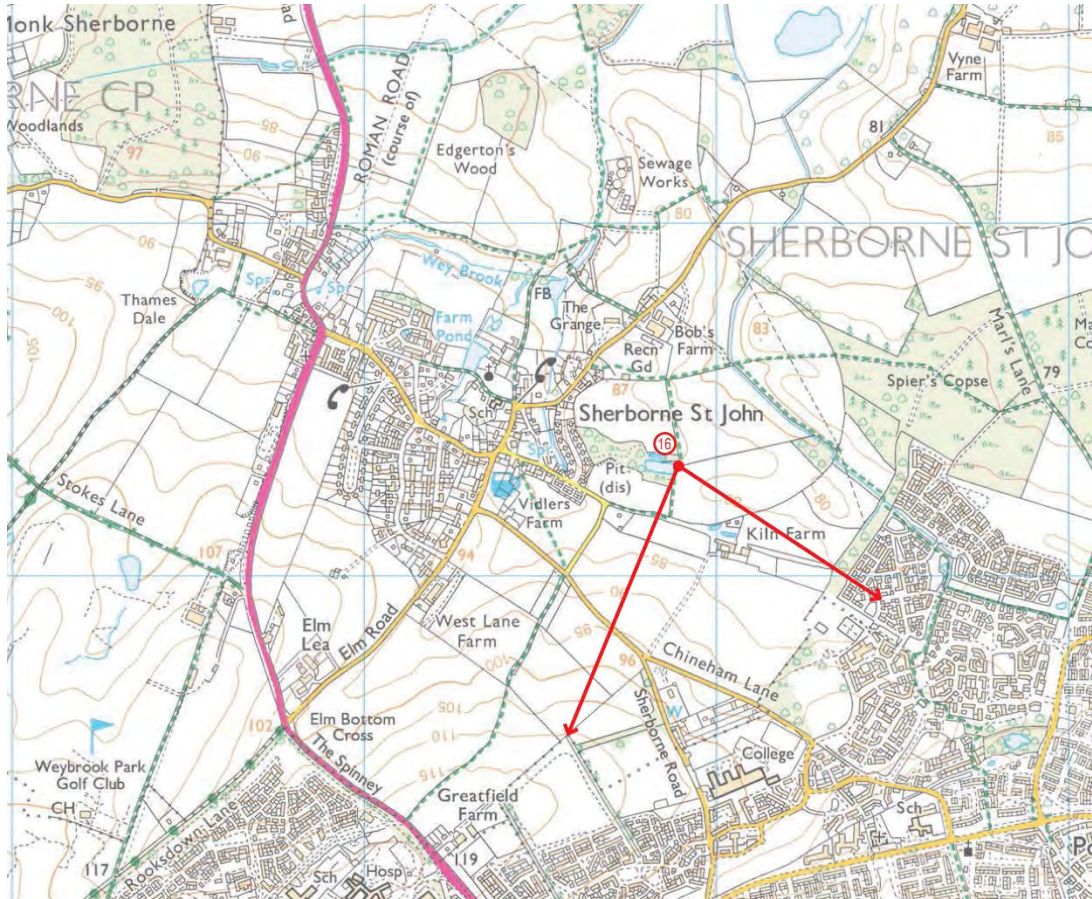
View 15: View looking south from public footpath heading west from Dixon`s Corner



View 15 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.45 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath heading west from Dixon`s Corner.
- 3.1.46 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers and residents on the southern edge of the village.
- 3.1.47 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how open agricultural fields on the western side of the village contribute to a strong rural character and landscape setting for the settlement. It also demonstrates how a ridge of high land and tree belts along the northern side of Basingstoke contribute to a strong sense of separation between Basingstoke and the village.

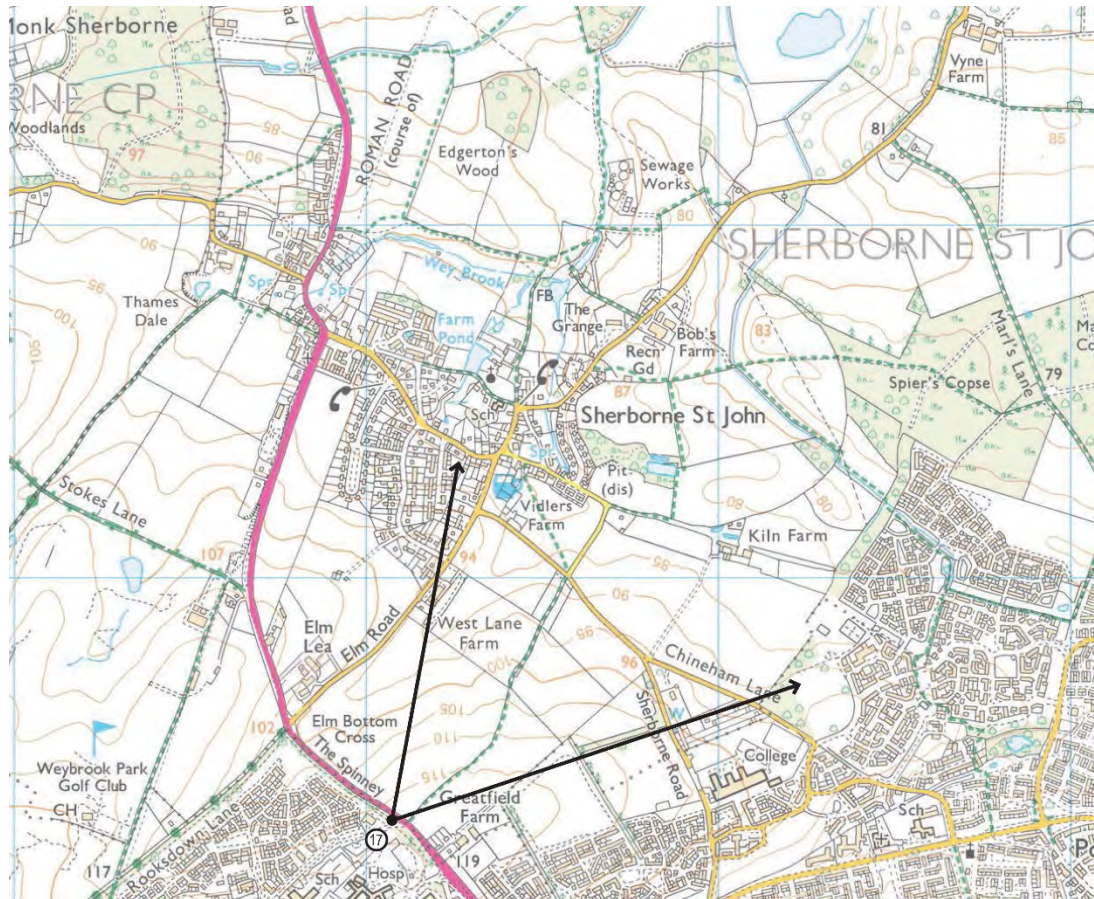
View 16: View looking south from public footpath heading south to Kiln Farm



View 16 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.48 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from the public footpath (Ref: 208/501/1) heading south to the track that serves Kiln Farm.
- 3.1.49 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers.
- 3.1.50 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how open agricultural fields on the eastern side of the village contribute to a strong rural character and landscape setting for the settlement. It also demonstrates how tree belts along the edge of the Basingstoke built-up area contribute to a sense of separation between Basingstoke and the village. Agricultural fields on rising land southeast of the village may be seen in the middle distance and these contribute to a sense of visual depth and separation from Basingstoke.

