4.0 THE CHARACTER OF INDIVIDUAL FARMSTEADS & THEIR LANDSCAPES

4.1 Objectives

4.1.1 Stage 4 of the project aimed to explore the historical relationships between land holding and steading in order to demonstrate the application of characterisation at its finest grain of analysis. Such analysis will be relevant to Whole Farm Planning, LaMIS and other management requirements.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The project brief required a sample of no more than ten farmsteads within the Stage 3 transects to be selected for this phase of the project. With the agreement of the project manager, the farmsteads selected all lay within the North Wessex Downs pilot area.

4.2.2 Data sources used to examine the relationships between farmstead and landscape consisted of historic mapping including estate maps, tithe maps and apportionments, historic Ordnance Survey mapping, 1910 Land Tax data and the 1940s Farm Survey data. Some documentary sources were also consulted. These data sources were used to build a picture of how the land holdings associated with each individual farmstead had developed over time, setting the context for the buildings of the farmstead and thus being able to relate the character of the farmstead to the wider landscape.

4.2.3 Although it was initially intended that this phase would look at individual farmsteads, the availability of some 18th century estate maps for Sydmonton, covering an area of wide variation in landscape and farmstead terms provided the opportunity to examine the development of a number of neighbouring farmsteads. Two other separate farmsteads were also examined using a similar range of sources.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 The Farmsteads of Sydmonton

Background
Sydmonton is a long, narrow, land unit stretching from above the chalk escarpment of the Hampshire Downs Character Area at the southern end to the county boundary at the north. In between, the parish includes part of the Open Arable on Greensand Landscape Type within the Hampshire Downs, whilst the northern half of the parish lies within the North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area.

Sydmonton, together with neighbouring Ecchinswell, was historically part of the parish of Kingsclere, a small market town to the east. Both Ecchinswell and Sydmonton were provided with medieval chapels and are now linked as a modern parish, served by the parish church of Ecchinswell. The existing church in Sydmonton is now private, belonging to Sydmonton Court. It was rebuilt in 1853 but incorporates some original Norman features survive (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 618).

The place-name is probably derived from the personal name *Sydeman* and OE *tun* (farm) (Coates 1989, 160). A man of this name signed a charter relating to Ecchinswell in 931. By the late 11th century Sydmonton formed part of the estates of Romsey Abbey. It was assessed at 7½ hides in the Domesday Survey of 1086, had land for 11 ploughs and had a recorded population of 29 people. There were 4 acres of meadow and woodland at 5 pigs (Munby 1982, fol 44a).

After the dissolution of the Abbey, the manor of Sydmonton was granted to William Kingismill, gentleman of Whitchurch in 1540 for £975.5.10 (Liveing, 1907, 150). It may be that the earliest features of the Court, the 16th century stepped gables (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 617) represent a rebuilding or remodelling of the house at this time.

Although there is no longer a village in Sydmonton, until the later 18th century a nucleated village was located around the church to the south of Sydmonton Court, as shown on an estate map of 1757 (HRO 19M61/1485). The common fields were enclosed by agreement in the late 18th century with Mr Kingsmill purchasing part of the area in 1780 as annotated on the estate map, probably to extend the park. By the early 19th century it would appear that the village had been completely removed from the

area of the Court, leaving only the estate buildings to the west of the Court and the Home Farm to the south.

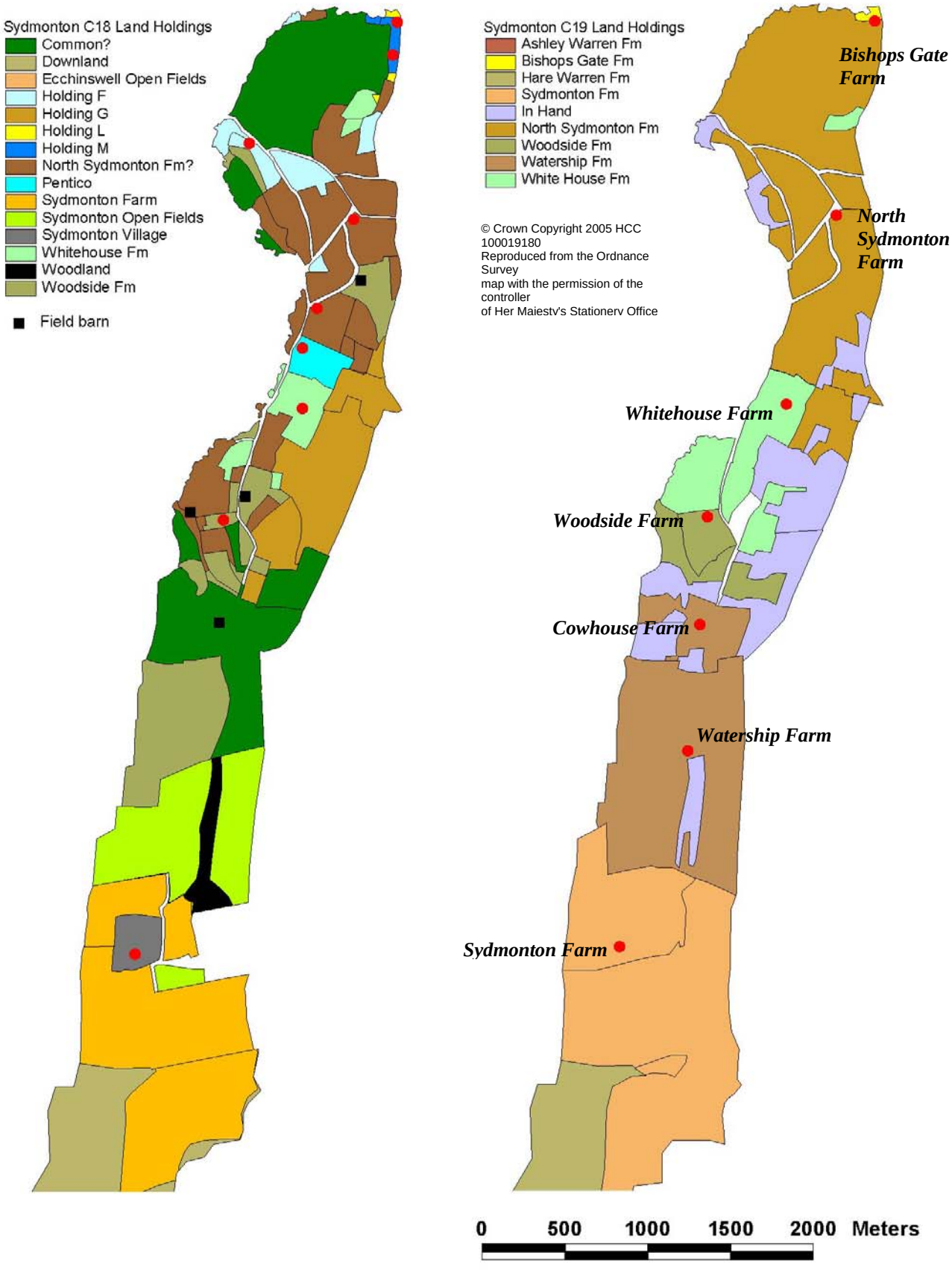
The common fields lay immediately to the north of the village and the Court and were divided into five fields; West, East and Middle Fields and Great Pounds Down and Little Pounds Down. The southern part of the estate was chalk downland whilst to the north of the common fields, on the heavier soils lay a woodland landscape of dispersed farmsteads and cottages with small enclosures and patches of coppice. At the extreme northern end of the estate was an area of wooded common. Sydmonton remained in the Kingsmill family until the later 20th century.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

The removal of the village from the area of the Court has obviously destroyed the evidence for the majority of the farmsteads associated with the common fields. The estate map of 1757 (HRO 19M61/1485) shows the houses of the village but does not provide detail as to the farm buildings that would have existed. The principle value of the map is in the information it holds relating to the land holdings associated with different farms in the northern 'woodland' part of the estate. In addition to the 1757 map is another covering the 'woodland' portions of Ecchinswell and Sydmonton (HRO 19M61/1487) that is described only as '18th century' in the HRO catalogue. Each field of this map is annotated with the name of the holder or the farm. The undated map is considered to pre-date the 1757 map in that it is less accurately surveyed and appears to show a lesser degree of clearance of the woods and coppice in the northern half of the estate. However, there are close similarities in the distribution of land although there are probably two farmsteads shown that had been removed from agriculture by the time the 1757 map was drawn.

From these maps the land holdings of the farms of the northern part of Sydmonton parish were mapped to produce Figure 9a. The extent of these land holdings was than compared to the Tithe map (HRO 21M65/F7/208/2) of 1847 which were also mapped to produce Figure 9b. To continue the story of the development of the individual holdings the 1910 Land Tax data and the 1940 Farm Survey data were also examined. Available data was used to create Table 1.

Figure 9
Left: 9a Holdings in Sydmonton during the mid-18th century
Right: 9b Holdings in Sydmonton in the mid-19th century



Name	C18	1757	c.1810	1847	1910	1940	Notes
Bishops Green Fm	**P**	**P**	**?**	**4.2.5**	**6.3.21**	**49¾a**	Farmstead lies in Ecchinswell and 1940 figure mainly represents land in that parish.
Cow House Fm	A	A	**P**	**?**	**65.2.0**	**100½a**	1757 map shows field barn on site of farmstead.
Home Fm	*	**?**	**P**	**245.3.25**	**257.0.13**	**730a**	Some loss of buildings, now associated with stud farm.
Holding F (1757)	**P**	**P**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	Land transferred to N. Sydmonton Fm. No physical trace of farmstead.
Hoopers Fm	*	*	**P**	**A**	**A**	**A**	May be the holding of the warrener recorded from C17 at least. No physical remains.
North Sydmonton Fm	**P**	**P**	**P**	**316.0.12**	**261.3.24**	**333a**	Post 1757 holding increased through transfer of land from Holding F, Pentico, Primrose and Sydmonton Common. 1940 figure inc. land in Burghclere. Still in agricultural use.
'Pentico'	**P**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	House survives. Land transferred to N. Sydmonton Fm
'Primrose'	**P**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	House survives. Land transferred to N. Sydmonton Fm
Warren Fm	*	*	**P**	**733.3.5**	**716.2.0**	**432a**	Farmstead largely survives but out of agricultural use.
Watership Fm	*	A	**P**	**273.3.16**	**181.2.2**	**0**	Decrease in holding as land transferred to Cow House Fm and possibly Wergs Fm. By 1940 house only rented out. Most land transferred to Wergs Fm (Burghclere).
White House Fm	**P**	**P**	**P**	**132.3.17**		**124a**	Farmstead largely survives but out of agricultural use.
Woodside Fm	**P**	**80a**	**P**	**50.1.13**	**38.1.37**	**76a**	1757 figure represents a minimum acreage as acreage of several smaller closes not given on map. 1940 figure inc. land in Burghclere. Farmstead largely survives but out of agricultural use.
P = Present; **A** = Absent – lost; A = Absent – not built; * = No data; **?** = Uncertain							

The sequence of maps available for Sydmonton, together with the other data sources shows the process of land holding and farm amalgamation over the last 250 years. In the 18th century the northern 'woodland' part of the manor consisted of at least seven farms that had a core of consolidated land. Most also had other detached holdings scattered across the manor. These fragmented land holdings had led to the construction of at least four field barns, standing in isolation within detached parts of the holding. The evidence suggests that field barns, now regarded as uncharacteristic features of the north Hampshire landscape, might have been relatively common. It is possible that one of these field barns survives, now forming part of Cowhouse Farm.

Over the following 100 years, to the time of the Tithe map, the number of farms in the northern part of the parish had been reduced by at least four and there had clearly been some re-organisation of the land to produce more consolidated holdings. During this period the village of Sydmonton was cleared to create a park around the Court and the common fields were enclosed and partly brought within the park. A new farm (Watership Farm) was created in association with the enclosure of the common fields. The southern part of the manor, lying on the chalk had not been mapped during the 1757 survey, probably because it was open downland although documentary sources indicate that there was a holding on the downs associated with the warrener. In 1771 a Warren Farm was recorded. It is not clear however, whether this represents Hare Warren Farm (named as Down Farm in the 1st Edition OS 1" map of 1810) or the now lost Hoopers Farm shown on the same map as being sited approximately 500m to the north of Hare Warren Farm and historically associated with a warrener.

From the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century the process of amalgamation continued, with Watership Farm reducing is size until, by 1940, the farmhouse was being rented out with a few acres of ground whilst most of its land was being farmed from Wergs Farm, a steading in the adjacent parish of Burghclere (TNA MAP32/975/150). Land was exchanged between Home Farm and Hare Warren Farm whilst several of the farmsteads in the northern half of the manor saw slight increases in size during the first half of the 20th century.

Today, of all the farmsteads that once worked the land within the manor of Sydmonton, only two, North Sydmonton Farm and Watership farm survive as a working farms. Watership Farm, once stripped of all its land, has now become the main farmstead for the Sydmonton Court estate which includes land that was farmed from Wergs Farm in Burghclere and Nuthanger Farm in Ecchinswell, leaving those farmsteads detached from agriculture. Of all the other former farmsteads, many retain some of their agricultural character although those that appear to have been longest removed from agriculture display little evidence of their former status.

Farmstead Character and Landscape

The objective of the above analysis of the changes in land holdings is to provide a clearer understanding of the developments that would have had a material effect on the range and number of buildings of the farmstead. To demonstrate this process in more detail a selection of farms from Sydmonton, together with two examples from other parts of the pilot area, will be briefly discussed.

