

**Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB  
Historic Landscape Characterisation Project**

**SECTION 5:  
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE  
DESCRIPTIONS**



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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## 5.1 Summary

This section contains descriptions of each Historic Landscape Type identified in the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB.

Each polygon/parcel of land in the dataset is allocated a Current Historic Landscape Type. This type represents the historic landscape character present in the modern day landscape.

Polygons/parcels of land which share the same Current Historic Landscape Type can be separated spatially but they share the same generic morphology and land use history.

Each Historic Landscape Type exists as a series of nested layers. This hierarchical structure consists of four levels: Broad Type, Major Type, Subtype 1 and Subtype 2.

If there is time depth present any polygon/parcel of land can be assigned up to three Previous Historic Landscape Types where evidence for previous land uses survive in the modern day landscape. These also exist as a series of nested layers.

For more detail see Section 4 Methodology

## 5.2 Historic Landscape Type Descriptions

For ease of reference the Historic Landscape Type Descriptions have been split into sections by Broad Type: -

- Type 1 Enclosed Land
- Type 2 Open Land
- Type 3 Woodland
- Type 4 Water
- Type 5 Settlement
- Type 6 Parkland and Designed
- Type 7 Recreation
- Type 8 Industry
- Type 9 Inland Communications
- Type 10 Military
- Type 11 Civic
- Type 12 Archaeology

Each section includes a general introduction to the Broad Type, and a organisational chart illustrating the hierarchy of Historic Landscape Types which are nested under each Broad Historic Landscape Type. A description of each Historic Landscape Type at each level starting with the highest (i.e. Broad Type) is then included.

Each Historic Landscape Type description at each level contains the following elements:

1. **Distribution Map** – showing the distribution of the type across the AONB
2. **Introduction** – short description of type, and short discussion of how source was identified

3. **Distribution** – text based description of the distribution of the type across the AONB (see section 5.3)
4. **Principal Historical Processes** – the key historic factors which have lead to the creation of the type
5. **Typical Historical/Archaeological Components** – the attributes and components with which this type is a associated
6. **Rarity** – a measure of how rare or common this type is both across the AONB and more locally (see section 5.3 for further discussion)
7. **Survival** – The main factors leading to the retention and/or loss of this type.
8. **Degree of Surviving Coherence of the Historic Landscape Components** – a description of how coherent the attributes which combine to make this type appear.
9. **Past Interaction with Other Types** – the other Historic Landscape Types with which this Type is commonly associated.
10. **Evidence for Time Depth** – a discussion of the Previous Historic Landscape Types allocated alongside this Type
11. **Contribution to Present Landscape Character** – the extent to which the Type makes a contribution to present landscape character both at a AONB wide and a local scale.
12. **Key Statistics.** These include: -
  - 12.1. **Total Area** – Year 2007 coverage in hectares; % of AONB covered
  - 12.2. **Number of Polygons** – number of GIS polygons/land parcels in hectares; % of total polygons
  - 12.3. **Average Polygon Size** – average size of GIS polygon/land parcels in hectares
  - 12.4. **Occurrence** – assessed relative to other Historic Landscape Types as a measure of how common place or rare the Type is across the AONB as a whole. See section 5.3 for further discussion.
  - 12.5. **Previous Coverage** - the total area in hectares in the AONB at the period in which this Historic Landscape Type is most prevalent in the dataset; % of the total AONB covered
  - 12.6. **Total Recorded Coverage** – the total area in hectares in the AONB that has been allocated this Historic Landscape Type at any identified point in time; % of the AONB covered
13. **Constituent Types** – the Major Type or Subtype 1 or Subtype 2 which make up this Type.
14. **Parent Type** – the Broad Type or Major Type or Subtype 1 to which this Type belongs
15. **Suggested Sources** – references both text and web based relevant to this Historic Landscape Type

### 5.3 Describing the Distributions of HLC Types

A key aspect of creating Historic Landscape Type descriptions is being able to describe the distributions of each Type in a consistent and comparable manner. This has been achieved by following four stages when describing the distribution of each type.

The distribution of particular types has been described in relation to key features in the AONB. These include the locations of the A Roads, rivers, ancient parishes, villages, market towns, and Landscape Character Types and Areas. The reference maps in section 5.5 are crucial if the Historic Landscape Type descriptions are to be followed.