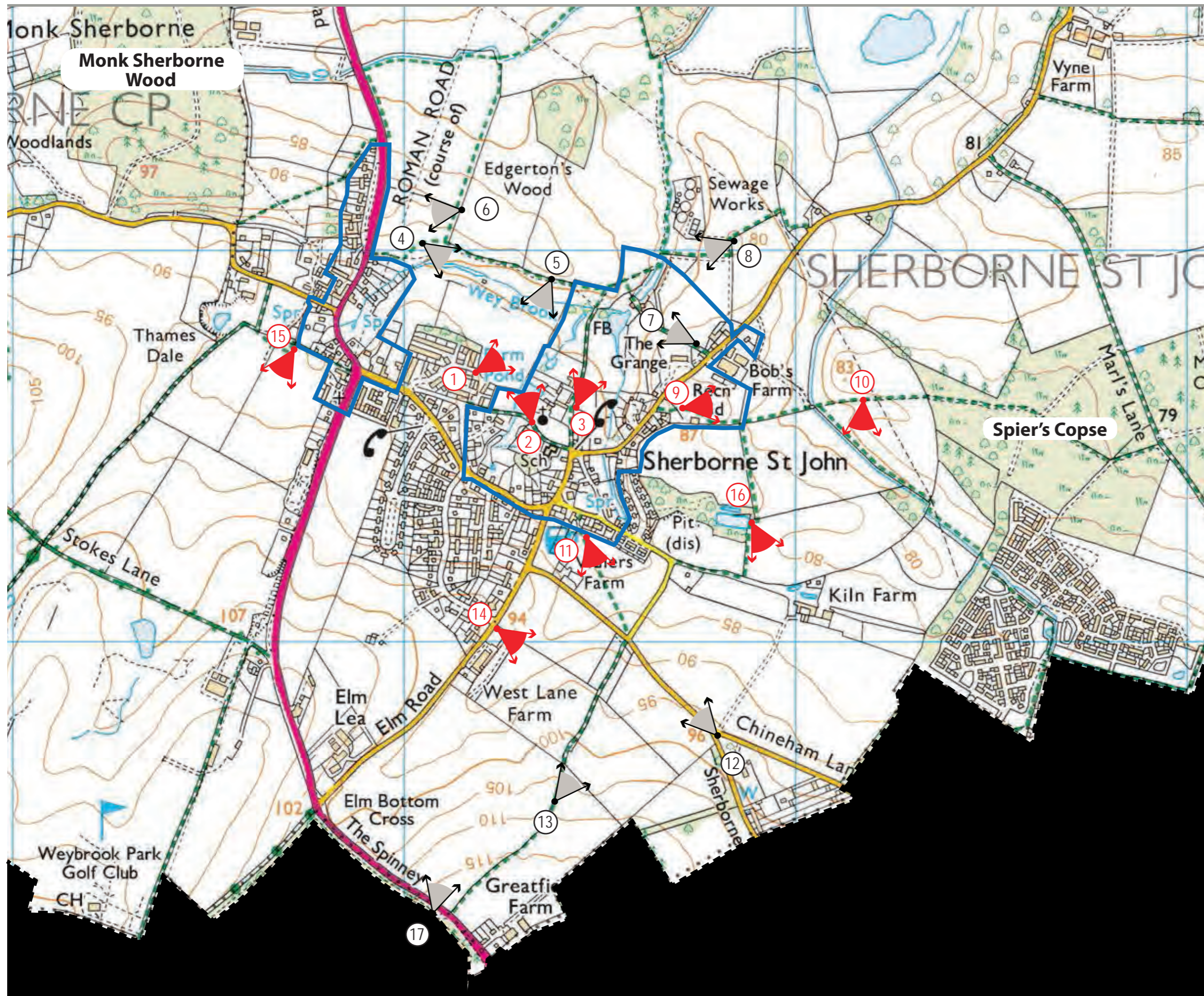
View 17: View looking north from The Spinney footpath alongside Aldermaston Road



View 17 Orientation and Field of View

- 3.1.51 **Location and Accessibility:** This view is from a footpath that passes through The Spinney parallel to Aldermaston Road. This location is known as ‘The Spinney Viewpoint’ and its value is recognised by an interpretation board that identifies various features in the view.
- 3.1.52 **View Representation:** This view is representative of the views experienced by recreational walkers and users of Aldermaston Road on the approach to the Sherborne St. John.
- 3.1.53 **Valued Characteristics in View:** This view demonstrates how open agricultural fields on the southern side of the village contribute to a strong rural character and landscape setting for the village, which is set within well-treed context at a relatively low level in the view.

