

Area 6: North Stoneham Park



Description

- 4.79 The area is historically part of North Stoneham Park (now in multiple ownership) and needs to be considered with the parts of the park that lie outside the borough to the south and southeast within Test Valley. The landscape character area contiguous with Area 6 is described in the Test valley borough Council's landscape appraisal as 'LCA North Baddlesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic' (<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/tvlcp/index.html>). It is a landscape of gently sloping landform divided by low hedges, post and wire fences and, in some areas, an unfortunate clutter of post and rail fences around horse paddocks.
- 4.80 Large parkland lime trees form small groups in this open landscape. The edge of the character area to the south and west is formed by a dense horizon of woodland. The land outside this boundary is defined by a mix of Oak-dominated woodland. Public access across the parkland is from Chestnut Avenue, opposite Sand Martin Close to Stoneham Lane, opposite Stoneham Rectory. The boundary to the north is formed by Chestnut Avenue and the urban edge of Eastleigh and to the east by the busy Stoneham Lane which provides a link to the M27 south of the character area. To the southeast the landscape merges with the playing fields to the southeast. From higher, open ground in the central parts of the area there are long views to the north and east in particular across the town of Eastleigh and towards the Itchen valley.
- 4.81 Along the eastern boundary there are a number of open playing fields used primarily as football, rugby and cricket pitches. There are two pavilions associated with these pitches, a small building and informal car park located to the northwest of the northern playing field and a larger structure with a car park south of the northern playing field. This car park is a large, hard surfaced area that is used for a park and ride during the day. On the western side of the M3 the youth facility,



Figure 14. View along historic avenue of trees in Stoneham Park

Freespace, which includes skate park and BMX track, is located. In the centre of the character area there is a golf driving range. These sports and recreation facilities are generally well integrated. However as sports use has intensified and facilities developed the associated structures, especially lighting, has increased the impact upon the Character Area.

- 4.82 The open nature of this landscape and the limited development within it provides a distinct edge to the settlement of Eastleigh. This edge and the space that it creates, provide a significant separation between Eastleigh and Southampton, demarking these individual settlements.

Historic Features

- 4.83 North Stoneham Park is a historic park landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and registered on the Hampshire Historic Parks and Gardens list:

4.84 "Deer Park 1334 for Abbot of Hyde; former landscape park & pleasure grounds; part in Test Valley; icehouse, only pit remains; walled garden & orangery remain. Avenue Park being restored (1.5ha); fishing lakes; monument; rest of park private sport grounds."

- 4.85 It was originally associated with North Stoneham Manor that has since been demolished, but would have been located just to the south of this character area. The monument referred to in the listing above is known as the Shrine. It is one of a pair built in 1917 by landowner John Willis Fleming of Stoneham Park House, (the other can be found at Havenstreet on the Isle of Wight). It was built in memory of Mr Willis Fleming's second son Richard, who was killed in action in 1916 and as a memorial to all local men serving in the forces. Historically, it is likely that the land around the Shrine would have been open, however over time, the surrounding parkland has become more



Figure 15. View north east across Stoneham Park panorama



Figure 16. The Shrine in Stoneham Park

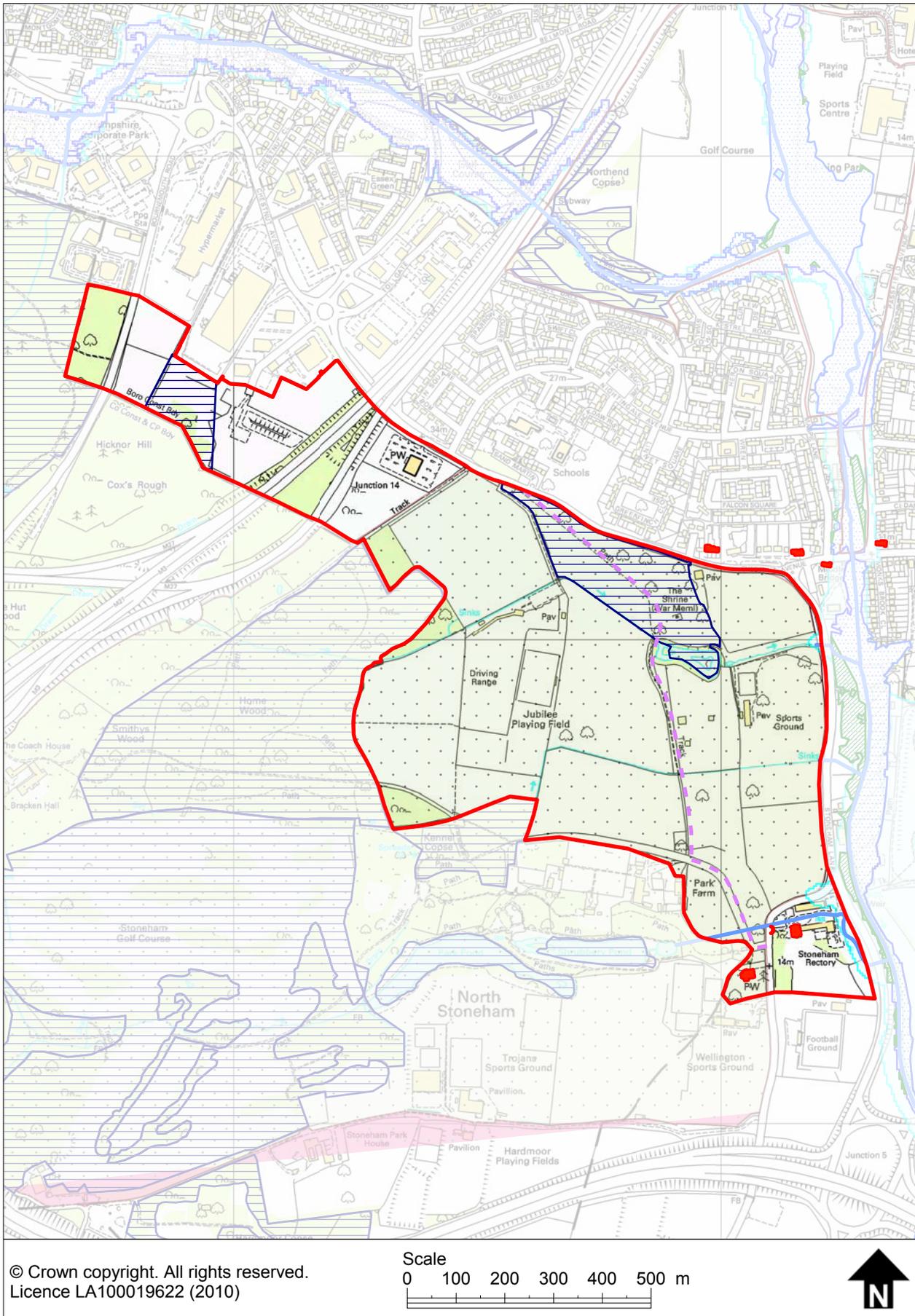
wooded and enclosed. The Shrine has recently undergone restoration work.

