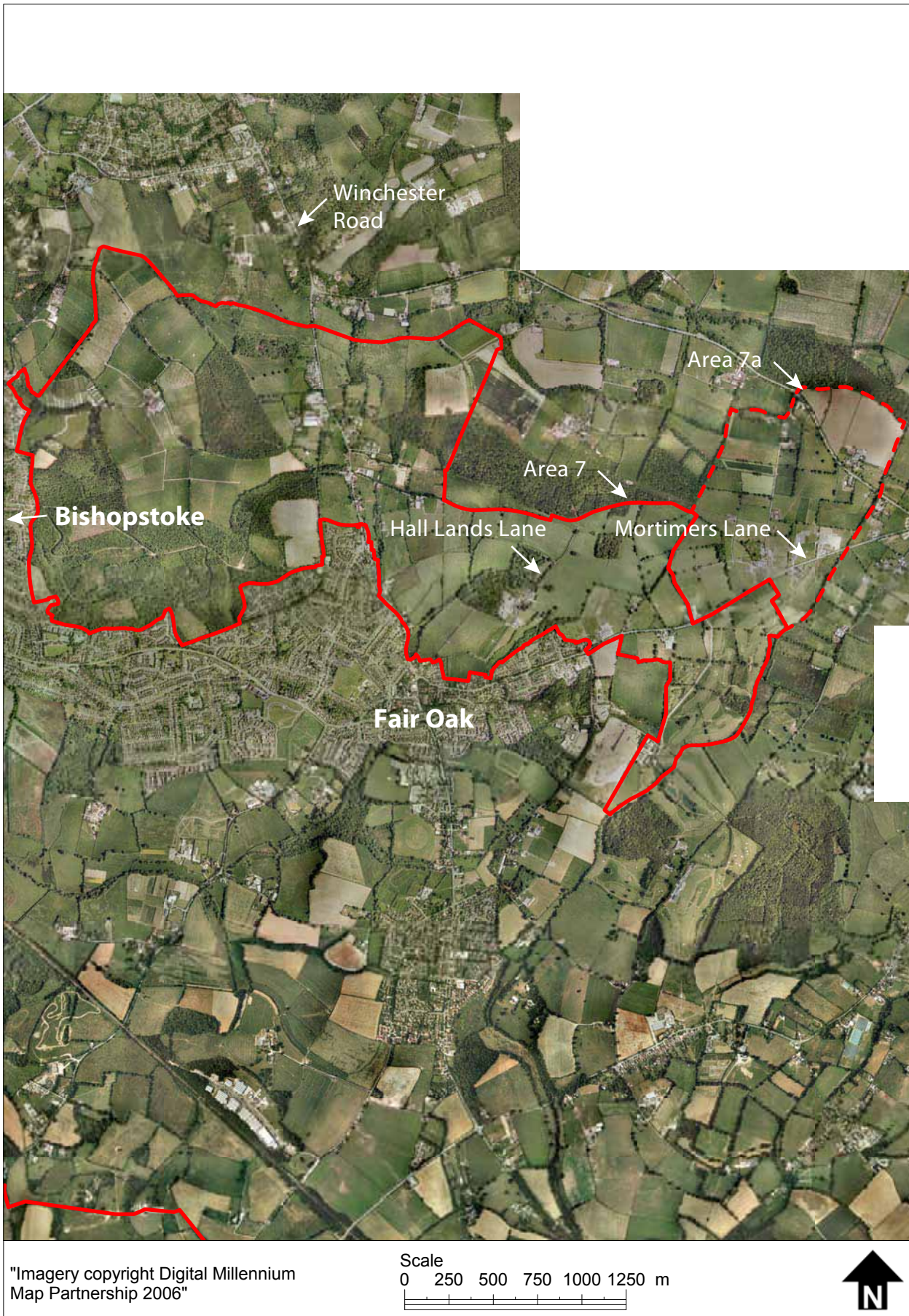


Area 7: Bishopstoke- Fair Oak Woodland and Farmland



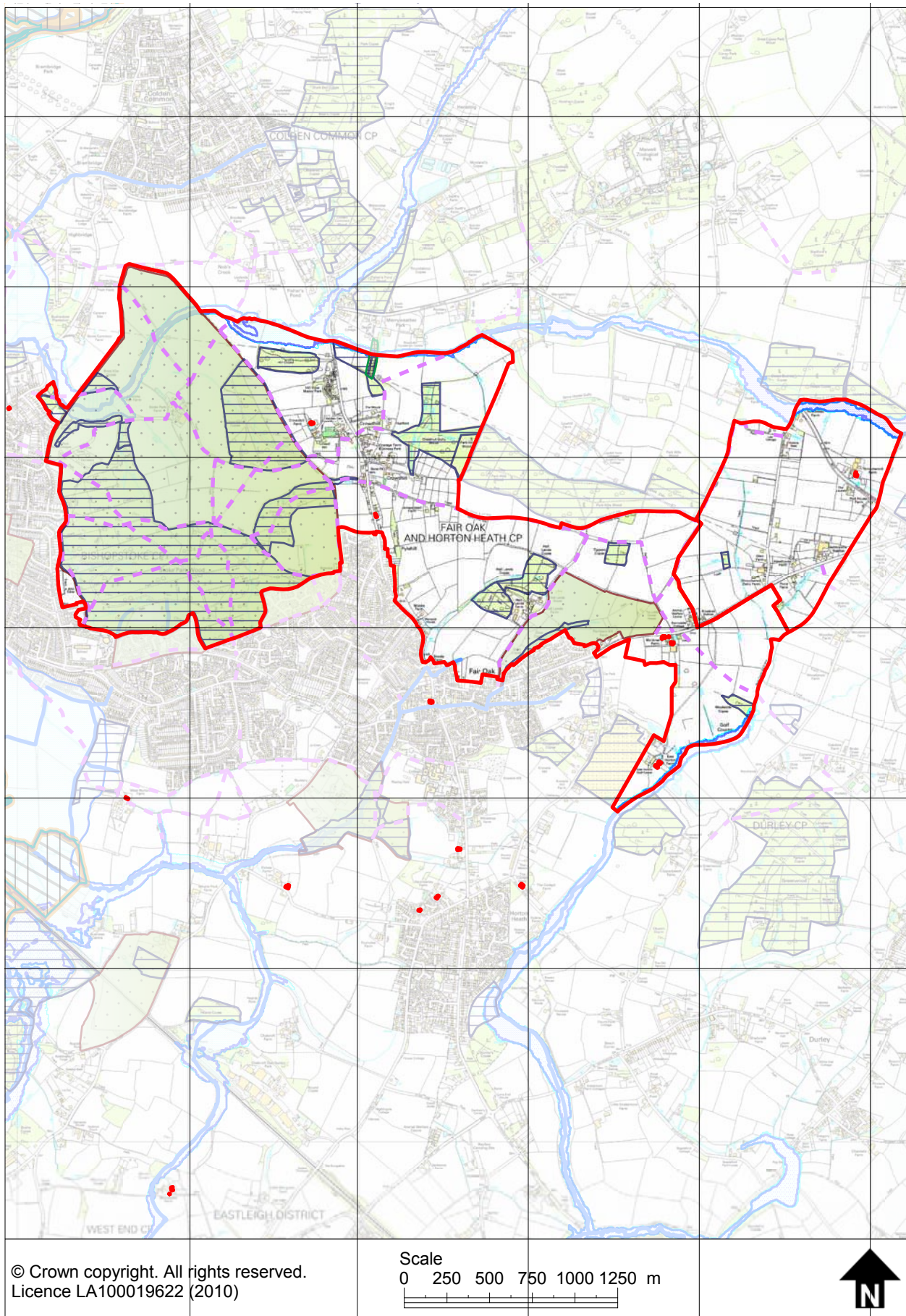
Description










- 4.99 The main unifying feature of this character area is the ridge that extends eastwards from the edge of the Itchen Valley, through Stoke Park Wood and Crowdhill/ Pylehill to Tippers Copse, where the land falls to the northeast. The full extent of the ridge cannot be seen from any one viewpoint. Settlement screens it in the south, and woodland and undulations in the landform screen views on the ridge itself and to the north. There are frequent woodlands and, in many parts, small fields with hedges and hedgerow trees. The overall impression is one of a wooded, rural landscape with views provided of substantial woodland blocks, particularly in the west of the area.
- 4.100 The B3354 Winchester Road crosses the area north-south. Settlements at Pylehill and Crowdhill have developed along the road, mainly to the west, and there is a distinctly urban fringe character. In the east the landscape character becomes more fragmented. There is a rather degraded parkland character around The Little Dower House, Mortimers Lane and the strong hedgerow pattern is disrupted by the golf course south of Mortimers Lane.
- 4.101 The majority of the western and southern boundaries of the character area are formed by the settlement edges of Bishopstoke and Fair Oak. The northern and eastern boundaries are less clearly defined, although in part are delineated by water courses.
- 4.102 In the north-east corner of the character area, as the land slopes away from the ridge, the former Stroud Wood Common is now an area of small rectilinear fields in pasture use forming a distinct sub-area, the Stroud Wood Pastures, (7a).



Figure 18. View south from Hallands Lane

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

Historic Features

- 4.103 Stoke Park Woods in the west of the character area is included on the Hampshire Historic Parks and Gardens register. In addition, Fair Oak Park towards the southeast of the area has been proposed to be listed:
- 4.104 Fair Oak Park – “Proposed for listing – no information available.”
- 4.105 Stoke Park Woods - “Deer park referred to as Stoke Wood; used as a hunting ground by King John 1205; wood has changed little in size since medieval times; impark 1242 for Bishop of Winchester; woodland walks; managed by Forestry Commission.”
- 4.106 In the north of the character area near Winchester Road there is a Scheduled Monument:
- 4.107 Park Pale At Marwell, South Of Fisher’s Pond (Monument No. 20001).
- 4.108 There are a number of listed buildings scattered through the character area, although these have no significance contribution to the overall character of the area.



Figure 19. View north from Stoke Park Woods panorama

HCC Historic Landscape Types:

4.109 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

- 1.6 Medium to large regular fields with wavy boundaries (late medieval to 17th/18th century enclosure)
- 1.9 Small regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.16 Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries
- 4.1 Assart pre-1810 woodland
- 4.3 Other pre-1810 woodland
- 4.4 Replanted other pre-1810 woodland
- 4.5 19th century plantations (general)
- 7.7 Fishponds, hatchery complexes, natural ponds and lakes
- 9.6 Post 1810 Settlement
- 9.7 Village or hamlet 1810 extent

Ecological Features

- 4.110 Stoke Park has been identified as a priority area within the BAP. Large areas of woodland provide suitable habitats for many species associated with woodland cover. The Dormouse, badgers, Roe deer and a number of rare butterflies are known to live here. The area has a network of hedgerows that create green corridors through which woodland animals can move from woodland to woodland.