Hare Warren Farm, Sydmonton, Ecchinswell & Sydmonton			Historical ownership: Kingsmill Estate	
Farmstead Plan:	Loose Courtyard			
Listed Buildings:	None			
Other buildings:	Brick and flint ranges to three sides of a large courtyard. Cartshed facing roadway to west, barn to east side of yard with cattle shelters built along yard-side elevation. South range and north part of west range – uncertain function. Farmhouse facing into yard on north side.			
Landscape Character Area:	Hampshire Downs			
Landscape Type:	Open Arable			
Historic Landscape Type:	Parliamentary fields			
Land Holding:	1757	1847	1910	1940
	Not created	733.3.5	716.2.0	432.0.0

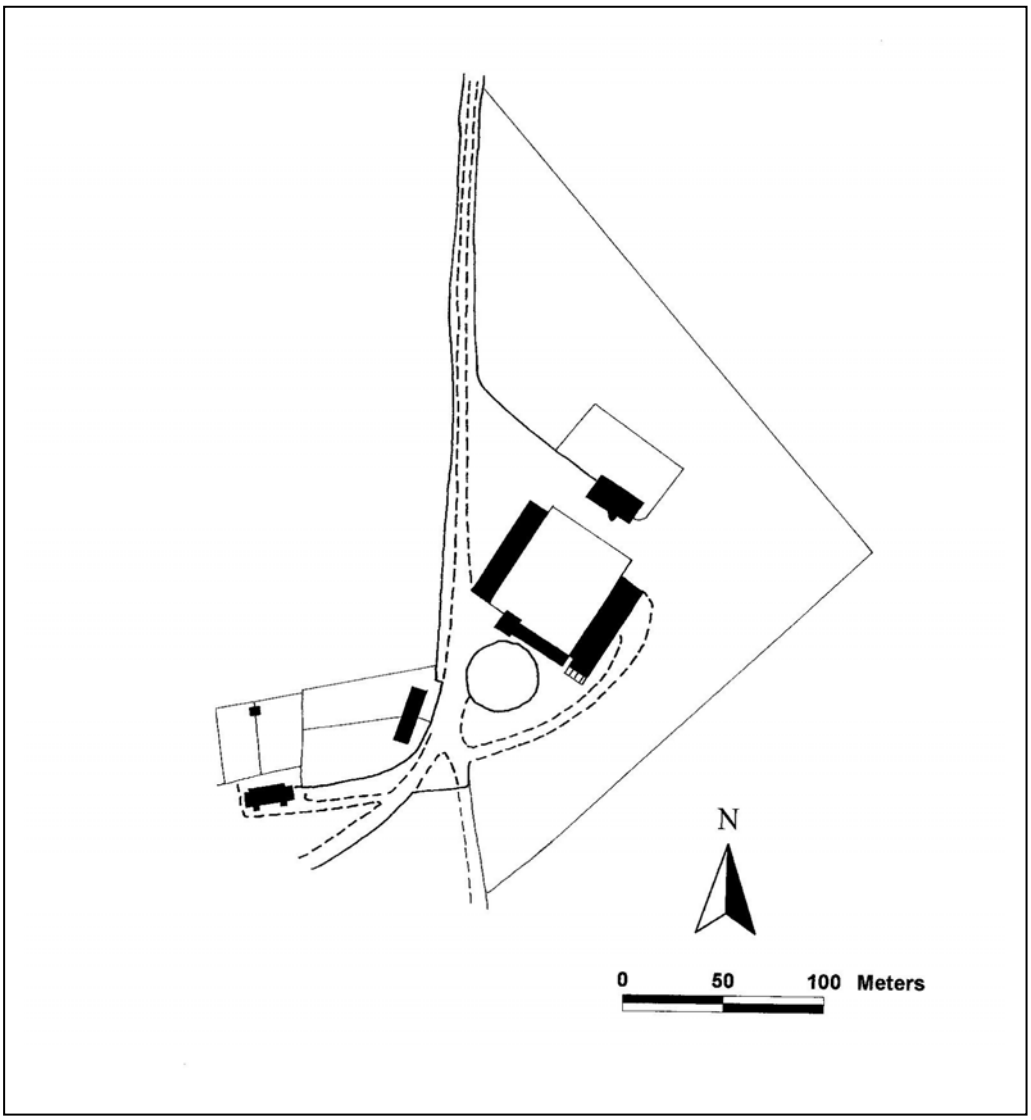
Description: Hare Warren Farm is a large brick and flint regular courtyard farmstead with a detached farmhouse that faces into the yard. The farm was created out of the downland of Sydmonton in the later 18th century and the farmstead was located within a coombe on the south side of the down. The size of the farm in the mid-19th century is probably its original size. It was only reduced in size in the 20th century when land was transferred to the Home Farm at Sydmonton Court.

The farm buildings are typical of the 19th century (although they may be of late 18th century date) but the barn on the east side of the yard appears to be a standard threshing barn with large doors to the threshing floor rather than a multi-functional building geared for the use of threshing machines etc.

Adjacent to the farmstead are some small cottages contemporary with the farm buildings that housed at least some of the workers required on a large holding.

Character: Hare Warren Farm is a highly characteristic example of an isolated farmstead of the Hampshire Downs Landscape Character Area, being a relatively late creation and having solid walled buildings of brick and flint with slate roofs.

It appears that the building ranges are complete and, although no longer in agricultural use, they are in reasonable condition.



Hare Warren Farm, Ecchinswell and Sydmonton
Os 1st Edition 25" map 1873

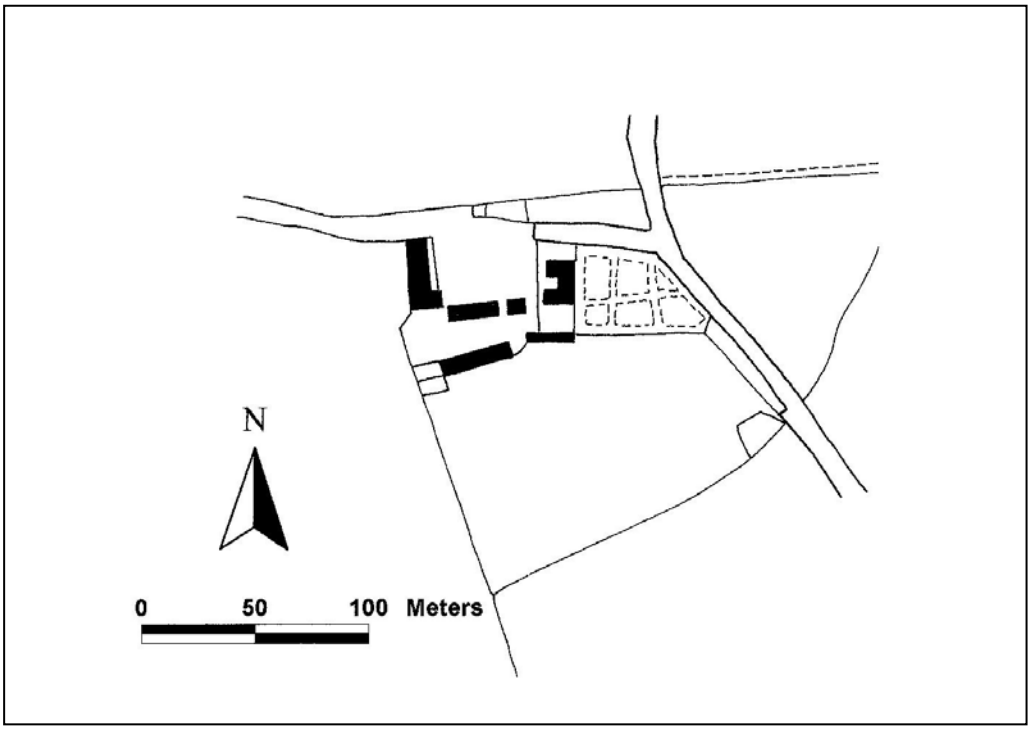
Woodside Farm, Sydmonton, Ecchinswell & Sydmonton			Historical ownership: Romsey Abbey; Kingsmill Estate	
Farmstead Plan:	Loose Courtyard			
Listed Buildings:	House listed as C16. Earliest element actually C17 but probably part of medieval hall house. Barn C18. Timber-framed, 4 bays, aisle to rear Granary C19 Timber-framed, two storeys, fitted with grain bins (re-sited within farmstead)			
Other buildings:	Cartshed late C19 (converted to garaging) Stable C19 Small barn (demolished) Service outbuilding/?Bothy C19 brick			
Landscape Character Area:	North Hampshire Lowland and Heath			
Landscape Type:	Mixed Farmland and Woodland			
Historic Landscape Type:				
Land Holding:	1757	1847	1910	1940
	c.80a	50.1.13	38.1.37	76a

Description:
The existing farmhouse suggests that Woodside Farm has its origins in the late medieval/early post-medieval period. It was shown on both of the 18th-century maps of Sydmonton and had the most fragmented holding of any of the farmsteads in the manor. In 1757 the holding extended to at least 80 acres. One of the main blocks of land lay almost 1km to the south on the area of greensand adjacent to one of the common fields where probably the best arable land was to be found. The farmstead itself was almost surrounded by the land of other holdings. By the mid-19th century the holding had been consolidated to create a compact block of land to the south and south-east of the farmstead although the amount of land held decreased. Evidence from the 1940 farmstead survey (TNA MAP32/975/150) shows that this holding extended across the parish boundary into Burghclere. The Burghclere Tithe apportionment and map of 1839 (HRO 21M65/F7/40/1-2) shows that this land was in the ownership of Mr Kingsmill, owner of the Sydmonton estate, in the mid-19th century but was recorded as being 'In hand' at the time of the survey.

Character:
The range of buildings and the loose courtyard plan is characteristic of the area.
The buildings of the farmstead, with the aisled barn, granary, stables and cartshed display the character of a predominantly arable holding although the 4 bay barn does not indicate a large holding, confirmed by the historic sources. The 1757 map suggests a building on the site of the present barn and there was a field barn within a close to the north-east of the farmstead. Historic OS maps show that there was a smaller barn-like building on the southern side of the farmyard that was demolished in the later 20th century. It is possible that during the process of consolidation of holdings field barns were dismantled to be re-erected within the farmstead. There is evidence for cattle being accommodated in the farmstead as there is a pentice roof along part of the yard side of the barn creating an open shelter for cattle with a small post and rail fenced yard within the main yard area. Extending from the east elevation of the barn there is an attached block that is currently described as a stable but is of uncertain original use.

Woodside Farm is no longer associated with agriculture although the Sydmonton Court estate still operates from buildings adjacent to the historic farmstead.

The size and range of buildings and the plan of the farmstead are typical of farmsteads in the North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area where better soils allowed corn production but in general mixed farming was practiced.



Woodside Farm, Ecchinswell and Sydmonton
OS 1st Edition 25" map 1873

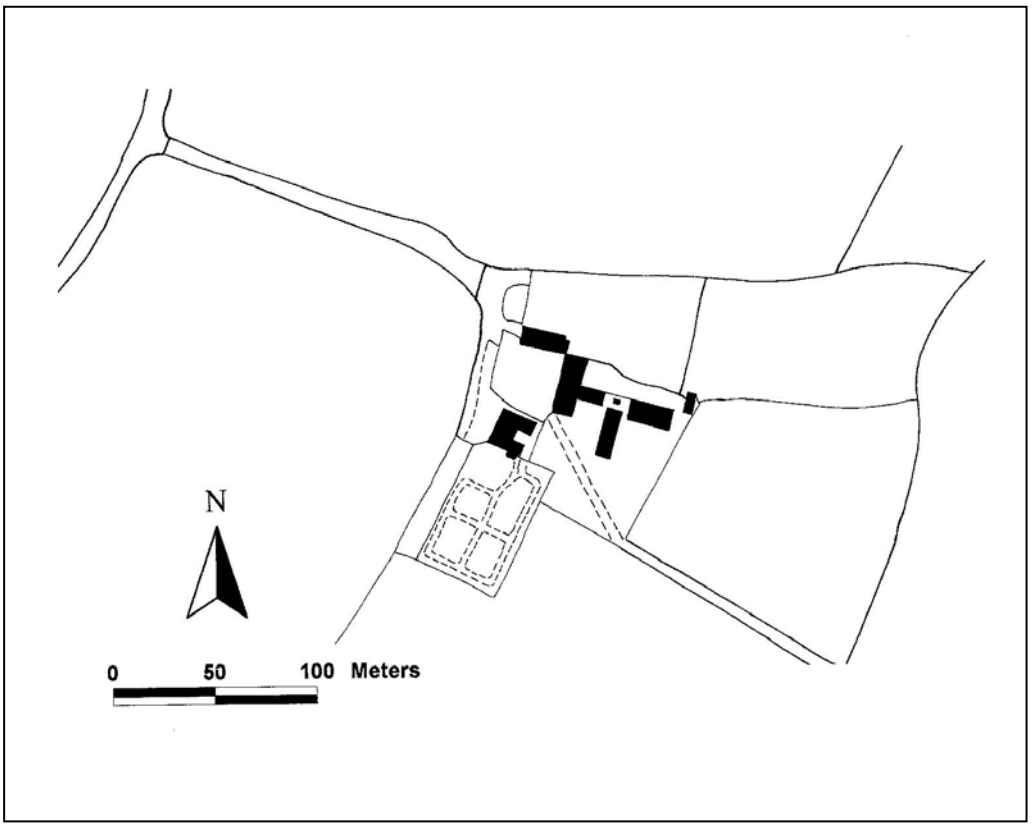
Whitehouse Farm, Sydmonton, Ecchinswell & Sydmonton		Historical ownership: Romsey Abbey; Kingsmill Estate		
Farmstead Plan:	Loose Courtyard			
Listed Buildings:	House Barn C18. Timber-framed Staddle barn C18, timber-framed, thatched			
Other buildings:	Cartshed C19 Bothy C19			
Landscape Character Area:	North Hampshire Lowland and Heath			
Landscape Type:	Mixed Farmland and Woodland			
Historic Landscape Type:				
Land Holding:	1757	1847	1910	1940
		132.3.17		124a

Description:
Whitehouse Farm held a clearly defined block of land consisting of several regular fields adjacent to the farmstead in the 18th century. In addition to this core holding there were three other small fields; two to the south and one adjoining Sydmonton Common. By the mid-19th century the holding had increased in size through the addition of land adjoining the south of the core holding and the land to the north of Woodside Farm much of which had been part of the North Sydmonton Farm holding which had itself grown through the addition of the land of several smaller farms. The Tithe Apportionment described the holding of this farm in two portions; one of 114¾ acres and one of 18 acres. Allowing for some small areas of coppice that do not appear to have included in the 1940 Farm Survey (TNA MAP32/975/150), this holding appears to have altered little in size over the 90 years after the mid-19th century.

Character:
In terms of the surviving buildings this farmstead has the character of a medium sized arable holding with a 3-bay barn, stables, cartshed and a 5-bay staddle barn. The construction of the staddle barn, which is likely to be of late 18th or early 19th century date, suggests that at that date there was a need to increase capacity or replace an earlier building. The decision to construct a staddle barn rather than a conventional barn also suggests a landlord and/or tenant prepared to introduce relatively new ideas in terms of agricultural building. It is likely that the construction of the staddle barn is associated with the time when the holding increased in size, probably c.1800.

The plan form of the farmstead is basically a loose courtyard with the main barn, stables and house forming three sides of a yard, although as is fairly typical, the house is well set back from the yard. The staddle barn breaks the pattern of the courtyard by being built on the same orientation as the main barn but not in-line with it. The cartshed is set behind the yard with no apparent relationship to the existing road to the farmstead. However, the fields of the farm were mainly to the east of the steading in the 18th century and so the cartshed must relate a former route out to these fields. Other than the stables for the horses there are no other stock related buildings.

This farmstead is typical of areas of better soils in the North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area where corn production was possible.



