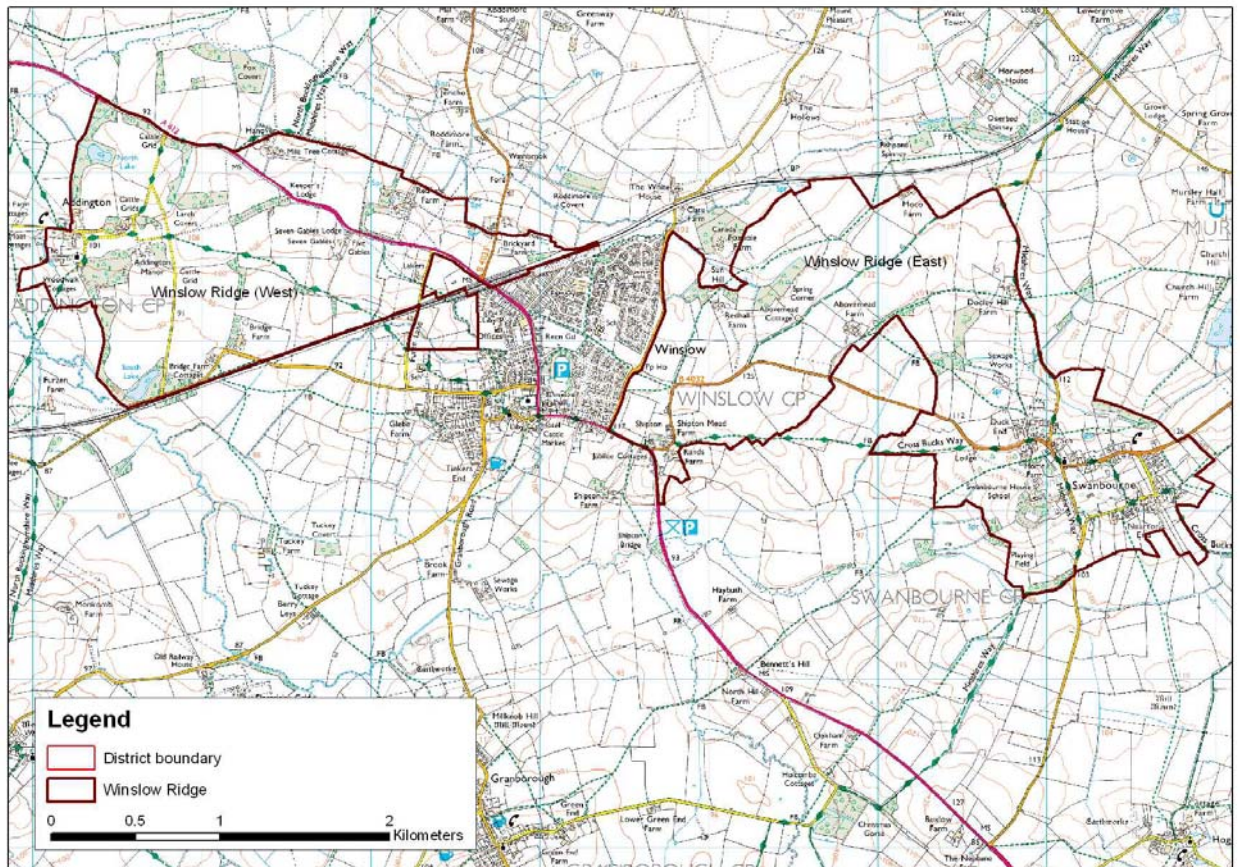
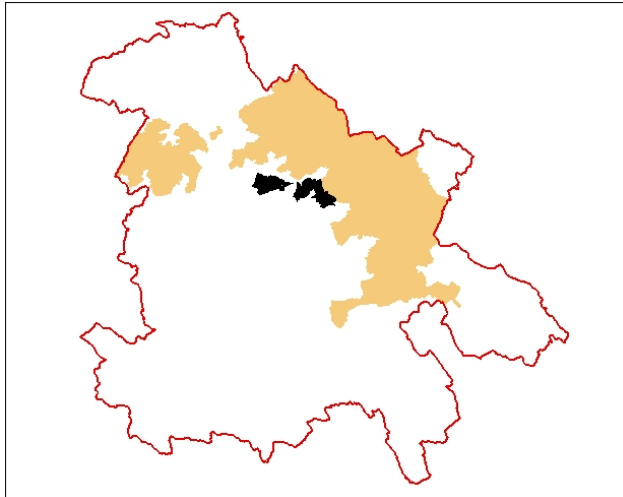


