

Area 1: Broom Hill Farmland and Woodland



Description

- 4.12 This area has a ridgetop character. Open farmland in pasture use is divided up by dense hedges; woodland lies mainly towards the edge of the area. The original rural character is substantially affected by the motorway and Allbrook Way that cut through it. On the western edge the land is used principally for school and hospital grounds. In a depression at the highest point of the area, a disused flooded claypit has been colonised with poplars, birch, alder and pine trees. This wooded feature creates a distinct landmark in the area. The elevated ground to the east of the brickworks offers significant views to the east, across the Itchen valley.
- 4.13 Views of the urban edge and motorway have been softened by roadside planting and woodland. A rural character is retained at the centre of the area and along the lane that winds through it. The area is sharply defined by the surrounding urban boundary.

Historic Features

- 4.14 Well into the nineteenth century the area was common land and woodland with the underlying landscape pattern structured by farms and narrow winding lanes. Over time this landscape has been eroded by the addition of new roads and the increasing prominence of the urban edge.

HCC Historic Landscape Type:

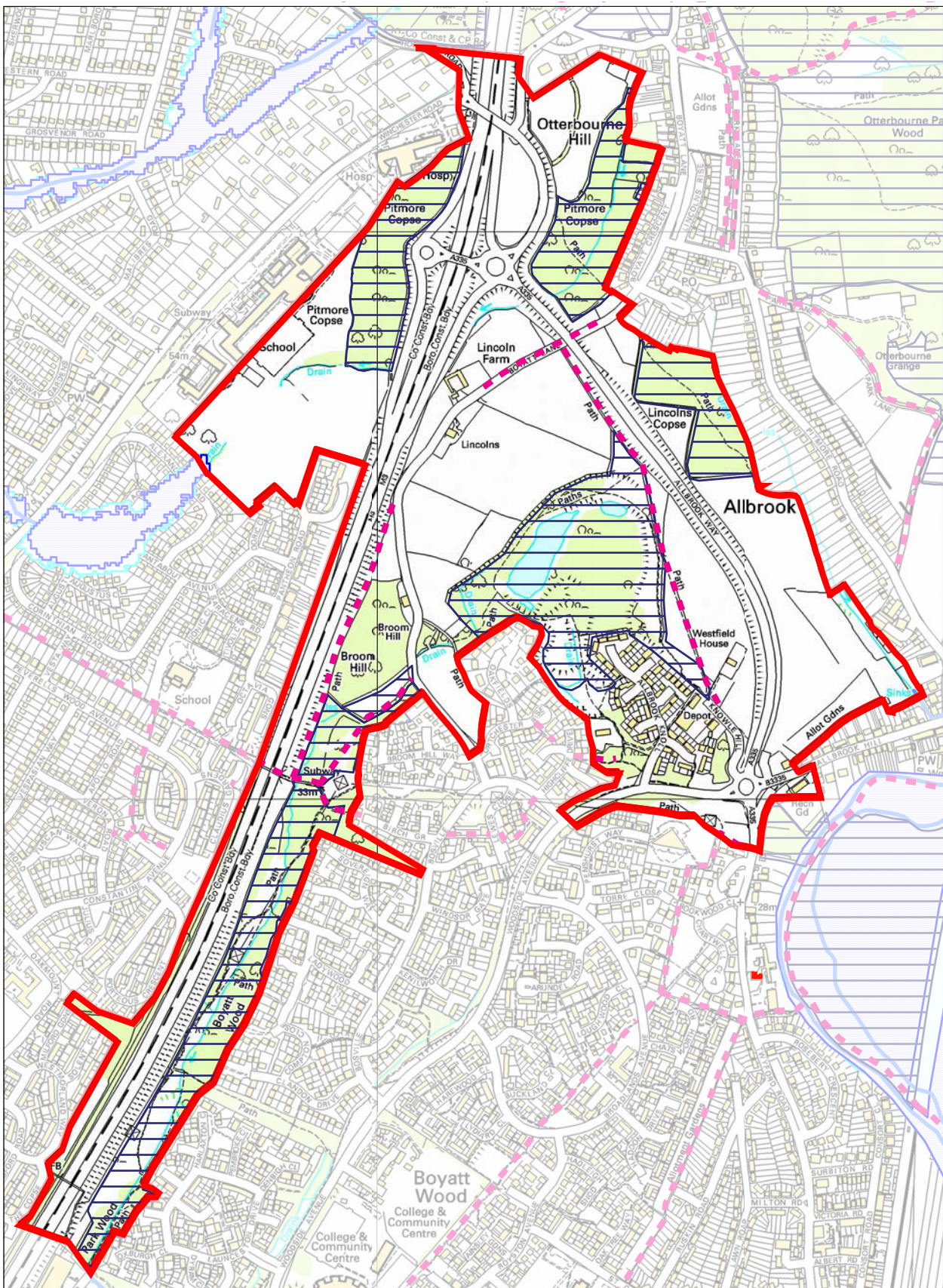
- 4.15 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

9.6 Post 1810 settlement general.

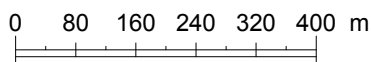


Figure 1. M3 Junction 12 looking south

Designations and Constraints



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Key for Designation & Constraints:			
	Character Area Boundary		Main River
	Area designated Ramsar, SPA* & SSSI Area		Floodzone 2
	SAC - Special Area of Conservation		Floodzone 3
	SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest		Right of Way
	SINC - Site of Important Nature Conservation		
	LNR - Local Nature Reserve		
	Historic Parks and Gardens		
	Conservation Area		
	Scheduled Ancient Monument		
	Listed Building		

*SPA - Special Protection Area

Ecological Features

- 4.16 Over a period of time, the disused claypits have been colonised by poplars, birch, alder and pine trees, increasing the biodiversity value of the site. The woodlands similarly contribute to the biodiversity of the area and are designated SINCS.

Key characteristics

- 4.17 Key characteristics of the area are:
- Local dominance of major roads,
 - Open character to agricultural land,
 - Prominent woodland throughout.

Landscape Types

- 4.18 Landscape types as set out in the Hampshire County Council Integrated Character Assessment 2011 for this area are:
- Lowland Mosaic Medium Scale



Figure 2. Allbrook Clay Pit panorama

- River Valley Floor

Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.19 The area has a core of rural landscape which is influenced by adjacent roads. The landscape structure is defined by the woodlands and topography. It has few distinctive or special features, apart from the water bodies in the brickworks, but has significant amenity and wildlife value.

Visual Sensitivity

4.20 The area is visually sensitive due its small size, the openness within the area, the proximity of the road network and the prominent wooded high ground.

Key Issues

4.21 The key issues for this area are:

- The impact caused by change within the character area is exacerbated by the small size of the area.
- Prominence of road network due to traffic noise, associated infrastructure and movement of traffic.
- Variable condition and level of management of woodlands.
- De facto access and informal recreational use of unmanaged disused brickworks which have become an amenity asset for local people.
- Pressure for built development.



Figure 2. Allbrook Clay Pit panorama