Whitehouse Farm, Ecchinswell and Sydmonton
OS 1st Edition 25" map 1873

Kingham Farm, East Woodhay				Historical ownership: Earl of Carnarvon, Highclere Estate
Farmstead Plan:	1873 Dispersed 1895 Regular courtyard U-plan with dispersed elements			
Listed Buildings:	House C17. Granary C19 Timber-framed, weatherboarded			
Other buildings:	Barn C19. Timber-framed, aisled Cartshed late C19 Stable C19 ?Bothy C19 brick Chelter sheds Stable range			
Landscape Character Area:	North Hampshire Lowland and Heath			
Landscape Type:	Mixed Farmland and Woodland			
Historic Landscape Type:				
Land Holding:	1837	1940		
	181.2.9	291½a		

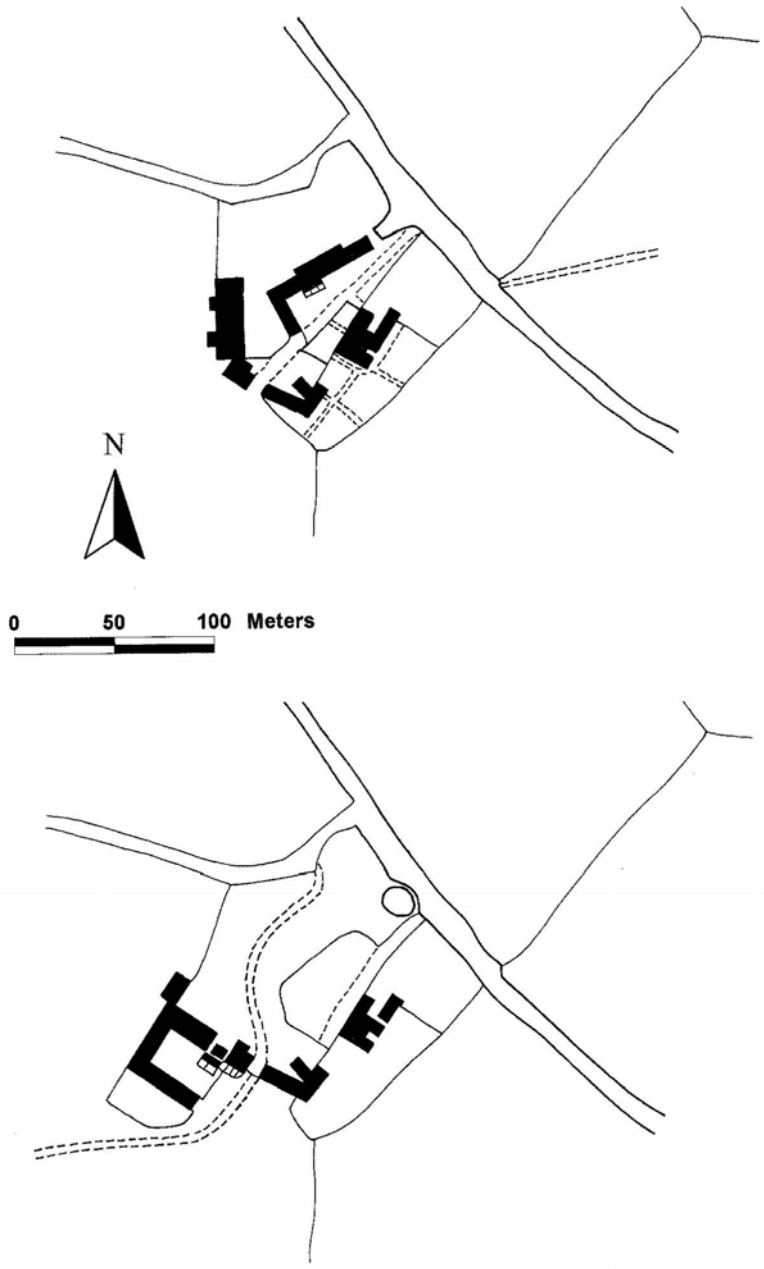
Description:
Kingham Farm presents a U-plan created by a large threshing barn, open fronted cattle sheds and a stable range with a detached cartshed, free-standing granary and an older stable block in line with the barn. There is also a building that has been interpreted as a bothy, providing accommodation for workers. The farmhouse, now detached from the farmyard, is the oldest building on the farmstead.

Historic mapping shows, however, that in the late 19th century Kingham Farm underwent a major re-organisation with only the farmhouse, the bothy and the earlier stable being retained. The plan of the farmstead shown on the Tithe map and the 1st Edition 25" map of 1873 is dispersed with a large threshing barn with two porches set at an angle to the early stable, and a long L-shaped range north-west of the farmhouse. By the date of the 2nd Edition 25" map (1895) the farmstead had taken its present courtyard form. The existing barn may be the earlier barn that has been re-positioned and new shelter sheds and stables were added to the west side of the barn. It may be that the re-organisation of the farmstead is associated with the transfer of the land of the adjacent farm, Hollington Farm, to Kinghams sometime between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries, as shown in the 1940 farm survey (TNA MAP32/975/149) making a farm of almost 300acres. This may have been a response by the landowner to the economic difficulties experienced in agriculture on the later 19th century, creating a larger holding that would be more capable of attracting a tenant or breaking even than two small land holdings. The responsibility of the landlord for the provision of buildings may have also been a factor if the condition of one or both sets of buildings required extensive repairs.

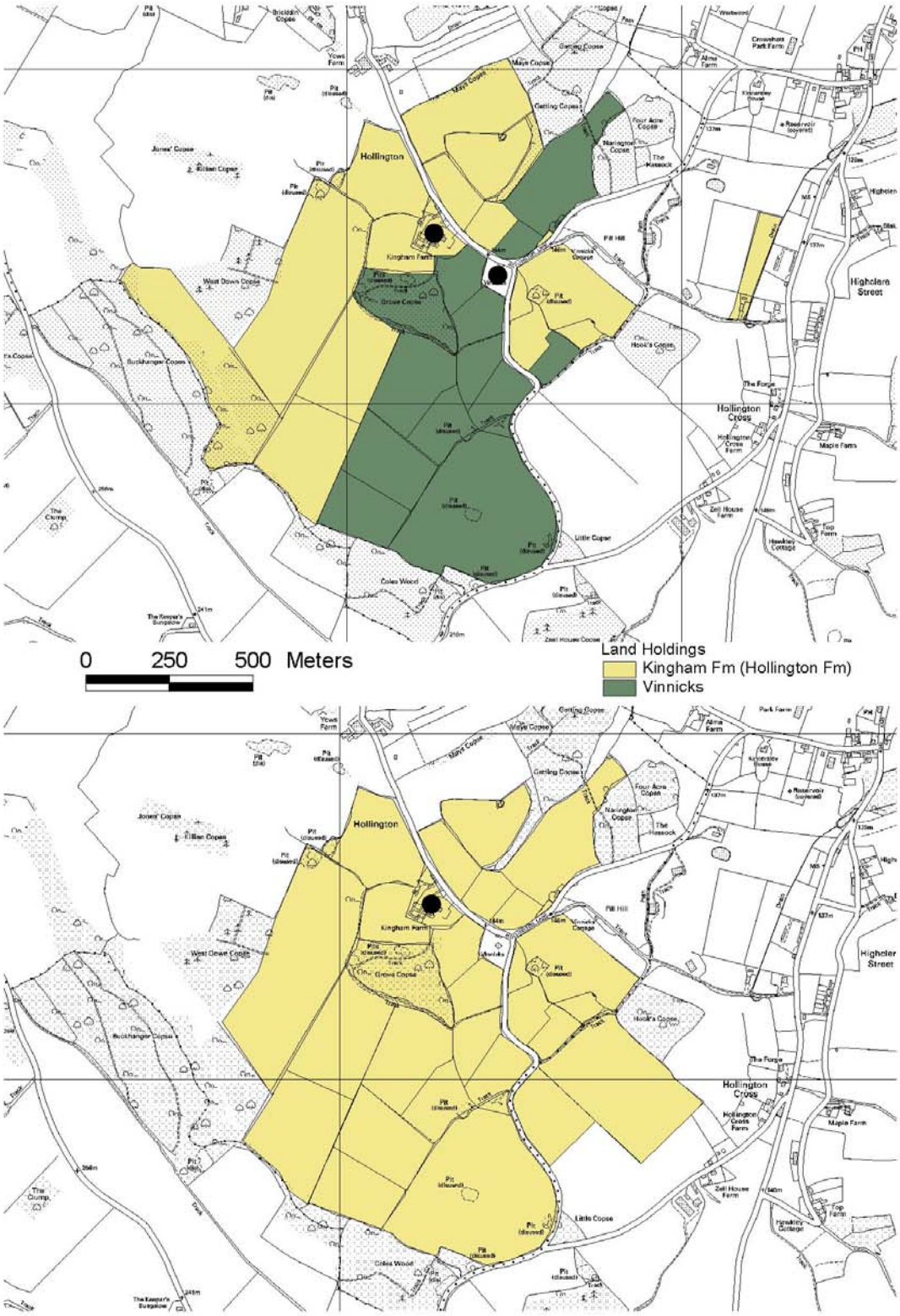
Character: The character of Kingham Farm is that of a farmstead that has developed over the centuries with ranges for animals being added to an earlier farmstead. Despite the fact that the re-organisation occurred late in the 19th century, the barn in particular is of traditional form rather than being a multi-functional building that would have been typical of that time when portable threshing machines were widely available.

There is little to indicate the former dispersed plan of the farmstead, or the fact the there has been a general shift of the farm buildings to the south-west away from the front of the house.

Kingham Farm lies within the Hampshire Downs Character Area close to the boundary with the North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area. The range of buildings on the farmstead can be found on holdings within both areas although the size of the barn is more typical of the Hampshire Downs.



Kingham Farm, East Woodhay
Top: OS 1st Edition 25" 1873
Bottom: OS 2nd Edition 25" 1895



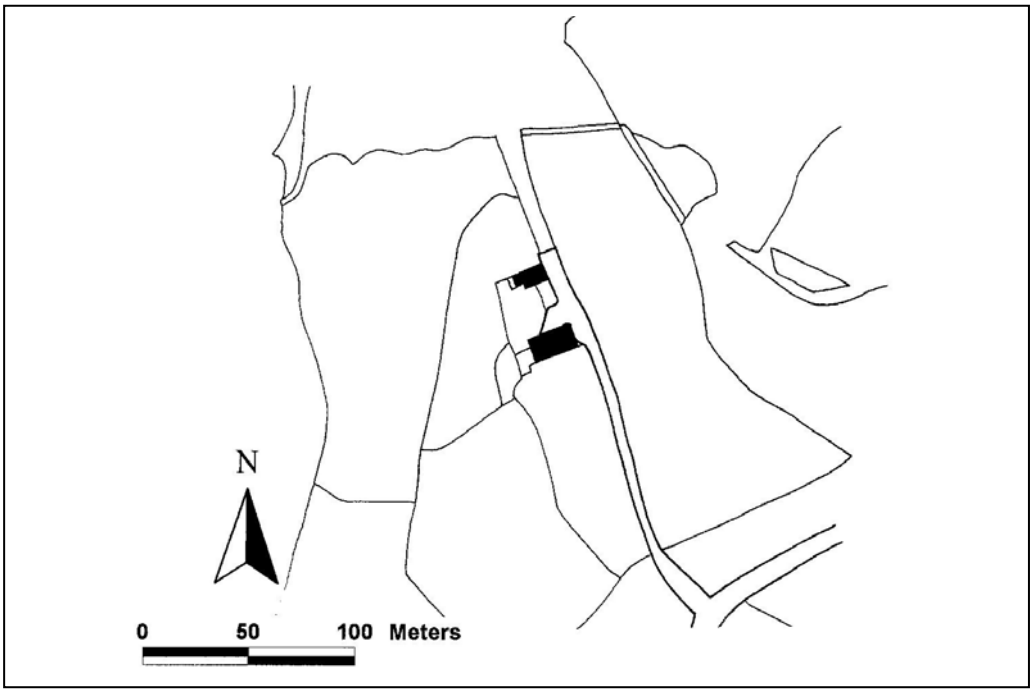
Kingham Farm, East Woodhay Holding Size
Top: Tithe Apportionment map 1837
Bottom: Farm Survey 1941

Seven Stones Farm, Highclere		Historical ownership: Freehold: James King 1839		
Farmstead Plan:	c.1839 Parallel			
Listed Buildings:	C15 Farmhouse and attached barn. One-storey and attic. Late medieval 2-bay timber-frame with later bay at the east end, and a 3-bay barn at the west end.			
Other buildings:	Unidentified building to north of farmhouse			
Landscape Character Area:	North Hampshire Lowland and Heath			
Landscape Type:	Woodland and Pasture (Heath Associated)			
Historic Landscape Type:	Assarted fields			
Land Holding:		1839	1910	1940
		16.1.32		c.63acres

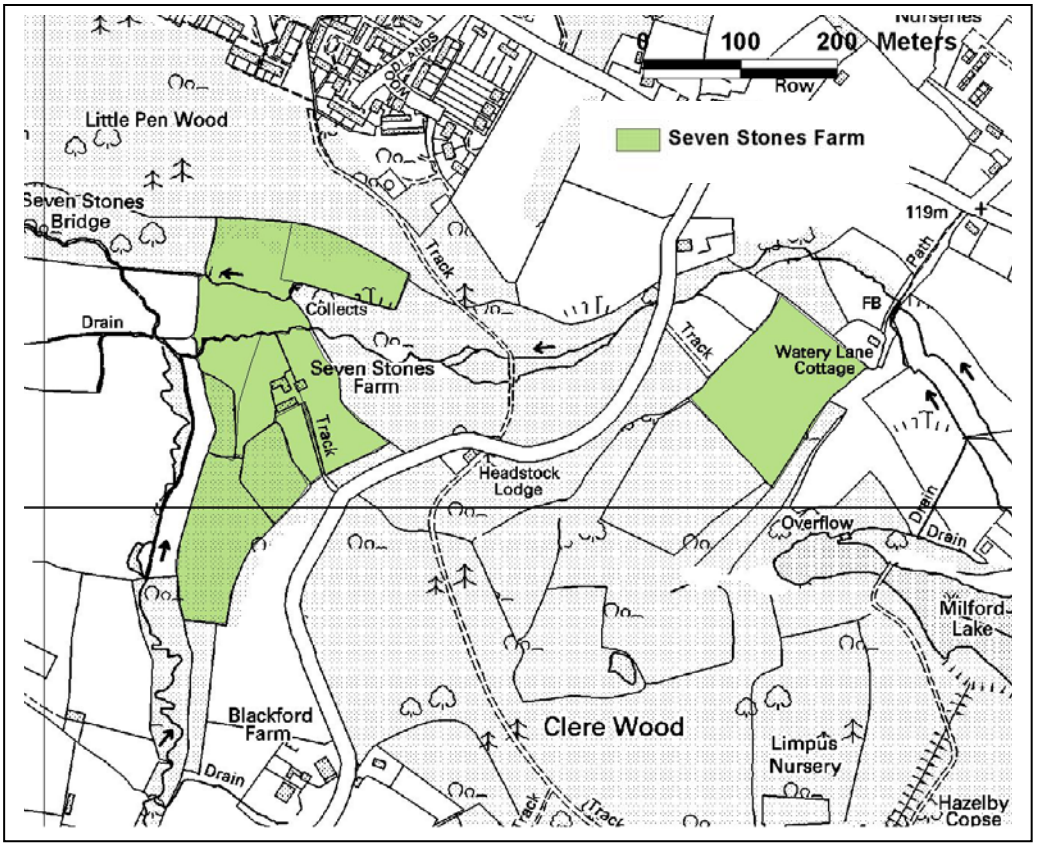
Description: A late medieval farmhouse with, unusually, an attached barn built in-line with the house. Linear plans are very uncommon in Hampshire and the South East in general where loose courtyard plans were typical from the medieval period. A building of unidentified function lies to the north of the farmhouse.

