



Case Study 1: Comparing the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1. Introduction

This case study looks at the distribution and occurrence of Broad and HLC Types across the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) found within Oxfordshire – the Cotswold Hills, the Chiltern Hills, and the North Wessex Downs. It compares and contrasts these three areas and considers the landscape differences between these areas and the rest of the county. This case study, therefore, aims to assess the effect of legislative protection on historic landscape.

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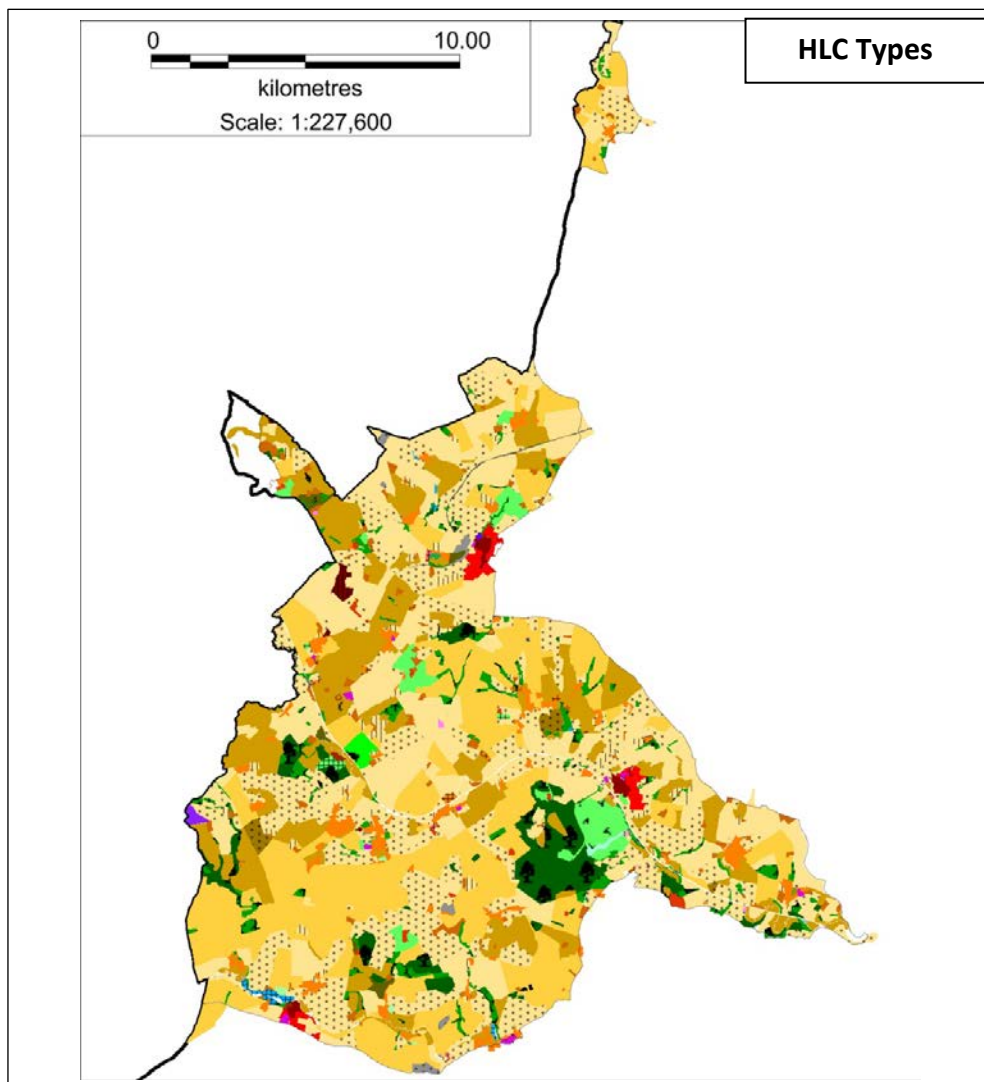
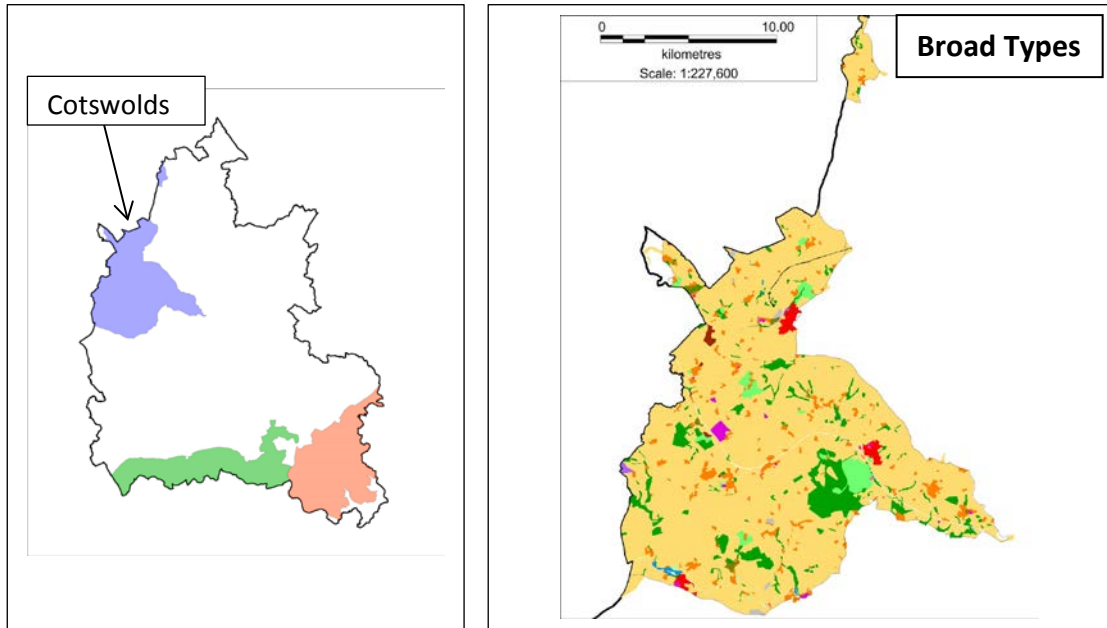
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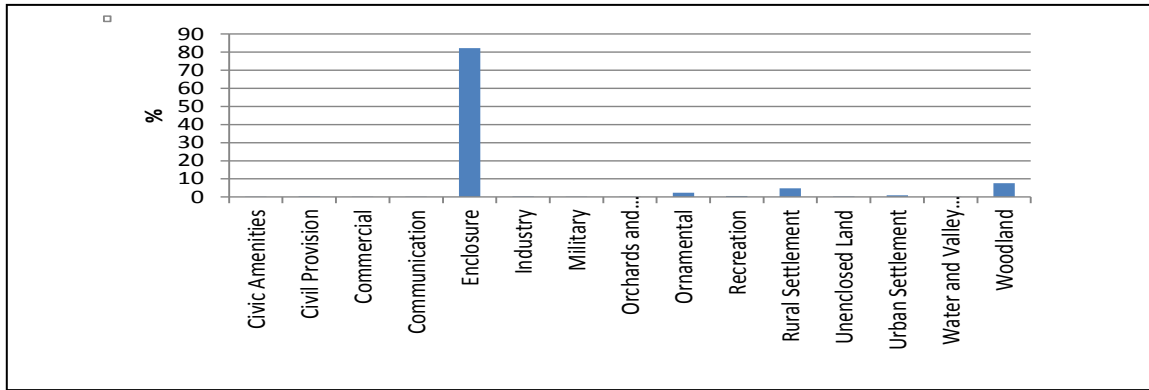
2. Research Questions

- Do the three AONBs comprise of similar landscapes?
- Are these landscapes different to the county in general?
- How does the rate of change in the AONBs compare to that observed in the county in general?



3. Cotswold Hills



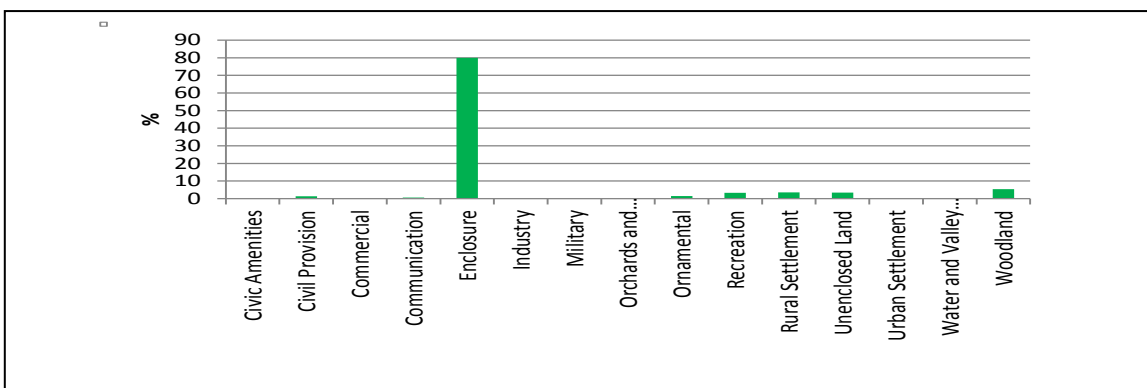
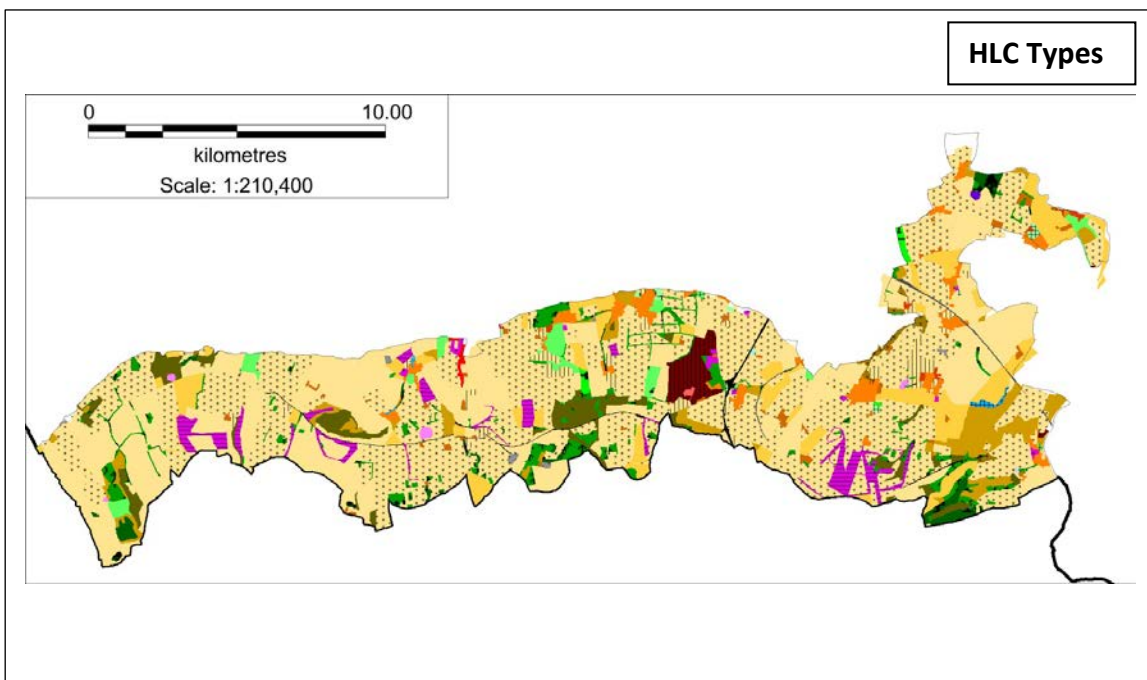
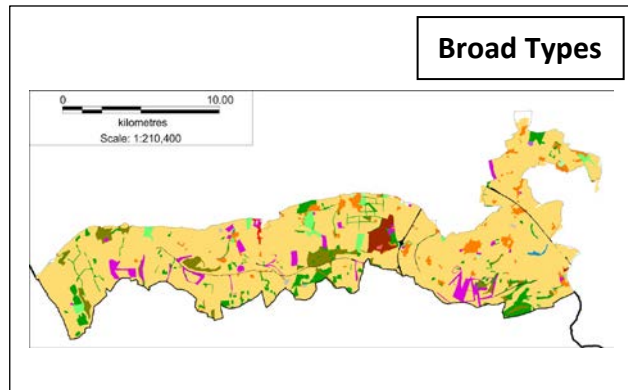
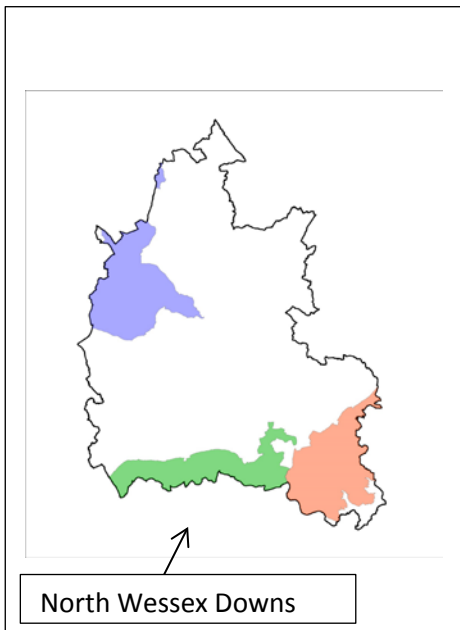