#### STAGE ONE

The first stage is to calculate the statistical occurrence of each Historic Landscape Type across the AONB as a whole, relative to other types. The % of the total area of the AONB that the Historic Landscape Type covers is calculated and then the Type is allocated one of the following categories: -

<b>% of the AONB that the Historic Landscape Type Covers</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>
Less than 0.01 % of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Very Rare</b>
Greater than 0.01% to 0.1% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Rare</b>
Greater than 0.1% to 1% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Scarce</b>
Greater than 1% to 5% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Uncommon</b>
Greater than 5% to 10% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Occasional</b>
Greater than 10% to 20% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Frequent</b>
Greater than 20% to 30% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Common</b>
Greater than 40% of the Total Area of the AONB	<b>Abundant</b>

The occurrence type is then added to the Key Statistics section in the Historic Landscape Type descriptions (see section 5.2 above).

However a Historic Landscape Type could be common statistically, but restricted to a particular location, or alternatively scarce but spread over the entire AONB. There needs to a consistent way to describe the unique **spatial** distribution of each Type. Each distribution has been described, therefore, using the following additional stages.

#### STAGE TWO

Is the distribution: -

- 1) **Widespread**, and if so are there any voids in the distribution? Where are the voids located? Is the distribution patchy?
- 2) **Restricted** to specific areas or places? If so, where are these areas/places located?

Is the distribution of the Historic Landscape Type: -

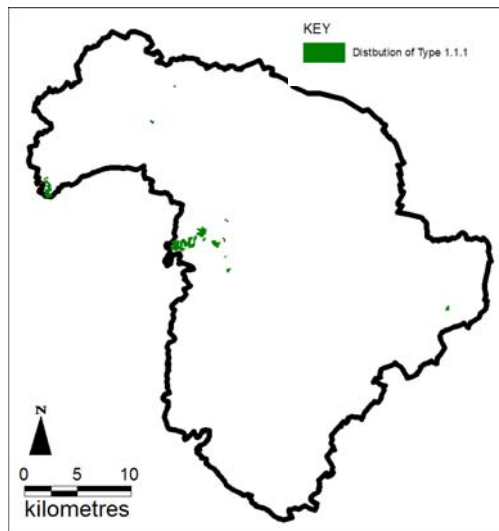
- 1) Found in **dense groupings or clusters**? If so, are the blocks linear? Are they interspersed with other types? Do they vary in size spatially?
- 2) Found in **dispersed groupings**? If so, do these vary in size spatially?

### STAGE THREE

Regarding the category of occurrence allocated to each type, are there particular localities which are different to the overall pattern? Are there areas in which the Historic Landscape Type is **locally common** or **locally scarce**? If so, where are these areas located?

These local patterns of occurrence will not be described with the same detail as seen in Stage One as this is a visual identification rather than a statistical calculation.

### EXAMPLE OF DESCRIBING HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPE DISTRIBUTIONS



#### Map showing distribution of Type 1.1.1

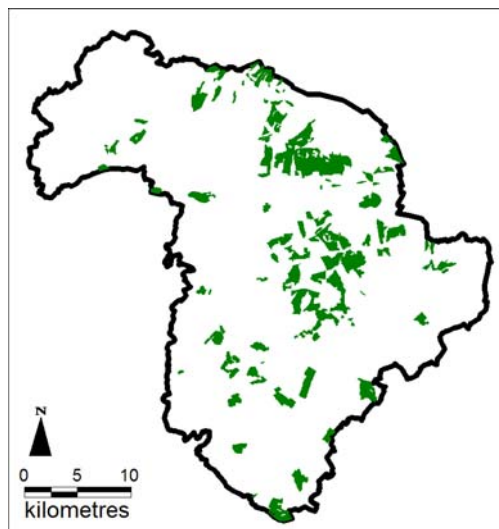
This type covers 433.16 hectares in the AONB or 0.44% of the total area.

Stage One: Occurrence is **rare**.

Stage Two: **Restricted distribution**, in area to the north of Shaftesbury and in the area around Selwood.

Stage Three: **Dense clusters**, in area to north of Shaftesbury the type is formed of nearly one complete block becoming more dispersed towards the eastern side.