This farm lies in an area of small, irregular fields that are the result of late Saxon or medieval assarting of woodland. Farms created this way were typically small. Even into the mid-19th century this free-hold farm was only 16 acres (HRO 21M65/F7/116/2). Limited opportunities to increase the land available meant that buildings of sufficient quality were unlikely to be replaced. The farm had expanded by the mid-20th century by which date it held the land north-east of the isolated, eastern, field identified in 1839 plus some small fields near the village. Even so, the farm remained relatively small as around 63 acres.

Character: Seven Stones Farm appears to be a small farmstead created through medieval assarting that is regarded as characteristic of the North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area. The farm remained small and so the late medieval farmhouse and attached barn were retained. The linear plan of house and barn in-line is not a characteristic feature for this area but it may represent an important survival of a plan form that was generally abandoned in the South East in the medieval period. The later, parallel plan is also relatively uncommon although given the fact that the barn is attached to the house, it is possible that the plan is more akin to a loose courtyard plan that is typical of the area.



Seven Stones Farm, Highclere
OS 1st Edition 25" map 1873/4



Seven Stones Farm, Highclere
Land holding in the mid-19th century

5.0 SOURCES FOR AGRICULTURAL HISTORY & FARM BUILDINGS IN HAMPSHIRE

HRO Hampshire Record Office
TNA The National Archives

5.1 Primary Sources

HRO 19M61/1485 Plan of Sydmonton Manor c.1757
HRO 19M61/1487 Map of Woodlands, Sydmonton C18
HRO 21M65/F7/40/1-2 Burghclere Tithe apportionment and map 1839
HRO 21M65/F7/72/1-2 East Woodhay Tithe apportionment and map 1837
HRO 21M65/F7/116/1-2 Highclere Tithe apportionment and map c. 1839
HRO 21M65/F7/208/1-2 Sydmonton Tithe apportionment and map 1847
HRO 19M61/465 Kingsmill Archive
HRO 152M82/7/5 Sydmonton Land Tax 1910
TNA MAP32/975/149 East Woodhay Farm Survey 1941
TNA MAP32/975/150 Ecchinswell & Sydmonton Farm Survey 1941
TNA MAP32/975/154 Highclere Farm Survey 1941

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APPENDIX I

BRIEF FARMSTEAD CHARACTER STATEMENTS

This Appendix presents the text for the brief farmstead character statements for all of the Hampshire Landscape Character Areas created in Stage 2 of the project. These statements are un-illustrated at present but their possible final presentation is demonstrated by the examples in section 2.6 of the report.

Area 1 Hampshire Downs - Key Characteristics

This area shares many characteristics with other downland landscapes of southern England where farmsteads had developed into their present form by the 19th century. Very large arable based holdings, by national standards, were provided with large barns for crop processing and storage, which make the farmsteads of this area particularly prominent in the landscape. The concentration of farmsteads in villages and hamlets and the large holding size has resulted in a relatively low density of farmsteads in the landscape.

Landscape Types
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Clay Plateau
Scarps: Downland
Scarps: Hangars
Arable on Greensand

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A generally elevated chalk landscape dissected by sheltered valleys and combes dominated by sheep and corn farming from the 13th century to the later 19th century, now comprising extensive tracts of predominantly open arable farmland. Numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands and ancient hedgerows, particularly on areas of clay. Generally, medium to large or very large fields predominantly created through enclosure by agreement from the 17th century. The earliest enclosures, relating to former common fields are generally found adjacent to the settlements and on the valley sides where larger rectilinear fields are characteristic. Enclosure of the once extensive downland increased during the late 18th and early 19th centuries resulting in the large-scale, regular fields of the open arable areas in particular.
- Farmsteads of medieval origin located in villages and hamlets where they very prominent features, often presenting largely blank external elevations to the village street. Farmsteads often lie on the edge of the settlement, where they can be seen in relationship to long linear fields – the result of enclosure of common fields - extending up valley slopes.
- On the downland the majority of isolated farmsteads were created or largely re-built post-1750, but some medieval farms (often the result of settlement shrinkage) remain. Here the farmsteads are set in rolling chalk downland and are often prominent in long views across the landscape.

Building Materials

- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings and is particularly important to the character of settlements in the western part of the area. Plain clay tile has also been used since medieval times for some buildings.
- The majority of farm buildings of pre-19th century date are timber-framed and weatherboarded although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick and flint or brick or with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs. Some smaller farm buildings constructed in cob. Late 19th and early 20th examples of the use of concrete walling, typically on large estate-owned farmsteads.
- Walls in and around farmsteads are typically of flint and brick or cob with distinctive thatch or tile cappings.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established on the majority of farmsteads by the 19th century. Large farmsteads may have buildings on all sides of the yard whereas smaller holdings will have buildings on one or two sides of the yard only. Regular planned farmsteads of later 19th century date often associated with large estates.
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more large threshing barns commonly of 5 or 6 bays. The earliest barns date from the 15th century but the majority are of 18th and early 19th century date and are typically timber-framed and aisled. Aisle construction of barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area. Mid-19th century barns built with brick and flint or brick and are often split-level combination barns.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier

complexes. Some cattle shelters are built against the yard elevation of the barn. Late 19th planned farmsteads will normally include contemporary cattle housing.

- A small number of late 18th or early 19th century outfarms survive on the downs.

Area 2 Mid-Hampshire Downs - Key Characteristics

Landscape Types
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Scarps: Downland

This area shares many characteristics with other downland landscapes of southern England where many farmsteads had developed into their present form by the 19th century. Very large arable based holdings, by national standards, were provided with large barns for crop processing and storage, which make the farmsteads of this area particularly prominent in the landscape. The concentration of farmsteads in villages and hamlets and the large holding size has resulted in a relatively low density of farmsteads in the landscape.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A gently undulating chalk landscape divided by the valleys of the Itchen and Test and bordered by the higher ground of the Hampshire Downs and the South Hampshire Downs. Dominated by sheep and corn farming from the 13th century to the later 19th century, it is now intensively farmed open arable land. A distinctive pattern of long, narrow, land units representing estates and parishes developed between the 8th and mid 11th centuries. These land units stretch from valley floor to downland and are often bounded by roads, tracks, droves or paths. Highly regular large and very large fields are predominantly the product of enclosure by Act or agreement and their regularity accentuates the pattern of the early land units giving the overall impression of a highly organised landscape.
- Farmsteads of medieval origin mainly located within villages lying in the valleys of small streams where they are very prominent feature, as they are often the first buildings seen on approaching the village. Farm buildings are often adjacent to the village street, intermixed with housing.
- Many isolated farmsteads are associated with the post 1750 enclosure fields. They may be seen relatively close to some of the main roads where their planned layouts and, occasionally decorative detail, are visible. Large, modern farm buildings can obscure views into these farmsteads.

Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre-mid-19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Chalk cob used for many of the smaller buildings of the farmstead. These buildings were often thatched.
- Straw thatch, laid in longstraw style with flush wrap-over ridge and sparred eaves, was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings although tile, used since medieval times is predominant.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century in many village-based farmsteads, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production. Regular planned farmsteads of later 19th century date usually found in isolation within post 1750 enclosures.
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more large timber-framed aisled threshing barns of up to 11 bays dating from the 16th century onwards. Barns of only 3 bays can be found, often associated with properties long removed from agriculture. The majority of barns are of 18th or early 19th century date. Aisle construction of barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area.
- A small number of 18th and early 19th century timber-framed staddle barns survive.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier complexes or are part of later 19th planned farmsteads. Some shelter sheds built against the yard elevation of the barn.

Area 3 South Hampshire Downs - Key Characteristics

Landscape Types
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Clay Plateau
Scarps: Downland

This area shares many characteristics with other downland landscapes of southern England where farmsteads had developed into their present form by the 19th century. Very large arable based holdings, by national standards, were provided with large barns for crop processing and storage, which make the farmsteads of this area particularly prominent in the landscape. The concentration of farmsteads in small villages and hamlets and the large holding size has resulted in a relatively low density of farmsteads in the landscape.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A major chalk ridge with broad, sweeping contours and often domed, prominent hills cut by the river valleys of the Test, Itchen and Meon. The northern side of the ridge can form steep escarpments whilst the dip slope to the south gradually falls to the Hampshire clay landscapes. Dominated by sheep and corn farming from the 13th century to the later 19th century, it is now intensively farmed open arable land mainly on chalk and clay. Generally, medium to large or very large fields predominantly created through enclosure by agreement from the 16th century with some post-1750 enclosure (by agreement and by Act). Some evidence for medieval field boundaries in the immediate environs of settlements and from assarting by 14th century from formerly extensive woodland, particularly to west of area.
- Farmsteads of medieval origin located in a few small villages and hamlets and some isolated farmsteads; some post-1750 isolated farmsteads. Farmsteads are very prominent features in settlements and the landscape, the great majority being located alongside highways and set within the undulations of the downland landscape.

Building Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre-mid-19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Chalk cob used for many of the smaller buildings of the farmstead. These buildings were often thatched.
- The use of malmstone extends into this area in the neighbourhood of Petersfield.
- Straw thatch, laid in longstraw style with flush wrap-over ridge and sparred eaves, was the traditional roofing material for many farm buildings although tile has been used since medieval times.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production. Smaller holdings often adopted L-plans with the farmhouse detached.
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more large timber-framed aisled threshing barns of up to 9 bays dating from the 16th century onwards. The majority of barns are of 18th or early 19th century date.
- Aisle construction of barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area.
- A small number of 18th and early 19th century timber-framed staddle barns are found in the area.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier complexes.
- A small number of late 18th or early 19th century outfarms survive on the downs.

Area 4 Cranborne Chase - Key Characteristics

Landscape Types
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Scarps: Downland

This area shares many characteristics with other downland landscapes of southern England where farmsteads had developed into their present form by the 19th century. Very large arable based holdings, by national standards, were provided with large barns for crop processing and storage, which make the farmsteads of this area particularly prominent in the landscape. The concentration of farmsteads in villages and hamlets and the large holding size has resulted in a relatively low density of farmsteads in the landscape. The farm buildings of this area display the transition in character between the building traditions of Dorset and the South West and the South East.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A gently undulating landscape forming part of a broad dip slope gently falling to the Avon Valley. Dominated by sheep and corn farming from the 13th century to the later 19th century, it is now intensively farmed open arable land on chalk and chalk and clay. Small areas of unenclosed downland survive, otherwise large and very large fields created by agreement and through Act of Parliament, mainly from the 18th century. Medieval field boundaries confined to immediate environs of settlements that lie in the valleys of small chalk streams.
- Farmsteads of medieval origin located in villages and hamlets lying the river valleys where they are often prominent features with buildings set close to the highway. Most isolated farmsteads are the product of late 18th and early 19th century enclosure, often by Act of Parliament.

Building Materials

- Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs. Smaller farm buildings and structures such as boundary walls may be built with chalk cob.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings. Tile may have been available from a relatively early date whilst slate is found either as a replacement for other roofing materials or on buildings of 19th century date when Welsh slate became more widely available through improved transport systems.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production.
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more threshing barns of up to 9 bays in length. The earliest surviving barns are of 15th or 16th century date but the majority of barns are of 18th or early 19th century date. The earliest barns tend to be stone built which is characteristic of Dorset whereas the timber-framed barns are typical of the Wiltshire, Hampshire and Berkshire chalklands.
- Granaries are usually free-standing buildings and may be timber-framed set on staddle stones or brick-built as is commonly seen in neighbouring Dorset. Most are of 18th or 19th century date.
- Buildings for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier complexes.

Area 5 North Hampshire Lowland and Heath – Key Characteristics

Although this area has a markedly different character to the chalk landscapes to the south, large parts of this area supported a sheep-corn system of agriculture. Small farm size and a generally dispersed settlement pattern resulted in a high density of farmsteads in the landscape.

Landscape Types
Mixed Farmland and Woodland
Open Arable on Clay
Heathland and Forest
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
River Valley

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A generally low-lying, undulating landscape crossed by many small streams. A well-wooded area with both pasture and arable land in the Mixed Farmland and Woodland and Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated areas. Some extensive areas of heathland remain in the eastern part of the area. Medieval field boundaries, created by through assarting of the formerly extensive woodland from the Saxon period onwards are typical; extensive enclosure by agreement from 17th century along the stream valleys and generally more regular boundaries associated with post-1750 enclosure (some parliamentary) often taking in areas of heathland or common.
- Settlement pattern of generally small villages intermixed with many isolated farmsteads and small hamlets. Nucleated villages are found in greater number in the eastern part of the area. Many isolated farmsteads are of medieval or 17th century origin, some fringing areas of heath or common. Where subsequent encroachment on the common has occurred 19th century farmsteads have sometimes been created, leaving the earlier phase of common-edge farms set back from the common.
- A farmstead, usually manorial, is often found in close proximity to a medieval church representing an early church/manor relationship. Generally farmsteads are less prominent in the small villages than in some other Character Areas but the isolated farmsteads, often set close to the roads and lanes, make an important contribution to the character of the landscape.

Building Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre-mid-19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 16th century, initially as an indicator of wealth and status. From the 18th century increasing use of brick for farm buildings is seen, particularly for stables and some barns. By the mid-19th century most farm buildings are of brick with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs. Slates may be laid 'economically'. In the east of the Character Area, 19th century brick-built farmsteads are important in informing the development of agricultural practice and some of the large estates.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings although tile has been used since medieval times for some barns. Occasionally tiles of different colour tone or shape were used to create patterns on roofs.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production. Smaller farmsteads may have dispersed plans with relatively fewer buildings. Estate farmsteads often have regular courtyard plans
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more large timber-framed, often aisled, threshing barns of up to 9 bays dating from the 15th century onwards. The majority of barns are of 18th or early 19th century date. Aisle construction of many barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings for cattle are often found and normally consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard or built against the yard side of the barn and are usually 19th century additions to earlier complexes. Shelter sheds are sometimes confused with cartsheds but the location within the farmstead will usually indicate the original function.
- A number of stud farms can be found in the area south of Newbury. Stable ranges, tack rooms and feed stores may be found as well as individual boxes for stallions or sick horses, dating from the 19th century. Few are listed.

Area 6 Western Weald Lowland and Heath – Key Characteristics

This area forms a small part of the Weald of Sussex and Kent. Historically, an area with a wide range of farmstead size including many small, mixed, farmsteads occupied by part-time farmers. In areas such as Woolmer Forest the small land holdings and the use of heathland for commoning means the smallest farmsteads in this area share characteristics with other areas where commoning and part-time farming was prevalent.