Description

The Cotswolds AONB covers approximately 24,825 hectares of the north-western part of Oxfordshire and includes the towns of Chipping Norton, Burford, and Charlbury as well as many villages and hamlets, such as the Wychwoods and the Rollrights. It is a predominantly rural area, characterised by Enclosures, Woodland, Rural Settlement, and Ornamental Landscapes. Enclosures are the most common Broad Type, accounting for more than 80% of the AONB. Planned Enclosures and Reorganised Enclosures are the most frequently occurring. Woodland Types are predominantly Ancient and include Sargrove Wood, Bruern Wood, and Tangley Woods. There are some large Ornamental Landscapes associated with country houses – at Sarsden, Cornwell, Chastleton, Over Norton, and Great Rollright, to name but a few. The largest is Cornbury Park, a former royal hunting estate and now a grand house, originally built in the 16th century, and deer park. Within the estate, part of the Ancient Wychwood Forest is preserved. Other Broad Types occur in such low numbers or at too small a scale to be captured by this project, that no one type exceeds more than 1% of the AONB.



4. North Wessex Downs

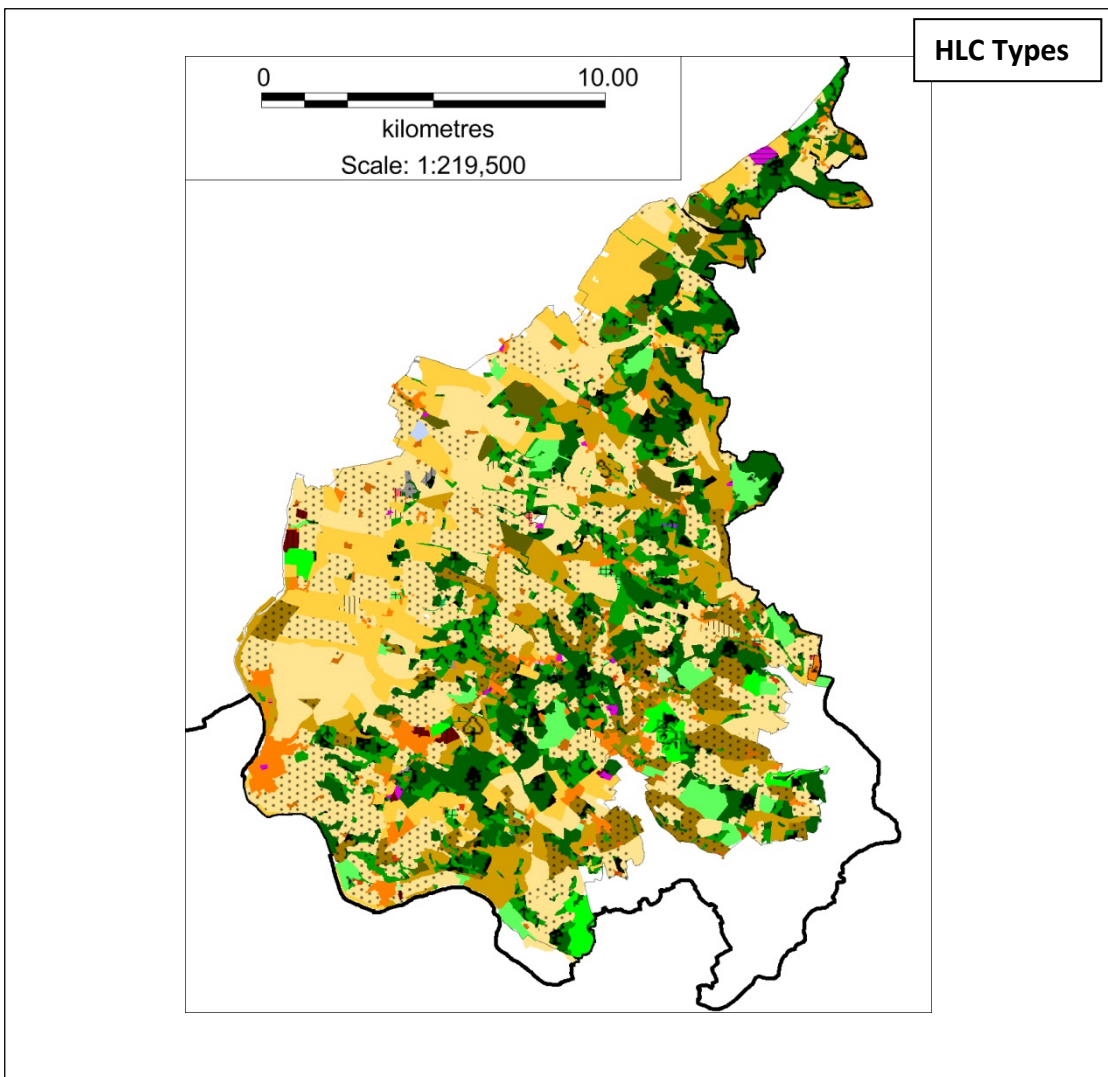
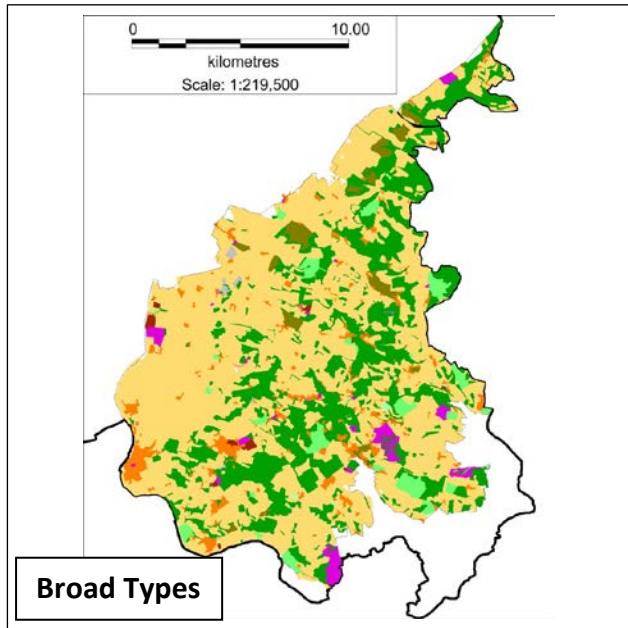
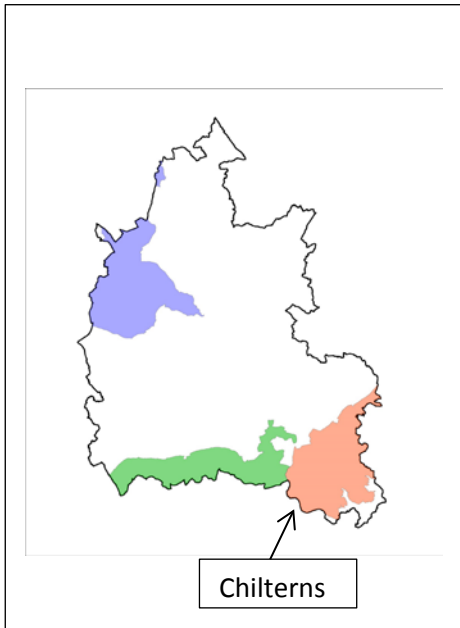