LCA 4.12 Winslow Ridge

Landscape Character Type: LCT 4 Undulating Clay Plateau



## LCA 4.12 Winslow Ridge (LCT 4)

### Key Characteristics

- Small gently sloping ridge
- Mixed farming with a good field pattern and strong hedgerows
- Scattered farms with small barns, sometimes timber
- Small woods often adjacent to farms
- Attractive historic settlements
- Sharp transition between Winslow and countryside with few urban fringe uses

### Distinctive Features

- Woodlands as part of designed parkland around Addington
- Tall mature ornamental trees around farms and settlement including Scots pine and redwood
- Vernacular buildings some with thatched roofs at Winslow and Swanbourne
- Ridge and furrow and fossilised strips around Swanbourne
- Disused railway line
- Landmark mature oak and ash trees along roads
- Footpaths and off-road cycle route
- Trees and scrub on railway cutting embankments
- Scattered broadleaved woodland throughout

### Intrusive Elements

- Pylon line
- Small areas of pony paddocks with fencing
- Traffic on busy roads

**Location** The ridge runs from east to west. At the centre is the small town of Winslow, whilst the eastern end is marked by the village of Swanbourne and to the west by the village of Addington. The A413 runs along a section of the ridge to the west of Winslow and the B4032 follows it to the east of the town.

**Landscape character** The landscape retains a strong balanced and well structured agricultural character despite its close proximity to Winslow. Busy roads bounded by strong hedgerows often with landmark trees are a feature of the area.

**Geology** Head deposits over mudstones. The western section is underlain by the lower, middle and upper formations of the Oxford Clay whereas the West Walton Formation underlies the eastern section.

**Topography** A small ridge extending out from the higher claylands in the east sloping down towards the vale and Claydon Brook in the west. The eastern end of the ridge is at a height of about 120m AOD whilst at the western extremity it has dropped to around 90m AOD and peters out into the river valley.

**Hydrology** The only stream - a meandering tributary of the Claydon Brook is found in a few fields to the west of Winslow. There are also a couple of springs on the edges of the area. The parkland around Addington contains two small lakes.

**Land use and settlement** This area is more settled than most of the surrounding countryside. It contains the town of Winslow and the unexpanded villages of Swanbourne and Addington. Busy roads radiate out of Winslow.

The field pattern is predominantly small to medium sized in a fairly irregular pattern. The use of the fields is mixed with more pasture on the edges of Winslow. Farms are less dispersed than is typical elsewhere in this part of the Aylesbury Vale and tend to be set back some distance from roads. Most farms have adjacent small woodlands. There is an equestrian centre at Addington Manor.

**Tree cover** The tree cover is higher than in most of the surrounding landscape. The hedgerow quality varies but is generally strong. Some are unmanaged forming tall strong hedges occasionally reaching the height of mature trees whilst others are regularly clipped and contain mature oak and ash. Small copses have been allowed to develop in some field corners. Woodland is generally in the form of very small blocks often adjacent to farms. The largest woodlands form part of the designed parkland around Addington Manor.

**Biodiversity** The Winslow Ridge is dominated by grassland habitat which is mostly improved although in the west there is a very small area of neutral grassland. This is a broad habitat type as is the much more frequently found broadleaved woodland present in small blocks throughout both parts of the ridge. Priority habitat types are restricted to a small area of eutrophic standing water of the South Lake at Addington in the west ridge, and the parkland at Swanbourne in the east ridge. Elsewhere standing water is limited. Habitat connectivity is good due to the strong hedgerow system.