Landscape Types
Hangars on Greensand
Open Arable on Greensand
Heathland and Forest
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
Mixed Farmland and Woodland
Pasture: Hangars Associated

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A complex and varied landform unique in Hampshire, particularly the steep escarpments of the Hangars on Greensand, with an equally varied range of soil types from poor heathlands and woodlands in Woolmer Forest to Arable on Greensand. A landscape of small fields, many of which were created through informal agreements during the 17th and 18th centuries. These enclosures probably resulted in the development of further isolated farmsteads. Some enclosure by Act resulting in regular fields patterns.
- An area of mainly small villages and hamlets interspersed with many scattered farmsteads. Many of these isolated farmsteads are of relatively early origin, with some dating from the 13th or 14th centuries, possibly associated with the clearance of areas of woodland. The smallest holdings were probably concentrated near the heathland areas where common rights provided resources for grazing stock whilst larger farmsteads are found on the better quality land.

Building Materials

- The availability and use of greensand and malmstone for buildings in this area contrasts to most of the remainder of Hampshire where there is no local building stone and gives this area a distinctive character. Although building stone was available most pre-1800 barns are timber-framed with malmstone often used for the plinth of timber-framed buildings.
- Malmstone was often used for the construction of stables and other smaller buildings such as hop kilns and cartsheds. The majority of 19th century farm buildings are of brick with plain tile, pan tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs. In areas bordering the chalk flint may be incorporated with the brick.
- Straw thatch was used for some farm buildings although tile has long been used where there was a local brick and tile industry.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Due to the great range in farm size within this area farmstead plans also show variety. Some small-holdings, often associated with commoning on Woolmer Forest had few farm buildings and so no defined plan. Dispersed farmstead plans and more regular courtyard arrangements can also be found, usually L- or U-plans with a detached farmhouse. There are a few planned farmsteads of 19th century date.
- Barns in the Character Area are typically five bays in length although some larger examples can be found. Many barns have aisles to at least one side. The use of aisles brings the eaves line closer to the ground, emphasising the mass of the roof against that of the wall.
- Field barns or small outfarms sometimes survive. Some have evolved into small farmsteads.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Although stock-keeping formed an significant element of the agriculture of the area buildings for cattle are usually 19th century additions to existing farmsteads.
- Stables of 18th or 19th century date found on many steadings apart from on the smallest holdings. Some earlier, 16th or 17th century stable buildings survive.
- Hop growing became a significant element of the agriculture of the area and led to the construction of hop kilns on some farms. Where they survive, these distinctive buildings make a major contribution to the distinctiveness of the area.

Area 7 South Hampshire Lowland and Heath – Key Characteristics

This area is a characteristic wood – pasture area with many isolated farmsteads dispersed across the landscape or set in small villages and hamlets and so shares similarities with similar landscapes of the South-East of England.

Landscape Types
Mixed Farmland and Woodland
Pasture on Clay
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
Horticulture and Smallholdings
River Valley
Open Arable
Scarps: Downland

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A generally well-enclosed, low-lying area of predominantly Mixed Farmland and Woodland on heavy clay soils with small areas of open arable on better quality land such as Portsdown Hill. Most of the area was covered by Royal Forest by the 12th century. Although the extent of these Forests contracted during the medieval period some significant areas such as the Forest of Bere and Waltham Chase remained as unenclosed hunting grounds for the king and bishops of Winchester. Typically small fields derived from the clearance of woodland from at least the 14th century; later enclosure by agreement resulted in more regular, but still small fields. Areas of common usually lying on the poorer sandy soils were often enclosed by Act of Parliament and the regularity of the field boundaries make these areas particularly distinct.
- The settlement pattern consists of some small villages intermixed with many isolated farmsteads, some of which are of medieval origin. A few farmsteads are on or close to moated sites. Urban expansion, particularly near Southampton and Havant, has subsumed many small villages and farmsteads.
- The wooded nature of much of the area means that views are relatively restricted so features such as farmsteads do not have as great a visual prominence as those on the more open chalk landscapes. Instead farmsteads are encountered along the winding lanes and tracks, often lying close to the roadside.

Building Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre 19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick with plain tile, pan tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for many farm buildings although tile has long been used as there was a local brick and tile industry.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Many farmsteads of the area were provided with a range of buildings which, by the 19th century, often formed a regular courtyard plan. Not all farms had sufficient buildings to enclose the yard and so L- and U-shaped plans are common. Some of the larger estates built home farms in the mid 19th century with planned courtyard layouts incorporating the national standards of the day.
- Many barns are of 18th century date but there are a number of 16th and 17th century barns. The largest surviving barns of the 18th century can be as much as 10 bays in length but the majority are of 3 to 5 bays and aisled to at least one side. The use of aisles brings the eaves line closer to the ground, emphasising the mass of the roof against that of the wall.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Many farmsteads have buildings for cattle, usually dating from the 19th century, consisting of open-fronted, single storey sheds ranged along one or two sides of the yard.
- Pig farming was an important aspect of agriculture in this area but there are few surviving buildings associated with pig keeping on a commercial scale.

Area 8 New Forest Lowland and Heath – Key Characteristics

This area has similar characteristics to some other parts of England where large areas of common on poor quality soils allowed small-holders to practice subsistence or part-time farming largely based on fattening stock. Limited capital for building and small farm size means that farm buildings are often small, poorly built structures, that are highly vulnerable.

Landscape Types
Heathland and Forest
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
Mixed Farmland and Woodland

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A generally undulating landform varying from steep to almost flat with plateaux and ridges overlooking both broad and steep-sided valleys. The open forest consists of open heaths, ancient woodlands with small clearings, valley mires, bogs and streams. Around and within the open forest is enclosed forest with small fields of unintensively grazed pasture, some created from before the 14th century.
- Settlement is generally dispersed with many small cottages and farmsteads and, along the southern edge of the Forest, some historically loosely clustered settlements. Twentieth century development within the area has often resulted in strings of infill alongside some of the roads linking once isolated properties or the development of open spaces within the loose clusters of settlement creating large nucleations.
- Generally very small land holdings – some as little as one acre. Commoning – using the resources of the Forest for stock grazing in particular – reduced the amount of land required to practice subsistence farming.
- Hardly any arable is found in the Character Area although some small-scale arable is found in some parts fringing the Forest.
- Along the western edge of the Forest farmsteads are often hidden from view in the thickly wooded, undulating landscape. Elsewhere farmsteads are often seen alongside the roads.

Building Materials

- Although some timber-framed barns are found around the area most farm buildings of 18th or 19th century date are brick-built with plain tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- The buildings associated with smallholdings display a range of walling materials including cob (often left unrendered) brick, rough boarding and corrugated tin. Roofing is usually slate or tile. Thatch is rarely seen on farm buildings.
- Methods of reducing the quantity of a building material used include using rat-trap brickwork (laying bricks on their edge) and laying slates economically (leaving a gap between slates).

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Most of the few farmsteads that existed in this area had a loose courtyard plan or consist of two or three linked ranges around a yard by the mid-19th century.
- Where barns were provided they tended to be small, usually of just 3 bays and date from the 18th or early 19th century.
- Most buildings seen on larger farmsteads are associated with the housing of stock and are usually of 19th century date.
- Farm buildings associated with the smallholdings of commoners are largely unrepresented in current knowledge and designation of historic farm buildings.
- Buildings on smallholdings are small-scale and often crudely built structures for stock.

Area 9 New Forest Coast – Key Characteristics

Landscape Types
Open Coastal plain
Enclosed Coastal Plain
Coastline
Cliff Coastline

The agricultural quality of the southern coastal fringe of the New Forest is often over-looked. The area has historically been dominated by large estates practicing arable cultivation. Several large medieval barns survive as testament to agricultural wealth of the area, as do the 19th century planned and model farms built on the large estates. Nearer the New Forest heath farms are smaller and typically provided with brick 19th century buildings, in common with other heathland fringe areas of the country.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A very gently undulating coastal plain with a gradual slope to the coastline and becoming increasingly open towards the coast cut by the wooded valleys of small streams. Mostly intensive arable production of good quality loamy soils but some small areas of wood – pasture. A landscape of medium sized enclosures, many areas of which are of medieval origin through assarting or 17th century enclosure by agreement. Generally little evidence for formal Parliamentary enclosure.
- Dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads with a few historically small villages that have often been greatly expanded through 20th century development. Some of the isolated farmsteads are of medieval origin
- There are a number of large estates concentrated in the south-east of the area, including the Beaulieu Estate which originated as a Cistercian Abbey in the 13th century.
- Farmsteads typically consist of low, single storey ranges around a barn but, where the farmstead is of later 19th century date, mechanised threshing had dispensed with the need for large threshing barns. Instead a two storey range of stores, granary and cartshed with a shallow pitched slate roof was provided, lowering the profile of the group in the landscape.

Materials

- Most barns dating between the 16th and 18th century are timber-framed and are similar in construction and size to the barns found across much of the county. From the 18th century brick became more common and replaced timber framing by the 19th century. In the Beaulieu area a distinctive yellow brick is characteristic.
- Slate and plain tile roofs are typical although pan tile is used on some buildings. Thatch is rarely seen on farm buildings in the Character Area.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Most of the larger farms had developed loose courtyard plans by the 19th century. On the larger estates 19th century planned regular courtyards can be found including a model farm complex on the Beaulieu Estate.
- Small-holdings would normally have too few buildings, if any, to describe plan-form.
- There are few pre-18th century farm buildings. Most barns date from the 18th century and early 19th centuries. Increasing numbers of buildings from the 18th were built in brick with plain tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones. Mid- to late 19th century planned farmsteads often incorporate the granary over a cartshed.
- Buildings for cattle found on most farms, typically consisting of single-storey cow houses or open-fronted cattle shelters of 19th century date.
- Stables, dating from the 18th or 19th century, found on most farms that has some arable.
- Little built evidence for commercial pig farming, within the listed stock of farm buildings at least.

Area 10 South Hampshire Coast – Key Characteristics

This area includes landscapes of high quality arable land and areas of heath and common that remained unenclosed until the 19th century. On the agriculturally superior lands farmsteads share characteristics with other parts of the county, particularly the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area. On the areas of the heath and common the farmsteads find parallels with farmsteads in other heathland fringe areas of the country.

Landscape Types
Open Coastal plain
Enclosed Coastal Plain
Coastline
Cliff Coastline
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
Horticulture and Smallholdings

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A very gently undulating coastal plain becoming almost flat to the east. Some well-wooded areas, particularly along the river valleys that cross the coastal plain. Urban development is a prominent feature although some areas retain an open, rural character with generally large fields, some of which represent fragments of smaller fields of pre-17th century enclosure by agreement. Some post 1750 enclosure by agreement and by Act. The eastern part of the area was notable for its wheat growing, having some of the best soils in the county. In the western part of the area a more mixed agricultural economy was practiced including dairying to supply milk to the expanding urban populations.
- From the 13th century this area has been dominated by urban-type settlements with small hamlets, a few villages and relatively few isolated farmsteads. Twentieth century development and expansion within the area has often subsumed these villages and hamlets.
- The area west of the Meon Valley contained several monastic estates including the Cistercian abbey at Netley, the priory at Hamble-le-Rice and the lands of Titchfield Abbey.

Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre 19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick with plain tile, pan tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for many farm buildings although tile has long been used as there was a local brick and tile industry.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Generally, the larger farmsteads were in the eastern part of the area and were often located within small villages and hamlets. Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century on many of the larger farmsteads, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production.
- Most pre 19th century farmsteads were dominated by one or more timber-framed threshing barns commonly of five bays dating from the 18th or early 19th centuries. Larger barns of up to 8 bays survive in the wheat lands of the eastern part of the Character Area whilst on some smaller holdings barns of only 3 bays can be found.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings for cattle found on most farms in the western part of the Character Area and some of the farmsteads of the eastern part of the area. Cattle housing usually consists of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds or lean-tos built against the barn facing into the yard. Buildings for cattle are normally of 19th century date, either as additions to earlier complexes or part of planned farmsteads of the 19th century.

Area 11 A Avon Valley - Key Characteristics

This area shares characteristics with other major river valleys draining the chalk of central southern England – in particular the extensive use of watermeadow systems from the 17th century supporting sheep and corn agriculture in the adjacent Character Areas.

Landscape Types
River Valley
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Mixed farmland and Woodland
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
Heathland and Forest

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A broad, generally open river valley with a rich flood plain and open arable fields on the well-drained gravel terrace. Extensive watermeadow systems developed from the 17th century supported and improved a sheep – corn system of agriculture that had been practiced from the 13th century at least in association with the surrounding landscape, particularly in the northern part of the area. Mixed farmland and woodland is found along the southern part of the Character Area where it borders the New Forest.
- Dispersed settlement with a few small, nucleated, medieval villages and hamlets interspersed with farmsteads, many of which were established by the 17th century.
- Dispersed and roadside settlements reflecting wood – pasture agriculture, with some areas of encroachment into the Forest, is characteristic along the eastern edge of the Character Area.

Building Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre 19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick with plain tile, pan tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs. Within the southern part of the Character Area planned, brick-built farmsteads of 19th century are characteristic.
- Cob was used in some smaller farm buildings including buildings associated with the smallholdings of New Forest commoners.
- Straw thatch, laid in longstraw style with flush wrap-over ridge and sparred eaves, was the traditional roofing material for many farm buildings although tile has long been used as there was a local brick and tile industry.

Farmstead Plans, Buildings and Dating

- An area of farmsteads of widely differing size from large estates holding land in the valley to the many small holdings of only a few acres held by commoners utilising the New Forest for pasture. Farmsteads are very prominent features in both the small villages and in the open valley with buildings often adjacent to the lanes running along the valley and valley sides. Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century on many of the larger farmsteads, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production.
- Many farmsteads in the valley are dominated by one or more timber-framed threshing barns commonly of five bays dating from the 18th or early 19th centuries. Barns of only 3 bays are sometimes associated with properties now removed from agricultural activity.
- Free-standing timber-framed granaries set on staddle stones of 18th or 19th century date are predominantly found in the north of the Character Area.
- Buildings for cattle found on many farms. Cattle housing usually consists of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds or lean-tos built against the barn facing into the yard. Buildings for cattle are normally of 19th century date, either as additions to earlier complexes or part of planned farmsteads of the 19th century.
- Farm buildings associated with the small-holdings of New Forest commoners, found along the eastern edge of the Character Area, are largely unrepresented in current knowledge and designation of historic farm buildings.

Area 11 B Test Valley – Key Characteristics

This area shares characteristics with other major river valleys draining the chalk of central southern England – in particular the extensive use of watermeadow systems from the 17th century supporting sheep and corn agriculture in the adjacent Character Areas.

Landscape Types
River Valley
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Mixed farmland and Woodland
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- The Test Valley develops from a relatively small, narrow valley to a broad valley with a wide flood plain. The southern third of the area cuts through a predominantly wood – pasture area where mixed farming from small, generally dispersed farmsteads was typical from the medieval period. To the north the valley runs through a chalk landscape dominated by open arable that was intimately associated with a corn and sheep farming agricultural system from at least the 13th century through to the later 19th century. Watermeadows developed from the 17th century were a major factor in the improvement of the area's agriculture and are now a characteristic feature of the landscape.
- Settlements of strongly linear form are concentrated in the river valley where the Character Area cuts through the central chalk belt of the county. Farmsteads are prominent features in many of these settlements, often presenting largely blank external elevations to the village street or found at the village-edge. Other than Romsey and a few small hamlets there is little settlement within the southern part of the Character Area.