Figures



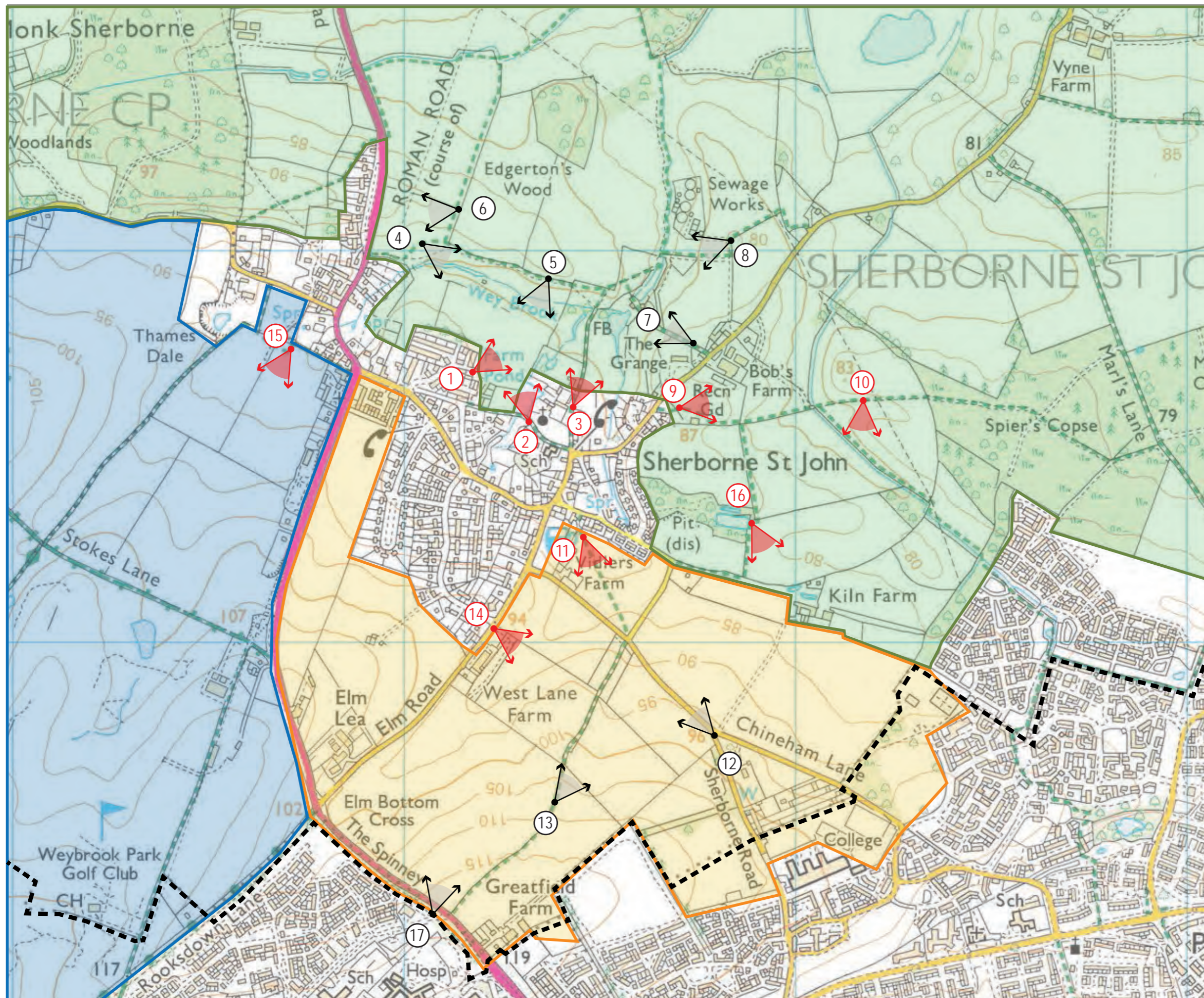
- Key**
- Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan boundary*
 - ▭ Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Conservation Area**
 - ① ↗ Photographic Viewpoint Location for Key Views Towards Village
 - ② ↖ Photographic Viewpoint Location for Key Views From Village
 - Public Footpaths
 - Public Bridleways
 - Restricted byways

Notes
 Crown copyright and database rights (2023)
 Ordnance Survey 0100031673
 *Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2029 (May 2017)
 **Basingstoke.gov.uk/conservation-areas.

Scarp landscape architecture
 environmental planning

Client Sherborne St. John Parish Council
 Project Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan Key Views
 Dwg Title Figure 1: Neighbourhood Plan Key Views
 Dwg No

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN KEY VIEWS



Key

- Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan boundary**
- Character Area BA3: Vyne Mosaic*
- Character Area BA1: Sherborne St. John Slopes*
- Character Area BA2: Southern Weybrook Slopes*
- 1 Photographic Viewpoint Location for Key Views Towards Village
- 2 Photographic Viewpoint Location for Key Views From Village

Notes

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673
 * Basingstoke, Tadley and Bramley Landscape Capacity Study (February 2008)
 ** Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2029 (May 2017)

Scarp landscape architecture
 environmental planning

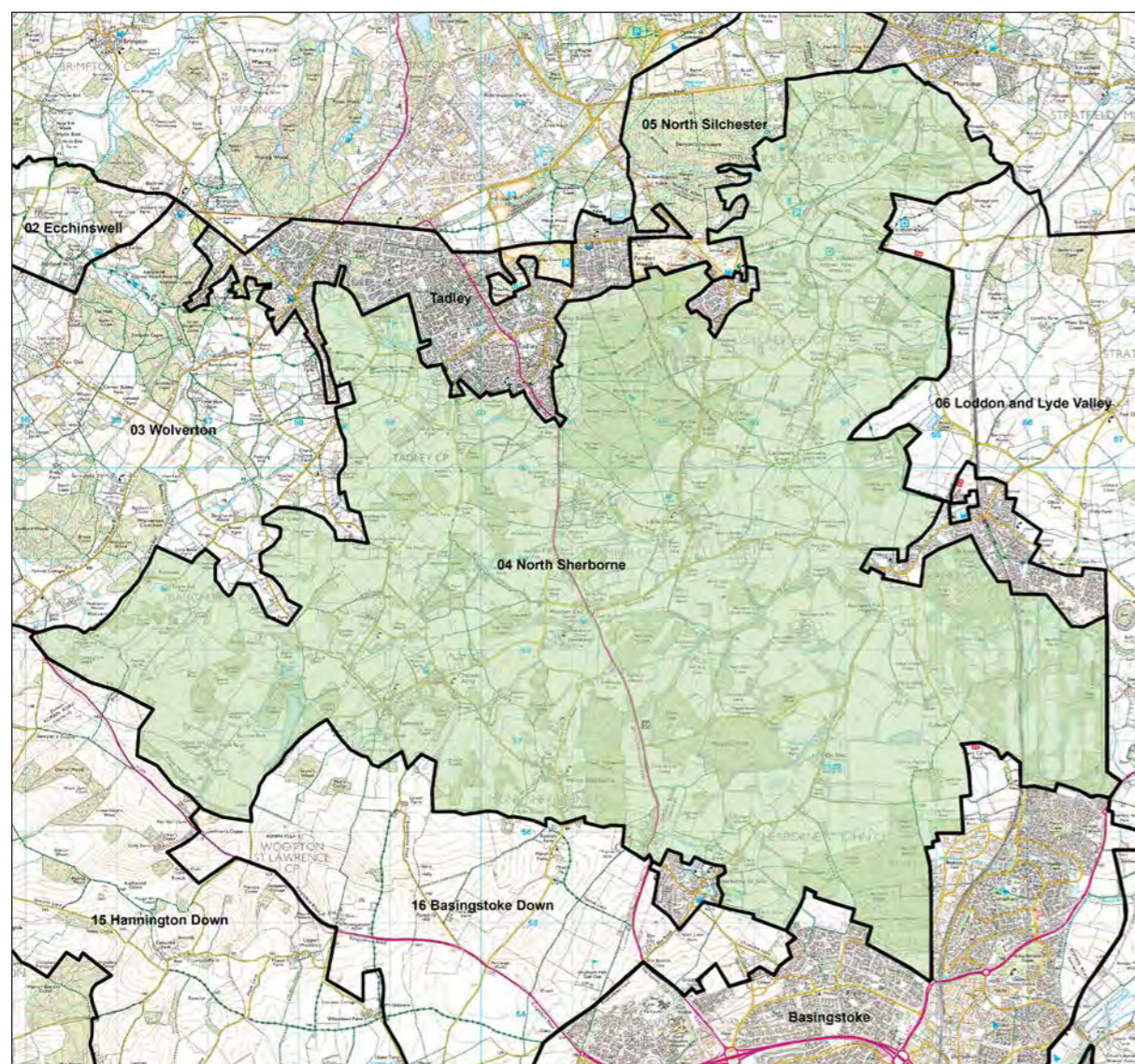
Client	Sherborne St. John Parish Council
Project	Sherborne St. John Neighbourhood Plan Key Views
Dwg Title	Figure 2: Landscape Character Areas
Dwg No	