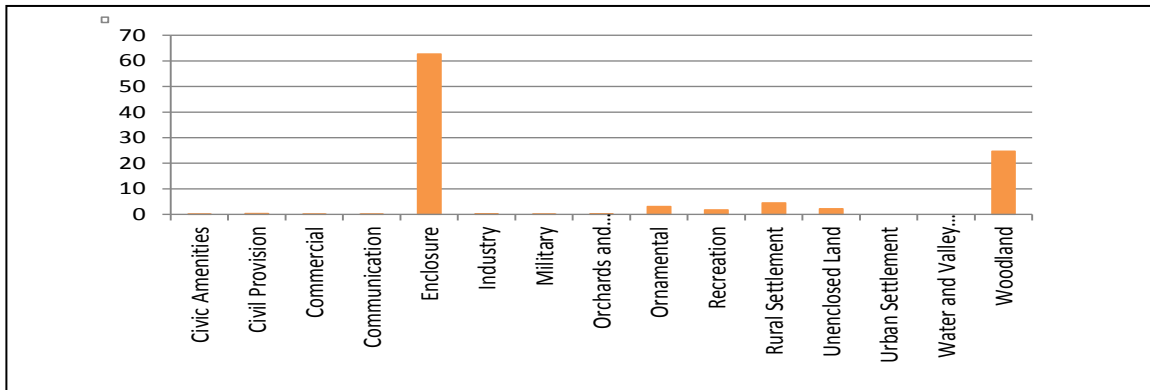
**Description**

The North Wessex Downs AONB covers approximately 18,650 hectares on the southern and south-western edge of Oxfordshire. The AONB does not include any towns in Oxfordshire, skimming only the southern edge of Wantage, but does comprise a number of villages, such as the Hendreds, Blewbury and Aston Tirrold, and Letcombe Regis. It is a predominantly rural area, characterised by Enclosures, Woodland, Unenclosed Land, Rural Settlement, Recreational sites, and Ornamental Landscapes. Enclosures are the most common Broad Type, accounting for 80% of the AONB. Reorganised Enclosures and Prairie Fields are the most dominant types. Woods tend to be Plantations and include those created on Yew Down and Betterton Down and on The Warren. Unenclosed Land is an important component in this landscape, comprising wide areas of Downland which has seen very little modern intervention. Areas include Ardington Down and Cholsey Down and the land surrounding the White Horse at Uffington. Traversing this open ground are a number of gallops and horse riding facilities which account for the high percentage of Recreation Types in the AONB. There are some large Ornamental Landscapes associated with country houses – Ashdown House and Park managed by the National Trust, for example, which was originally built in the 17th century. Another significant feature in this landscape is the large site of Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, a research and business park in the middle of the AONB. Other Broad Types occur in such low numbers or at too small a scale to be captured by this project, that no one type exceeds more than 1% of the AONB.



5. Chiltern Hills



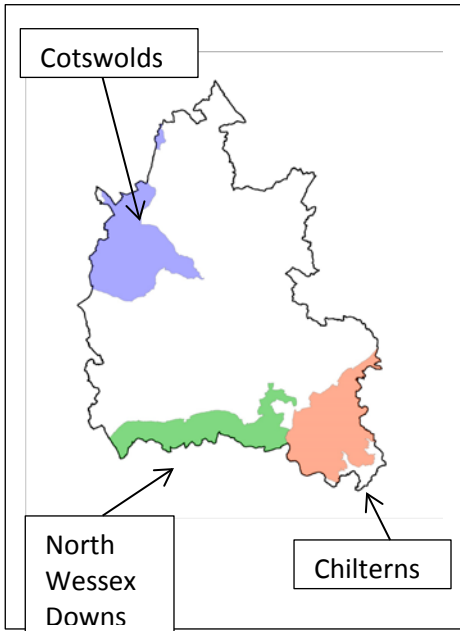


Description

The Chilterns AONB covers approximately 23,160 hectares on the south-eastern edge of Oxfordshire. The AONB does not include any towns in Oxfordshire, skimming only the western edge of Henley-on-Thames, but does comprise a number of villages, such as Stoke Row, Nettlebed, Christmas Common, and Goring to the west, which is quite large. It is a predominantly rural area, characterised by Enclosures, Woodland, Unenclosed Land, Rural Settlement, Recreational sites, and Ornamental Landscapes. Enclosures are the most common Broad Type, accounting for more than 60% of the AONB - Reorganised Enclosures being the most dominant type. Woodland Types are an important part of this landscape and are quite common and tend to be Ancient Wood, including Howe Wood and Shotridge Wood. Unenclosed Land also features largely, comprising areas of Downland on the northern scarp slope of the Chiltern Hills – good examples can be found on a stretch from Bald Hill to Watlington Hill. Large golf courses, for example at Caversham Heath and Greys Green Golf Course, account for the prevalence of Recreation types within the AONB. There are some large Ornamental Landscapes associated with country houses – Greys Court Tudor mansion managed by the National Trust, for example. Other Broad Types occur in such low numbers or at too small a scale to be captured by this project, that no one type exceeds more than 0.5% of the AONB.



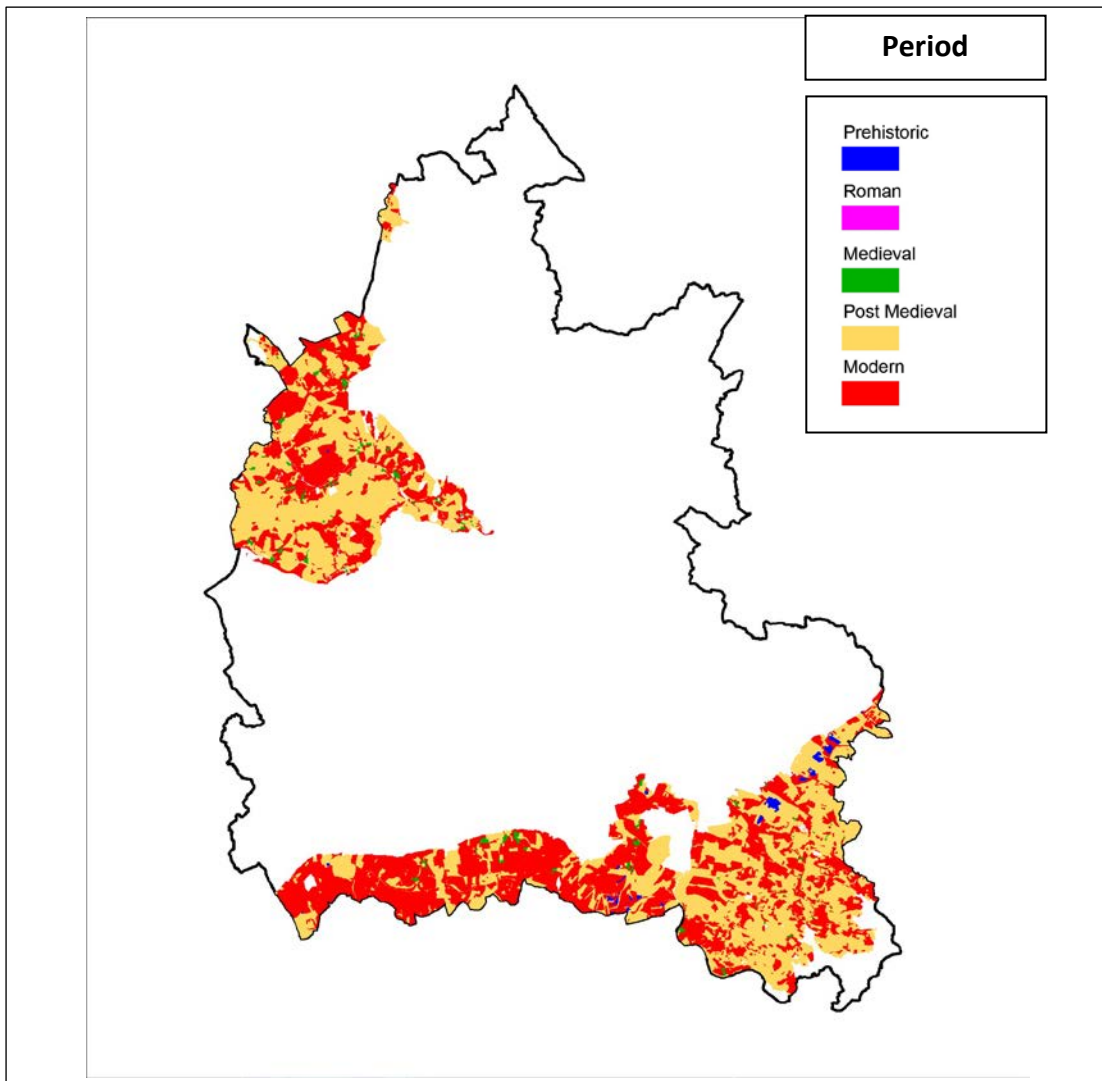
6. Comparing the AONBs and the rest of Oxfordshire

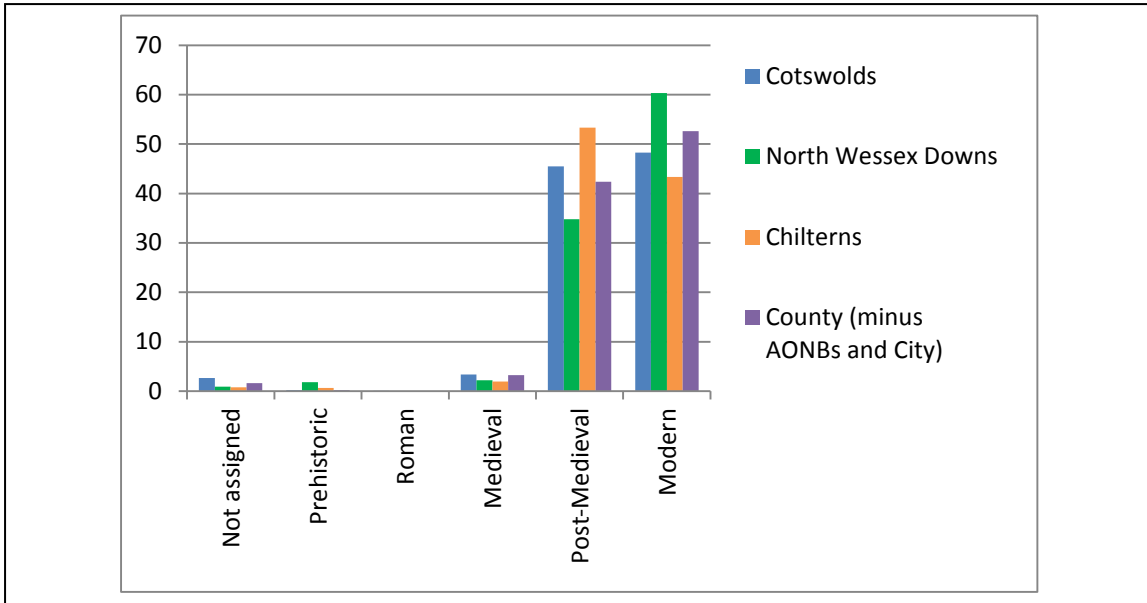


| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County* |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|---------|
| % of Area | 9.5 | 7.2 | 8.9 | 72.6 |
| % of Polygons | 7.4 | 4.2 | 9.0 | 59.2 |
| Average Polygon (ha) | 20.7 | 27.6 | 16.0 | 19.8 |
| Broad Types | 15 | 14 | 13 | 15 |
| HLC Types | 52 | 45 | 43 | 94 |

*The figures for the County do not include Oxford city.

