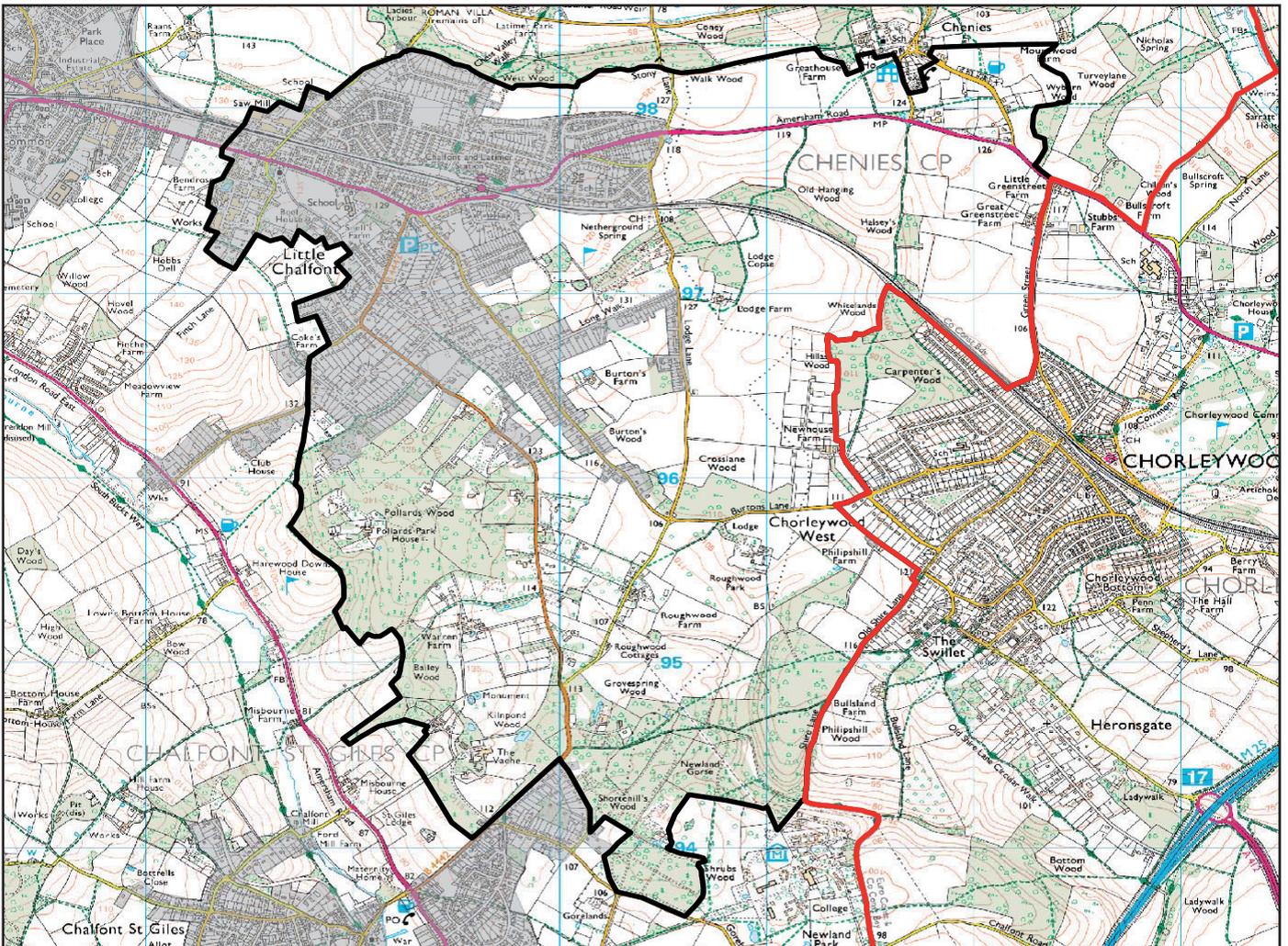
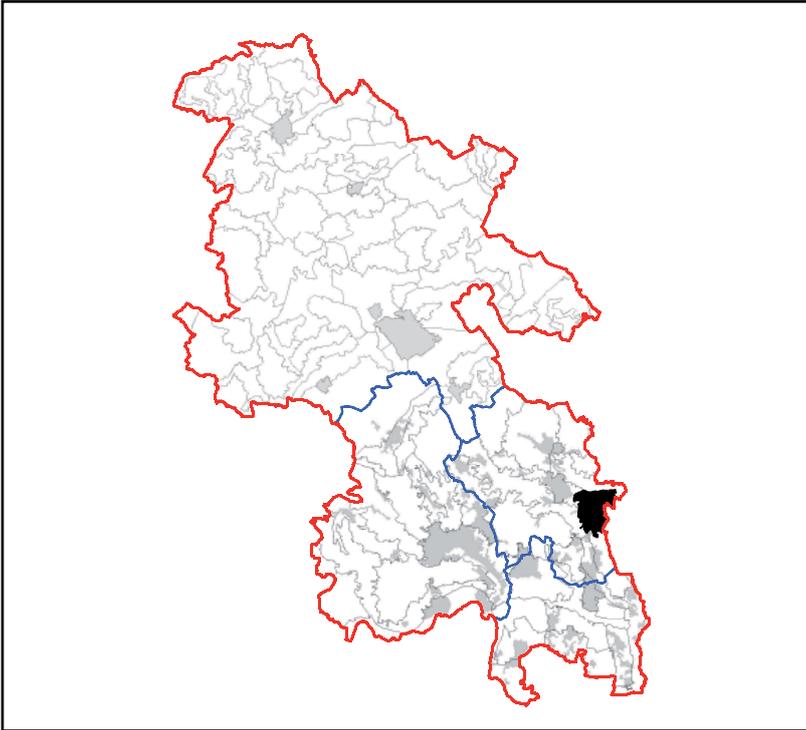


LCA 18.3 LITTLE CHALFONT ROLLING FARMLAND



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KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- A rolling landscape with a varied geology. Predominantly chalk capped with Clay with Flints with Upper Chalk and River Terrace deposits across the eastern edge.
- Large arable fields and some rough grassland dominate in the north, delineated by a network of hedgerows with some post and wire fencing. Some smaller fields of paddock, pasture and rough grazing are typical of the south.
- Woodland interspersed throughout with large blocks at Pollards Wood, Newland Gorse and Shortenill's Wood, comprising broadleaved, mixed and coniferous areas. Some of which is ancient woodland, which gives rise to a dense and mature woodland character.
- The suburban edge of Little Chalfont filters into the area, integrated by tree cover. A low density of dispersed settlement occurs elsewhere, comprising individual farmsteads and properties.
- Arable farmland often occupies large extended fields with extensive boundary loss. Elsewhere, 20th century and pre 18th century irregular enclosures exist.
- Parkland 'hidden' in the south of the area, including Roughwood Park (late 19th century manor and park) and The Vache.
- Stretches of roads through farmland and woodland which retain a rural character. The busy A404 (Amersham Road) and railway line cut through the north.
- A small number of footpaths, offering recreational access to woodland in the south (Newland Gorse and Shortenill's Wood) and crossing open farmland the north.
- Varying levels of enclosure, with views often confined by woodland. Some long views across open sweeping farmland, often to a wooded backdrop.
- Away from the busy A404 and settlement edges, a rural and peaceful landscape is retained.

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DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries: *Little Chalfont Rolling Farmland* lies wholly within Chiltern District, on its western edge. It occupies the higher ground between the Chess Valley to the north and Misbourne Valley to the south. The lower landform and lack of settlement distinguishes this landscape from the settled plateau to the north.

Landscape Character: An undulating and rolling landscape with a varied geology of exposed Upper Chalk, Clay and Flints capping and Thames River Terrace deposits. Large fields of arable farmland and rough grazing occur in the north of the area with smaller fields of paddock, pasture and rough grassland in the south. Field boundaries are predominantly hedgerows with some post and wire. Woodland is interspersed throughout with some large blocks of ancient woodland in the south and east (Pollards Wood and Newland Gorse). Woodland contains the area, provides enclosure, biodiversity value and a backdrop to views. The suburban edge of Little Chalfont filters into the landscape integrated by tree cover and the busy A40 Amersham Road cuts across the north of the area. Arable farmland and rough grassland in the north occupy large extended fields with extensive boundary loss while fields of pre 18th century irregular enclosures exist in relation to small fields of pasture grassland. Areas of parkland occur at Roughwood Park (dating from the 13th century) and The Vache. Away from the busy A404 and suburban edges of Little Chalfont the landscape retains a rural and peaceful character.

Geology: A varied geology, predominantly Clay with Flints capping the underlying chalk with exposed Upper Chalk and River Terrace deposits across the eastern edge. This change in geology is reflected in a change in soils with slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and freely draining slightly acid loamy soils in the east.

Topography/Landform: An undulating and rolling landscape. Highest ground is in the west at Pollard's Wood where landform rises to 140m AOD with incised valleys in the east creating gentle slopes and undulations.

Hydrology: There are no discernable watercourses however there are occasional ponds within the area associated with farms or occurring in woods.

Land Use and Settlement: Some large fields of arable farmland and rough grassland in the north of the area delineated by network of dense hedgerows and some post and wire fencing. Smaller fields of paddock, pasture and rough grazing more typical of the rest of the area. Farmland is interspersed with broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland, mixed woodland with a large area of coniferous woodland at Pollards Wood. The suburban edge of Little Chalfont filters into the landscape along roads with managed grass verges. Properties set back from the road within large gardens are scattered along

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the B4442. Tree and woodland cover integrate built edges into the wider landscape. Elsewhere dispersed individual properties and farms occur. Stretches of rural roads/lanes do occur through open farmland or enclosed by woodland.

A golf course lies on the eastern edge of Little Chalfont. The busy A404 Amersham Road, connecting Rickmansworth to Little Chalfont, and a railway line, crossing Lodge Lane on a bridge, cut across the north of the area. Pylons cross farmland and woodland in the south.

There are a small number of footpaths, offering recreational access to woodland in the south (Newland Gorse and Shortenhill's Wood) and crossing open farmland the north, continuing down to Chenies and the Chess Valley.

Tree Cover: Woodland is interspersed with farmland throughout the area with some large areas of ancient semi natural and replanted woodland occurring in the south and east of the area at Pollards Wood and Newland Gorse. Smaller areas of ancient woodland occur at Cross Lane Wood, Lodge Copse and Old Hanging Wood which is a linear strip of 'hanging' woodland. Woodland is broadleaved, mixed and yew with a concentration of coniferous plantation at Pollards Wood. Woodland often forms a backdrop to views across farmland. Hedgerow trees and some scattered trees in field contribute to tree cover in the area.

Perceptual/ Experiential Landscape: Varying levels of enclosure, with views often confined by woodland. Some long views across open sweeping farmland in the north, often to a distant wooded backdrop (including woodland along the valley tops of the Chess Valley). Woodland cover provides greater enclosure in the south of the area. The landscape is relatively contained by settlement edges and woodland with few views out to or in from adjacent landscapes. Away from the busy A404 and suburban edges of Little Chalfont the landscape retains a rural and peaceful character.

Biodiversity: Woodland provides a valuable habitat throughout this area connecting to hedgerows to provide wildlife corridors. Philipshill wood is a Local Wildlife Site. There are no priority BAP habitats in this landscape.

Historic Environment: Arable farmland and rough grassland in the north occupy large extended fields with extensive boundary loss. 20th century enclosure corresponds to the properties set in large gardens along the B4442. Small fields of pre 18th century irregular enclosures exist in relation to small fields of pasture grassland. Areas of parkland occur at Roughwood Park (dating from the 13th century) and The Vache, 'hidden' in the wider landscape. A scattering of earthwork enclosures and barrows occur in woodland providing archaeological interest.

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Designations:

- Chilterns AONB
- Archaeological Notification Sites: 4No.
- Biological Notification Sites: 6No.
- Local Wildlife Sites: 2No.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

Potential landscape and visual sensitivities are:

- The open farmland and woodland cover (large areas of ancient woodland) which provides enclosure, a backdrop to views and biodiversity value.
- The rural farmed and wooded character of the landscape occurring between the settlement of Little Chalfont and Chorley Wood/ Rickmansworth.
- Long views across open sweeping farmland in the north to wooded backdrops, often to a distant wooded backdrop.
- Stretches lanes/roads through open farmland or enclosed by woodland which retain a rural character.
- Small fields of pre 18th century irregular enclosures.
- Earthwork enclosures and barrows occur in woodland providing archaeological interest
- Historic parkland (some dating from the 13th century) which is unregistered,

Strength of Character/Intactness: The strength of character and intactness of the *Little Chalfont Rolling Farmland* is **moderate**. Key characteristics are conveyed but intactness is influenced by expansion of Little Chalfont and suburbanisation of roads, which reduces the distinctiveness of character. In places, field boundaries are unmanaged with gappy hedgerows.

Strategy/ Vision: To conserve and enhance the woodland, farmland and historic parkland which is retained between settlements and which contributes to the rural, peaceful character of *Little Chalfont Rolling Farmland*.

Landscape Guidelines:

- Conserve and manage the mosaic of woodland and farmland which is key to retaining a rural character between settlements.
- Promote appropriate management of farmland, to help generate a wildlife rich habitat, and visually attractive landscape.
- Encourage management and restoration of hedgerows, filling in gaps where necessary and seek opportunities to recreate and extend these habitats.
- Conserve the areas of woodland and manage to enhance biodiversity value and as a recreational resource.
- Conserve sweeping open views across farmland and seek to avoid locating detracting or interrupting features.
- Conserve the character of rural roads.
- Seek to avoid further expansion of settlement which leads to suburbanisation along roads.

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- Conserve and restore small fields of pre 18th century irregular enclosures.
- Conserve historic elements, such as archaeological sites, monuments and parkland, which provide evidence of past use of the land.

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Rolling landform, with arable fields interspersed with blocks of woodland.



Rough grassland with coniferous woodland backdrop.



Captain Cook Monument located in the grounds of The Vache.

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View across parkland landscape.

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