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN KEY VIEWS

Appendix A

Descriptions of District Level Landscape Character Areas identified in the Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Assessment (May 2021)

CHARACTER AREA 4: NORTH SHERBORNE



Location and Boundaries

This Character Area lies in the north of the Borough and stretches from the more wooded Wolverton Character Area to the west, to the Loddon and Lyde valley system to the east. The northern boundary is marked by the settlement of Tadley, the enclosed plantation and heathland landscape of the North Silchester Character Area, and the Borough boundary. Its southern boundary is defined by the distinct change in geology between the clay/Bagshot Beds of the lowland mosaic and the chalkland to the south.

Formative Influences

This area is underlain predominantly by heavy clay, permeable sands and gravels, forming a subdued, low-lying landform which strongly contrasts with the elevated chalklands to the south. Minor streams have dissected the underlying geology, resulting in a gently undulating topography. Much of this area was formerly part of the Royal Forest of Pamber. In medieval times, the process of 'assarting' progressively cleared the once large-scale woodland cover. Of particular archaeological importance is the remarkable preserved Roman town of Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) and its associated earthworks, which were built on an existing Iron Age settlement. Occupation was established elsewhere within the area by the medieval period. For example Ewhurst, Sherborne St John and Monk Sherborne are amongst settlements mentioned in Domesday survey of 1086.



Overall Landscape Character

In common with much of the lowland landscape to the north of the Borough, this area is a patchwork of mixed farmland and woodland, which forms the setting for a diversity of other landscapes including managed parkland, minor valleys, and more extensive areas of woodland. Despite its diversity, the overall effect is a unified and balanced landscape, with the low-lying and gently undulating landform linking the various landscape types into one distinct Character Area. A small southern part of the area, between Wolverton and Ramsdell, lies within the North Wessex Downs AONB. In many areas the landscape has retained a quiet, rural character, with a network of narrow, winding roads linking the dispersed villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads. The quietness of the area is disrupted, however, in those areas along the A340 corridor, and the rural character affected near the larger settlements of Tadley, Bramley and Chineham.

North Sherborne Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating, subtle landform dissected by a network of minor tributary valleys;
- Pattern of predominantly arable farmland and improved grassland with occasional well-managed parkland, and a low density of small scale scattered settlement, enclosed within an established woodland and hedgerow structure with many hedgerow trees;
- South-west corner lies within North Wessex Downs AONB, and overall landscape typically has a rural character, except near Tadley and Mortimer to the north and Basingstoke/Chineham to the southeast. Generally quiet, apart from areas along the busy A340. Occasional detracting influence from pylons and overhead wires, including within the AONB;
- Predominantly assarted and small parliamentary fields, giving way to large wavy, small wavy and parliamentary fields to the east;
- Two pockets of more open arable farmland towards the south-east, characterised by parliamentary fields with infrequent woodland cover and low, well-cut hedgerows, notably between The Vyne and North Chineham and to the north-west of Bramley;
- Variety of woodland, including small predominantly broadleaf copses and larger woodland such as Morgaston Wood and Carpenters Down Wood. Also Pamber Forest, which has placed a crucial role in the historical development of the area;
- Significant areas of ancient woodland, including Pamber Forest to the north, and Monk Sherborne Wood to the south;
- Remnant areas of scarce habitat types including ancient semi-natural woodland, heathland (notably part of the Pamber Forest and Silchester Common SSSI), and neutral/acidic unimproved grassland. The latter includes Ron Wards Meadow with Tadley Pastures SSSI, one of Hampshire's finest surviving hay meadow/pasture complexes;
- Three distinctive areas of parkland, 'The Vyne' (Grade II), Beaurepaire Park and Ewhurst Park, contributing a well-managed element to the landscape;
- Moderate intervisibility across the area, with vegetation and low-lying nature of the landscape containing distant views;
- A settlement pattern dominated by small villages, such as Charter Alley and Little London, hamlets, isolated farmsteads and individual properties distributed throughout the rural landscape, reached through a network of narrow, winding roads;
- Larger settlements adjoin the Character Area, including Tadley to the north, and the Chineham to the south-east. Chineham has seen considerable westwards expansion in recent years, necessitating realignment of the previous Character Area boundary to follow the new settlement edge, related to the existing landscape structure of intact hedgerows which define the new settlement edge;
- A network of public rights of way crosses the majority of the area, although some areas have limited public access, such as to the south-west within the AONB, and areas to the south-east, including farmland and the former Bramley Ordnance Depot;
- The Reading to Basingstoke railway line crosses through the eastern end of the Character Area, with the nearest station at Bramley;
- There are two large solar farms towards the centre of the Character Area, at Berry Court and Hill End, appearing as incongruous features, albeit low lying, where visible in the surrounding landscape;
- Remarkably preserved Roman town of Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) and its associated earthworks, together with many other Scheduled Ancient Monuments, reinforcing the historic richness of the landscape.