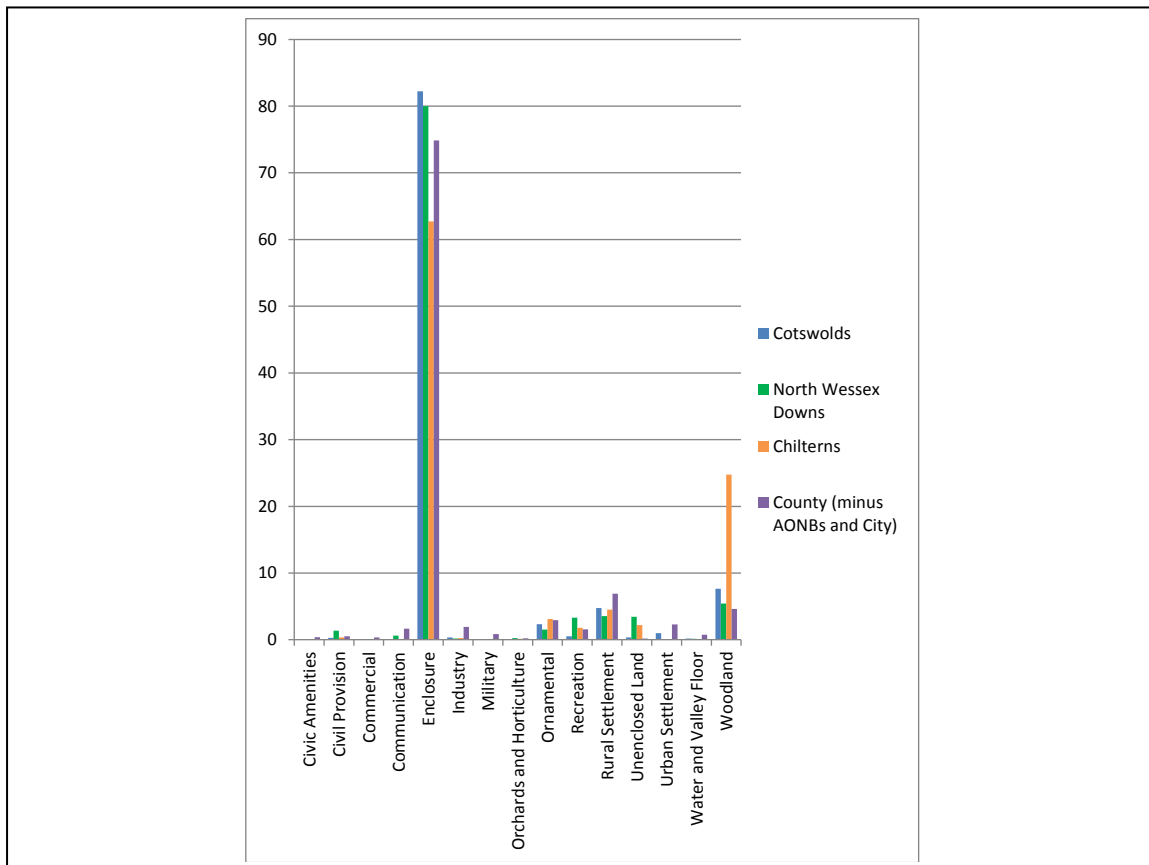
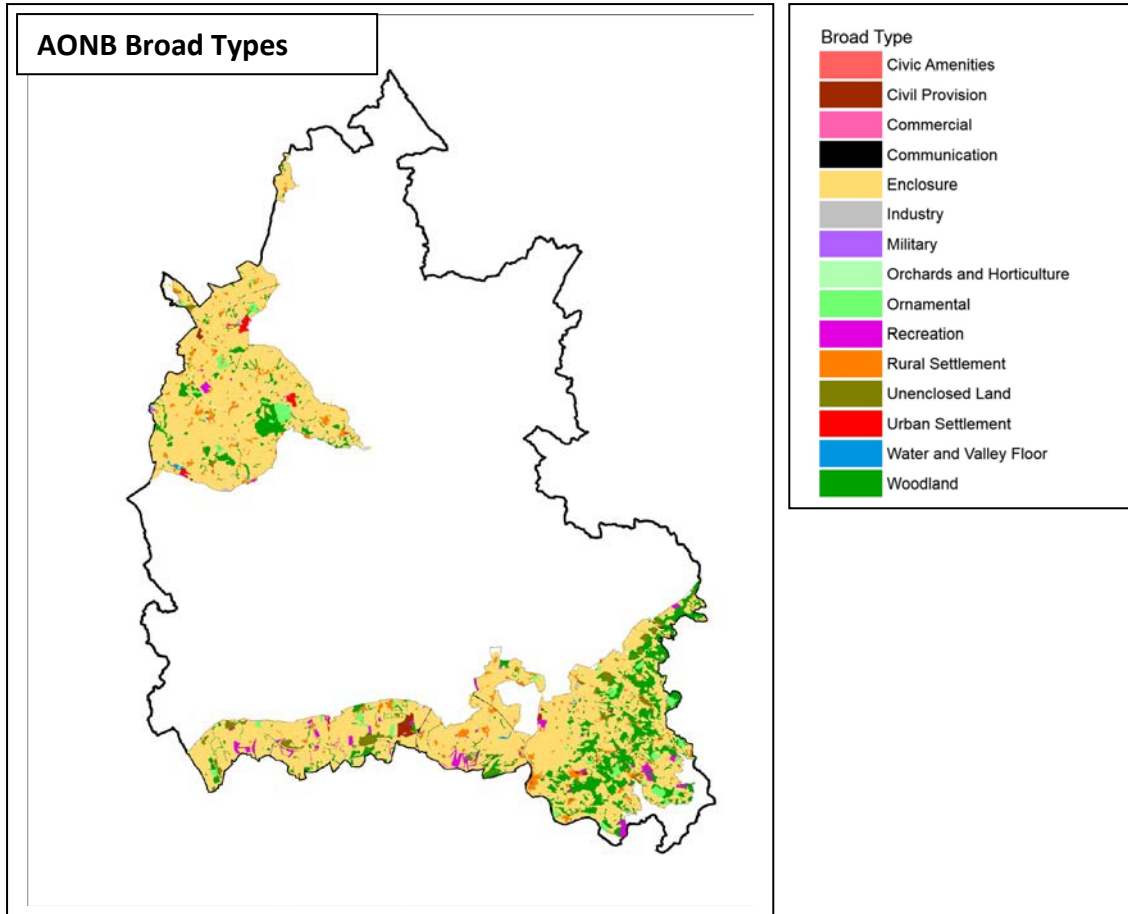
The Cotswolds is the largest AONB and comprises the widest range of landscape types. The NWDs, on average, is made up of the largest units of land characterised as the same whilst the Chilterns has the smallest. This suggests greater variability between types in the landscape of the Chilterns. However, this variability is restricted to the fewest total number of landscape types.





Period of Current Landscape

Across all three AONBs and the rest of Oxfordshire, Modern and Post-Medieval landscapes are most common. However, variability is apparent. The Chilterns landscape most commonly dates to the Post-Medieval period, whereas Modern landscapes dominate elsewhere. This would suggest that there has been a lower level of change within the landscape in the 20th and 21st century in the Chilterns compared to elsewhere. Post-Medieval landscapes are also more common in the Cotswolds than they are elsewhere in the county. Interestingly, the North Wessex Downs has the highest proportion of landscapes attributed to the Modern period, even more than the county in general. This implies that there has been a high level of change here in the last 117 years and stands in direct contrast to the Chilterns. Modern features in the NWDs tend to be large Amalgamated Enclosures which enclosed former downland either side of the Ridgeway. Medieval landscapes survive in all AONBs and elsewhere in the county and it appears that there is no greater survivability in the AONBs. On the other hand, Prehistoric landscapes only survive in the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns and relate directly to the areas of downland which still exist in these areas.

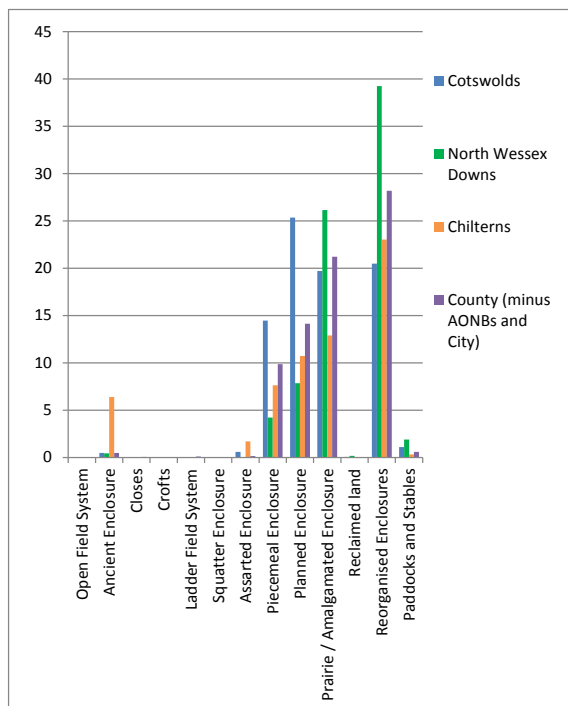




Frequency and Distribution of Broad Types

As is the case in the rest of the county, the three AONBs are dominated by Enclosures. The area covered by Enclosures in the Cotswolds and the North Wessex Downs, however, is higher than that in the County. This suggests a high prevalence of this type in these AONBs. In the Chilterns, Enclosures cover only 62.7% of the AONB, much less than in the other AONBs or the county. This is likely to be due to the high percentage of the AONB covered by Woodland – 24.75%. This Woodland sweeps in a distinct band from North-East to South-West across the AONB and represents the densest concentration of woods in Oxfordshire. Whilst far less common, Woodland remains the second most common Broad Type in the Cotswolds and the NWD. However, Rural Settlement covers a greater percentage of the rest of the county than Woodland. Indeed, Rural Settlement is less common in the AONBs than in the rest of the county, suggesting a lower population density in these areas. Unenclosed Land is almost exclusively found in the NWDs and Chilterns (other examples are recorded within Oxford City, but are not considered here). Ornamental landscapes are slightly more common in the Chilterns than elsewhere and Recreation Types are most frequent in the NWD. Combined, this information suggests that the AONBs are areas of lower population density, characterised by agricultural, open, or wooded landscapes, some of which have been used historically by country houses and parks and are used today for recreational purposes.

Enclosures



Ancient Enclosures and Assarts are most common in the Chilterns, reflecting the age of this landscape and the informal way in which it was enclosed. Piecemeal and Planned Enclosures are most common in the Cotswolds, suggesting the preservation of a Post-Medieval fieldscape which has been reorganised, primarily for agricultural purposes, since the 18th century. Conversely, the NWDs contain the highest percentage of Prairie/Amalgamated Fields, Reorganised Enclosures, and Paddocks. These tend to date to the Modern period and reflect recent reorganisations of this landscape into large fields for 20th century agriculture and for equestrian sports.