Building Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre-19th century date are timber-framed although brick was increasingly used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Smaller farm buildings such as stables, cartsheds and stores were often built of chalk cob which could be rendered or covered with a chalk slurry leaving a coarse, rough surface to the exterior walls. These buildings were normally thatched. There are few cob buildings dated earlier than the 18th century although this technique was certainly in use before that date.
- Mid- to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings although tile has been used since medieval times for some barns.
- Boundary walls to farmyards are often built in chalk cob. The distinctive capping of thatch or tile combined with their height make these walls important features within many villages and farmsteads.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century in many village-based farmsteads, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production in the adjacent Character Areas.
- Most farmsteads dominated by one or more timber-framed aisled threshing barns commonly of five bays. Barns of up to ten bay and a few as three bays can be found. Although farmsteads are often on ancient sites, relatively few pre 18th century barns survive – most date from the 18th or early 19th centuries. Aisle construction of barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area.
- Staddle barns of the 18th century are seen on some of the larger farmsteads.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings specifically for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier complexes.

Area 11 C Itchen Valley – Key Characteristics

This area shares characteristics with other major river valleys draining the chalk of central southern England – in particular the extensive use of watermeadow systems from the 17th century supporting sheep and corn agriculture in the adjacent Character Areas.

Landscape Types
River Valley
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Mixed farmland and Woodland

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- A relatively narrow valley draining the surrounding chalk landscapes of the upper part of the Character Area where a mainly corn and sheep farming agricultural system from at least the 13th century through to the later 19th century was predominant. Now the surrounding areas are intensively farmed arable land. Within the upper part of the linear villages lying along the valley are typical and retain some historic farmstead sites although where the valley is bordered by the Mid-Hampshire Downs Character Area some farmsteads were relocated within newly enclosed the newly enclosed fields. South of Winchester the villages are larger and more nucleated but within the lower part of the area, between Eastleigh and Southampton, there is little settlement of any form within the valley which cuts through a predominantly wood – pasture area where mixed farming from small, generally dispersed farmsteads was typical.

Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre-19th century date are timber-framed although brick was increasingly used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings although tile has been used since medieval times for some barns.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century in many village-based farmsteads, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production in the adjacent areas.
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more timber-framed aisled threshing barns commonly of five bays. Some 17th century barns survive but the majority date from the 18th or early 19th centuries. Aisle construction of barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings specifically for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier complexes. In some cases barns were converted to cattle housing.

Area 11 D Meon Valley – Key Characteristics

This area shares characteristics with other major river valleys draining the chalk of central southern England – in particular the extensive use of watermeadow systems from the 17th century supporting sheep and corn agriculture in the adjacent Character Areas.

Landscape Types
River Valley
Open Arable
Chalk and Clay
Mixed farmland and Woodland
Scarps: Downland
Horticulture and Smallholdings
Open Coastal Plain

Farmsteads in the Landscape

- The Meon Valley is divided into two distinct parts relating to the adjacent landscapes. The northern half of the valley cuts through chalk where a mainly corn and sheep farming agricultural system from at least the 13th century through to the later 19th century was predominant, and which is now intensively farmed arable land. Here the Character Area is wider and includes open arable and in places is defined by downland scarps. Along the valley floor that was utilised as common meadow, are watermeadows, developed from the 17th century and modified over the next 200 years to support the sheep – corn agricultural system. Linear settlements of at least Saxon origin are found in this part of the Character Area. Farmsteads are very prominent features in both the settlements and in the open valley. Farm buildings are often adjacent to the village street, intermixed with the housing. Farmsteads lying on the lower slopes of the valley sides are often visible from within the village cores; the size of the barns in particular making them prominent features in the landscape.
- The southern part of the valley cuts through a predominantly wood – pasture area where mixed farming from small, generally dispersed farmsteads was typical. The small market towns of Wickham and Titchfield lie at important crossing points of the river and represent the only nucleated settlements in the lower part of the valley.

Materials

- The majority of farm buildings of pre-19th century date are timber-framed although brick was used from the 18th century where it was available locally. Mid- to late 19th century buildings are commonly of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate half-hipped or gabled roofs.
- Straw thatch was the traditional roofing material for most farm buildings although tile has been used since medieval times for some barns.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Loose courtyard plans established by the 19th century in many village-based farmsteads, often as a result of incremental growth in the number of farm buildings reflecting increasing extent and intensity of arable production in the adjacent areas.
- Many farmsteads dominated by one or more timber-framed aisled threshing barns commonly of five bays dating from the 18th or early 19th centuries. Larger, and often earlier, barns found in the southern part of the area. Barns of only 3 bays can be found, sometimes associated with properties no longer associated with agriculture. Aisle construction of barns leads to a low eaves line that emphasises the mass of the roof against a relatively small wall area.
- Granaries are typically of 18th or 19th century date, timber-framed and set on staddle stones.
- Buildings for cattle are not always present. Where found they consist of single storey open-fronted shelter sheds facing into the yard and are normally 19th century additions to earlier complexes.

APPENDIX II

DETAILED FARMSTEAD CHARACTER STATEMENTS

This Appendix presents the text for the detailed farmstead character statements for all of the Hampshire Landscape Character Areas that support the brief statements presented in Appendix I.

Area 1 Hampshire Downs

Historical Background

In terms of agricultural history this area belongs with the Mid Hampshire Downs and South Hampshire Downs Character Areas as a sheep and corn district with many large valuable farms. Throughout the medieval period Church-owned manors that were normally farmed in hand formed approximately half of the area. The 16th century saw some of these estates move into the hands of private individuals with the dissolution of the monasteries whilst on bishopric of Winchester estates farms began to be leased out, allowing, for the first time in much of the area, the development of a yeoman class of farmer.

Evidence for medieval field systems is limited to the immediate environs of the small villages. A large proportion of the open fields and downland within the area were enclosed by agreement during the 17th and 18th centuries although there are some areas of formal enclosure by Act of Parliament creating regular field patterns, often taking in down or common land.

Nineteenth century agricultural records indicate that the eastern part of the area, generally the district from Basingstoke to Alton, had a higher percentage of arable and fewer sheep than the western part of the area. Much of the increase in arable occurred during the Napoleonic Wars when large areas of downland were ploughed-up although the resultant arable land was often very poor.

Settlement Pattern

Settlement within the area is mostly nucleated with the majority of the villages lying in river valleys. The main rivers cutting through the area are the Test and Itchen which lie within their own Character Areas, divorcing many of the historic farmsteads within the villages from their land that falls into this area. One of the few tributary streams of the Test within the Character Area is the Bourne where settlement is similarly concentrated in the valley and a similar pattern can be seen in the higher parts of the valleys of the River Whitewater and the Candover valley.

Away from the river valleys generally small, nucleated villages and hamlets are scattered across the area, both in sheltered dry valleys and in relatively exposed ridge-top locations. In the far north-west of the area the settlements of Linkenholt, Faccombe, Ashmansworth, Crux Easton and Woodcott are distinctive in being located on the higher ground. Most villages and hamlets in the Character Area were probably created between the 8th and 11th centuries although some settlements may be of 11th to 14th century foundation.

Within this pattern of largely nucleated settlement there are isolated farmsteads, many of which are probably of medieval origin. Some of these farmsteads, such as the two farmsteads at Popham, represent the sites of shrunken villages. Surviving farmsteads represent only a small proportion of the number of farmsteads that would have existed during earlier periods.

The overall density of settlement tends to increase in the north-west and south-eastern parts of the Character Area whilst in the areas north and south of the Test valley between Whitchurch and Overton there are fewer settlements and the field size tends to be larger than is general across the area.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Farmsteads within the Character Area are found both within the small villages and in isolated positions across the undulating landscape. Although the majority of the earliest farmstead sites are probably those in the villages, surrounded by small, often early enclosures, there are isolated farmsteads of medieval origin which may be located in sheltered dips or coombs or on some of the most elevated and exposed parts of the downs.

Farm buildings are often very prominent in the settlements as they are frequently sited in village-edge locations and so are the first buildings encountered. The size of buildings such as barns which are often set close to roads or other publicly accessible areas add to their prominence. When farm buildings are in poor condition they can make a seriously negative impact on the quality of the environment.

Farmsteads associated with enclosure, particularly Enclosure by Act, are most likely to be in isolated positions on higher ground, and are often set away from the roads making such farmstead groups prominent features in the landscape. Many of these later farmsteads have remained in agricultural use but modern agricultural buildings may compromise views to the farmstead's historic buildings.

Farmstead Plans

The chalklands of the county was the area where the largest, most valuable farms were to be found in the early 19th century. The dominance of arable and the size of the holdings meant that there was the capital to invest in farm buildings, the result being farmsteads that were large by national standards. By the 19th century the majority of the farmsteads had courtyard plans although not necessarily set strictly in a square or rectangle or with the yard fully enclosed by buildings. Some of the smaller farms in the north-west of the area had buildings set in a L-shape plan. A small number of farmsteads, probably of medieval origin, show a greater degree of disorganisation within the plan although there was still a full range of buildings provided.

The presence of some large estates within the area means that there are a number of relatively large, well-planned home and estate farms where the 'modern' ideas of the 19th century agricultural improvers were put into practice.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house or where the house is later, may reflect an early arrangement.

Buildings and Dating

The large-scale arable farming over the majority of the Character Area required the large threshing barns that are the most dominant feature of many farmsteads in the area. On the largest farms two and sometimes three timber-framed aisled barns of up to nine bays were provided, although five to six bays are more usual. However, it is not uncommon to find barns of only 3 bays. There are a small number of 15th century barns surviving, often on estates that were held by the bishops of Winchester but most surviving barns are of 18th and early 19th century date, their construction linked with increases in grain production and yields leading to increased profitability and availability of capital for buildings. In some cases smaller early barns were enlarged although such phases are not readily recognisable from the exterior.

Later 19th century barns are often multifunctional buildings with cartsheds, stables and stores incorporated into one range with the barn that was a marked divergence from the usual layout of separate buildings in the farmstead. There are, however, few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production. The usual timber-framed and weatherboarded, free-standing granary set on staddle stones is common to many farmsteads. The earliest granaries appear to date from the 17th century but most are 18th or early 19th century in date and some of the larger granaries are of two storeys. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable. The later planned farmsteads found on the larger estates often have a granary incorporated into one of the ranges, usually above a cartshed.

As with the other Character Areas based on the central chalk belt, arable farming continued to dominate, even after the two major collapses of grain prices in the 19th century, although there are some examples of farmsteads where dairying and fattening took on a greater significance. Generally, within the chalk areas of the county cattle rearing was concentrated within the main river valleys which form separate Character Areas. Medieval records of some of the richer estates, such as the bishopric of Winchester, indicate that byres were provided for the oxen and for a few milk cows but if any of these buildings have survived, they have yet to be recognised. Where housing for cattle exists it is usually a later addition to existing arrangements and consists of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard or forms part of a late 19th century re-organisation of the farmstead to develop dairying or fattening as an additional source of income. Such redevelopment of farmsteads can be seen on some of the larger estates such as the Portchester and Portsmouth estates where modern materials such as mass concrete were used.

The large areas of arable land meant that large teams of horses were required on most farms. Even where there were smaller holdings at least one team of horses would be required and so stables are a common feature of the farmsteads of the area. The working horses could be housed with the riding horses but in some cases separate stabling was provided and there is often a distinction in the quality of the buildings. However, as the working horses were essential in the working of the farm and its profitability, stables were usually well-built structures compared to other animal housing so earlier examples survive. A few examples of 16th and 17th century date survive whilst there are many 18th century stables.

Planned farmsteads of the 19th century sometimes incorporate commercial scale housing for pigs. Many farmsteads would have had a pigsty but often these buildings have been demolished or have been neglected.

Some outfarms of 18th and early 19th century date were built on the more remote areas of the downs, often associated with farmsteads lying in the river valley settlements.

The wealth of farmers in this area is also often demonstrated in the farmhouses. Many were enlarged, refaced in brick or totally re-built in the 18th or early 19th century. Some larger farms were provided with walled gardens giving greater separation and privacy from the working farm. Walled gardens could incorporate features such as summerhouses or gazebos.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls. Although timber-framing predominates, there is a small number of 17th century brick-built barns in the north-eastern part of the area. The use of brick became more common from the 18th century onwards, particularly for stables across the area, and generally within the parts of the area close to where there were brick and tile making industries. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all farm buildings.

Chalk cob was commonly used for smaller buildings and structures of the farmstead such as stables and boundary walls but, occasionally, it was also used for larger buildings such as barns.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries in arable areas although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. It is considered that long straw type thatch was the traditional thatching method across most of the county giving roofs a characteristic 'shaggy' and rounded appearance. The ridge would be flush and sparred eaves are typical. Thatch is particularly important to the character of settlements in the west of the Character Area, for example, in the Bourne valley. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof. This feature is particularly characteristic of the chalkland areas of the county.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be higher and, with the distinctive thatch capping, are characteristic features within the chalk landscape.

Area 2 Mid Hampshire Downs

Historical Background

The Mid Hampshire Downs, together with the Hampshire Downs and South Hampshire Downs Character Areas forms part of the central chalk belt that was historically famous for its sheep and corn farming. From the early 18th century increasing amounts of the former downland was brought into arable cultivation and today the area is predominantly arable. The farms within this chalk landscape were amongst the largest and most valuable in the county.

The fields of the area display a greater level of regularity than in any other part of the county although this is not entirely due to the large Parliamentary enclosure type fields that predominate. Many of these regular fields are set within a framework of roads, tracks and droves that mark the boundaries of land units associated with settlements in the river valleys. These long, narrow, land units which provided each community with a selection of land types from meadows in the valley to downland and woodland with arable lands between probably date from between the 8th to mid 11th centuries.

Settlement Pattern

The main areas of settlement within the Mid Hampshire Downs Character Area lie within the smaller tributary valleys of the Test although a large proportion of the land in the Character Area is associated with settlements in the main Test and Itchen valleys which form separate Character Areas. In the tributary valleys are strings of villages where the majority of the early farmsteads were located. There are a small number of villages, such as Quarley and Grateley, which are not located in river valleys but lie in more open locations in the undulating landscape. Most villages in the Character Area were probably created between the 8th and 11th centuries although a few settlements may be of 11th to 14th century foundation.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Many of the farmsteads associated with the farmland of the Character Area lie within the main river valleys of the Test and Itchen which form separate Character Areas. In the western part of the area, along the valley of the Wallop Brook, many historic farmsteads can be seen. These farmsteads are prominent features of the village, often being the first and last buildings seen when passing through the settlement as well as some large farmsteads within the centres of the villages. Few retain any connection to agriculture.

Farm buildings are also often very prominent in the settlements due to the size of buildings such as barns which are often set close to roads or other publicly accessible areas. When farm buildings are in poor condition they can make a serious negative impact on the quality of the environment.

