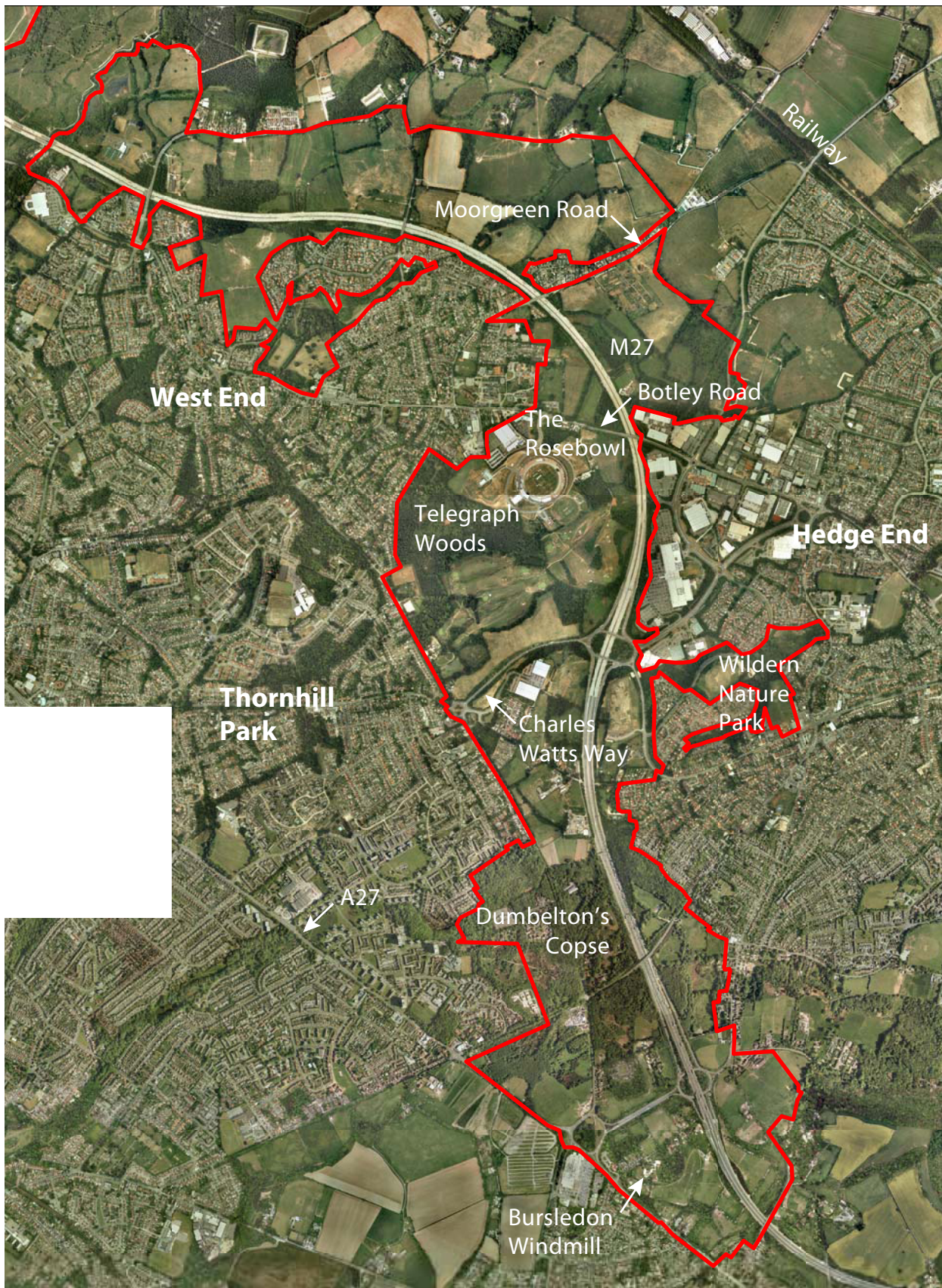
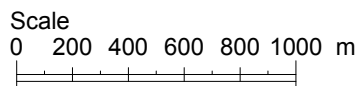