Key Issues

- Poor species and structure diversity and ecological value within coniferous plantations;
- Under-management of the numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands, including hazel coppice woods;
- Loss of broadleaf woodlands;
- Relatively weak landscape structure, primarily within more open arable landscapes, and resulting need to encourage hedgerow planting;
- Management of hedgerows and field patterns of historic significance, and retention of hedgerow tree saplings;
- Management of road verges and hedgebanks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and legacy of agrochemical use on adjacent farmland;
- Lack of permanent grass field margins, including uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers, streams and other sensitive habitats;
- Loss of heath associated vegetation through inappropriate management and more intensive agricultural use;
- Management of unimproved neutral grassland and areas of neutral/acidic unimproved/semi-improved grassland, to maintain or enhance biodiversity;
- Some adverse impacts of horse grazing (e.g. rank grassland with weeds, poorly-managed boundaries or inappropriate styles of fencing etc.);
- Conservation and management of Calleva Roman town and associated historic features;
- Localised suburban influence of some built development and roads, including suburban styles of fencing, signage, lighting and planting, and impacts on quiet, rural character in immediate areas.
- Pressure for housing development, including extensions to existing urban edges, such as Chineham, Tadley and Bramley, encroaching into the Character Area;
- Prospect of further energy generation development, including solar farms.

GUIDANCE

North Sherborne Landscape Aims

The strategic aim for the North Sherborne Character Area is to conserve the overall rural pattern of farmland and woodland with small scale settlement, whilst limiting increases in urbanisation through incongruous development. Opportunities for enhancement are in management of the hedgerow network, and the variety of woodland. Areas which are within the AONB or form part of its setting should be considered with regard to the landscape, land management and development key issues and policies set out in the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan, including those related to dark skies, siting of new development, and intrusion from certain types of development.

Landscape Guidelines

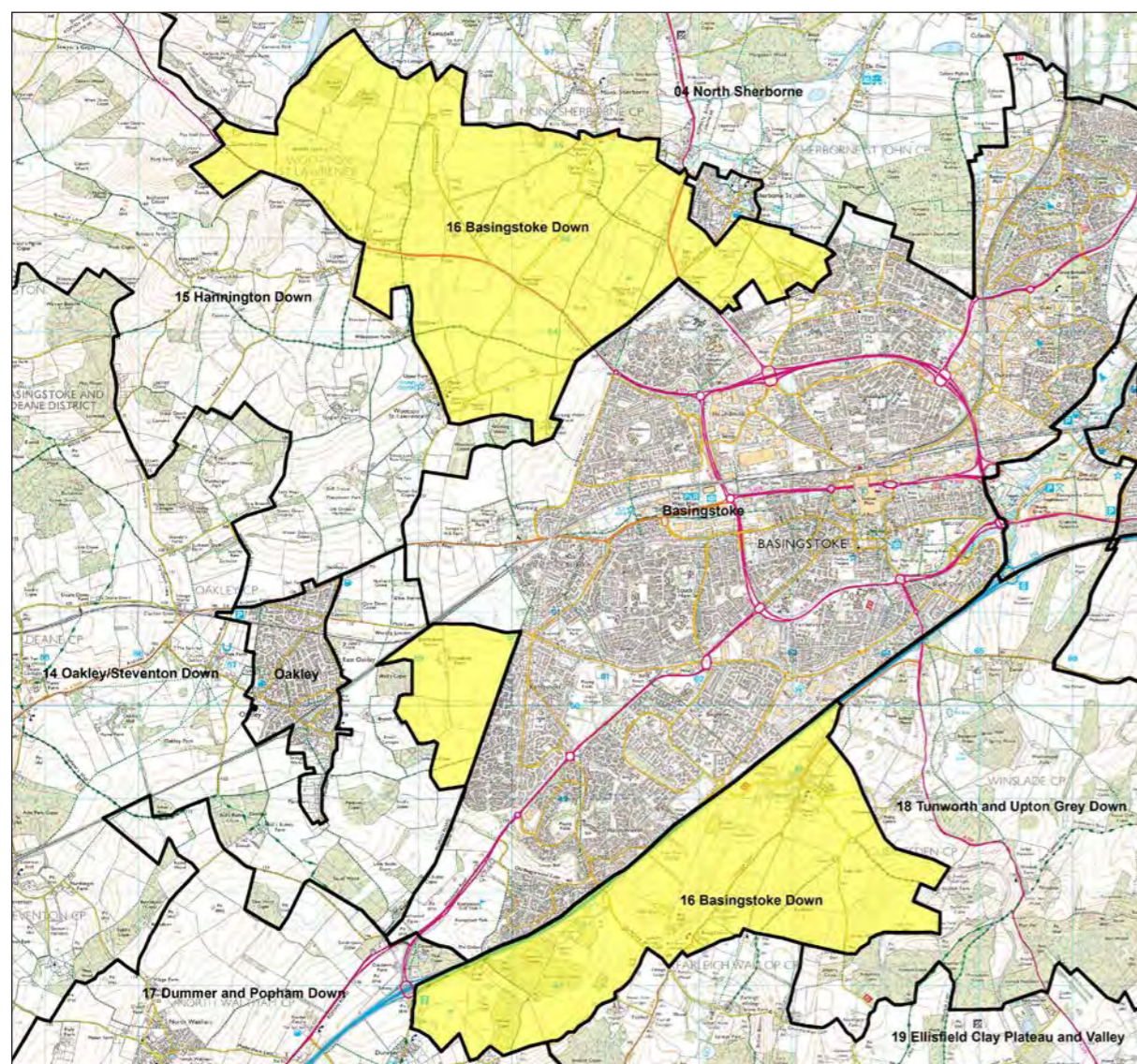
Land Management

- Conserve, enhance and restore woodlands, in particular ancient woodland such as Pamber Forest, Monk Sherborne Wood, Morgaston Wood and Carpenters Down Wood, and other areas of woodland including smaller woods located across the Character Area, through effective long term management and replanting with locally appropriate species to retain their varied character and their ecological value;
- Encourage sensitive management of plantations for their species and wildlife value;
- Restore grass field margins wherever possible, particularly next to sensitive habitats such as rivers and streams, including Silchester Brook and Bow Brook;
- Ensure consistent management and restocking of hedgerows to enhance the hedgerow network throughout the Character Area, and in particularly areas of more open arable fields such as towards the north of the Character Area;
- Encourage improved management of road verges and roadside hedgebanks, including along the winding lanes through the Character Area;
- Encourage landowners to maintain an appropriate management regime using traditional farming techniques where these will conserve and enhance key landscape features such as hedgerows, woodlands, heath and grasslands;
- Raise awareness of the historic dimension and underlying archaeology of the landscape to landowners including the assarted field patterns and woodlands, and encourage conservation of the those elements;
- Encourage the use of suitable fence styles, in keeping with the local style or material, including metal park fencing where a local parkland character creates precedence.

