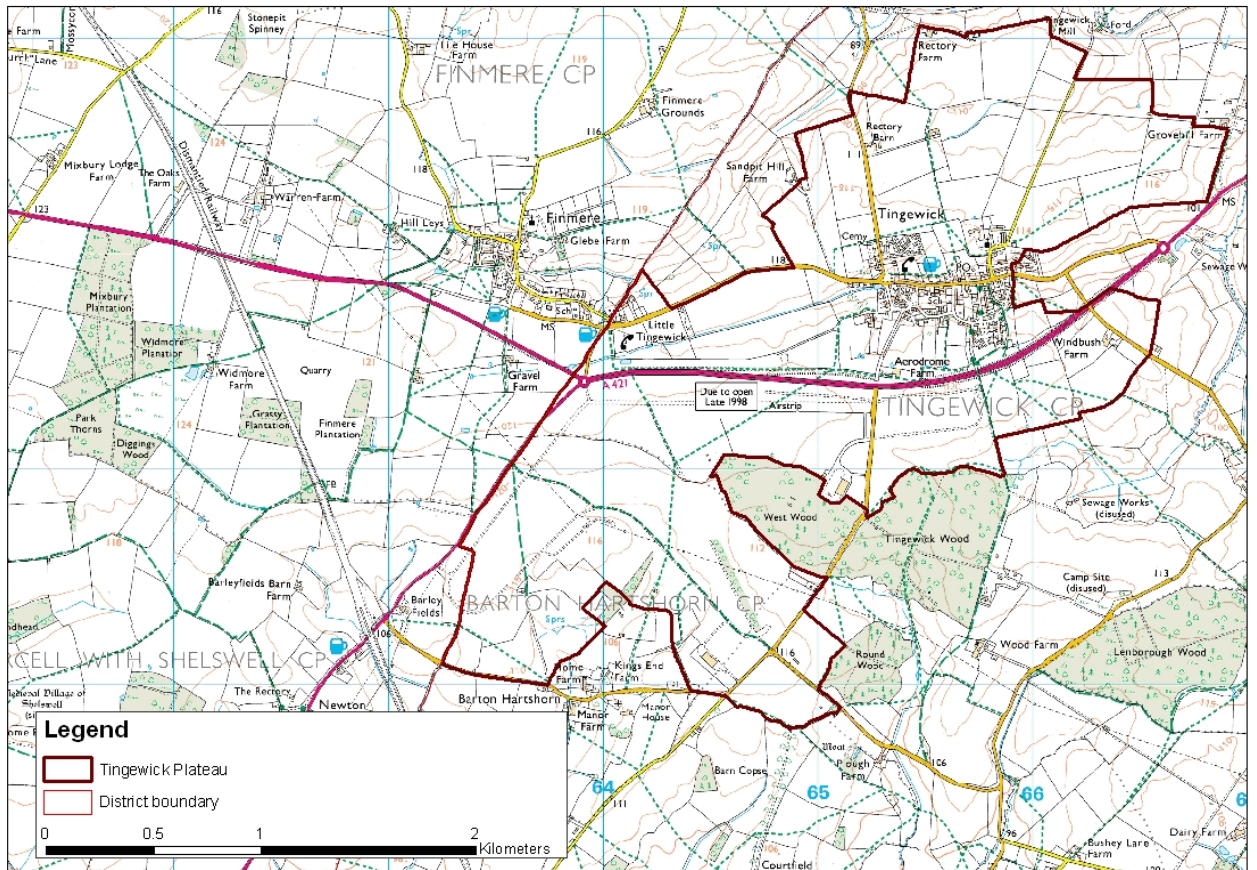
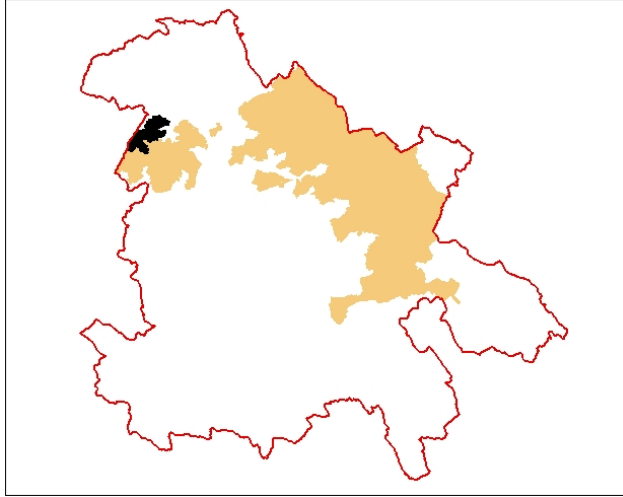


LCA 4.1 Tingewick Plateau

Landscape Character Type: LCT 4 Undulating Clay Plateau



LCA 4.1 Tingewick Plateau (LCT 4)

Key Characteristics

- Gently sloping plateau area
- Incised by several stream valleys
- Nucleated settlement of Tingewick
- Predominantly pastoral
- Strong 18th and 19th century hedgerow pattern
- Low density of woodland cover
- Vernacular buildings in Tingewick

Distinctive Features

- A421 Tingewick Bypass mostly in cutting
- Disused airfield
- Open views

Intrusive Elements

- A421
- Activities on disused airfield
- Pylon line

Location Due west of Buckingham on the western edge of the county. It extends from the Upper Great Ouse Valley LCA 2.7 on its north and east side to Preston Bissett Plateau Edge LCA 4.2 on the southern side. The A421 goes through the centre of the area.