Area 11: M27 Corridor



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Description

- 4.160 The character area is dominated by the motorway. In the northern part of the character areas, maturing but largely linear motorway planting obscures the cuttings and embankments, while to the south of Moorgreen it follows the distinctive, undulating and generally well-wooded landform.
- 4.161 The path of the motorway fractures the field pattern, fragmenting the land use and physically dividing the east and west sides of the character area. Land directly adjacent much of the motorway consists of heath-associated pasture and woodland. This limits the visual intrusion of the motorway. The woodland is dominated by oak and birch with frequent patches of conifers; rhododendron and laurel often form the understorey. For much of its length the area is hemmed-in by development in West End, Hedge End and substantial belts of recent woodland, often with conifers at their edges. North-west of Moorgreen the landscape is more rural and less wooded. Fields are generally small and fragmented, quite frequently with overgrown hedges, and are predominantly in pasture use. Smallholdings and allotments are frequent with the occasional unmanaged field. The boundaries of this character area are defined primarily by the built edge of the settlements that run along its length. The northern boundary of the area is defined by the boundaries of the adjacent character areas, area 3 (Lower Itchen Valley), area 9 (Horton Heath Undulating Farmland) and area 10 (Oaklands Woodland and Parkland).
- 4.162 The landform and white tensile architecture of the Rose Bowl cricket ground is a landmark that creates a distinctive feature on the hillside south of Moorgreen. The surrounding golf course is at odds with the general landform/pattern, however blocks of woodland serve to reduce its impact.
- 4.163 Despite the motorway, areas enclosed by woodland or within the small steep-sided valleys have a very rural character. Nevertheless, views of roads, urban edges and pylons tend to predominate. The motorway generates significant noise intrusion.

Historic Features

- 4.164 This landscape character area contains one historic park and garden listed on the Hampshire register:
- 4.165 Hatch Grange – “Avenue of limes planted 1874; originally had 300 acres.” This now functions as an urban park within West End.
- 4.166 There are 3 scheduled monuments around the middle of the area, close to the Rose Bowl cricket ground:

Bowl Barrow 200m West Of Moorgreen House (Monument No. 12148)

Hickley Wood Hillfort (Monument No. 31152)

Telegraph Woods Beacon, 170m North Of Fir Cottage (Monument No. 31157)

HCC Historic Landscape Types:

4.167 Historic landscapes types in this area are:

- 1.9 Small regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.10 Medium regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.16 Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries
- 4.1 Assarted pre-1810 woodland
- 4.3 Other pre-1810 woodland
- 4.5 19th century plantations (general)
- 9.6 Post 1810 settlement general

4.168 The area contains 4 listed buildings, although only 1 of these is significant in the landscape. Bursledon Windmill is a grade II* listed building that occupies a prominent hilltop location near Windover roundabout. Whilst woodland has grown up to the east that partially obscures views of it, it can still be seen from a number of points in and outside of the character area. Bursledon Windmill is also 1 of 3 conservation areas in this landscape area. Gaters Mill and Romill Close are 2 small conservation areas in West End, in the northwest corner of the landscape character area.



