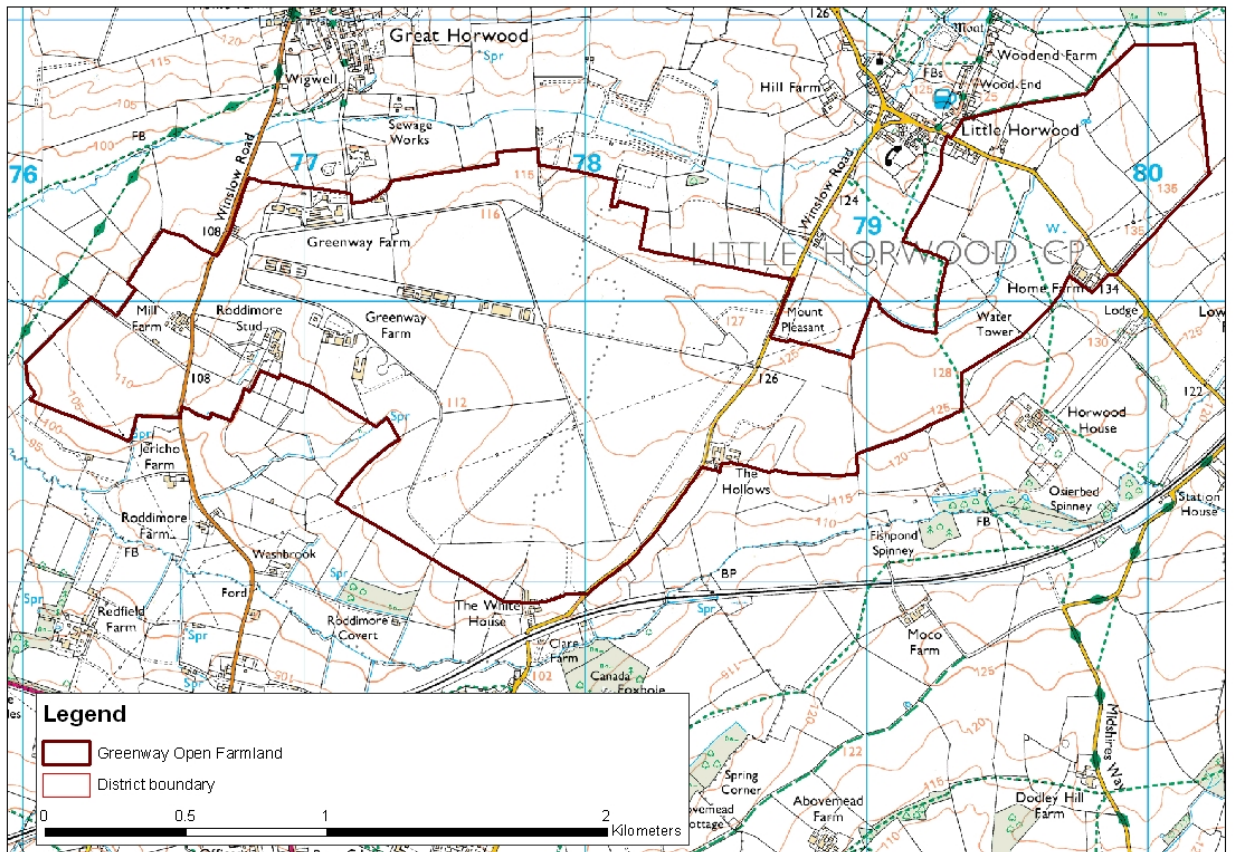
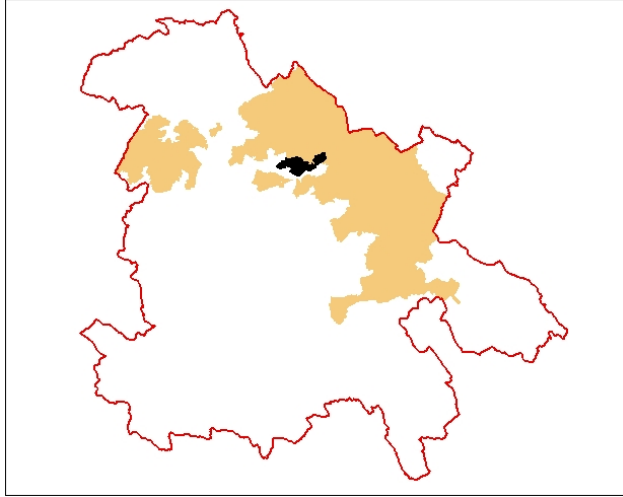


LCA 4.10 Greenway Open Farmland

Landscape Character Type: LCT 4 Undulating Clay Plateau



LCA 4.10 Greenway Open Farmland (LCT 4)

Key Characteristics

- Small gently sloping ridge
- Predominantly arable farming
- Low level of tree cover
- Low cut hedgerows with few trees
- Stronger hedgerows adjacent to roads
- Open views

Distinctive Features

- Flat ground around disused airfield
- Total absence of field pattern across airfield
- Concrete runways of airfield
- Line of conifer trees on airfield
- Pre-20th century landscapes survive east of airfield

Intrusive Elements

- Artificially flattened ground of airfield
- Recent small industrial buildings
- Pylon line crossing the area

Location This area comprises a narrow ridge to the north of Winslow but separated from the urban edge by the Roddimore valley (LCA 5.5). To the north of the ridge is another small valley and tributary of the Claydon Brook. Three lanes run north to south across the ridge.