- 4.111 There are a number of sites of differing habitat types that have been designated as SINCS because of their nature conservation significance. The area has a network of hedgerows that creates green corridors through which woodland animals can move from woodland to woodland.



Figure 19. View north from Stoke Park Woods panorama

Key Characteristics

4.112 The key characteristics for this area are:

- Undulating ridge
- Frequent woodland blocks
- Rectilinear pattern of small fields with good hedgerow trees
- Small copses add to wooded character
- Views across rural landscape from the northern edge and to the south from woodland clearings
- Prominent roadside residential development
- Distinct sub-area with a very strong hedgerow pattern to the north east



Figure 20. Stoke Park Woods



Figure 21. View west from Stroudwood Lane panorama

Landscape Types

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

- Lowland Mosaic, Medium Scale
- Lowland Mosaic, Small Scale

Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.114 Overall it is an attractive landscape with Stoke Park Woods and the sub area (7a) providing distinctive features that have amenity and wildlife value.

4.115 Contained within the area is a very distinctive parkland landscape.

Visual Sensitivity

4.116 The area is predominantly rural, with woodlands, for the most part, shielding the development at the urban edge. It has an undulating landform, good vegetation cover, and often has wide views out. The significant woodland elements in this area can be seen from some distance away.

Key Issues

4.117 The key issues for this area are:

- The erosion of the rural character of Winchester Road through increased levels of residential development
- The number of ecological sites in the area which need to be interconnected
- The distinctively different character between area 7 and 7a



Figure 21. View west from Stroudwood Lane panorama