Figure 28. Panorama view from Charles Watts Way ,looking west



Figure 29. View near Oaktree Caravan Park

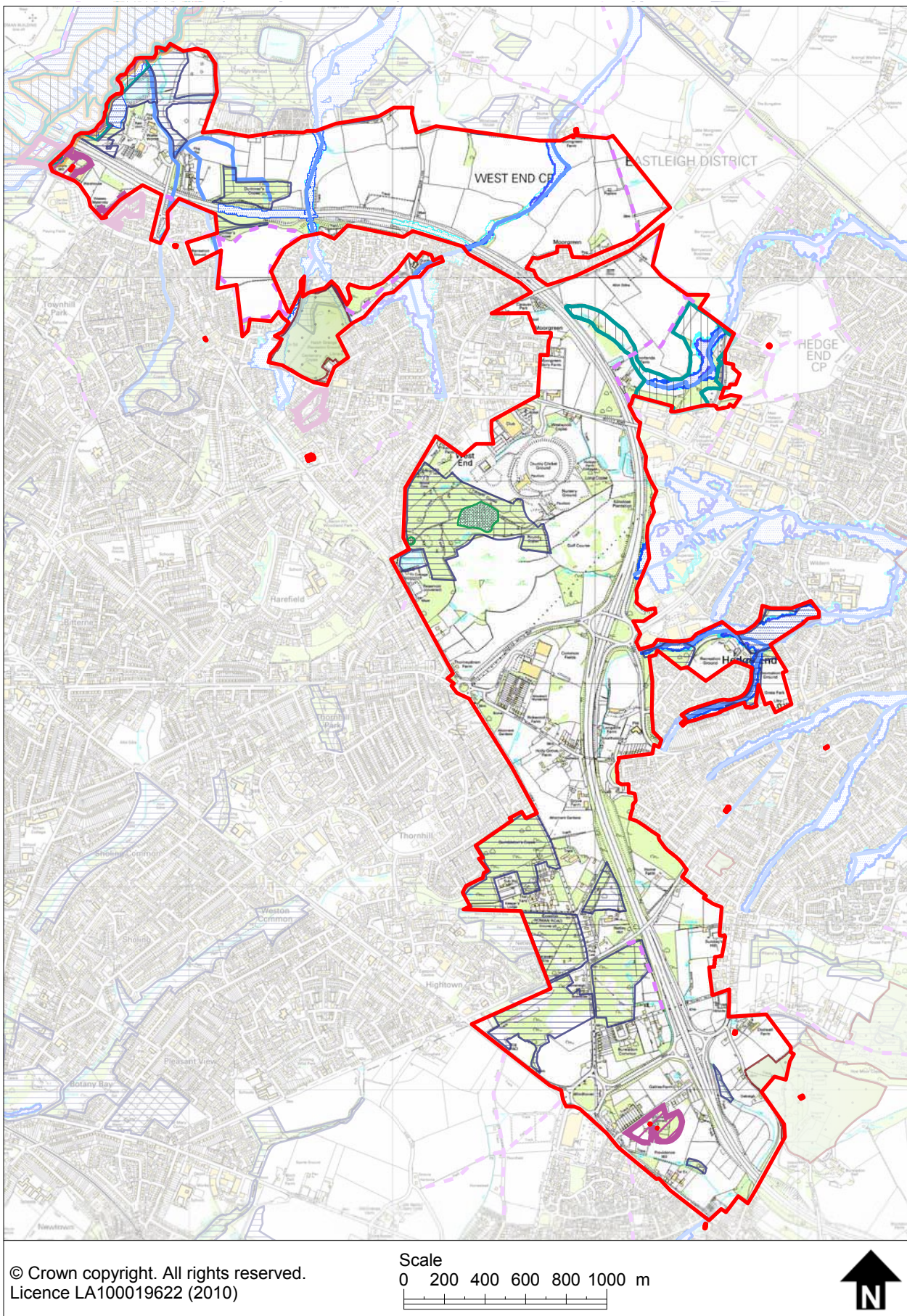
Ecological Features

- 4.169 There is a SSSI at Moorgreen Meadows which forms a priority area in the BAP, comprised of woodland and meadow. The wet grassland provides a good habitat for Marsh Orchids and other flora. A number of SINCs have been designated

















Figure 28. Panorama view from Charles Watts Way ,looking west

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



Figure 30. M27 motorway near Netley Hill

within this character area, mainly relating to where heathland vegetation has survived or regenerated.

Key Characteristics

4.170 The key characteristics for this area are:

- Presence of motorway
- Proximity of urban edge and large areas of significant woodlands
- High ground to the west of the motorway, undulating to the north and east
- Small pasture fields often with unmanaged hedges
- Pockets of relatively quiet rural areas shielded by woodland and landform

Landscape Types

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

- Lowland Mosaic, Medium Scale
- Lowland Mosaic, Heath Associated
- Lowland Mosaic, Open

Landscape Character Sensitivity

4.171 This area is a mix of rural and peri-urban character, significant because of the patchwork distribution. It contains sites of wildlife and amenity value and includes heath-associated pasture.

Visual Sensitivity

4.172 It has quite strong landforms and a varied vegetation structure of woodland and hedges. However it forms a narrow corridor between settlements and could easily be compromised by further development.

Key Issues

4.173 The key issues for this area are:

- The edges of Southampton and Hedge End are in close proximity in some locations. The closure of these pinch points could result in fragmentation of the character area.
- Further development in the character area would be visually prominent due to the presence of the motorway and smaller highways that run throughout the character area
- Parts of the landscape is degraded due to unsympathetic development

- associated with the urban edge
- Noise and visual disturbance from the motorway and smaller highway network
 - Pressure for some development north of Barbe Baker Avenue, West End,, south of Foord Road, west of Dodwell Lane, Hedge End and land fronting Providence Hill and Oakhill as identified in the draft Local Plan.