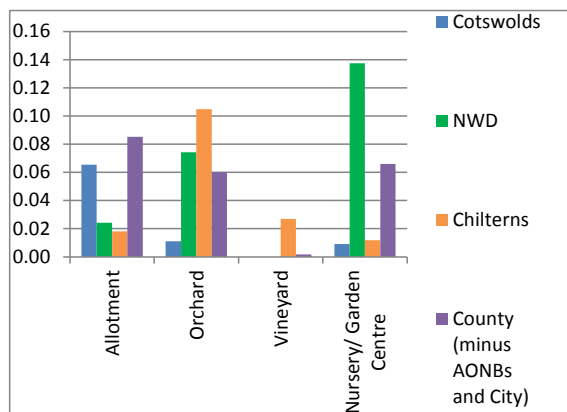


Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Open Field System | | | | -98.8 |
| Ancient Enclosure | -69.8 | -49.9 | -60.5 | -67.3 |
| Closes | | | | -75.8 |
| Crofts | | | 0.0 | -61.8 |
| Ladder Field System | | | | -22.0 |
| Squatter Enclosure | | | | -47.7 |
| Assarted Enclosure | -4.8 | | -34.4 | -29.1 |
| Piecemeal Enclosure | -49.4 | -40.1 | -45.8 | -52.6 |
| Planned Enclosure | -29.3 | -76.9 | -48.5 | -53.7 |
| Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure | 444.1 | -12.2 | 44.2 | 153.0 |
| Reclaimed land | ∞ | ∞ | | 752.5 |
| Reorganised Enclosures | 35.5 | 1402.9 | 211.5 | 23.8 |
| Paddocks and Stables | 3642.2 | ∞ | 269.5 | 5599.8 |

By looking at how the area covered by each type of Enclosure changed between 1881 and 2010, it is clear that there has not been less change in the AONBs than in the rest of the county. Whilst the loss of Ancient Enclosures in the Chilterns and NWDs has been less than in the rest of the county, the Cotswolds have seen greater loss. Similarly, the rate of loss of Assarts is greater in the Chilterns than it is elsewhere and the loss of Planned Enclosures peaks in the NWDs. Where Types have become more common, the AONBs also show greater levels of change – for example, Prairie Fields in the Cotswolds and Reorganised Enclosures in all three of the AONBs have seen greater growth than in the county.

Horticulture



Allotments are most commonly found outside of the AONBs, however, all other Horticulture Types are more common in one or other of the AONBs – Orchards in the Chilterns and NWD, Vineyards in the Chilterns, and Garden Centres in the NWD.

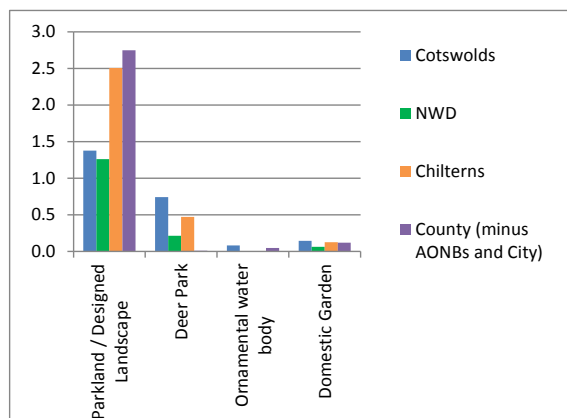


Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Allotment | -86.14 | -62.4498 | -21.58 | -17.2364 |
| Orchard | -89.34 | -66.9739 | -21.99 | -71.5213 |
| Vineyard | | | ∞ | -38.7508 |
| Nursery/ Garden Centre | ∞ | ∞ | ∞ | 331.5811 |

There has been greater loss of Allotments in all three of the AONBs than the in the rest of the county. Orchards have also decreased at a greater rate in the Cotswolds than they have anywhere else. However, Orchards have remained more stable in the Chilterns and, in general, this AONB has seen the least amount of change in these types. Garden Centres and Nurseries tend to be a feature of the modern landscape and their growth is shown across all AONBs and the wider county.

Ornamental



Whilst Ornamental Landscapes are a common type in all AONBs in Oxfordshire, they are more common outside of the AONBs. The Chilterns has the highest percentage of this type and comes close to the percentage of land covered by this type outside of the AONBs.

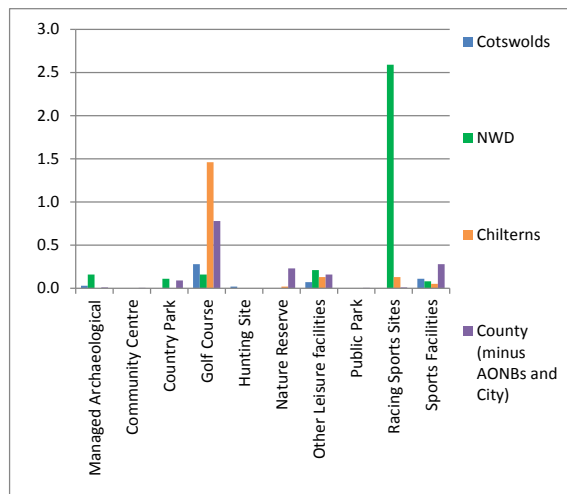
Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Parkland / Designed Landscape | -5.19 | 11.49 | -3.01 | -10.21 |
| Deer Park | 0.00 | -40.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Ornamental water body | 0.00 | | | 4.16 |
| Domestic Garden | 3.63 | 5.32 | 1263.23 | 14.96 |

With the notable exception of Deer Parks in the NWDs – which relates to changing use of landscape at Ashdown Park - Ornamental Landscapes have seen less loss in the AONBs than in the rest of the county. Large Domestic Gardens have also increased more rapidly in the Chilterns than anywhere else, suggesting that gardens and designed landscapes are of particular importance within the AONBs.



Recreation



Recreational Landscapes are a particularly common feature within the AONBs. Managed Archaeological Sites and Racing Sports Sites predominate in the NWDs and Golf Courses are frequently found within the Chilterns. The prevalence of this type likely reflects the attraction of these landscapes for leisure and recreational activities.

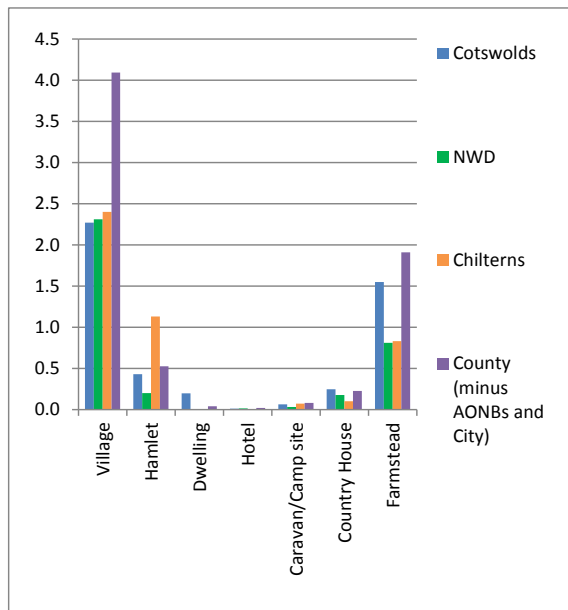
Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Sports Facilities | ∞ | ∞ | ∞ | 5280.0 |
| Racing Sports Sites | | 172.7 | ∞ | 757.5 |
| Other Leisure facilities | ∞ | ∞ | 190.0 | 2728.0 |
| Community Centre | | | | ∞ |
| Country Park | | ∞ | | 1828.9 |
| Public Park | | | | ∞ |
| Golf Course | ∞ | ∞ | ∞ | ∞ |
| Hunting Site | ∞ | | | |
| Nature Reserve | | | ∞ | ∞ |
| Managed Archaeological Site | 0.0 | ∞ | | 914.5 |

Across the AONBs and the rest of the county, Recreation Types have seen significant levels of growth since the late 19th century. For many types, such as Sports Facilities and Golf Courses, the 20th century saw their introduction to the AONBs and not just their expansion. Given the prevalence of Racing Sites in the NWDs, it is surprising that their growth has been so slight compared to the rest of the county. This, however, is likely to reflect the large number of Racing Sites which existed in the NWDs AONB by the late 19th century.



Rural Settlement



Villages are far less common in the AONBs than in the rest of the county, implying a lower population density in the latter. This holds true even when hamlets, which are far more frequently found in the Chilterns than in any other part of Oxfordshire, are considered. Farmsteads are also more common elsewhere in the county, but their occurrence is also quite high in the Cotswolds. Despite the prevalence of Ornamental Landscapes in the AONBs, Country Houses are consistently found throughout Oxfordshire, this may suggest that the grounds associated with these houses tend to be larger in the AONBs than elsewhere.

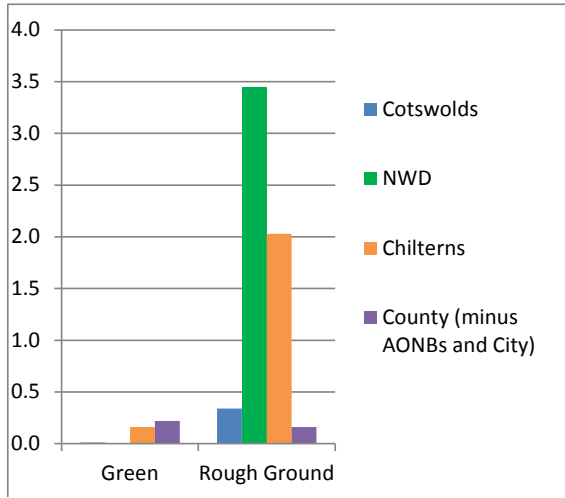
Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|-------------------|-----------|------|-----------|--------|
| Village | 74.1 | 71.3 | 166.4 | 109.5 |
| Hamlet | 7.9 | 70.5 | 120.1 | 58.7 |
| Dwelling | 20.7 | | | 71.5 |
| Hotel | 0.0 | 0.0 | | 143.7 |
| Caravan/Camp site | ∞ | ∞ | ∞ | ∞ |
| Country House | 15.0 | 14.0 | 90.1 | -6.0 |
| Farmstead | 32.0 | 23.9 | 55.3 | 40.9 |

Throughout Oxfordshire, with the exception of Country Houses in the county, Rural Settlement Types have seen significant levels of growth since the late 19th century. The greatest change has occurred in the Chilterns AONB, which has seen the biggest increase in Villages, Hamlets, Country Houses, and Farmsteads. With exception of Hamlets in the NWDs and Country Houses, the Cotswolds and the NWDs have experienced a lower level of growth. In all three AONBs, Country Houses have become more common, this is in contrast to elsewhere in the county where land characterised as such has decreased.



