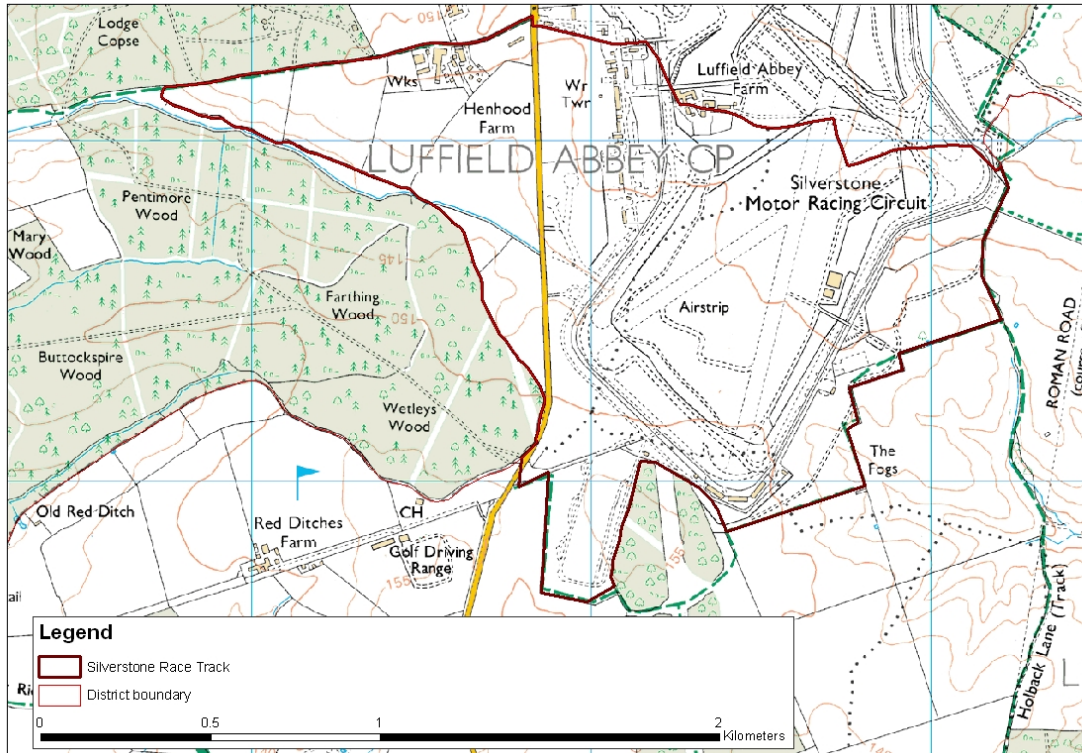
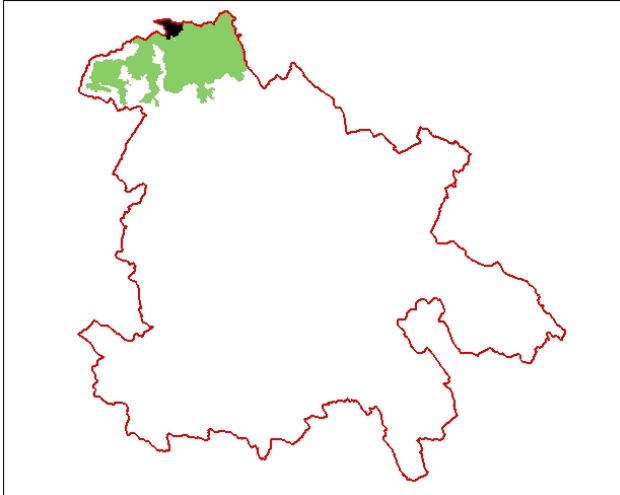


LCA 1.1 Silverstone Race Track

Landscape Character Type: LCT 1 Wooded Ridge



LCA 1.1 Silverstone Race Track (LCT 1)

Key Characteristics

- Gently sloping high ground
- Dominated by Silverstone Race Track
- Structures, surfacing and fencing associated with race track
- Surrounded by woodland
- No settlement

Distinctive Features

- Motor racing circuit
- Views generally enclosed by surrounding woodland
- Key location within views north from Stowe

Intrusive Elements

- Fencing and signage
- Lighting
- Built development

Location The area adjoins the boundary with Northamptonshire and part of the race track is beyond the boundary. Stowe parkland is immediately to the south. Most of the western boundary is formed by woodland in Northamptonshire. One minor road running north to south bisects the area.

Landscape character Gently sloping ground dominated by Silverstone Race Track and associated facilities. To the east of the road the character is dominated by a major events venue with avenues, parking, lighting and signage. To the west a rural character has been retained with the field pattern and hedgerow structure, but these fields are used for parking for major events. On race days thousands of people and cars transform the area.