Stage Four – **Locally common** in two locations.



#### Map showing distribution of type 1.2.1

This type covers 9602 hectares in the AONB or 9.75% of the Total Area.

Stage One: Occurrence is **Occasional**

Stage Two: **Widespread but patchy distribution** with **voids** in the western West Wiltshire Downs, the Greensand Hills and the western Vale of Wardour.

Stage Three: **Dense clusters** within the main areas of distribution, these are more interspersed with other types in the centre of the AONB.

Stage Four: **Locally rare** on the western side of the AONB. **Locally common** on the eastern side of the West Wiltshire Downs and on the sides of the Ebbel Valley.

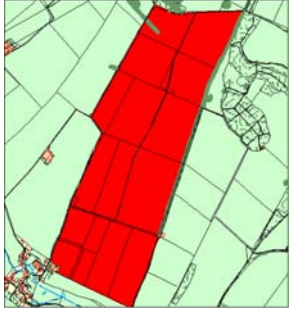



## 5.4 Describing the Morphology of Particular HLC Types

Historic Landscape Types which relate to Enclosed Land, Settlement and Boundary have elements of their morphology recorded (see Section 4 Methodology).





These are recorded for each polygon/land parcel but together are used to describe the generic morphology of each Historic Landscape Type.

### 5.4.1 Enclosed Land

**Stage One.** One of four generic **morphological patterns** is allocated to each parcel/polygon of fields. This describes the general character of each polygon as it is not possible to record the attributes of every single field in the time available.

Morphology of Fields	Description	Example
1. Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trapezoidal</li> <li>▪ Often two parallel sides</li> <li>▪ Grid like groups of fields</li> <li>▪ Fields share common axis</li> <li>▪ Often indicative of large scale planned groups of fields</li> </ul>	
2. Semi-Irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Often four sided</li> <li>▪ Share common alignment</li> <li>▪ Tend to be evenly sized</li> <li>▪ Skewed shapes</li> <li>▪ Not grid like</li> </ul>	
3. Irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irregular shapes</li> <li>▪ Can have more than four sides</li> <li>▪ No common layout</li> <li>▪ No common axis</li> </ul>	
4. Sinuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wavy fields</li> <li>▪ Long and thin</li> <li>▪ Share common axis</li> </ul>	



**Stage Two.** One of four generic **boundary morphologies** is allocated to each parcel/polygon of fields. This describes the overriding form of boundary present. Within a parcel of fields several different boundary morphologies may be present, but this records the dominant form. It is possible to have any combination of Field Morphology and Boundary Morphology. Certain combinations are more common, fields with a regular morphology, for example, are likely to be associated with straight field boundaries.

Field Boundary	Description	Example
1. Straight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ruler straight</li> <li>▪ Regular Corners</li> <li>▪ Often continue for several fields</li> </ul>	
2. Jointed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small straight lengths</li> <li>▪ Kinks or zigzags</li> <li>▪ Form Irregular corners</li> </ul>	
3. Curving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curving boundaries</li> <li>▪ Irregular corners</li> <li>▪ Often follow features such as streams, rivers and the edge of woodland</li> </ul>	
4. Wavy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wavy boundaries</li> <li>▪ Curves change directions at least twice</li> <li>▪ Tapering corners</li> </ul>	





### 5.4.2 Woodland



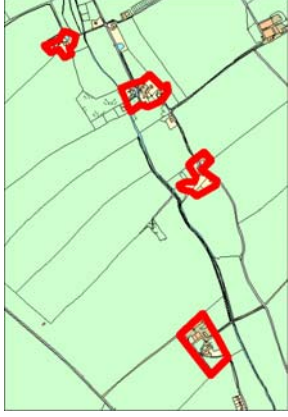

One of two generic morphological patterns is allocated to each polygon/parcel of woodland.