Unenclosed Land



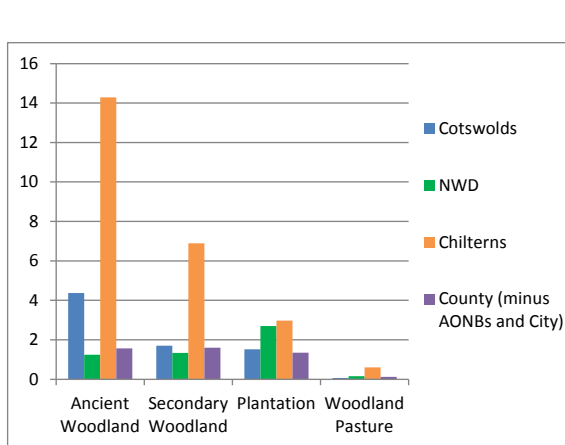
Rough Ground is more commonly found in the three AONBs than in the wider county. It is a particularly dominant characteristic of the landscapes of the NWDs and the Chilterns. Smaller amounts of Rough Ground are found in the Cotswolds. In contrast, Greens have been recorded more frequently outside of the AONBs.

Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|--------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Green | 0.0 | | 0.0 | -17.2 |
| Marsh | | | | -100.0 |
| Rough Ground | -32.5 | -73.3 | -33.6 | -78.7 |

Since the late 19th century, Marsh Types have been wholly removed from Oxfordshire. Marshland does still exist in the county, but is now managed as Nature Reserves – for example, Otmoor. Rough Ground has decreased throughout the county, with the highest rate of loss outside of the AONBs. Whilst lower than in the rest of the county, the rate of loss in the NWDs has been quite high and is much higher than in the Chilterns. Despite this, Rough Ground remains a common type in this AONB. Land characterised as Green has remained stable in the Cotswolds and the Chilterns, but has experienced some loss in the rest of the county.

Woodland



Woodland is a dominant characteristic in the Chilterns, where it accounts for almost 25% of the AONB. All Woodland Types are more common in the Chilterns and the Cotswolds AONB than in the rest of the county. Conversely, only Plantations are more common in the NWDs and Woodland tends to be more rare in this AONB than elsewhere in Oxfordshire.

**Trajectory of Change between 1881 and 2010 (% Gain or Loss)**

| | Cotswolds | NWD | Chilterns | County |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Ancient Woodland | 0.0 | -0.4 | -2.5 | -4.4 |
| Secondary Woodland | 66.6 | 22.2 | 50.7 | 68.8 |
| Plantation | 288.8 | 205.2 | 652.4 | 103.8 |
| Woodland Pasture | ∞ | ∞ | 23.6 | -44.2 |

The amount of land characterised as Ancient Woodland has remained broadly stable within the AONBs, but there has been some loss outside the AONBs. Conversely, there has been a bigger increase in Secondary Woodland in the rest of the county than in the AONBs, particularly in the NWDs where the natural expansion of woodland has only been slight. The largest gain in Plantations has been in the Chilterns AONB and, in general, the growth of this type has been greatest within the AONBs. Finally, whilst Woodland Pasture has increased in the AONBs it has become less common outside of these protected areas.



7. High Value Landscapes

A public survey was conducted using the Conservation Principles to capture people's opinions regarding the Historical, Aesthetic, and Communal Value of each HLC Type in Oxfordshire.

People were asked the following questions to assign a rating of 1 (Low) to 3 (High) for each value:

Historical - Do landscapes of this type link you to the past? To past events or past people?

Aesthetic - Are landscapes of this type attractive? Do they inspire you?

Communal - Are landscapes of this type important to your community, your social or religious values?

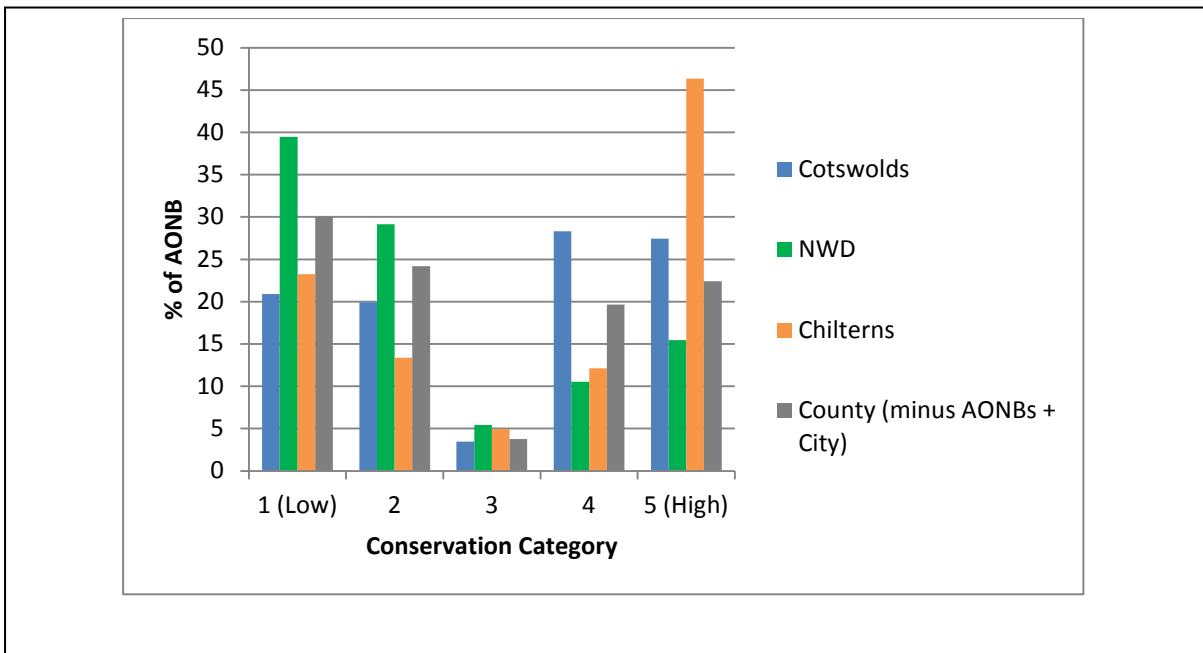
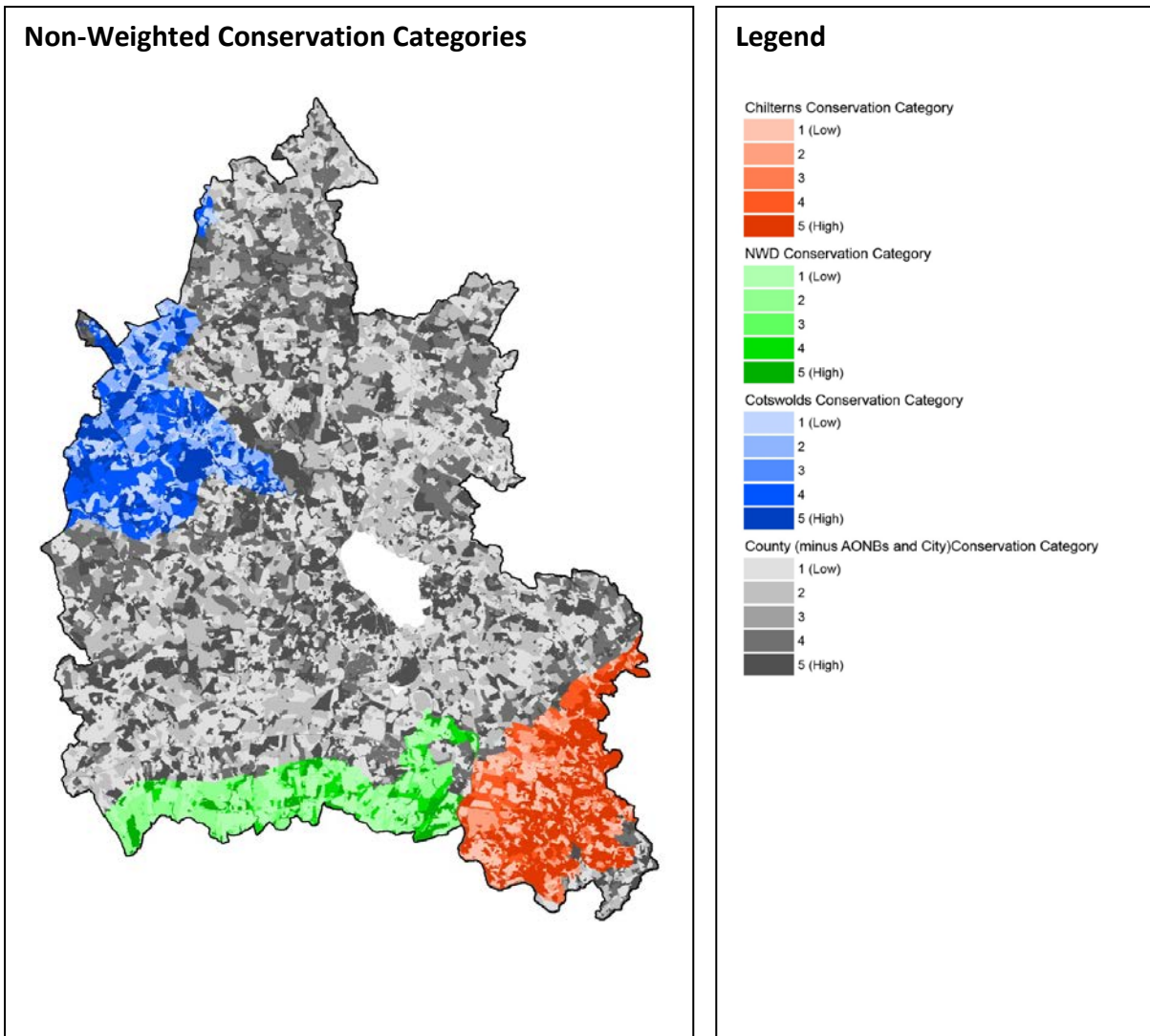
It is recognised that this a simplistic and highly subjective methodology, but it aims to develop another way of looking at historic landscapes through the eyes of the people who live and work within them.