Landscape character The character of the area is defined by the narrow ridge of higher ground and the arable land use in medium to large fields. The construction of a now disused airfield over a large section of the ridge has destroyed much of the original hedgerow pattern. Those hedgerows that remain vary but are generally cut low and contain few trees so there are wide unobstructed views across and out of the area.

The lack of field pattern, flat landform and pylon line combine to make this area more bleak than open in character.

Geology Glacial Till over mudstones - Middle (Stewartby Formation) and Upper (Weymouth Formation) over Oxford Clays, also Till over West Walton Formation to the east of the airfield.

Topography The narrow ridge extends out from the higher ground of the clayland to the east into the lower clay vale. The ridge runs from about 140m AOD in the east through to about 105m AOD in the west. A large central section has been flattened to create an airfield.

Hydrology There are no watercourses. The valleys to the north and south of the ridge are tributaries of the Claydon Brook, which joins the Great Ouse east of Buckingham. Tributaries come up to the edge of the area.

Land use and settlement The land use is predominantly arable farming. Where the field pattern has been removed across the old airfield the arable crops or ploughed land are visually very dominant.

There are no villages; settlement is limited to several scattered farms, generally immediately adjacent to the roads. Roddimore Stud is set back from the Winslow Road and is not visible in the wider landscape. There are also a number of light industrial buildings on the airfield and at The Hollows. Hence, there are a wider variety of land uses than is immediately apparent in most of the surrounding countryside.

Tree cover There are no woodlands within the area. Hedgerow trees are fairly sparse but strongest in the high hedgerows adjacent to the roads. Where the hedgerows have been removed across the disused airfield the lack of trees is very notable with the exception of a line of conifers which are readily apparent and of non-native species. Trees in the hedgerows surrounding the area and the woodlands in the Roddimore valley help to increase the tree cover in views from the area.

LCA 4.10 Greenway Open Farmland (LCT 4)

Biodiversity The biodiversity interest is limited by the uneven mix of arable and improved grassland habitat covering the whole area. The arable land tends to be concentrated in the east, whereas grassland is dominant in the west.

Other habitat is restricted to small areas of broadleaved woodland all occurring in the western half. Where remaining hedgerows provide some habitat connectivity.

Historic environment Historically this area is defined by the site of Little Horwood Airfield built in 1942 as a satellite airfield for the RAF training base at Wing and decommissioned in 1946. It has now reverted to agricultural use with modern field patterns. There is no pre 18th century enclosure other than a small fragment on the boundary with Little Horwood to the north east whilst a large area of Parliamentary land survives within the eastern part of the LCA and a small fragment on the western boundary. There are a few wartime structures and a small part of Little Horwood conservation area is within the LCA. There is also ridge and furrow and evidence for Roman occupation in the eastern part of the area

Designations

Conservation Area – Little Horwood
Archaeological Notification Areas – 1 No.

LCA 4.10 Greenway Open Farmland (LCT 4)



Looking towards The Hollows from the east of the disused airfield.



View over airfield showing flat landform, lack of landscape features and visual impact of pylons.

LCA 4.10 Greenway Open Farmland (LCT 4)

Summary of Condition/Sensitivity Analysis	
Condition	Very poor
Pattern of elements:	Incoherent
Visual detractors:	Many
Visual unity:	Significantly interrupted
Cultural integrity:	Poor/Weak
Ecological integrity:	Very weak
Functional integrity:	
Sensitivity	Moderate
Distinctiveness:	Indistinct
Continuity:	Historic
Sense of place:	Weak
Landform:	Apparent
Tree cover:	Open
Visibility:	High
Guidelines	Restore and Enhance

Condition

Generally the condition of the landscape is considered very poor due to a large part of the area being a disused airfield where the ground has been levelled and the field pattern removed. In this open rather bleak landscape the cultural integrity is considered to be generally poor, although east of the airfield the historic field pattern and archaeological remains survive. Ecological integrity is weak despite strong connectivity because of the low areas of habitats of District significance and an absence of designated sites. Overall the functional integrity is very weak.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity is considered to be moderate and the landscape indistinct but there is a historic continuity in most of the area stemming from the field pattern. These factors combine to give a weak sense of place. The landform is apparent and the tree cover is generally sparse combining to give the area a high overall visibility.



View east from Little Horwood Road towards Moco Farm. The foreground fields to the east of the airfield are within LCA13.

LCA 4.10 Greenway Open Farmland (LCT 4)

Landscape Guidelines Restore and Enhance

The landscape guidelines for Greenway Open Farmland are as follows:

- Away from the airfield encourage restoration of the field pattern where fields have been amalgamated.
- Encourage the less intensive management of hedgerows and the establishment of new hedgerow trees.
- Seek mitigation of visual impact of recent buildings with new tree planting .
- 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.
- Encourage the establishment of new hedgerow trees.
- Maintain connectivity of habitats.
- Promote the restoration of the landscape around the old airfield using new woodland planting and hedgerows to create a new landscape structure.
- Promote the use of new woodland planting to minimise the impact of pylon lines.
- 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.
- Recognise and protect the better preserved historic landscape south and east of Little Horwood.