Woodland Morphology	Description	Example
1. Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular geometric shape</li> <li>▪ Often straight boundaries</li> <li>▪ Often indicative of planned woodland plots and plantations</li> </ul>	
2. Irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irregular often rounded shapes</li> <li>▪ Often indicative of semi-natural woodland</li> <li>▪ Often curving boundaries</li> </ul>	

### 5.4.3 Settlement

One of six generic morphological patterns is allocated to each polygon/parcel of settlement

Settlement Morphology	Description	Example
1. Nucleated Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agglomerated Settlement grouped around a single point, often a green, market place, church or manor house.</li> </ul>	
2. Nucleated Rows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linear Settlements arranged contiguously along a road.</li> <li>▪ The plots can be of regular width.</li> </ul>	

Settlement Morphology	Description	Example
3. Planned Nucleated Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agglomerated Settlements which have been planned as one block.</li> </ul>	
4. Interrupted Rows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dispersed Settlements intermittently found along a Routeway.</li> <li>▪ Settlement plots interspersed with fields.</li> </ul>	
5. Farm Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Groups of farms or farm buildings forming a subtle but discernable settlement pattern.</li> <li>▪ These can be regular spaced or clustered around a central point.</li> <li>▪ They can also be regularly sized, reflecting a consistent holding size.</li> </ul>	
6. Isolated Farmstead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farm situated away from other settlement.</li> </ul>	

## 5.5 Reference Maps

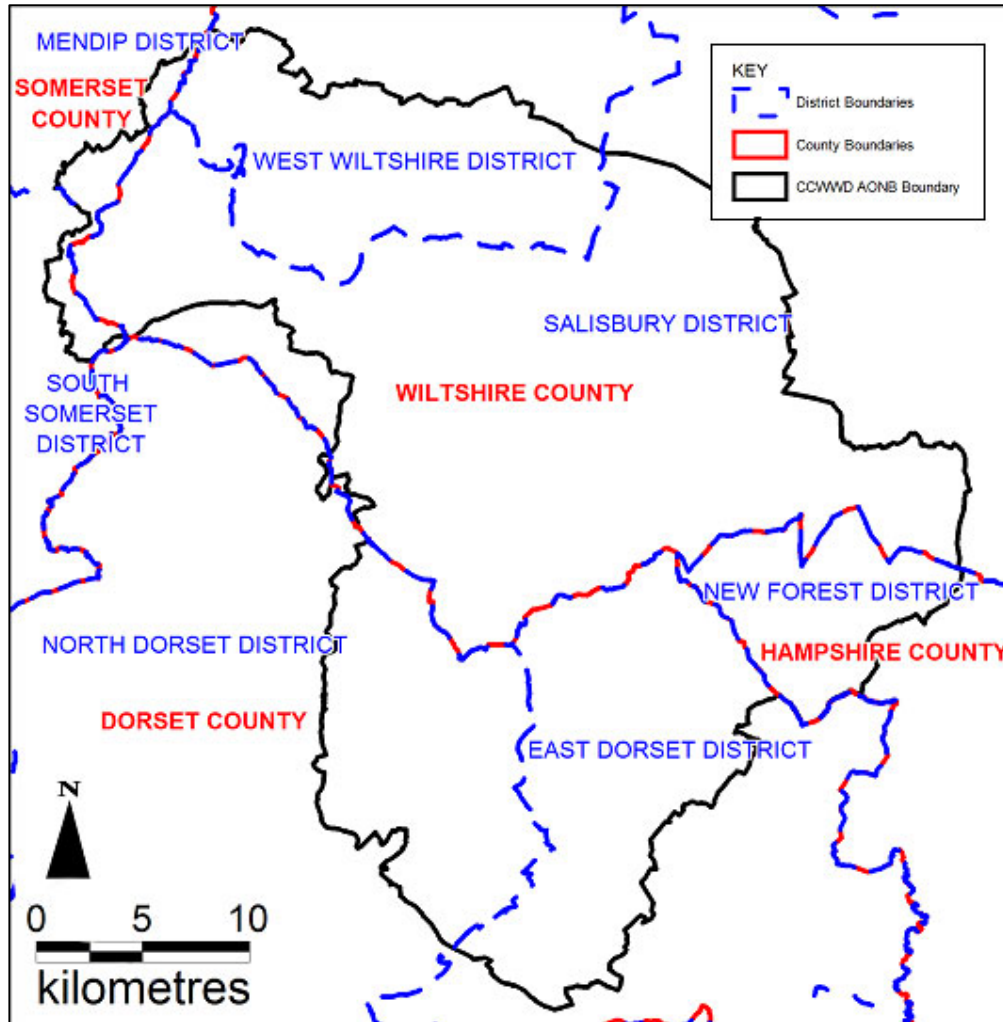
The following reference maps should be used to locate authorities, settlements, rivers, roads, parishes and landscape types and character areas mentioned in the Historic Landscape Type Descriptions.