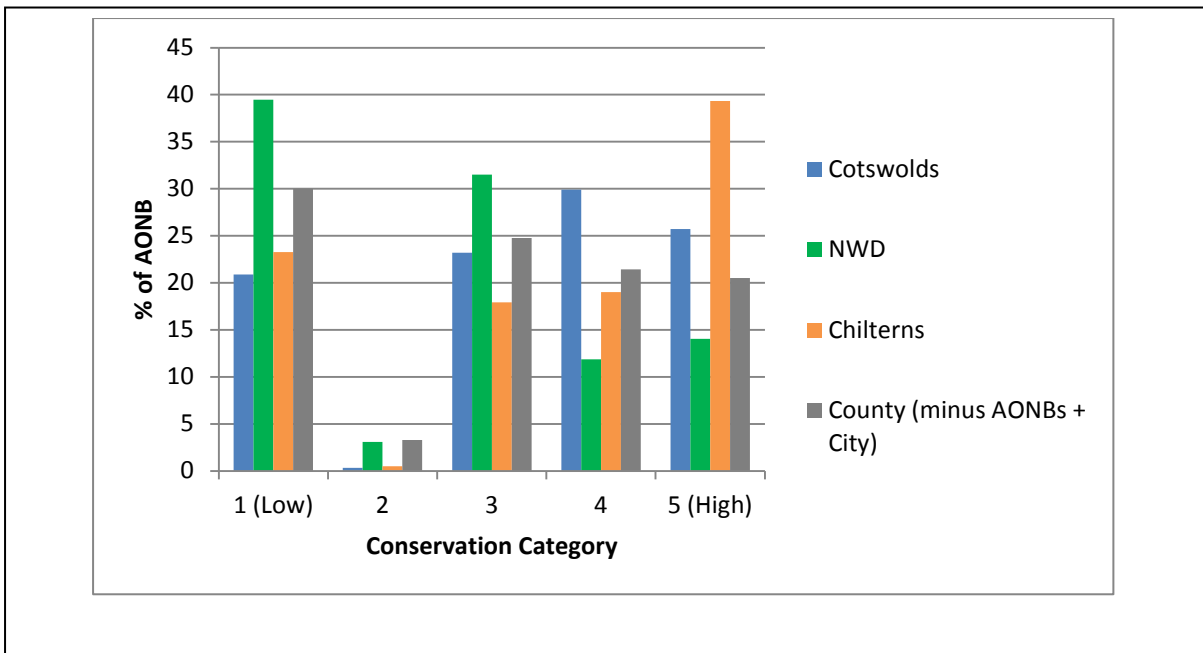
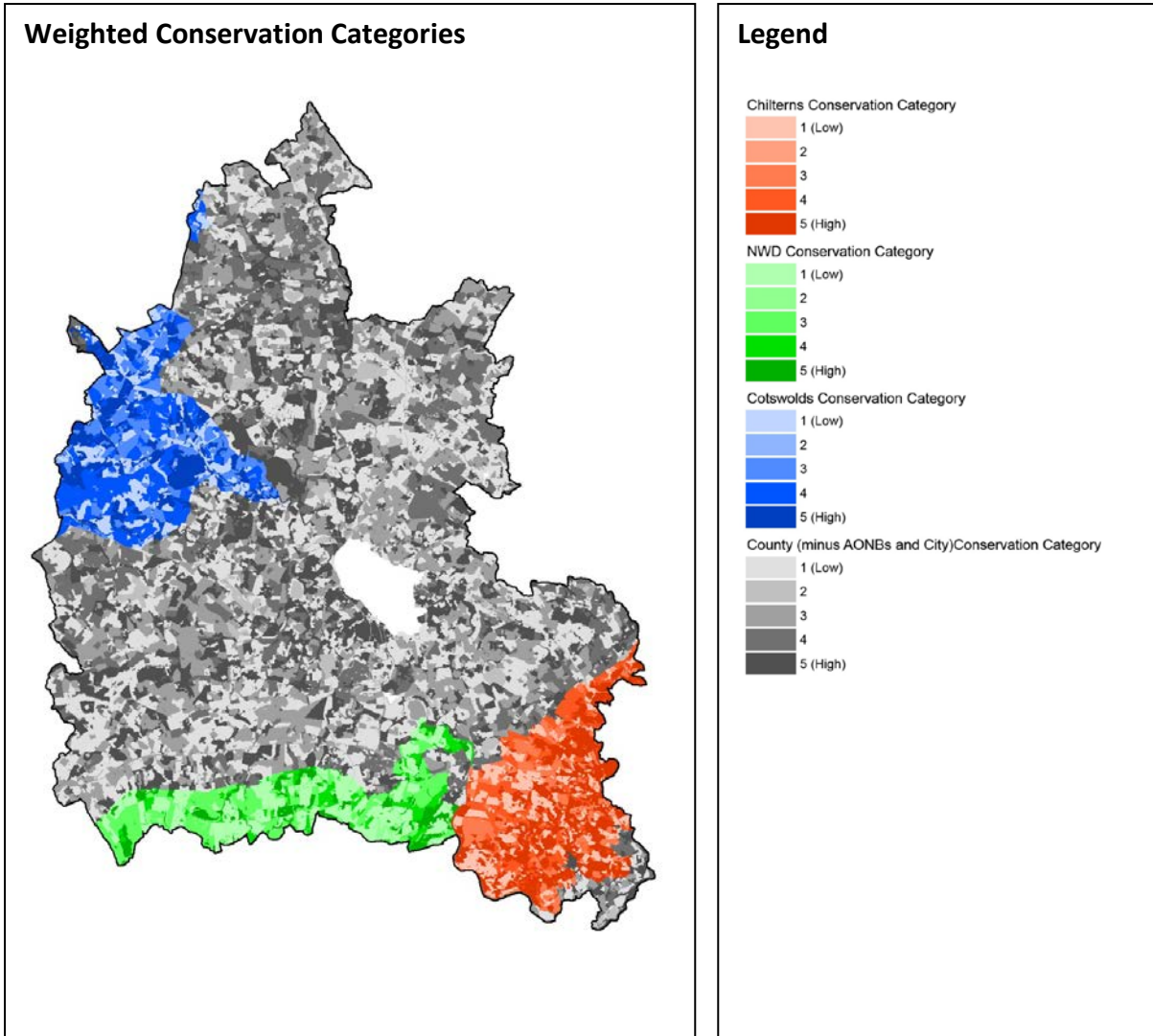
The fourth Conservation Principle, **Evidential** Value, was assessed by the county Archaeological Team as experts in archaeological and historic building preservation.

The results of these two survey were collated and the public survey was averaged using the Mode function. The summed total of the four values, the Conservation Value, was then divided into five categories – quintiles – these were: High (5), Medium-High (4), Medium (3), Low-Medium (2), and Low(1). These are referred to as the Conservation Categories.

The Conservation Categories were mapped in each of the AONBs and across the County. Two maps were created: one map shows the raw categories for each HLC Type and the second shows weighted categories. To reflect the focus of *historic* landscape study, Historical and Evidential Values were weighted as 1 (Low), 3 (Medium), 6 (High), this impacted the total Conservation Value and, therefore, the Conservation Category of HLC Types.

A breakdown of Historical, Aesthetic, Communal, and Evidential Value is also given for each AONB.







Non-Weighted v. Weighted Conservation Categories

The weighting of Conservation Values applied to Historical and Evidential Values which were valued between 1 and 6, rather than 1 and 3. This reflects the *historic* nature of this project. This weighting affected the total Conservation Value of HLC Types and, in some cases, this resulted in the classification of a type within a different Conservation Category. The types affected were: Health Care Facility, Road, Bike Path/Bridleway, Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosure, Military Shooting Range, Orchard, Domestic Garden, Sports Facilities, Nature Reserve, Rural and Urban Hotel, Urban Market, Secondary Woodland.

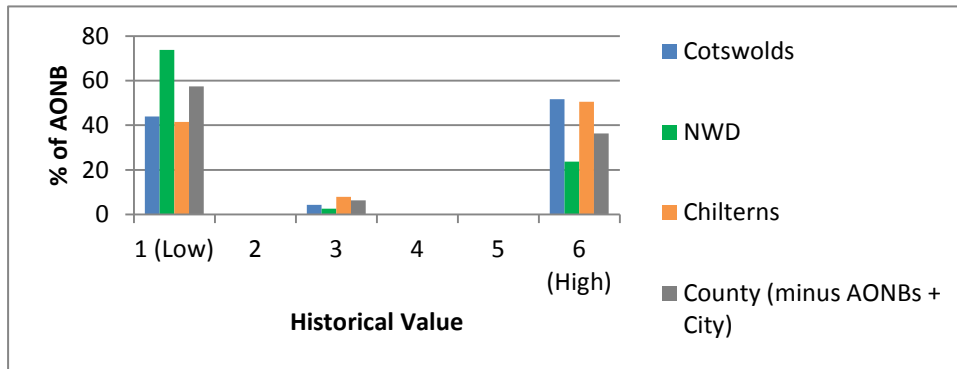
Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosures (re-categorised as Medium from Low-Medium) and Secondary Woodland (re-categorised as Medium-High from High), given their size and frequency, have the biggest impact. The former, in particular, accounts for the dramatic difference between Category 2 on the Non-Weighted and Weighted map and graph.

Distribution of Weighted Conservation Categories

Conservation Category 5, the highest category, is most commonly found in the Chilterns AONB and covers 39% of the area. This is higher than any of the other AONBs and significantly more than the 21% of the County categorised as such. This is likely to be due to the concentration of Ancient Woodland, Rough Ground, Parkland, and Ancient Enclosures within the Chilterns, all of which are Category 5. Patches of Ancient Woodland is found throughout the AONB, interspersed with Ancient Enclosure. Rough Ground is found on the north-facing scarp slope of the hills, running in a north-west to south-east line through the AONB.

The Cotswolds AONB also has a high percentage categorised as Category 5 – 26% of the AONB. Ancient Woodland in this area will account for some of this, but most of the land categorised as such will be Piecemeal Enclosure, which concentrates in this area. These irregular post-medieval fields cluster around Hamlets and Villages, also Category 5 and a common type in this AONB. Parkland/Designed Landscapes, Deer Parks, and Ancient Woodland account for the large areas of Category 5 in this AONB.

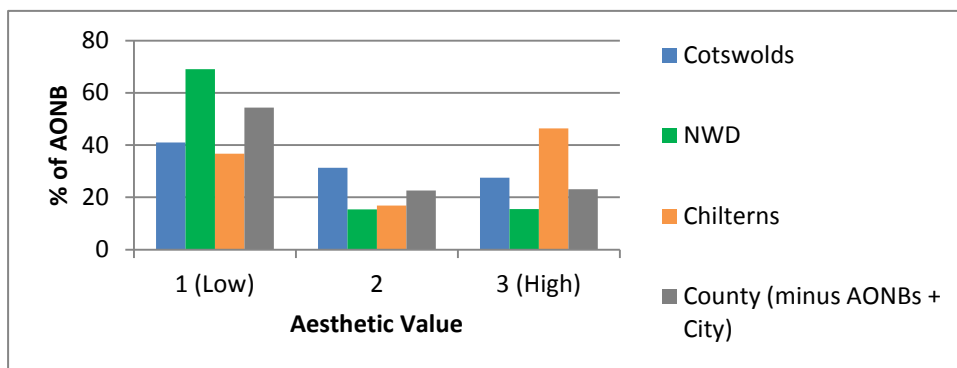
Looking at the distribution of the categories, the North Wessex Downs AONB stands out. It has a higher percentage of its area assigned a Category 1 than the County, 40% compared to 30%. This is likely to be due to the large area of Reorganised Enclosures within this AONB. Category 5 types appear to have a distinct distribution within the AONB, stringing out east-west along the northern edge and through the centre. This typically corresponds with areas of Rough Ground.