There is a relatively low density of isolated farmsteads in the area. Most of the farmsteads located away from the village centres are of later 18th and 19th century date and relate to the enclosure of open fields or downs although occasional exceptions can be found. However, these few isolated farmsteads are often prominent features along seen near the main roads and in longer views across the landscape, sometimes being the only buildings visible.

The surviving farmsteads represent only a small proportion of the number of farmsteads that would have existed during earlier periods.

Farmstead Plans

The central chalklands of the county was the area where the largest, most valuable farms were to be found in the early 19th century. The dominance of arable and the size of the holdings meant that often there was the capital to invest in farm buildings, the result being farmsteads that were large by national standards. By the 19th century most farmsteads in the area were of courtyard plan with unconnected buildings ranged around three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard and some of the smaller farms would have had L-shaped plans consisting of a barn, stables, cartshed and granary.

The isolated farmsteads, usually built as a result of enclosure, are more likely to have the developed plan forms that incorporated the ‘modern’ ideas of the 19th century and several mid to late 19th century E-plan farmsteads lie on the former downs.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

As with the Hampshire Downs and South Hampshire Downs Character Areas, sheep and corn farming was the dominant agricultural system from the medieval period. The importance of arable farming is reflected in the size and numbers of barns that can be seen on many farmsteads. Often two, and sometimes three barns were provided on a farmstead and, occasionally, staddle barns survive. Barns are typically of five to six bays long and aisled to at least one side but some larger barns of up to eleven bays, can be found although some larger barns are the result of early 19th century extensions to earlier barns. Smaller barns of three or four bays are usually found in the village centres and are often in the grounds of former farmhouses. The older farmsteads within the villages will have buildings displaying a greater date range than those set within the enclosed fields where the farmstead complexes are of later 18th and early 19th century date and usually of a single principal phase with minor later additions.

Later 19th century barns are often multifunctional buildings with cartsheds, stables and stores incorporated into one range with the barn that was a marked divergence from the usual layout of separate buildings in the farmstead. There are, however, few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production. The usual timber-framed and weatherboarded, free-standing granary set on staddle stones is common to many farmsteads. The earliest granaries appear to date from the 17th century but most are 18th or early 19th century in date and some of the larger granaries are of two storeys. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable. The later planned farmsteads found on the larger estates often have a granary incorporated into one of the ranges, usually above a cartshed.

Although sheep were provided with housing in the medieval period there are no securely identified sheep-house structures known. The practice of providing sheep-houses was abandoned, probably from the 16th century at least.

Within the chalk areas of the county cattle rearing was generally concentrated within the river valleys but, in common with the other Character Areas based on the chalk, there are few early buildings associated with the housing of cattle. Medieval records indicate that byres were provided for oxen but if any of these buildings have survived, they have yet to be recognised. Where shelter sheds for cattle are found in the village farmsteads they are usually 19th century additions to earlier complexes and consist of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard. The isolated planned farmsteads of 19th century date normally incorporate cattle housing.

The large areas of arable land meant that large teams of horses were required on most farms. Even where there were smaller holdings at least one team of horses would be required and so stables are a common feature of the farmsteads of the area. The working horses could be housed with the riding horses but in some cases separate stabling was provided and there is often a distinction in the quality of the buildings. However, as the working horses were essential in the working of the farm and its profitability, stables were usually well-built structures compared to other animal housing so earlier examples survive. A few examples of 16th and 17th century date survive whilst there are many 18th century stables.

The wealth of farmers in this area is also often demonstrated in the farmhouses. Many were enlarged, refaced in brick or totally re-built in the 18th or early 19th century. Some larger farms were provided with walled gardens giving greater separation and privacy from the working farm. Walled gardens could incorporate features such as summerhouses or gazebos.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although brick was used from the 18th century onwards, particularly for stables. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all large farm buildings.

Chalk cob was used for many smaller farm buildings and may be covered with a lime render or a chalk slurry coat. These buildings are typically thatched.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. It is considered that longstraw type thatch was the traditional thatching method across most of the county giving roofs a characteristic 'shaggy' and rounded appearance. The ridge would be flush and sparred eaves are typical. Thatch is particularly important to the character of many of the settlements. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid 19th century slate became more common although tile continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof. This feature is particularly characteristic of the chalkland areas of the county.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be higher and, with the distinctive thatch capping, are particularly characteristic features within many of the villages in the Character Area.

Area 3 South Hampshire Downs

Historical Background

In terms of agricultural history this area belongs with the Hampshire Downs and Mid Hampshire Downs Character Areas as a sheep and corn district with many large valuable farms. Throughout the medieval period Church-owned manors that were normally farmed in hand dominated the majority of this area. The 16th century saw some of these estates move into the hands of private individuals with the dissolution of the monasteries whilst on bishopric of Winchester estates farms began to be leased out, allowing, for the first time in much of the area, the development of a yeoman class of farmer.

Evidence for medieval field systems is limited to the immediate environs of the small villages and along the dip slope. The area to the west of the River Test retains a much more wooded character, and within this part of the Character Area there is greater evidence for fields created by assarting from the 14th century at least although there are areas of assarting elsewhere in the area. A large proportion of the open fields and downland within the area were enclosed by agreement during the 17th and 18th centuries although there are some areas of formal enclosure by Act of Parliament creating regular field patterns, often taking in downland or common.

Settlement Pattern

As with the Mid Hampshire Downs Character Area, there are generally few villages within the area, particularly within the central section to the east of Winchester. Where there are villages they tend to be relatively small when compared to the villages found in the river valleys with the exception of a few villages such as Owslebury and Hambledon. There are also small hamlets and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin, some of which may be the remnants of shrunken villages. Most villages and hamlets in the Character Area were probably created between the 8th and 11th centuries although some settlements may be of 11th to 14th century foundation.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Farmsteads within the Character Area are found both within the small villages and in isolated positions across the undulating landscape. Although the majority of the earliest farmstead sites are probably those in the villages, surrounded by small, often early enclosures, there are isolated farmsteads of medieval origin which may be located in sheltered dips or coombs or on some of the most elevated and exposed parts of the downs.

Farm buildings are often very prominent in the settlements due to the size of buildings such as barns which are often set close to roads or other publicly accessible areas. When farm buildings are in poor condition they can make a serious negative impact on the quality of the environment.

Farmsteads associated with enclosure, particularly Enclosure by Act, are most likely to be in isolated positions on higher ground, and are often set away from the roads making the farmstead group a prominent feature in the landscape.

The surviving farmsteads represent only a small proportion of the number of farmsteads that existed in the past.

Farmstead Plans

The central chalklands of the county was the area where the largest, most valuable farms were to be found in the early 19th century. The dominance of arable and the size of the holdings meant that there was the capital to invest in farm buildings, the result being farmsteads that were large by national standards. By the 19th century most farmsteads in the area were of courtyard plan with unconnected buildings ranged around three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard and some of the smaller farms would have had L-shaped plans consisting of a barn, stables, cartshed and granary. L-plan farmsteads are also often associated with the provision of buildings for cattle in the 19th century, possibly replacing earlier buildings.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

Sheep and corn farming was the dominant agricultural system from the medieval period and the principal manor farms were often provided with two or three barns. The importance of arable is reflected in the surviving barns on many farms with some large aisled threshing barns of up to 9 bays surviving from the 16th and 17th centuries. However, it is not uncommon to find barns of only 3 bays. Increases in grain production and yields in the 18th and early 19th centuries often led to the construction of an additional barn and in many cases, the enlargement of earlier barns. In this way many farms were provided with two or more barns and, in some cases, a staddle barn.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production. The usual timber-framed and weatherboarded, free-standing granary set on staddle stones is common to many farmsteads. The earliest granaries appear to date from the 17th century but most are 18th or early 19th century in date. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

As with the other Character Areas based on the central chalk belt, arable farming continued to dominate, even after the two major collapses of grain prices in the 19th century. Generally, within the chalk areas of the county cattle rearing was concentrated within the river valleys which form separate Character Areas. Where housing for cattle exists it is usually a later addition to existing arrangements and consists of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard. Medieval records of the Bishops of Winchester indicate that byres were provided for the oxen and for a few milk cows but if any of these buildings have survived, they have yet to be recognised.

The large areas of arable land meant that large teams of horses were required on most farms. Even where there were smaller holdings at least one team of horses would be required and so stables are a common feature of the farmsteads of the area. The working horses could be housed with the riding horses but in some cases separate stabling was provided and there is often a distinction in the quality of the buildings. However, as the working horses were essential in the working of the farm and its profitability, stables were usually well-built structures compared to other animal housing so some earlier examples survive although most are of 18th or early 19th century.

Some outfarms and fields barns of 18th and early 19th century date were built on the more remote areas of the downs, often associated with farmsteads lying in the river valley settlements (in adjacent Character Areas). Many redundant outfarm complexes have been demolished whilst a few developed into farmsteads.

The wealth of farmers in this area is also often demonstrated in the farmhouses. Many were enlarged, refaced in brick or totally re-built in the 18th or early 19th century. Some larger farms were provided with walled gardens giving greater separation and privacy from the working farm. Walled gardens could incorporate features such as summerhouses or gazebos.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls. Although timber-framing predominates, at the western and southern edge of the area brick built barns and farm buildings of the 18th century onwards become more common as these areas lie adjacent to districts where there were brick and tile making industries. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all farm buildings.

Chalk cob was used for many smaller farm buildings and may be covered with a lime render or a chalk slurry coat. These buildings are typically thatched.

In the area south of Petersfield malmstone, a soft creamy coloured stone, was used in many farm buildings for the construction of the plinth to timber-framed barns and for the construction of some smaller buildings.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. It is considered that long straw type thatch was the traditional thatching method across most of the county giving roofs a characteristic 'shaggy' and rounded appearance. The ridge would be flush and sparred eaves are typical. Thatch is particularly important to the character of many of the settlements. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof. This feature is particularly characteristic of the chalkland areas of the county.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be higher and, with the distinctive thatch capping, are distinctive features within the chalk landscape.

Area 4 Cranborne Chase

Historical Background

In terms of its farm buildings the Cranborne Chase Character Area shares much of the characteristics of the Character Areas on the central chalk belt of the county. The farming system of this chalkland area was based on sheep and corn. The villages, with the sites of many historic farmsteads, are located within the valleys of the small chalk streams. There are isolated farmsteads on the downs, most of which will have their origins in the enclosure of the downland in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Evidence for medieval field systems is limited to the immediate environs of the villages. A large proportion of the open fields and downland within the area were enclosed by agreement during the 17th and 18th centuries although there are some areas of formal enclosure by Act of Parliament creating regular field patterns, often taking in downland or common.

Settlement Pattern

As is the case over much of the central chalk lands of Hampshire, settlement is concentrated in the valleys alongside small streams and is predominantly nucleated with linear villages and some small hamlets of probable 8th to 11th century origin. Within these villages there is often regularity in the layout of property plots suggesting medieval planning of the settlements. The fields around some of the hamlets retain evidence for former house plots indicating that the hamlets are the product of shrinkage in once larger settlements.

The village of Damerham differs from the linear arrangement found in the other villages in that it is poly-focal with several distinct areas of settlement, often focused on a farmstead, linked by a network of lanes and paths.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

There is a relatively low density of isolated farmsteads in the area. The oldest farmsteads are concentrated in the village centres whilst most of the isolated farmsteads are of later 18th or 19th century date and relate to the enclosure of open fields or downs although occasional exceptions can be found. Due to the size of buildings such as barns, and their location within the settlements where they are often set close to roads or other publicly accessible areas, they are often very prominent and buildings in poor condition make a serious negative impact on the quality of the environment. Surviving farmsteads represent only a small proportion of the number of farmsteads that would have been found in the villages in particular.

Surrounding most of the villages are small fields, some of which may be of medieval origin whilst others probably represent enclosure of former open strips. Large areas of down and common within the Character Area were enclosed by Act of Parliament in the late 18th century although the enclosure of the common fields of Martin and Tidpit was carried out by 1788 by informal agreement. These episodes of enclosure have resulted in mainly medium to large, regular, fields with straight boundaries and led to the creation of several farmsteads within the new fields. These farmsteads are often prominent in longer views across the landscape.

Farmstead Plans

Although the early 19th century agricultural commentators did not describe this chalk area independently from the neighbouring New Forest, it is certain that the area would have supported some of the largest and most valuable farms of the county in common with the central chalklands. The dominance of arable and the size of the holdings meant that there was the capital to invest in farm buildings, the result being farmsteads that were large by national standards. By the 19th century most farmsteads in the area were of courtyard plan with unconnected buildings ranged around three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard and some of the smaller farms would have had L-shaped plans consisting of a barn, stables, cartshed and granary.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings, even where the house is of medieval date. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard.

Farmsteads set within the enclosed downland are more likely to have developed courtyard plans reflecting the then current ideas of farming practice and so normally they will incorporate cattle housing.

Buildings and Dating

Sheep and corn farming was the dominant agricultural system from the medieval period and the principal manor farms were could be provided with two or three barns. Medieval barns survive on the manor farms of Rockbourne and Damerham. The importance of arable is reflected in the surviving barns of up to nine bays in length although five bay barns are most common. Increases in grain production and yields in the 18th and early 19th centuries often led to the construction of an additional barn and in many cases, the enlargement of earlier barns.

There are, however, few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production and the typical timber-framed free-standing granary set on staddle stones or, less commonly in Hampshire, brick-built granaries can be found on some farms. The majority of granaries date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

As with the other Character Areas based on the central chalk belt, arable farming continued to dominate, even after the two major collapses of grain prices in the 19th century. Where housing for cattle exists it is usually a later addition to existing arrangements and consists of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard.

The importance of arable meant that large teams of horses were required on most farms. Even where there were smaller holdings at least one team of horses would be required and so stables are a common feature of the farmsteads of the area. The working horses could be housed with the riding horses but in some cases separate stabling was provided and there is often a distinction in the quality of the buildings. However, as the working horses were essential in the working of the farm and its profitability, stables were usually well-built structures compared to other animal housing so some earlier examples survive although most are of 18th or early 19th century.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Although in many aspects the Cranborne Chase Character Area bears close resemblance to the other Character Areas based on the central chalklands of Hampshire, the farm buildings display a subtly different character. In this area the oldest barns are stone built which is more typical of Dorset, whilst there are few fully aisled barns with their enormous expanses of roof in proportion to walling.

Timber-framed buildings, usually set on brick plinths and with weatherboarded walls are typical of much of Hampshire but, as this area lay adjacent to a district where there was a brick and tile making industry brick farm buildings dating from the 18th century onwards are relatively common. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick, brick and flint or chalk cob for nearly all farm buildings.

Roofing

With a significant arable production straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing the farm buildings of the area for centuries. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid 19th century slate became more common although tile continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped whilst later brick buildings often have gabled roofs.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be higher and, with the distinctive thatch capping, are characteristic features within the chalk landscape.