- Map One**      **General Map showing Local Authority Boundaries**
- Map Two**      **Map showing location of market towns, roads and rivers**
- Map Three**      **Map showing ancient Parish Boundaries**
- Map Four**      **Main villages in the AONB**
- Map Five**      **Landscape Character Types and Character Areas in the AONB**

### **Map One: Local Authority Boundaries**

The AONB covers the administrative areas of eleven Local Authorities: four County Councils – Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset; and seven District Councils – Salisbury, West Wiltshire, East Dorset, North Dorset, New Forest, Mendip, and South Somerset.

**Figure 21: General Map showing Local Authority Boundaries**



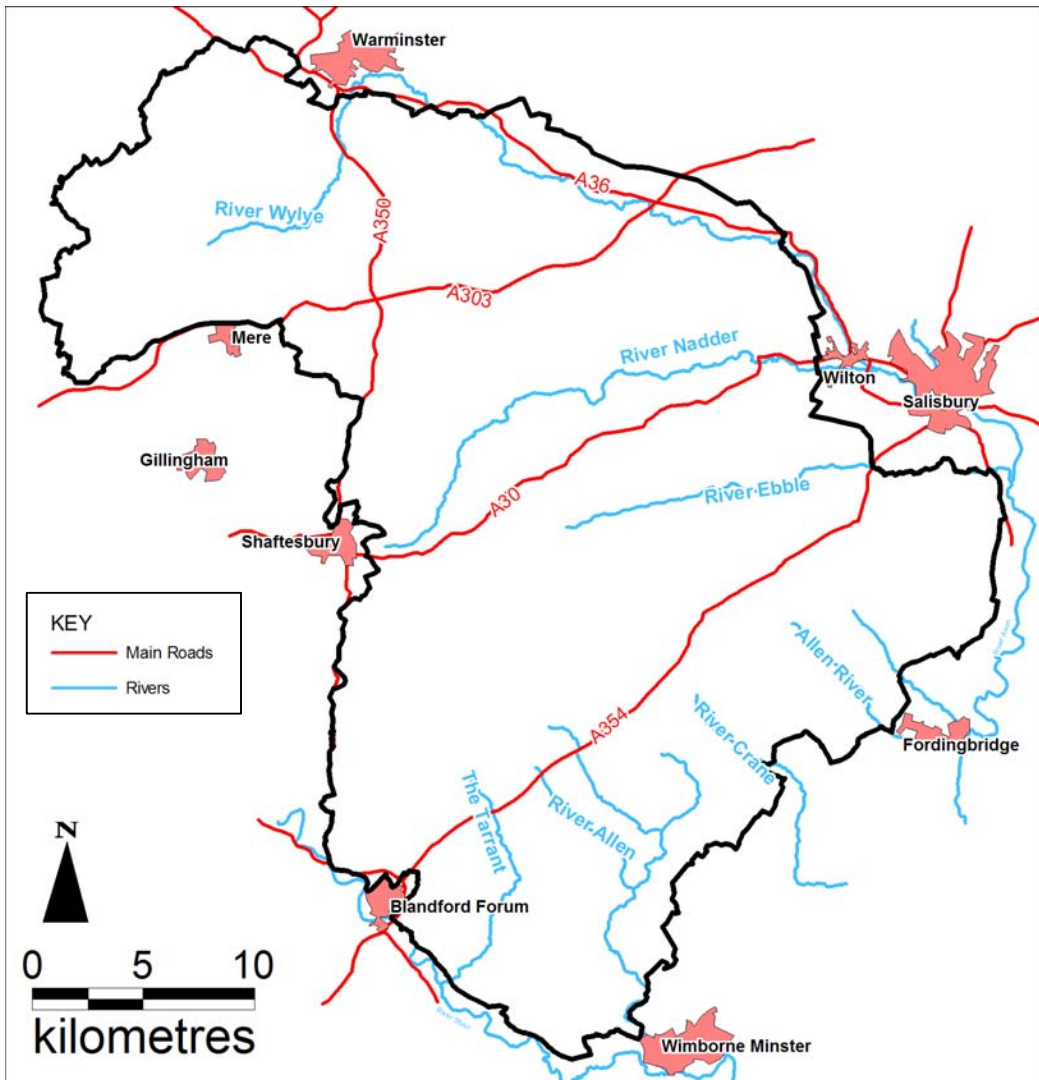
### **Map Two: Market Towns, Main Roads and Rivers**

