

4. LANDSCAPE CLASSIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1. The physical and cultural influences described in the previous chapters have combined to create the unique and distinctive character of the rural landscape of Guildford Borough. The area is characterised by a diversity of landscapes and these variations and differences are represented by twelve **landscape types**.
- A. River Floodplain
 - B. Chalk Ridge
 - C. Wooded Chalk Downs
 - D. Open Chalk Farmland
 - E. Wooded Rolling Claylands
 - F. Unsettled Sandy Heath
 - G. Wooded and Settled Heath
 - H. Gravel Terrace
 - I. Greensand Valley
 - J. Mudstone Plateau
 - K. Wooded Greensand Hills
 - L. Open Greensand Hills
- 4.2. These landscape type names reflect the dominant influences on landscape character, often combining landform and landcover. In all cases the name conveys some sense of the character of the landscape.
- 4.3. A single landscape type has broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern in every area where it occurs. This does not mean that it will be identical, rather that there is a common pattern, which can be discerned. The landscape types are further sub-divided into component **landscape character areas**.
- 4.4. Landscape Character Areas are discrete geographic areas that possess the common characteristics described for the landscape type. Each character area has a distinct and recognisable local identity, and are therefore given names that are geographically specific, based on a place name or established locality.
- 4.5. The landscape classification for the District is set out in **Table 3** (overleaf) and illustrated on **Figure 4.1**. **Figure 4.1** has been prepared on a Geographic Information System (GIS), with mapping undertaken at a scale of 1:25,000. Although boundaries have been drawn around the landscape character areas and types on the assessment mapping, in reality character does not generally change abruptly. While character may be clearly defined within the area, transitions frequently occur at the edges where influences are less consistent. Therefore the status and meaning of the boundary lines shown on the mapping are as an indicative boundary marking the transition of one area to another.
- 4.6. Some of the character areas are not included in the text of this report as, due to their locations, it was more appropriate to cover them in greater detail as part of the rural-urban fringe or townscape assessments. The areas omitted are shown in grey in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Rural Landscape Classification

Types	Areas
A: River Floodplain	
	A1: <i>Lower Wey River Floodplain</i>
	A2: <i>Upper Wey River Floodplain</i>
	A3: <i>Guildford Wey River Floodplain (covered in urban assessment under character area 12A: River Wey Open River Floodplain)</i>
B: Chalk Ridge	
	B1: <i>Hog's Back Chalk Ridge</i>
	B2: <i>Albury and Hackhurst Chalk Ridge</i>
C: Wooded Chalk Down	
	C1: <i>Merrow and Clandon Wooded Chalk Downs</i>
	C2: <i>Effingham Forest Wooded Chalk Downs</i>
D: Open Chalk Farmland	
	D1: <i>Clandon Open Chalk Farmland</i>
E: Wooded Rolling Claylands	
	E1: <i>Wanborough Wooded Rolling Claylands</i>
	E2: <i>Ockham and Clandon Wooded Rolling Claylands</i>
F: Unsettled Sandy Heath	
	F1: <i>Pirbright Common Unsettled Sandy Heath</i>
G: Wooded and Settled Heath	
	G1: <i>Worplesdon wooded and settled sand heath</i>
	G2: <i>Wisley wooded and settled sand heath</i>
H: Gravel Terrace	
	H1: <i>Send Gravel Terrace</i>
	H2: <i>Slyfield Gravel Terrace (covered in rural-urban fringe assessment under character area H2:Slyfield Rural Urban Fringe and in urban assessment under character area 11B: Slyfield Green)</i>
	H3: <i>Peasmarsh Gravel Terrace (covered in rural-urban fringe assessment under character area H3: Artington Terrace Rural-Urban Fringe)</i>
	H4: <i>Shalford Gravel Terrace</i>
	H5: <i>Ash Vale Gravel Terrace (covered in rural-urban fringe assessment under character area H5: Blackwater Valley Rural-Urban Fringe)</i>
I: Greensand Valley	
	I1: <i>Tilling Bourne Greensand Valley</i>
J: Mudstone Plateau	
	J1: <i>Loseley Mudstone Plateau (covered in rural-urban fringe assessment under character area J1: Loseley Rural-Urban Fringe)</i>
K: Wooded Greensand Hills	
	K1: <i>Puttenham Wooded Greensand Hills</i>
	K2: <i>Winterfold Wooded Greensand Hills</i>
	K3: <i>St Martha's Wooded Greensand Hills</i>
L: Open Greensand Hills	
	L1: <i>Shackleford Open Greensand Hills</i>
	L2: <i>Peaslake Open Greensand Hills</i>