- 4.86 There are 3 listed buildings in this character area, located on Stoneham Lane, which would have originally been associated with the North Stoneham estate. The Old Rectory is located in the southeast corner of the character area. The building and grounds form a distinct and contrasting element to the rest of the character area. The grounds, which include the gateway entrance that is listed separately, form an enclosed site that has been partially developed to provide office space and



Figure 15. View north east across Stoneham Park panorama

Designations and Constraints



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

- car parking. The remaining land forms an enclosed grassland bounded by mature garden planting which serves as the historic setting to the Rectory. This contrasts with the typically open parkland aspect of the character area.
- 4.87 The Church of St Nicholas and its curtilage are situated on the southern edge of North Stoneham Park. It was built as part of the estate and is an important feature within the landscape because of the diverse tree planting associated with the graveyard contrasting with the dominant parkland character.
- 4.88 Part of the Park is now maintained by Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council as public open space.
- 4.89 The monument in North Stoneham Park is known as the Shrine and is one of a pair built in 1917 by landowner John Willis Fleming of Stoneham Park House, (the other can be found at Havenstreet on the Isle of Wight). It was built in memory of Mr Willis Fleming's second son Richard, who was killed in action in 1916 and as a memorial to all local men serving in the forces. Historically, it is likely that the land around the Shrine would have been open, however over time, the surrounding parkland has become more wooded and enclosed.



Figure 17. Panorama view across Stoneham Park

HCC Historic Landscape Types:

4.90 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

- 1.4 Regular assarts with straight boundaries
- 1.10 Medium regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 4.1 Assorted pre-1810 woodland
- 10.3 Deer parks

Ecological Features

4.91 Part of North Stoneham Park is maintained by Hampshire County Council as grazing land and part is managed by Eastleigh Borough Council as public open space. Another area of parkland along the northern boundary of the character area maintained by the Borough Council is designated as a SINC for its grassland nature conservation significance. At the northwest end of the character area a SINC has been designated for similar reasons.

4.92 Freespace Hicknor Hill SINC is located northwest of the motorway, adjacent to a local youth facility. This grassland and birch scrub provides a habitat for slow worms, common lizards and adders.

4.93

Key Characteristics

4.94 The key characteristics for this area are:

- Mature parkland trees
- Open parkland character to central areas
- Landform rising to the rest of former parkland
- Low hedges, barbed wire fences and post and rail fences associated with



Figure 17. Panorama view across Stoneham Park

- horse grazing
- Wooded horizons

Landscape Types

4.95 Landscape types as set out in the Hampshire County Council Integrated Character Assessment 2011 for this area are:

- Lowland Mosaic, Heath Associated.

Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.96 This is a very distinctive parkland landscape with amenity and wildlife value.

Visual Sensitivity

4.97 The landscape is largely rural in character with views of development mainly at its northern edge.

Key Issues

4.98 The key issues for this area are:

- significant pressure for future development to the south west of Eastleigh, south of Chestnut Avenue, west of Stoneham Lane as identified in the draft Local Plan.
- Development in this area would be particularly prominent due to the open parkland character, public access and the roads on boundaries which combine to allow views across the character area.
- Fractured ownership of North Stoneham Park leading to different management approaches.
- Variable condition and level of management of woodlands