The AONB is surrounded by country towns including Warminster, Mere, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Blandford Forum, Wimborne Minster, Fordingbridge and the City of Salisbury.

There are five main A Roads crossing the AONB – A350, A303, A36, A30 and the A354.

There are 7 chalk river valleys, the Wylde, Nadder and Ebbel flow from west to east, while the Tarrant, River Allen, Crane and Allen River flow from north to south

Figure 22: Map showing location of market towns, main roads and rivers

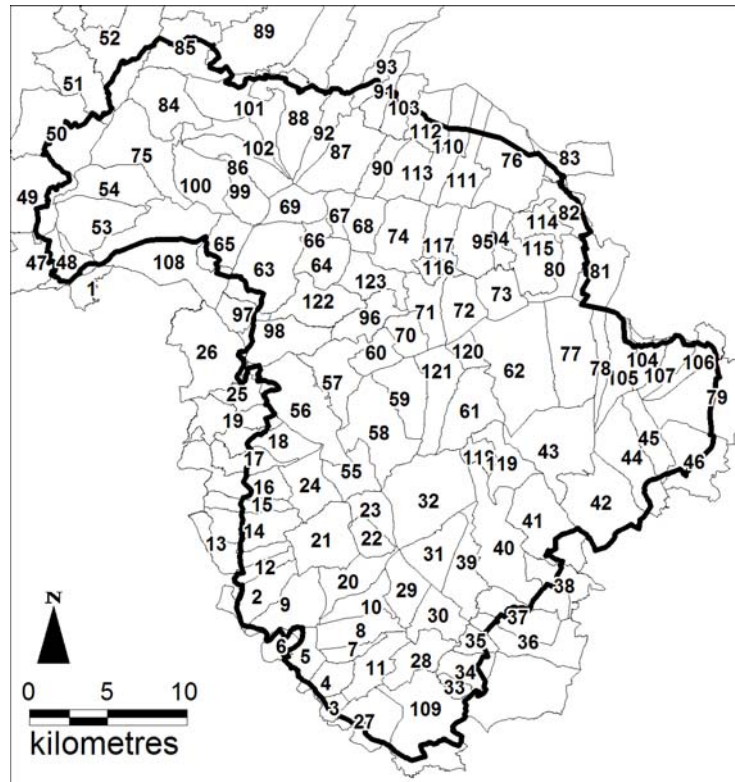


### **Map Three: Ancient Parishes**

In the modern day the AONB is comprised of 104 parishes. Map Three shows the historic boundaries of ancient parishes many of which were merged in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. An ancient parish can be defined as a village or group of villages or hamlets and the adjacent lands.

Civil Parishes were created with the election of parochial boards. They were founded anytime after the sixteenth century, but most commonly between 1845 and 1975. Many boundaries between civil and ecclesiastical parishes diverged after 1845. The Ancient Parish names and boundaries have been used in this discussion as they allow comparison with historic maps.