Built Development

- New development should be associated with existing settlement, for example at Tadley, Sherborne St John, Chineham, and Bramley, where appropriate, and should respond to existing urban edges.
- Retain natural buffers and boundaries to settlements where possible, including the existing woodland, hedgerows, trees along boundaries surrounding Tadley, Chineham and Sherborne St John, and promote the use of appropriate species for potential planting and boundary treatments to integrate development into the adjoining rural landscape;
- Retain the rural character along lanes, such as those within the vicinity of Little London, and conserve existing historic settlements, such as Ramsdell, Monk Sherborne and Three Ashes, as well as more isolated farmsteads such as Pamber Priory Farm (located to the south-west of Pamber End);
- Avoid visual intrusion from development of energy generation sites, such as solar farms;
- Encourage the use of locally characteristic building forms and include sympathetic contemporary architecture, through high quality detailing, architectural features, and use of natural building materials;
- Where possible limit effect of settlement expansion on the separate identities between Tadley and Silchester, and between Sherborne St John and Basingstoke, by retaining existing boundary hedges and trees in the area to help prevent visual or physical coalescence between the settlements.
- Conserve the rural roads and lanes across the area;
- Ensure that potential road lighting schemes in currently unlit areas, such as along Silchester Road through Little London, are assessed for visual impact, and encourage conservation of the existing 'dark skies' on the skyline.

CHARACTER AREA 16: BASINGSTOKE DOWN



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Location and Boundaries

Recent development allocations and changes to the Settlement Policy Boundary around Worting, and Kempshott Park have split the Character Area into three main parts. This irregularly-shaped area lies in the centre of the Borough, taking its form from the settlement of Basingstoke, which defines its eastern boundary and, for a part to the south, its northern edge. Most of its northern boundary is defined by the distinct change in geology, relief and vegetation characteristics between chalkland and lowland mosaic landscapes. The western and southern boundaries mark a transition to a more enclosed mosaic of farmland and woodland characteristic to the surrounding Character Areas. The north-westernmost extent of the northern part of the Character Area, is within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Formative Influences

This area is underlain predominantly by chalk layers with occasional deposits of clay and flint. Erosion of the chalklands to the north of Basingstoke gives rise to a characteristic rolling landscape. This landform merges into a gentle rising slope to the south, which becomes steeper to the south of Basingstoke, rising to a high clay plateau at Farleigh Wallop. The present landscape was probably initiated as long ago as the earlier prehistoric period (Neolithic and Bronze Age), when the original forest cover was largely cleared for arable agriculture and grazing. A few patches of woodland survived or regenerated in the

north of the Character Area. The settlement of Worting is amongst those mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Medieval open field systems and downland were largely replaced by enclosure by informal means during the 17th-18th centuries, and later by parliamentary enclosure.



Overall Landscape Character

This is an area of relatively consistent landscape character, the urban form of Basingstoke creating a unifying element within a landscape of varying landform, which predominately falls to face Basingstoke. The area is characterised by a large-scale pattern of arable fields with low, well-trimmed hedges that have become weak and broken in places. These elements, together with the infrequent woodland blocks and small-scale woodland blocks, give a feeling of openness to the area. Urban influences, such as golf courses on the edge of Basingstoke, and main roads/motorway development, adversely affect the rural character of parts of the landscape. The major settlement of Basingstoke, and its associated infrastructure, exerts a strong urban influence on the character of the immediate surrounding landscape, affecting its rural character. In terms of settlement pattern, however, development outside Basingstoke is limited to a scattering of isolated farmsteads and small villages/hamlets.

Basingstoke Down Key Characteristics

- Rolling landform to the north, becoming more undulating and northward sloping to the south to face Basingstoke;
- Predominantly large-scale farmland, lacking a distinctive sense of place;
- Provides landscape setting for the western and southern parts of Basingstoke, whilst the western quarter of the area lies within the North Wessex Downs AONB. Urban influences affect much of the area, with Weybrook golf course to the north-west of Basingstoke, and Dummer golf course to the south-west of Basingstoke, and significant noise intrusion from the M3 motorway and A-roads;
- Open character formed by large-scale, arable fields, the mix of track-bound fields, large wavy-edged fields and parliamentary fields reflecting enclosure from post-medieval to 19th century times;
- Low, well-cut hedgerows and very few woodland blocks, although shelter belt planting exists north of Basingstoke, and very occasional remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland exists, especially concentrated in the south of the area;
- High intervisibility within the area due to the lack of woodland or strong hedgerow structure, enabling views of Basingstoke from many parts of the Character Area;
- The Character Area adjoins a number of settlements, including Basingstoke to the east, the village of Sherborne St John to the north-east, Monk Sherborne to the north-west, and the small village of Dummer to the south. The Character Area provides the setting to these settlements and the village Conservation Areas, and helps maintain the separate identities between each settlement. The fields around Battledown Farm within the middle part of the Character Area, also provide part of the separation between Basingstoke and Oakley to the west;
- There is limited settlement within the Character Area itself, the main exceptions being the village of Cliddesden, which is also within a Conservation Area, and hamlet of Broadmere to the east, and part of Wootton St Lawrence to the west. Elsewhere, there are scattered isolated farmsteads, linked by relatively small, narrow roads, contrasting with direct but intrusive road network linking Basingstoke with surrounding areas via the M3 and A-roads. Roman road defines the abrupt, straight, western built edge to Basingstoke, and the M3 corridor marks a similar sharp edge on the southern side;
- Public Rights of Way link Basingstoke to the surrounding countryside, and provide walkers with a sense of tranquillity within the AONB, but views of settlement on slopes facing Basingstoke limit the sense of remoteness;
- Various Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including Woodgarston ring motte, and a Roman site north-west of Woodgarston Farm, within the northern part of the Character Area, north-east of Upper Wootton.

- Intrusion of built development, urban land uses and major roads on the landscape;
- Pressure for housing development, including extensions to Basingstoke and Sherborne St John, encroaching into the Character Area.

GUIDANCE

Basingstoke Down Landscape Aims

The strategic aim for the Basingstoke Down Character Area is to maintain the general openness of the landscape whilst enhancing the integrity of the hedgerow network and condition of existing woodland; limiting the effect of settlement expansion on the landscape and maintaining the separate identities of settlements where possible. Opportunities for enhancement are in management of the hedgerow network and woodland. Areas which are within the AONB or form part of its setting should be considered with regard to the landscape, land management and development key issues and policies set out in the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan, including those related to dark skies, siting of new development and intrusion from certain types of development.

Landscape Guidelines

Land Management

- Conserve, enhance and restore the woodlands through effective long term management and replanting to retain their ecological value, including in particular areas of ancient semi-natural woodland such as Skyers Wood/Mays Copse to the north, and Rowley Copse, Kempshott/Shortwood Copse and Middle Copse to the south;
- Ensure consistent management and restocking of hedgerows across the Character Area, and particularly within extensive open areas, to enhance the hedgerow network;
- Encourage landowners to maintain an appropriate management regime using traditional farming techniques where these will conserve and enhance key landscape features such hedgerows and woodlands, and improve biodiversity through enhanced field margins and chalk grassland;
- Raise awareness of the historic dimension and underlying archaeology of the landscape to landowners and conserve historic elements of the landscape;
- Encourage the use of suitable fence styles, in keeping with the local style or material.

