

## Appendix 7.1: National and Local Landscape Character Assessment

| National Landscape Character Assessment: South Downs Coastal Plain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Key Characteristics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Opportunities for Improvement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plain slopes gently southwards towards the coast.</li> <li>• In places, streams and rivers flow south from the higher land of the Downs to the sea.</li> <li>• Coastal inlets and 'harbours' contain a diverse landscape of narrow tidal creeks, mudflats, shingle beaches, dunes, grazing marshes and paddocks.</li> <li>• There are stretches of farmed land between developed areas, often with large arable fields defined by low hedges or ditches.</li> <li>• Sand dune grasses and intertidal marsh communities are characteristic of the coastline, while small areas of species-rich meadow remain inland.</li> <li>• Along the exposed, open coastal plain and shoreline, tree cover is limited to isolated wind-sculpted woodlands and shelterbelts.</li> <li>• The area has significant urban development, with settlements along the coastline dominated by the Portsmouth conurbation, suburban villages and seaside towns including Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Worthing linked by major road and rail systems.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SE03: Plan for the creation of a strong landscape framework within and around major settlements and identified growth areas, while managing and enhancing existing greenspace and access, and balancing the needs of agriculture, communities and the natural environment.</li> <li>• SE04: Manage and significantly enhance the area's rivers and chalk streams and their wetland valley habitats to provide resilience against climate change and improve flood protection and water quality, particularly in the internationally designated sites such as Chichester and Pagham harbours, for the benefit of local communities and wildlife.</li> </ul> |

| Local Landscape Character Assessment: Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| Key Characteristics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Key Issues of Change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Landscape and Visual Sensitivities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Landscape Management Guidelines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low lying flat open landscape.</li> <li>• Meandering rife and straight drainage ditch systems, with associated unimproved grassland and edged by reed beds.</li> <li>• A low density of hedgerows and hedgerow trees with occasional shelterbelts.</li> <li>• Large-scale arable farming and market gardening. Extensive farms with both traditional and modern farm buildings and silos.</li> <li>• Scattered, historically nucleated villages with mixed building materials of flint, brick, half timber and stone.</li> <li>• Large farmsteads along roads, and on dead-end tracks.</li> <li>• Long views to the Downs.</li> <li>• The relatively open character of much of the area allows long views so that village church towers are important landmarks in views.</li> <li>• Frequent urban fringe influences of horse paddocks, light industry and disused airfields, with busy minor and major roads.</li> <li>• The urban fringes associated with Bognor are particularly obvious, with sporadic urban development in suburban settlements.</li> <li>• Few trees or hedgerows, partly as a result of Dutch Elm Disease, from the 1970s and the Great Storm of 1987 and overall high quality agricultural land, although, where they do exist, they form prominent features.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban development pressures, especially in the gaps between settlements.</li> <li>• Major road improvements.</li> <li>• Loss of mature elm trees in the 1970's and 1980's due to Dutch Elm disease. Loss of floodplain and wet woodland due to changes in agricultural drainage practices.</li> <li>• Loss of tree and hedgerow cover from agricultural intensification since World War II.</li> <li>• Conversion of agricultural buildings to light industrial uses.</li> <li>• Farm diversification and garden centres leading to introduction of signs and fencing.</li> <li>• Introduction of large scale industrial buildings and glasshouses with distribution sheds.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key views to the South Downs.</li> <li>• Fragmentation and loss of hedgerows and connections between hedgerow and woodland.</li> <li>• Replacement of mature treescape.</li> <li>• Changes in drainage patterns.</li> <li>• Industry in the countryside associated with horticulture and light industry, resulting in large clusters of glasshouses and industrial buildings.</li> <li>• Development on settlement edges of Bognor and suburban settlements.</li> <li>• Loss of distinction between different settlements due to urban expansion.</li> <li>• Changes in transport infrastructure due to urban development pressures.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a new, large scale tree and hedgerow framework which complements the open intensively farmed landscape, whilst maintaining significant views.</li> <li>• Maintain and strengthen field boundaries such as hedgerows and shelterbelts.</li> <li>• Link up existing remnant hedgerows and tree lines to re-establish coherent field boundaries and wildlife corridors.</li> <li>• Encourage and promote land management schemes to increase species rich grassland areas.</li> <li>• Promote management and establishment of grassland regimes of grazing, hay cutting and silage.</li> <li>• Establish landscape management plans for urban edges, notably Bognor Regis, to enhance the distinction between the urban and rural landscape.</li> <li>• Restore and strengthen the landscape of the gaps between settlements.</li> <li>• Encourage landscape enhancements around villages and on their approaches.</li> <li>• Establish new vegetation features by the planting of hedgerows and tree clumps in field corners and along roadsides, especially those approaching settlements.</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance the landscape and biodiversity of rife and other existing habitats. Reprofile banks and encourage more diverse flora by lengthening clearance cycles.</li> <li>• Enhance the visual prominence of rife through the establishment of waterside vegetation features.</li> <li>• Maintain, restore and enhance floodplain woodland and associated species, including native black poplar, where appropriate.</li> </ul> |