Figure 23: Map showing Ancient Parish Boundaries in the AONB



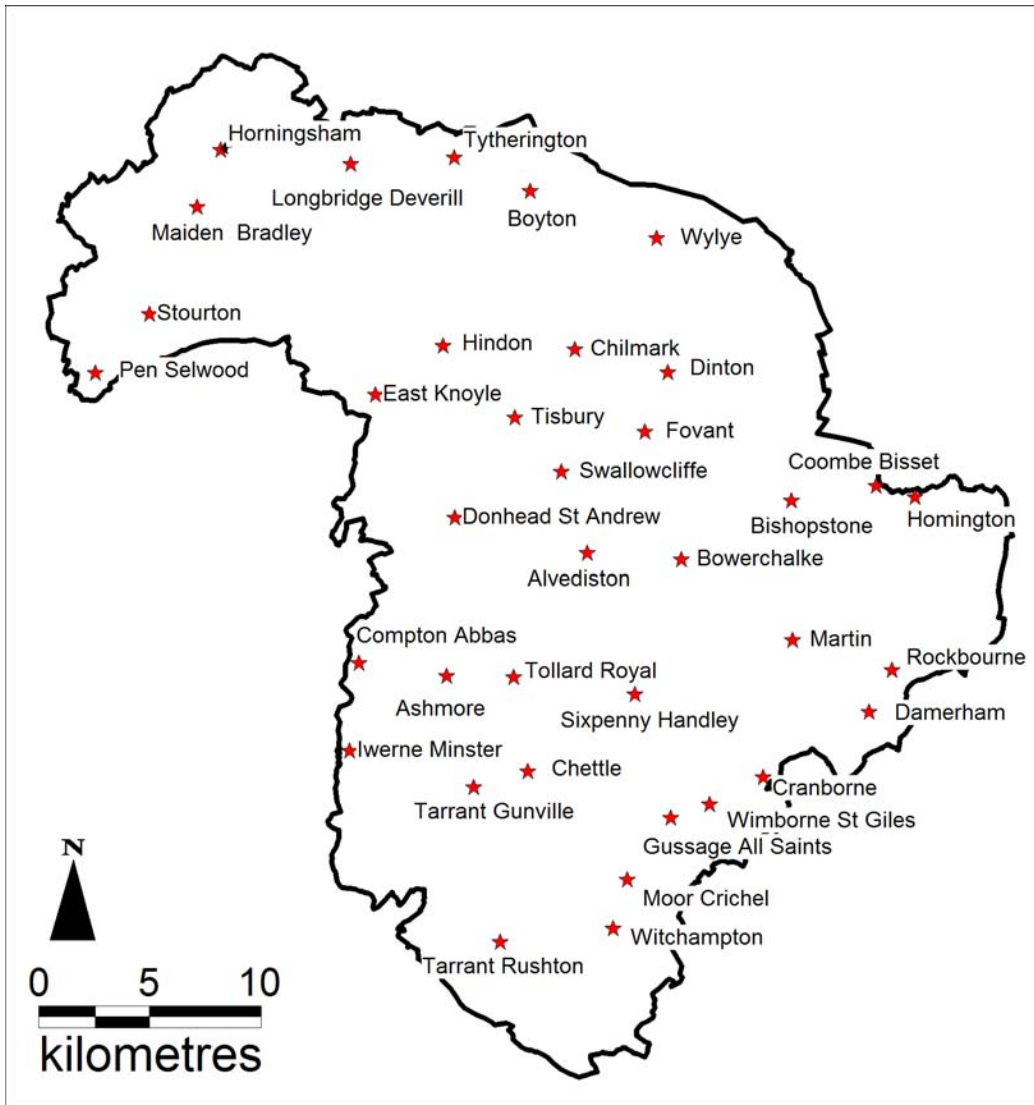
**KEY: Ancient Parishes in the AONB**

- |                        |                        |                                   |                           |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. BOURTON             | 31. GUSSAGE ST MICHAEL | 61. BOWER CHALKE                  | 92. HEYTESBURY            |
| 2. STOURPAINE          | 32. SIXPENNY HANDLEY   | 62. BROAD CHALKE                  | 93. KNOOK                 |
| 3. TARRANT CRAWFORD    | 33. HINTON PARVA       | 63. EAST KNOYLE                   | 94. BAVERSTOCK            |
| 4. TARRANT KEYNESTON   | 34. HINTON MARTELL     | 64. FONTHILL GIFFORD              | 95. DINTON                |
| 5. LANGTON LONG        | 35. CHALBURY           | 65. WEST KNOYLE                   | 96. WARDOUR               |
| 6. BLANDFORD           | 36. HORTON             | 66. HINDON                        | 97. SEDGEHILL             |
| 7. BLANDFORD FORUM     | 37. WOODLANDS          | 67. BERWICK ST LEONARD            | 98. SEMLEY                |
| 8. TARRANT RAWSTON     | 38. EDMONDSHAM         | 68. FONTHILL BISHOP               | 99. MONKTON DEVERILL      |
| 9. TARRANT MONKTON     | 39. GUSSAGE ALL SAINTS | 69. CHICKLADE                     | 100. KINGSTON DEVERILL    |
| 10. PIMPERNE           | 40. WIMBORNE ST GILES  | 70. SWALLOWCLIFFE                 | 101. LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL  |
| 11. TARRANT LAUNCESTON | 41. CRANBORNE          | 71. SUTTON MANDEVILLE             | 102. HILL DEVERILL        |
| 12. TARRANT RUSHTON    | 42. DAMERHAM           | 72. FOVANT                        | 103. CODFORD ST PETER     |
| 13. IWERNE STEPLETON   | 43. MARTIN             | 73. COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE          | 104. HOMINGTON            |
| 14. SHROTON            | 44. ROCKBOURNE         | 74. CHILMARK                      | 105. COOMBE BISSETT       |
| 15. IWERNE MINSTER     | 45. WHITSBURY          | 75. MAIDEN BRADLEY WITH YARNFIELD | 106. NUNTON AND BODENHAM  |
| 16. SUTTON WALDRON     | 46. BREAMORE           | 76. STEEPLE LANGFORD              | 107. ODSTOCK              |
| 17. FONTMELL MAGNA     | 47. CHARLTON MUSGROVE  | 77. BISHOPSTONE                   | 108. MERE                 |
| 18. COMPTON ABBAS      | 48. PEN SELWOOD        | 78. STRATFORD TONY                | 109. WIMBORNE MINSTER     |
| 19. MELBURY ABBAS      | 49. BREWHAM            | 79. DOWNTON                       | 110. FISHERTON DE LA MERE |