Landscape character A gently sloping plateau of high ground in mixed agricultural use. The area generally has a good network of strong hedgerows with oak and ash trees. The creation of an airfield on the south side of the area in the 20th century removed the natural landform and historic hedgerow pattern. Elsewhere the area retains a pattern that reflects 18th and 19th century enclosure rather than the predominance of pre 18th century enclosure seen in much of the district. The area generally has a flat open character with a good hedgerow structure. The A421, pylon lines and the disused airfield disrupt this landscape, but the spatial concentration of these elements leads to a variety of landscape character and quality across the area.

Geology Glacial till overlain by undifferentiated glacial deposits in the north.

Topography A small plateau to the north of the area falls to the Great Ouse valley. Ground to the south slopes more gently to the Padbury Brook. It is likely that the natural landform of the airfield was flattened when the airstrips were created. The highest ground is around 115m AOD, the lowest areas where the heads of streams have incised slightly are around 100m. The elevation range is from approximately 110-115m AOD.

Hydrology There are no major watercourses within the area. Tingewick lies within the dip of a streamline. There is a spring on the southern side of the area.

Land use and settlement This is a predominantly grassland area although there is a notable concentration of arable farming on the southern edge. The field pattern is fairly regular with medium or large fields. Settlement is nucleated at Tingewick where it extends down from the plateau into a small valley stream. The church and some of the older settlement is on higher ground.

Tree cover The area has a low level of woodland cover with just two coniferous plantations in the form of shelterbelts to the south of the disused airfield. The tree cover elsewhere is variable being strongest in the north and around the edge of Tingewick. Trees within hedgerows tend to be oak and ash. Along the A421 there are areas of new deciduous woodland planting on the embankments and roundabout.

Biodiversity The Tingewick Plateau is agricultural comprising a mix of arable and grassland habitats. The grassland tends to be more dominant and is largely improved although some areas of unimproved and of neutral grassland – a broad habitat type, are present centrally.

Additional interest is provided by a few small areas of standing water but woodland habitat is very limited, however this will change as plantations along the Tingewick Bypass mature. The strong hedgerow pattern is valuable in providing connectivity between habitats. Locally biodiversity interest may be enhanced by the influence of the adjoining blocks of ancient woodland just beyond the boundary.

Historic environment The Roman road linking Alchester to Towcester defines the western boundary of this area along the county boundary whilst cropmark ring ditches indicate the possible sites of prehistoric burial mounds. The

LCA 4.1 Tingewick Plateau (LCT 4)

nucleated village of Tingewick is the only historic settlement in the area; it is a conservation area containing many listed buildings. The historic character to the north of the Tingewick bypass is a landscape of regular parliamentary enclosure fields laid out in 1773. To the south of the A421 bypass the historic field pattern has been largely removed by construction of the World War Two Airfield.

Designations

Conservation Area at Tingewick
Archaeological Notification Areas – 4 No.
BNS – 2 No.

LCA 4.1 Tingewick Plateau (LCT 4)



North of Tingewick the landscape retains a strong historic landscape pattern with strong hedgerows.



The historic landscape pattern was lost when the former airfield southwest of Tingewick was built – now the site is used for a variety of events.

LCA 4.1 Tingewick Plateau (LCT 4)

Summary of Condition/Sensitivity Analysis

Condition	Moderate
Pattern of elements:	Coherent
Visual detractors:	Some
Visual unity:	Coherent
Cultural integrity:	Variable
Ecological integrity:	Moderate
Functional integrity:	Coherent

Sensitivity	Moderate
Distinctiveness:	Distinct
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of place:	Moderate
Landform:	Apparent
Tree cover:	Intermittent
Visibility:	Moderate

Guidelines **Conserve and Enhance**

Condition

The landscape is considered to be in a moderate condition. There is a coherent pattern of elements through northern part of the area based on the historic field pattern. There are some visual detractors in the form of the A421 Tingewick bypass, pylon line and airfield but these are concentrated in one area. This results in the area as a whole being considered to have a coherent sense of visual unity. The cultural integrity is considered to be variable with the historic field pattern and village north of the bypass being much stronger than the relict airfield to the south. Ecological integrity is moderate despite strong connectivity because of the relatively low areas of designated sites and habitats of District significance. The functional integrity is therefore coherent.

Sensitivity

The area has a distinct character and a good sense of historic continuity in the north although this is weaker around the disused airfield and the A421 Tingewick Bypass. This gives the area a moderate sense of place. The landform is apparent and the tree cover is intermittent giving generally open views and a moderate level of visibility. Overall the sensitivity of this landscape is considered to be moderate.



The Tingewick Bypass is largely in cutting and its visual impact is limited by the landform and new planting that is becoming established.

LCA 4.1 Tingewick Plateau (LCT 4)

Landscape Guidelines Conserve and Enhance

The landscape guidelines for the Tingewick Plateau are as follows:

- Encourage the restoration of the historic hedgerow pattern where it has been lost. To enhance the landscape character and strengthen the ecological diversity. Where necessary use historic maps to identify where hedgerows have been lost.
- Maintain and improve the condition of existing hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.
- Promote the restoration of the landscape around the old airfield using new woodland planting and hedgerows to create a new landscape structure.
- Maintain the condition and extent of woodlands using traditional techniques to create and manage a wide diversity of habitats.
- Promote the use of new woodland planting to minimise the impact of pylon lines.
- Maintain the condition and extent of neutral, unimproved and semi-improved grassland wherever possible. Encourage good management practices.
- New housing and alterations to existing housing should be designed to reflect the traditional character of the area and use locally traditional materials.
- Promote the retention of the character of minor roads by the management of hedgerows and verges and limiting urbanising elements such as signage and kerbing.
- Maintain connectivity of habitats.



The village of Tingewick straddles the edge of the ridge and the adjacent LCA2.7 Upper Great Ouse Valley.