Arable land is much less prevalent compared to other parts of the

## LCA 4.12 Winslow Ridge (LCT 4)

District and is found mainly in the eastern ridge.

**Historic environment** There is little evidence for pre-medieval occupation. The main focus of archaeological interest is in the historic town of Winslow and at Shipton where a Saxon cemetery and medieval hamlet is recorded. The A413, called the Portway in 1599, shows signs of an early medieval diversion to link into Winslow High Street leaving a relict lane running west to join the B4032 north of Shipton. Swanbourne has a conservation area with stone and timber-framed brick infilled vernacular houses surrounded by fields of ridge and furrow and fossilised strip fields. The historic landscape in this area is a mix of parliamentary enclosure and pre 18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure which is mainly in the west. The parliamentary enclosure at Shipton was unusually early (1745) and has a more irregular layout than normal probably reflecting the pre-existing pattern of open field furlongs. The parkland around Addington and Swanbourne is a major feature of the area. A sizeable amount in the centre of Winslow is considered a historic settlement although there is substantial new development around it. There is an area of pre 18<sup>th</sup> century meadow to the north of Swanbourne. This area is also associated with the Whaddon Chase hunt, and the larger woodlands such as Canada near Foxhole Farm and Spring Corner were utilised as fox coverts. The area has retained its historic field pattern well with little recent enclosure or prairie farming.

**Designations**

Conservation Areas at Swanbourne (2), Shipton  
Archaeological Notification Areas – 9 No.  
BNS – 4 No.

## LCA 4.12 Winslow Ridge (LCT 4)



View of Abovemead Farm and adjacent small woodland.



Sharp transition between countryside and residential areas on the edge of Winslow.

## LCA 4.12 Winslow Ridge (LCT 4)

### Summary of Condition/Sensitivity Analysis

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
Pattern of elements:	Limited
Visual detractors:	Few
Visual unity:	Strongly unified
Cultural integrity:	Good
Ecological integrity:	Strong
Functional integrity:	Very good

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

<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Conserve and Reinforce</b>
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### Condition

Generally a landscape in very good condition. The hedgerow pattern is variable but with local sections of mature hedgerows largely unmanaged. The pattern of elements remains limited in scope but with few detracting features. Overall the visual unity of the area is unified due in part to the distribution of woodland cover, which is comparatively high around Addington and throughout the area there are very small woodlands often close to farms. Notably the quality of the landscape around Winslow is good showing few signs of neglect or deterioration. The cultural integrity is considered good due to the strong field pattern with small to medium and fairly irregular fields and attractive historic settlements. Ecological integrity is strong due to good connectivity and relatively large areas of designated sites and

habitats of District significance. Within the context of a landscape which is not intensively managed, the functional integrity of the landscape is considered to be very good.

### Sensitivity

The landscape is of distinctive character and good quality in a comparatively settled agricultural area. Overall the sense of place is considered to be moderate with local evidence of historic continuity. The landform is apparent and towards the edges of the area there are views out over the surrounding lower ground. The tree cover is variable but with intermittent copses. Woodland cover is strongest around Addington. Mature trees in clipped hedgerows are a feature of the area with some landmark trees. Visibility is variable depending on the location and is rated as moderate. Overall the moderate strength of character combined with the moderate visibility gives the landscape a moderate degree of sensitivity.



Small timber building.

## LCA 4.12 Winslow Ridge (LCT 4)

### Landscape Guidelines Conserve and Reinforce

Guidelines for the Winslow Ridge are as follows:

- Conserve agricultural land use on suburban fringes and discourage inappropriate use.
- Conserve the pattern of irregular shaped fields and mature hedgerows.
- Encourage the establishment of new hedgerow trees where hedgerows are clipped.
- Encourage management of small woodlands adjacent to farms.
- Maintain connectivity of habitats and aim to increase connectivity of woodlands where possible.
- Encourage the conservation of older agricultural buildings
- Recognise the significance of the ridge and furrow and fossilised strips at Swanbourne in relation to the conservation area.
- Encourage the survey, management and conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens.