

## 6.5 Cherhill

**Community Area: Calne**

**Settlement: Cherhill**

**Landscape Character Context**

**Open Downland**

**Key Characteristics**

- an elevated plateau formed by the hard Middle and Upper Chalks. Soils are predominantly thin light, free draining calcareous and nutrient poor black or brown soils;
- open, smoothly rolling downland, dissected by a network of dry valleys and long sinuous steep scarps. Strong sweeping skylines;
- a landscape largely devoid of water due to the porosity of the chalk bedrock;
- dominated by intensively managed arable farmland with a few hedgerows and occasional wooded areas. Woodlands are virtually absent apart from the occasional linear shelterbelt and distinctive beech clumps crowning the summits;
- varied field patterns including 'ladder' fields and large rectangular fields;
- fragmented and isolated blocks of chalk grassland survive along the steep scarp slopes and dry valley sides and together these form an important component of the chalk grassland resource of the AONB;
- very sparsely populated - generally restricted to scattered farms and equestrian establishments - contributing to strong sense of isolation;
- varied built character including traditional knapped flint and brick, timber framed weatherboarded aisled barns and large scale modern farm buildings;
- recreational opportunities are characterised by the numerous tracks, byways, green lanes and footpaths plus open access associated with archaeological sites and nature reserves;
- closely associated with the race horse industry, with horse gallops being a distinctive feature;

- strong cultural resonance – visible features from many periods of history, but with particularly strong associations with the prehistoric in the form dramatic visible field monuments;
- remote, isolated settlements characterised by low service levels, resulting in a reliance upon access to the private car with consequent impact on traffic. Population levels increasing slightly;
- overall a very strong sense of remoteness and solitude.

### **1C Horton Downs**

#### **Key Characteristics**

##### **Landscape**

- dominated by the hard rocks of the Upper Chalk, but with isolated deposits of Clay with flint capping hills in the east, e.g. at Thorn Hill, Golden Ball Hill and Martinsell Hill, supporting contrasting acidic grassland vegetation;
- open rolling topography, permeated by dry valleys. A dramatic scarp towers above the Vale of Pewsey, crowned by a series of distinctive rounded hills;
- important concentration of Neolithic monuments, including distinctive long mounds, e.g. West Kennet, which are an integral part of the Avebury complex;
- large numbers of round barrows located on hill tops and along ridges, plus prominent hill forts located on scarp edge;
- open landscape with field patterns formed predominantly by Parliamentary enclosure. Managed as a uniform arable monoculture within large scale fields and few boundary features except occasional roadside fences;
- sparse and infrequent woodland limited to occasional linear shelterbelts around isolated farm buildings and areas of scrub regenerating along the scarp;
- extensive areas of exceptionally rich chalk grassland on the steep scarp slopes designated as SSSI;
- extensive network of public rights of way including the Ridgeway and a path along the Wansdyke;
- the White Horse at Cherhill is a distinctive landmark.

### **Visual**

- large scale remote landscape of extreme openness with strong ridgelines and wide expansive skies;

### **Settlement**

- very sparsely populated with absence of development and settlement confined to a small number of isolated downland farms;

## **North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment**

### **16 Liddington Down**

#### **Main characteristics**

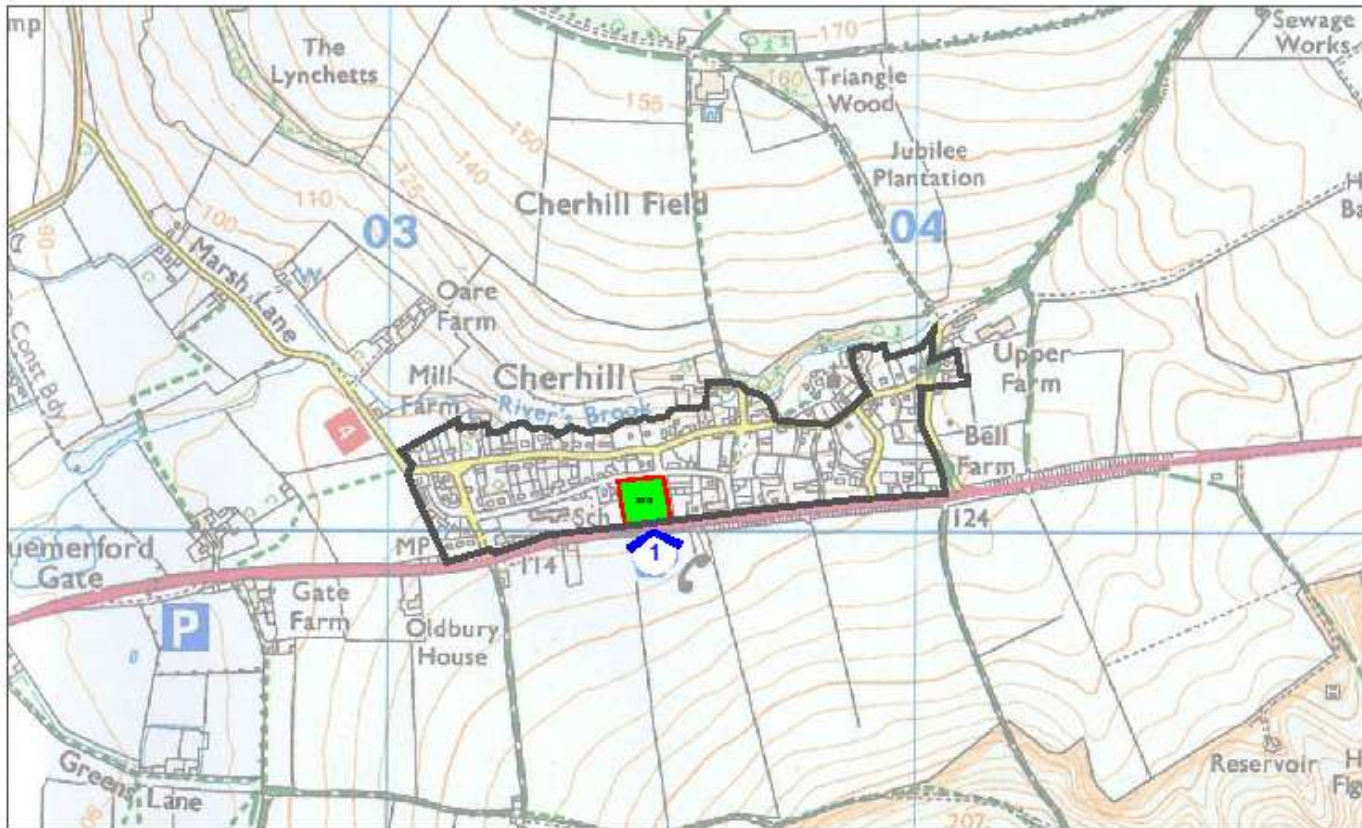
#### **Landscape and Visual**

- West facing Scarp slope.
- Heavily wooded especially on upper fringes.
- Pasture on lower elevations
- Hedgerows with dominant lines running up the slope.

#### **Settlement**

- Attractive settlements located at base.
- Series of footpath bridleways, and minor roads running up to higher ground

### **Site Assessments**



- sites considered appropriate for development
- sites considered to have some potential for development
- sites considered inappropriate for development
- Settlement boundary

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Subject: <b>NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB</b>	Drawing No: Figure 5	Revision:
Project: WILTSHIRE SHLAA - LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT 2012	Date: 10.02.2011	Author: JAH
Title: SETTLEMENT MAP - CHERHILL	In Plan Only, South Downs © Crown Copyright 2010, 2011, 2012 All Rights Reserved Ordnance Survey 100027088 www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk	Date: 10.02.2011 Land Management Services Ltd

SITE: 3013

Photographs

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Relationship with adjacent settlement	The land lies within the settlement boundary on the busy A4 road. Residential development and other buildings (school and pub) form a relatively unbroken line along the north side of the AONB. There is existing new housing on part of the site.
Relationship with wider countryside	The land on the south side is open countryside, rising towards Cherhill Hill and the Monument.
Impact on key landscape character	The existing development on the site is in keeping with the character of the density and character of other housing along the A4.
Impact on key visual characteristics	Development would not increase the extent or scale of visual impact associated with the settlement.
Impact on key settlement characteristics	Development would infill a break in the existing line of development.
Summary of compliance with NPPF Paragraphs 115 and 116	Development would not be detrimental to the conservation of the special qualities and natural beauty of the AONB.
Recommendations	The site could be taken forward as part of the SHLAA without detrimental impact to the conservation of the AONB.

**Conclusions and Observations on Cumulative Impacts**

There is only one proposed site within Cherhill. As a consequence there are no cumulative impacts.