Built Development

- Carefully site new development, ensuring it is consistent with the pattern of existing settlement and limits inappropriate urbanisation of the landscape from expansion of built form, particularly on the edge of Basingstoke;
- Conserve existing historic settlements, and maintain the character of associated conservation areas, including Cliddesden;
- Limit the effect of development on the separate identities of Sherborne St John, Oakley and Basingstoke by retaining existing landscape structure including boundary hedges and trees in the area, to help to retain essential gaps between settlements;
- Encourage any new built development to use locally characteristic building forms and include sympathetic contemporary architecture, through high quality detailing, architectural features, and use of natural building materials;
- Avoid the location of new large or bulky structures where visually intrusive on this Character Area. Subject any development to rigorous landscape and visual impact assessment, site carefully, and design to minimise impact and integrate with the rural context;
- Conserve the rural roads lanes, minimising small-scale incremental change such as signage, fencing and kerbing, or improvements to the road network which could change their character. Promote the use of traditional signage features with particular regard to local style and materials;
- Ensure that road lighting schemes are assessed for visual impact and encourage conservation of the existing 'dark skies' on the skyline.

Key Issues

- Under-management of some ancient semi-natural woodlands;
- Weakened hedgerow structure across the more extensive, open landscape types, resulting from previous hedgerow removal;
- Decline in extent of unimproved chalk grassland and sheep pasture through scrub encroachment and agricultural improvement, particularly conversion to arable farmland;
- Areas of intensive farming with low biodiversity levels;
- Management of grass field margins, road verges, hedgebanks, and uncultivated buffer strips adjacent to sensitive wildlife habitats to maintain or increase biodiversity;

Appendix B

**Descriptions of Local Landscape Character Areas, as identified
in the Basingstoke, Tadley and Bramley Landscape Capacity
Study (February 2008)**

APPENDIX A – DETAILED LANDSCAPE CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS OF CHARACTER AREAS.

Area: **BASINGSTOKE**

Local Character Area: **BA1 – Sherborne St John Slopes**

It should be noted that the overall assessment given to any area does not mean that the assessment applies to the whole area – it may apply to one part of it. Further detailed assessment of the areas will be required as part of the next stage of the development of the Local Development Framework.

SUMMARY OF OVERALL LANDSCAPE CAPACITY

Landscape Capacity of Area: **LOW**

This area is partly located on the slopes beyond a ridge on the northern edge of Basingstoke and as a consequence is relatively prominent; a quality that is highlighted by its generally open character. This area is also important as a settlement gap, separating the town from Sherborne St John. To the west in particular, the openness and the vegetation character also means that mitigation is not appropriate.

Landscape Sensitivity: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

Natural Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Cultural Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Landscape Quality and Condition:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Aesthetic Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium				

Summary of Characteristics

- Gently sloping landform from a significant ridge along southern boundary
- Mixed farmland/paddocks with little woodland; hedges in varying condition and limited across area; occasional farmsteads; A340 forms western boundary; minor roads and footpaths cross the area.
- Elements produce an open landscape, enclosed by surrounding landform and vegetation
- Unified large scale landscape with few discordant features within it
- Parliamentary fields are a common historic landscape type in the area
- The area is representative of the wider landscape character although there has been some hedge removal
- The ridgeline along the southern boundary is a significant feature in relation to the skyline.

Visual Sensitivity: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

General Visibility:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Population:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Mitigation Potential:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium/High				

Summary of Characteristics

- Long distance views through the area of a generally rural landscape; landform and vegetation screen many views of Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, respectively, whilst garden vegetation and roadside hedges give a soft edge to Sherborne St John. Beyond the site to the east there are views of new development at Popley
- The ridge along the southern boundary is a significant feature providing visual separation between the village and Basingstoke.
- There are a number of properties along the edge of the village looking over this character area. In addition there is a network of roads and footpaths.
- Given this is an open landscape with a relatively intact character, there is limited potential for mitigation, as the introduction of new areas of screen planting would have an adverse impact on an area which contains little woodland.

Landscape Value: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

Designations:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Perceptual Aspects:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Settlement Edge:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Local Associations:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium/High				

Summary of Characteristics

- This area is very significant in relation to maintaining physical separation between Basingstoke and Sherborne St John. There are no features to the north of the ridge that development could extend to without adversely affecting the setting of the village.
- Whilst there are no designations in the area, the south-eastern corner abuts Carpenter's Down, a significant SINC.
- The proximity of the A340 and settlements limit the sense of tranquillity, although it is a sloping landform with a unified farming character that does have some scenic beauty.

Landscape Capacity Study – Final Assessment

Area: BASINGSTOKE
Local Character Area: BA2 – Southern Weybrook Slopes

It should be noted that the overall assessment given to any area does not mean that the assessment applies to the whole area – it may apply to one part of it. Further detailed assessment of the areas will be required as part of the next stage of the development of the Local Development Framework.

SUMMARY OF OVERALL LANDSCAPE CAPACITY

Landscape Capacity of Area: LOW

This area lies to the north-western edge of Basingstoke beyond a belt of mature beech trees that create a distinctive boundary between the built area and open countryside beyond. Much of the land slopes towards the countryside and this influences the character. The area is open in character with many longer distance views, particularly to the north and is close to the North Wessex Downs AONB. The lack of significant woodland in the area itself limits the appropriateness of mitigation planting.

Landscape Sensitivity: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

Natural Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Cultural Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Landscape Quality and Condition:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Aesthetic Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium/high				

Summary of Characteristics

- Landform varies from rolling in the elevated southern part of the area to a more noticeable slope which falls to the northern boundary and Weybrook (beyond the site).
- Land use comprises mixed farmland and a golf course. The A340 and A339 (both trunk roads, define parts of two boundaries. Linear development is located along the north-eastern boundary and there is a network of footpaths in the area.
- There is little woodland in the area although a number of hedges, some with trees and vegetation within the golf course. The Spinney is a notable belt of mature beech defining the edge of development in Basingstoke.
- The area is very representative of the wider landscape character area although the development of the golf course has affected its intactness.
- The landform and lack of significant vegetation within the area results in an open landscape. The continuity of farmland beyond the site does result in a strong rural character to this area, with the edge of Basingstoke having a limited influence.
- The landform does have an impact on the local skyline.

Visual Sensitivity: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

General Visibility:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Population:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Mitigation Potential:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium				

Summary of Characteristics

- There are generally longer distance views from the southern part of the area, across the adjacent countryside. Views are more enclosed to the north.
- The Spinney is a significant feature and contains the urban appearance of Basingstoke.
- The A340/A339 are busy roads and there is a network of rights of way.
- The open nature of this landscape and the lack of an existing vegetation structure suggest that there is not a great potential for extensive mitigation.

Landscape Value: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

Designations:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Perceptual Aspects:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Settlement Edge:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Local Associations:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium/High				

Summary of Characteristics

- The North Wessex Downs AONB boundary is about 500 metres from the site and given the open character of the area, it is considered that this area has an impact on this designation
- The golf course, the two main roads and the proximity to Basingstoke limit tranquillity in this area, although the rural farming landscape does have scenic beauty.
- This area is significant in defining the physical edge of Basingstoke. The extent and height of the trees within the Spinney provide clear definition between the urban and rural areas.
- Part of the route of a Roman Road runs along the eastern boundary of the site.

Landscape Capacity Study – Final Assessment

Area: BASINGSTOKE

Local Character Area: BA3 – Vyne Mosaic

It should be noted that the overall assessment given to any area does not mean that the assessment applies to the whole area – it may apply to one part of it. Further detailed assessment of the areas will be required as part of the next stage of the development of the Local Development Framework.

SUMMARY OF OVERALL LANDSCAPE CAPACITY

Landscape Capacity of Area: LOW

This area has a strong and intact rural character. There are extensive areas of woodland, many designated, which along with the gently undulating landscape create a small scale character. This is augmented by the well kept Vyne House and associated parkland and as a consequence the capacity of this landscape is low.

Landscape Sensitivity: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

Natural Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Cultural Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Landscape Quality and Condition:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Aesthetic Factors:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium /High				

Summary of Characteristics

- This is an undulating landscape, more gentle in the north and with a number of local highpoints to the south.
- There are large areas of woodland throughout along with parkland trees.
- Vyne House (Grade 1 Listed Building and Park) and its grounds are located within the area, along with areas of arable farmland. The A340 passes through the western end of the site in addition to occasional minor roads. There is a network of paths.
- The area is very typical of the wider landscape character, in addition to being intact and in a good state of repair.
- The woodland, parkland and farmland all combine to create a strong rural pattern with few discordant elements.

Visual Sensitivity: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

General Visibility:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Population:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Mitigation Potential:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium				

Summary of Characteristics

- The extent of woodland limits views to near distance, except for a few areas on higher ground to the south.
- Key views exist towards Vyne House.
- Although this area is more remote from settlement, The Vyne is a well used visitor attraction and footpaths are well used.
- Given the extent of woodland, it is considered that there is some potential for mitigation in this area.

Landscape Value: (Low, Low/Medium, Medium, Medium/High or High)

Designations:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Perceptual Aspects:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Settlement Edge:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
Local Associations:	L	L/M	M	M/H	H
OVERALL	Medium/High				

Summary of Characteristics

- Vyne House is a Grade 1 listed Building and Garden and there are 9 SINCs covering a large extent of the area.
- The A340 limits tranquillity towards the western part; however, it is greater to the east, which also has a higher level of scenic beauty.
- This area has a limited impact on the settlement edge of Sherborne St John.

Appendix C

Potential Key Views Identified through a Community Engagement Questionnaire

Viewpoint	Recommended Key View	Key View identified through community consultation (with % preference)
VP1	View looking north and northwest from Cranesfield Play Area	Views into fields and open countryside from Cranesfield play park (9.4%)
VP2	View looking northeast across village pond	View from village pond across the pond into the fields and countryside (10.9%)
VP3	View looking north and northeast from public footpath leading to Wey Brook	
VP4	View looking east and southeast from public footpath along Wey Brook	Views from the public footpaths by the watercress meadows, i.e. footpath from Mill House to West End (10.2%)
VP5	View looking south towards village from public footpath along Wey Brook	
VP6	View looking west and southwest towards western part of village	
VP7	View looking west and northwest from public footpath leading down to Mill House	Views from public footpath on the hill at Mill House back towards the village (10.6%)
VP8	View looking west and southwest from public footpath near sewage works	Views from the public footpaths by the sewage works back into the village (8.7%)
VP9	View looking east from Chute Recreation Ground	Views across the fields from the Chute Recreation Ground and adjoining footpath (10.7%)
VP10	View looking south from public footpath between Spier's Copse and Chute Recreation Ground	
VP11	View looking southeast across Vidlers Field from public footpath near the Swan Public House	Views across Vidlers Field from the footpath from the Swan Public House (9.7%)
VP12	View looking northwest from Sherborne Road	
VP13	View looking northeast from public footpath between Aldermaston Road and Sherborne Road	
VP14	View looking east and northeast from Elm Road	
VP15	View looking south from public footpath heading	View from Dixon`s Corner footpath across the golf course

Viewpoint	Recommended Key View	Key View identified through community consultation (with % preference)
	west from Dixon`s Corner	(8.1%)
VP16	View looking south from public footpath heading south to Kiln Farm	
VP17	View looking north from The Spinney footpath alongside Aldermaston Road	
		Key Views identified through community consultation (with % preference) but not taken forward as a key view
		Views from the top of Vyne Road across to Egerton woods (9.8%)
		View from cemetery into open fields and countryside (9.5%)

Appendix D

Photographs of Key Views



Photograph 1

View looking north and northeast from Cranesfield play park



Photograph 2

View looking northwest across village pond



Photograph 3

View looking north and northeast from public footpath heading to Morgaston Wood



Photograph 4

View looking east and southeast from public footpath along Wey Brook



Photograph 5

View looking south from public footpath along Wey Brook



Photograph 6

View looking west and southwest towards western part of village



Photograph 7

View looking west and northwest from public footpath leading down to Mill House



Photograph 8

View looking west and southwest from public footpath near sewage works



Photograph 9
View looking east from Chute Recreation Ground



Photograph 10
View looking south from public footpath between Spier's Copse and Chute Recreation Ground



Photograph 11

View looking southeast across Vidlers Field from public footpath near the Swan Public House



Photograph 12

View looking northwest from Sherborne Road/Chineham Lane junction



Photograph 13

View looking northeast from public footpath between Aldermaston Road and Sherborne Road



Photograph 14

View looking east and northeast from Elm Road



Photograph 15
View looking south from public footpath heading west from Dixon's Corner



Photograph 16
View looking east to south from footpath on northern side of track to Kiln Farm



Photograph 17

View looking north to northeast from footpath alongside Aldermaston Road (The Spinney Viewpoint)

Scarp landscape architecture
environmental planning

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