The visual character of the area is significantly enhanced by the backdrop of woodland most of which is over the county boundary in Northamptonshire. This woodland also limits the visual impact of the racetrack on the surrounding countryside and Stowe parkland.

Geology Glacial till.

Topography The racetrack lies on some of the highest ground in the district at around 150m AOD, on a slight ridge with land falling away gently to the southeast and northwest. The elevation range is from 140-150m AOD.

Hydrology The racing circuit is on a ridge of slightly higher ground which drains to the southeast and northwest. There are no watercourses but a ditch drains to the northwest.

Land use and settlement About half the area is grassland located either within the racetrack itself or to the west of the road where the land is used for grazing and for parking for major events. There is no settlement.

Tree cover Little significant areas of woodland but the landscape setting for the racetrack includes new avenues of trees along the main access road. On the western side the original hedgerow pattern remains largely intact with hedgerow trees predominantly of oak, however most trees are mature or over mature.

Biodiversity Natural habitat within the area is restricted to improved grassland, both within the western agricultural part and the area occupied by the racing circuit. This habitat is augmented by hedgerows, several ponds, over mature trees and the ditch. The overall lack of connectivity and diversity in habitats is likely to result in a corresponding low diversity of floral and faunal species however this may be improved in close proximity to the adjoining woodlands.

Historic environment Originally part of the royal medieval hunting forest of Whittlewood. The western half of the area was cleared in the early 12th century for the Benedictine Priory of Luffield, the site of which survives within the racetrack. A chapel to St Thomas of Canterbury was later built at the eastern edge of the area. In the 19th century the area was traversed by an avenue leading from Stowe to Silverstone, fragments of the avenue survive and views northward along rides from Stowe are sensitive. The chapel was removed when the military training airfield was built in 1943 but buried remains

LCA 1.1 Silverstone Race Track (LCT 1)

survive. The airfield closed in 1947 and the following year Silverstone was used for the first RAC British Grand Prix since which time it has become the home of British Grand Prix. The majority of the area is now a distinctive modern landscape of motor racetrack and associated stands, parking and road infrastructure based on the airfield layout. Small areas of historic fields survive on the western boundary. The area is covered by the Whittlewood Project which aims to investigate the areas landscape history and archaeological interest particularly in relation to medieval settlement patterns.

Designations

Archaeological Notification Areas – 4 No

LCA 1.1 Silverstone Race Track (LCT 1)



Racetrack and stands - note screening woodland in the background.



Western agricultural area is used for parking for major events.

LCA 1.1 Silverstone Race Track (LCT 1)

Summary of Condition/Sensitivity Analysis		Condition
Condition	Very poor	<p>The condition of this landscape is assessed to be very poor due to the rather incoherent mass of elements and loss of unifying landscape pattern. Some of these elements are considered to be visual detractors to the landscape quality of the area. This includes the fencing and signage and some of the built development. However, considering the scale of the site it has remarkably little negative visual impact on the surrounding landscape but it is in itself an interrupted landscape. The cultural integrity is considered to be variable, as although most of the site has lost its historic landscape pattern of park, avenue, fields and hedgerows, the modern racing circuit has its own distinctive and promoted heritage. Ecological integrity is weak due to poor connectivity and only a small area of broad</p>
Pattern of elements:	Incoherent	
Visual detractors:	Some	
Visual unity:	Interrupted	
Cultural integrity:	Variable	
Ecological integrity:	Weak	
Functional integrity:	Weak	
Sensitivity	Very low	
Distinctiveness:	Indistinct	
Continuity:	Recent	
Sense of place:	Very weak	
Landform:	Insignificant	
Tree cover:	Intermittent	
Visibility:	Low	
Guidelines	Create	<p>habitat of District significance (standing water) and no designated sites. This gives the area a weak functional integrity.</p>

habitat of District significance (standing water) and no designated sites. This gives the area a weak functional integrity.

Sensitivity

The area is considered to have an indistinct character and the majority of the landscape features and those that tend to dominate, are recent. This gives the area a very weak sense of place. The landform is considered to be insignificant and the tree cover intermittent giving the area a low level of visibility. The very weak sense of place and the low level of visibility combine to give the area a very low level of sensitivity.

LCA 1.1 Silverstone Race Track (LCT 1)

Landscape Guidelines Create

The landscape guidelines for the Silverstone Race Track are as follows:

- Protect the medieval religious sites within the circuit.
- Avoid visual intrusion into key views north from Stowe and provide appropriate perimeter landscape planting.
- Identify and retain key features of motor-racing heritage.
- Encourage the retention and strengthening of the existing historic hedgerow pattern on the western side with new hedgerow trees, predominantly oak.
- Encourage the management of hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.
- Investigate opportunities to enhance the ecological biodiversity of the area.
- Identify opportunities to improve connectivity of habitats across the area.



The wide road through the area is very different in character from the narrow lanes to the south.