| 20. CANN               | 50. WITHAM FRIARY      | 80. BURCOMBE                      | 111. WYLYE                |
| 21. TARRANT HINTON     | 51. TRUDOXHILL         | 81. WILTON                        | 112. CODFORD ST MARY      |
| 22. TARRANT GUNVILLE   | 52. SELWOOD            | 82. GREAT WISHFORD                | 113. STOCKTON             |
| 23. CHETTLE            | 53. STOURTON           | 83. STAPLEFORD                    | 114. GROVELY WOOD         |
| 24. FARNHAM            | 54. KILMINGTON         | 84. HORNINGSHAM                   | 115. BARFORD ST MARTIN    |
| 25. ASHMORE            | 55. TOLLARD ROYAL      | 85. CORSLEY                       | 116. TEFFONT EVIAS        |
| 26. SHAFTESBURY        | 56. DONHEAD ST MARY    | 86. BRIXTON DEVERILL              | 117. TEFFONT MAGNA        |
| 27. MOTCOMBE           | 57. DONHEAD ST ANDREW  | 87. BOYTON                        | 118. WEST WOODYATES       |
| 28. SHAPWICK           | 58. BERWICK ST JOHN    | 88. SUTTON VENY                   | 119. PENTRIDGE            |
| 29. WITCHAMPTON        | 59. ALVEDISTON         | 89. WARMINSTER                    | 120. FIFIELD BAVANT       |
| 30. MOOR CRICHEL       | 60. ANSTY              | 90. SHERRINGTON                   | 121. EBBESBOURNE WAKE     |
|                        |                        | 91. UPTON LOVELL                  | 122. WEST TISBURY         |
|                        |                        |                                   | 123. EAST TISBURY         |

#### **Map Four: Main Villages**

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB is a deeply rural area with scattered villages. There are no large settlements in the AONB. The map above shows the main settlements in the AONB.

**Figure 24: Main Villages in the AONB**



#### **Map 5: Integrated Landscape Character Assessment**

An integrated Landscape Character Assessment of the AONB was completed in 2003. This drew together all the features and attributes that contribute to the distinctive and outstanding character of the AONB.

The AONB is characterised by eight different and distinct landscape types shown in the map above. These have been subdivided into 15 Landscape Character Areas that are smaller discrete areas with a distinct and recognisable local identity.

Full details of the Landscape Character Assessment can be found on the AONB website at [www.cwwdaonb.org.uk/landscape/lca.asp](http://www.cwwdaonb.org.uk/landscape/lca.asp)

**Figure 25: Landscape Character Types and Character Areas in the AONB**