Historical Value

The Cotswolds and Chilterns AONBs have a similarly high percentage of their area categorised as Historical Value 6, 52% and 51% respectively. This indicates the concentration of types associated with historical events and people in these areas. This ties with evidence to suggest the high preservation of medieval and post-medieval landscapes in these AONBs discussed above. Conversely, the North Wessex Downs has the highest percentage of land categorised as Historical Value 1, more so than the rest of the county. This likely reflects the extent of modern adaptation within this area, in particular in relation to modern agricultural practices and horse riding facilities. Despite this, over 20% of this AONB has been assigned the highest value. This typically relates to the open Rough Ground around the Ridgeway.

The fact that a higher percentage of the Cotswolds and Chilterns AONBs has been afforded the highest Historical Value than the wider County implies that AONB status may have had an effect, preserving those landscapes types perceived to create a link to the past. This is quite different from the results from the North Wessex Downs.





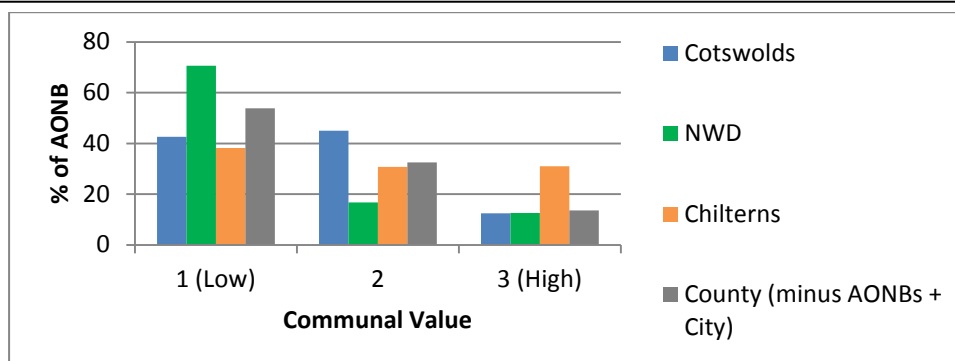
Aesthetic Value

The Chilterns AONB has a large percentage of its area covered by types assigned a high Aesthetic Value – 46% - this is higher than the other two AONBs and the rest of the County. This is likely due to the concentration of Ancient and Secondary Woodland, Ancient Enclosures, and Parkland in this AONB, all of which are rated highly for aesthetic value.

Despite ranking so highly for Historical Value, only 28% of the AONB has been assigned the highest Aesthetic Value. This is not much more than the 23% of the County valued as such and 41% of the AONB has been valued as 1. The concentration of types valued as 2 is likely to be due to the high occurrence of Planned Enclosures in this AONB, a type which whilst given the highest Historical Value was only assigned Medium Aesthetic Value.

Again the North Wessex Downs stands out, being aesthetically valued lower than the other AONBs and the County. Again this likely due to the presence of Reorganised Enclosures which dominate this area. This is compounded by Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosures which also frequently occur in this AONB and which are given the value of 1.

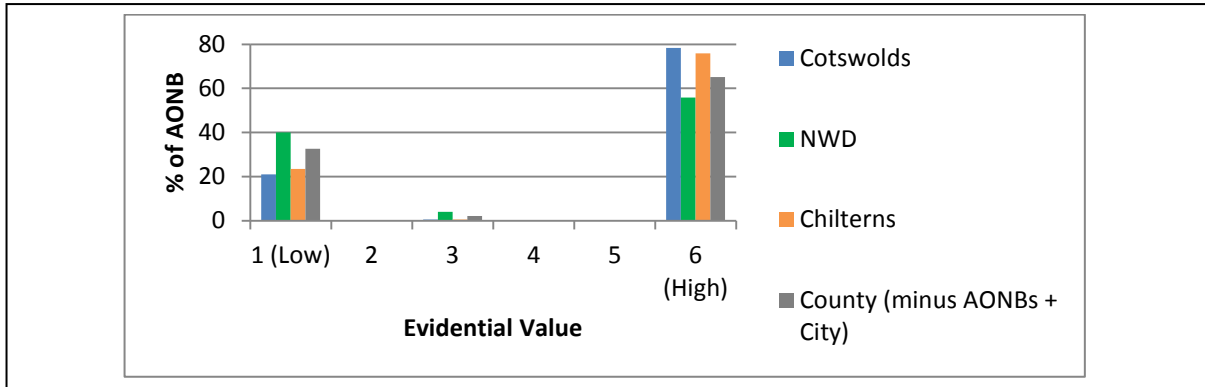
The Chilterns and, to a lesser extent, the Cotswolds do score higher Aesthetic Values than the wider County, which may be due to their AONB status, preserving those parts of the landscape thought to be pretty and inspiring. This is in direct contrast to the North Wessex Downs.



Communal Value

Interestingly, across all the AONBs and the wider County, Communal Value has generally been rated quite low. Types with high Communal Value include Archaeological Sites, historic Military sites, Canals, Parkland, and Ancient Woodland – all types which are used for recreational purposes by the public. The preponderance of Ancient Woodland and Parkland in the Chilterns AONB will account for much of its high Communal Value land. Conversely, those types which have a low Communal Value include the large modern Military sites and many of the modern Enclosure types, often types which are not accessible to or of limited access to the public. These types cover a high percentage of land and, in part, explain the dominance of the lowest Communal Value category. The concentration of modern field types – Reorganised and Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosures in the North Wessex Downs accounts for the high percentage of land assigned Communal Value 1 in this AONB.

Outside of the Chilterns, there is little difference between the amount of land assigned a high value in the AONBs and the county. This may indicate that there is no more publically accessible land in these AONBs than in the rest of the County.



Evidential Value

A types Evidential Value, which equates directly to its Archaeological Potential (archaeological and historical building remains), tends to be either high or low, with very few assigned a medium value.

Modern change in the North Wessex Downs Landscapes is likely to have reduced this potential, hence the high percentage of low Evidential Value types in this area. Conversely, high value types are more commonly found in the Cotswolds and Chilterns AONBs than in the rest of the county. This is likely due to a higher level of preservation of older landscapes in these areas which leave archaeological and historic building remains undisturbed. Types with high Evidential Value include: Woodland, Ancient Enclosures, historic Military sites, Religious Buildings, and Villages. Interestingly, it also includes the Ridgeway and Rough Ground types, both of which are present in the North Wessex Downs. However, these are not common enough to outweigh the effects of modern types with low Evidential Value.



Survey Results

| HLC Type | Historical Value (Low = 1, Medium = 3, High = 6) | Aesthetic Value (Low = 1, Medium = 2, High = 3) | Communal Value (Low = 1, Medium = 2, High = 3) | Evidential Value (Low = 1, Medium = 3, High = 6) | Conservation Value | Conservation Rating | Conservation Category |
|--|---|--|---|---|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Civic Amenities - Reservoir | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Civic Amenities - Utilities | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Civic Amenities - Sewerage Treatment works | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Civic Amenities - Waste Disposal | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Civil Provision - Educational Facility | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 14 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Civil Provision - Oxford College | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Civil Provision - Health Care Facility | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Civil Provision - Religious and Funerary | 6 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Civil Provision - Gov Office and Civic Centre | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Civil Provision - Immigration Detention Centre | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Civil Provision - Police station | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Civil Provision - Prison | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Civil Provision - Park and Ride | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Commercial - Bank | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Commercial - Business Park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Commercial - Fish Farm | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Commercial - Office/Commercial | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Commercial - Offices | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Commercial - Shops | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Commercial -Retail park | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Commercial -Shopping Centre | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Commercial- Road Side Service Centre | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Communication - Road | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Communication - Main Road | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Communication -Major Road Junction | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Communication - Bridge | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | Medium | 3 |
| Communication -Motorways | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Communication -Bike Path/bridleway | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Communication -Ridgeway | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Communication - Car Park | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | Low-Medium | 2 |



| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-------------|---|
| Communication -Canals and Locks | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 13 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Communication -Rail transport sites | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Communication - Airfield (Commercial) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Communication - Telecommunications | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Open Field System | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Ancient Enclosure | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Closes | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Crofts (medieval & Post Medieval) | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Ladder Field System | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Squatter Enclosure | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Assarted Enclosure | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Piecemeal Enclosure | 6 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 17 | High | 5 |
| Planned Enclosure | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 16 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | Medium | 3 |
| Reorganised Enclosures | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Enclosure - Reclaimed land | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Enclosure - Paddocks and Stables | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Industry - Processing industry | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Manufacturing | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Mill / Mill Complex | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 14 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Industry -Energy Industry | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Extractive Works | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Flooded Extractive pits | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Industry - Depot | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Industrial Estate | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Scrap Yard | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Industry -Timber Yard | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Military - Castle | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Military - Hillfort | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Military - Defence Site | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Military base | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Military - Military Airfield | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Military - Barracks | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| Military - Shooting Range | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | Medium | 3 |
| Military - Communications | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | Low | 1 |
| Orchard and Hort - Allotment | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 14 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Orchard and Hort - Orchard | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 15 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Orchard and Hort - Vineyard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 10 | Medium | 3 |



| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----------------|---|
| Orchard and Hort - Nursery/ Garden Centre | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Orchard and Hort - Urban Garden | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | Medium | 3 |
| Orn-Parkland / Designed Landscape | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Orn -Deer Park | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Orn -Ornamental water body | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Orn -Domestic Garden | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Recreation -Sports Facilities | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Recreation - Racing Sports Sites | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Recreation - Other Leisure facilities | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Recreation - Community Centre | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Recreation - Country Park | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 14 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Recreation - Public Park | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 14 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Recreation - Golf Course | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Recreation - Hunting Site | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Recreation - Nature Reserve | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 15 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Managed Archaeological Site | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Rural - Village | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Rural - Hamlet | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Rural - Dwelling | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 12 | Medium | 3 |
| Rural - Hotel | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Rural - Caravan/Chalet/ Camping site | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Rural - Country House | 6 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 15 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Rural -Farmstead | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 13 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Unenclosed -Green | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Unenclosed -Rough Ground | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Urban - Historic Urban Core | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Urban - City | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 14 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Urban - Town | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 13 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Urban - Dwelling | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Urban - Hotel | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Urban - Public House | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | Medium | 3 |
| Urban - Market | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Urban - Caravan and Camp site/ chalet site | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | Low- Medium | 2 |
| Water - River | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 13 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Water - Fresh Water Body | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 13 | Medium- High | 4 |
| Water - Water Meadow | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |



| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-------------|---|
| Water - Watercress Beds | 6 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 15 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Woodland - Ancient Woodland | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |
| Woodland -Secondary Woodland | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 15 | Medium-High | 4 |
| Woodland -Plantation | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 11 | Medium | 3 |
| Woodland -Woodland Pasture | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | High | 5 |

| Quintiles (%) | Rating | Category |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| 0-20 | Low | 1 |
| 20-40 | Low-Medium | 2 |
| 40-60 | Medium | 3 |
| 60-80 | Medium-High | 4 |
| 80-100 | High | 5 |