Area 5 North Hampshire Lowland and Heath

Historical Background

The North Hampshire Lowland and Heath is an area of heavy clay soils and sandy heaths. Historically a well-wooded area with the Royal Forest of Pamber near its centre, the extensive areas of woodland were subject to clearance, or assarting, by the 14th century. Whilst much of the area has soils capable of supporting arable production, the eastern part of the area in the region of Aldershot and Farnborough was regarded as unproductive heath. Although of a markedly different character in terms of landscape to the central chalklands of the county, this area also supported a sheep-corn system of agriculture although there was also a greater level of fattening and dairying than found on the chalk. The farms within this area were generally small; in the early 19th century some of an insufficient size to warrant full-time farming and so coppicing and other woodland activities were important to the local economy.

The process of medieval forest clearance is more likely to have resulted in greater freeholder occupation than in the chalk area to the south. However, there are some large estates, such as the Highclere estate, Stratfield Saye, The Vyne at Sherborne St John and Elvetham Park.

Settlement Pattern

The process of clearance of woodland by the 14th century resulted in the development of a relatively dispersed settlement pattern. The several surviving moated sites are typical of this woodland clearance process. In addition to the moated sites that are clearly medieval, there are many other isolated farmsteads that have equally early origins.

There are a small number of relatively small villages across the area generally but they are more common in the east than the west. Much settlement is focused in small hamlets, often clustered around small areas of common. The use of 'End' in place-names is often associated with settlements that developed in the Middle Ages as secondary settlements on or near marginal lands. In the eastern part of the area there are some larger common areas fringed and encroached upon by buildings dating from the 16th to the 20th century.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Historic farmsteads are to be found in the small villages and loosely clustered hamlets, on the fringes of large 'greens' or in isolated positions. Farmsteads, whether in the small villages and hamlets or seen at intervals along the narrow, winding lanes are a prominent and essential part of the distinctiveness of the area.

Surrounding these farms and hamlets are generally small and irregular fields associated with woodland clearance. In some areas, such as in the area of Yateley, it may be possible to see the phases of encroachment into common land in the farmsteads that border it and those that were formerly on the common edge but are now some distance from it.

Farmstead Plans

The farmsteads of the area tend to be small with their buildings reflecting the mixed agriculture practiced so barns, granaries, stables, and cattle housing can be found. Farmstead plans vary from the very small farmsteads that had few buildings with no regularity in the positioning of the buildings (dispersed plan) to those where a U-shaped arrangement could be created with linked or closely spaced buildings enclosing a yard.

Hampshire has wealth of timber-framed houses dating from the 14th to early 17th centuries, many of which were originally farmhouses, although most have long been disassociated from agriculture. Even where medieval farmhouses form part of a farmstead, the house is usually set slightly away from the yard rather than forming the fourth side, or if immediately to one side of the yard is the house usually presents its gable end to the yard. This arrangement is commonly seen across most of the county. Only occasionally is the farmhouse connected to a farm building.

Contrasting to the farmsteads of the smaller farmers are those of the large estates, especially those on the eastern side of the area. These estate farmsteads are more likely to be planned to conform to the 'modern' ideas of the 19th century and show greater investment in improving the agriculture of the region.

Buildings and Dating

Most of the surviving barns are of five or six bays and are commonly timber-framed and weather-boarded buildings with tiled and occasionally thatched half-hipped roofs dating from the 18th or 19th centuries. Generally, the larger and earlier barns are found in the south-eastern part of the area although one of the earliest and largest barns is at Old Burghclere which dates from 1450/1. There is an important group of early brick barns in the Odiham and Basingstoke area (some of which lie over the Character Area boundary in the Hampshire Downs Character Area) including the earliest dated brick barn in the county (1532) in Odiham. Brick-built barns of 18th and 19th century date are relatively common across the area. Most farms required only one barn but on some of the largest farmsteads with the best arable land two, and occasionally, three barns may be found.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

In common with the rest of the county, granaries are usually free-standing, timber-framed buildings set on staddle stones. This was not an area of large scale grain production so the granaries tend to be small, set on four or nine staddles but larger examples can be found including some of two storeys. Most examples are weather-boarded with tiled half-hipped roofs. Nineteenth century examples may have slate roofs and cast iron staddles. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

Open-fronted buildings forming one or more sides of the farmyard for over-wintering cattle are a more common feature of existing farmsteads in this area than in the chalk lands to the south although not all farmsteads include cattle housing. Where it exists it is usually a poorly built timber-framed or, more commonly in the eastern part of the area, brick-built structure with a tile roof. The similarity between a small open-fronted cattle shed and a cartshed has resulted in some being mis-identified and listed as cartsheds, even where feeding troughs survive along the rear wall.

Many farmsteads have stable buildings of 18th and 19th century date, usually of brick with tile roofs although some 17th century timber-framed examples survive, for the working and riding horses of the farm. In the north-western part of the area nearing Newbury, there are some farmsteads where horse breeding led to the construction of large stable blocks. In these complexes single detached stables for isolating sick horses or stallions are also found.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre 19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although there is a greater number of earlier brick buildings than found in the central chalk area. The clays available in the area provided for the development of a tile industry from the medieval period and presumably, a relatively early brick industry. There are some important early brick buildings in the area where brick was used to demonstrate the status of the owner. The use of brick became more common from the 18th century onwards and by the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick for nearly all farm buildings.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries where arable farming was practiced although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. With brick and tile industries within the area tile was more commonly used, sometimes replacing thatch on earlier buildings. Occasionally tiles were used to create pattern on the roof. More recently, corrugated steel has also replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid 19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of brick or brick and flint.

Area 6 Western Weald Lowland and Heath

Historical Background
This area forms part of the Weald of Sussex and Kent. The complex and varied landform includes a number of soil types including sandy heath land, heavy gault clay and greensand. The eastern part of the area is dominated by the heath of Woolmer Forest. The availability of greensand and malmstone makes this the one area of Hampshire that had a durable local stone for building which helps to give the buildings of the area a distinctive character.

By the beginning of the 19th century there was a great range of farm sizes with some very small farms that would not have allowed for full-time farming. The range of soil types within the area resulted in mixed farming with good wheat land on the upper greensand, chalk down for sheep pasture and heathland for stock grazing.

A particular feature of the agriculture of this area was the growing of hops from the late 17th and early 18th centuries and many farms were provided with hop kilns.

Settlement Pattern
Although there are a number of large villages within the Character Area, settlement has a greater level of dispersion than is found on the chalk areas to the west. Many small farms and hamlets, often with origins dating back to the 13th or 14th century, are closely spaced across the landscape of the western side of the area.

Within Woolmer Forest woodland on the heath predominates but where the heath is cut by the small streams that form the headwaters of the River Wey, the valleys are characterised by small enclosures with many small farmsteads and cottages that that may represent the small-holdings of part-time farmers.

Farmsteads in the Landscape
Farmsteads are prominent features of most of the smaller villages and hamlets in the Character Area due to their size and position as farm buildings are often set close to the village street. The many farmsteads scattered across the landscape, linked by the narrow, twisting lanes punctuate any journey through the area.

The field sizes of the area tend to be small and often irregular in shape, particularly in the south around Petersfield, indicating ancient enclosures often associated with their small farmsteads. Where common fields had existed in the area, most had been enclosed by informal agreement during the late 17th and 18th centuries.

The number of surviving farmsteads in the area represents only a small proportion of the farmsteads that would once have been encountered, particularly in relation to the smaller farmsteads and small-holdings that are more likely to have been separated from agriculture.

Farmstead Plans
Given the greater range of farm sizes in this area it is not surprising to find that there is a greater range of farmstead plans. The smallest farms would have not required, and been unable to provide the range of buildings needed on a larger holding and so the farmstead may consist of only the house and one or two small buildings. It is probable that there would be a greater incentive to make the few buildings multi-functional. The larger farms of the area had a greater range of buildings but often they were dispersed around the farmyard with little evidence of planning. It is not unusual to find farmsteads with buildings around a road junction or on opposite sides of the road. L-shaped plans are common and the farmsteads showing a higher level of planning usually have U-shaped plans.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings, even where the house is of medieval date. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard.

Buildings and Dating
Although arable farming was still predominant across much of this area, there was a greater level of mixed farming carried out. The combination of smaller farms and mixed farming, reducing the

dependence on arable, meant that smaller barns in particular were required. The majority of surviving barns in the Character Area are between 3 and 5 bays and date from the 18th century, although barns of 16th and 17th century date can be found. Larger barns exist where the best arable land is found.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. However, in this Weald edge area where iron-working would have been familiar, as would the introduction of mechanical power in the iron-works, it is possible that some enterprising farmers may have experimented with mechanical threshing. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries are less commonly found on farmsteads in this area than in the main arable areas of the county. Where they are found they are usually small timber-framed structures set on 6 to 9 staddles and date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
Occasionally brick-built granaries are found, either set on staddles or brick arches.

Across much of the area sheep were the favoured stock and, in common with the rest of the county, few, if any, buildings were provided. Where cattle were reared the provision of shelter sheds only appears to have become common in the 19th century. Open-fronted, single storey sheds ranged along one or two sides of the yard can be found on many farmsteads. On some holdings shelter sheds were sometimes built against the yard elevation of the barn.

Even where there was limited arable, a team of horses would still be required and so stabling can be found on many farmsteads as can open-fronted cartsheds.

Hop kilns are the agricultural building most characteristic of the area. Both circular and square oast houses can be seen across the area, often built in the local malmstone or brick. Where these survive they are an important and distinctive element in the character of the area.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Although greensand, malmstone, and near the heath of Woolmer Forest sandstone for building was available, the timber-framing tradition seen widely across the county predominated. Most pre 19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although there are a few stone built barns. The local stone was often used for plinths to timber-framed buildings and for smaller farmstead buildings, in particular stables. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or, near the chalk, brick and flint construction for farm buildings.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries in Hampshire where arable farming provided the material as a by-product. Within this area there have been established brick and tile industries from the 15th century and so tile may been used from the medieval period on wealthier holdings. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid 19th century the use of slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped. Many barns are aisled to one or more sides which creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof.

Area 7 South Hampshire Lowland and Heath

Historical Background

The Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area includes some widely differing landscapes including the urbanised areas of Southampton, Eastleigh and Havant, the high chalk ridge of Portsdown, the area of the former royal Forest of Bere, and an undulating landscape based on clays and sands. Dividing the area into four parts are the valleys of the Test, Itchen and Meon rivers.

Urban development at Southampton has had an influence on this area since the 8th century foundation of *Hamwic*, one of a number of towns developed in post-Roman Britain, as archaeological investigations have shown that the townspeople of *Hamwic* were dependent upon the hinterland of the town for the provision of much of their food and industrial materials. The western part of the Character Area would have almost certainly have provided many of the requirements of that first urban community and it has continued to have close ties to Southampton.

The wooded nature of much of the area made it an attractive hunting ground. In the 12th century, when the Royal Forests were at their greatest extent, almost the whole of the Character Area lay in a Royal Forest, with, from the west, the Forests of Melchet, Buckholt, Bere Ashley and the largest, the Forest of Bere Portchester taking in most of the area. As well as being the hunting ground of kings, the bishops of Winchester held Waltham Chase which lay adjacent to their palace at Bishop's Waltham.

As is the case in the North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area, the area was subject to woodland clearance and small-scale enclosure from the 14th century at least. However, the Forest of Bere Portchester remained largely unenclosed until the early 19th century.

Although the areas based on clay are generally poorly drained they provide good pasture land and so a wood – pasture economy predominated. In some smaller areas, for example, around Havant, the soils were fertile and produced good wheat although the best arable lands were found in the wide valley of the Itchen (Character Area 11C) and on the dip slope of the Portsdown escarpment. Within the area there were some areas of sandy heath which largely remained unenclosed common until the 19th century.

There were many small farms in this area by the early 19th century. The proximity of the expanding urban areas of Southampton and Portsmouth, together with the naval victualling yard at Gosport encouraged the development of market gardening. The provision of fresh milk to the urban areas also led to the development of a number of dairy farms and even cheese – a product not often associated with Hampshire. Production was such that an annual market developed at Bishopstoke where up to 2,000 tons of cheese would be sold and carried to London by train. With the coming of the railways the market gardens also found a new market in London, particularly for fruit such as strawberries.

Settlement Pattern

Settlement in the area has a higher degree of dispersion than found on the adjacent chalk areas. In the parts of the west of the area the settlement pattern can be described as truly dispersed with no evident focus of settlement but scattered farmsteads. Elsewhere dispersed and relatively small nucleated settlements are intermixed. Although there are settlements that have Saxon origins, probably founded between the 8th and 11th centuries, many of the small hamlets and isolated farmsteads have their origins in the 13th or 14th centuries.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

As is often the case in anciently enclosed landscapes, the network of lanes within the area tend to link the isolated farmsteads and hamlets of early origin, often with the farmsteads set close to the roads. Although this area is generally small-scale with numerous woodlands and hedgerows which limit the views, farmsteads punctuate any journey through the area. As farmsteads are often seen from close-quarters, buildings in poor repair or poor conversions with overly-domestic landscaping can have a negative impact on landscape quality.

Farmstead Plans

The generally medium to large farms of the area were provided with a good range of buildings which, by the 19th century, were often arranged in an organised fashion around a yard. Not all farms had sufficient buildings to enclose the yard and so L- and U-shaped plans are common. The smaller farmsteads, particularly small dairy farms might have only one or two buildings.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

Although the area is characterised as a wood – pasture area there were some arable farms and the largest surviving barns of the 18th century can be as much as 10 bays in length. The majority of barns however, were of 3 to 5 bays and were timber-framed and aisled to at least one side, in common with much of the rest of the county. Most barns are of 18th century date but there are a number of 16th and 17th century barns. Within the area there were several locations where there was an established brick and tile making industry and so from the 18th and early 19th century many farm buildings are likely to have been constructed in the locally available material.

Some of the larger estates built home farms in the mid 19th century with planned courtyard layouts incorporating the national standards of the day.

Granaries are less commonly found on farmsteads in this area than in the main arable areas of the county. Where they are found they are usually small timber-framed structures set on 6 to 9 staddles and date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
Occasionally brick-built granaries are found, either set on staddles or brick arches.

Many farmsteads have buildings for cattle, usually dating from the 19th century, consisting of open-fronted, single storey sheds ranged along one or two sides of the yard.

Even where there was limited arable, a team of horses would still be required and so stabling can be found on many farmsteads as can open-fronted cartsheds.

Although Hampshire is famous for pigs and this area was one of the most important parts of the county for pig keeping, pig farming on a commercial scale is rarely evidenced by surviving buildings. Where dairying was undertaken pigs were normally kept to consume the waste products and so sties can be sometimes be found close to the dairy. Such structures are usually of 19th century date but due to the limited opportunities for re-use, many sties have been allowed to fall in disrepair or have been demolished altogether.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre 19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although brick was used from the 18th century onwards, particularly for stables, as there were established brick and tile industries in the area. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all large farm buildings. Some earlier timber-frames were encased or the panels filled with brickwork at this time.

Roofing

In arable areas straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries and so in parts of this area thatch was common. Tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped. Many barns are aisled to one or more sides which creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of brick.

Area 8 New Forest Lowland and Heath

Historical Background
Early agricultural commentators appeared to have shown relatively little interest in the New Forest area of the county and accordingly, their descriptions often do not reflect the variations in agricultural practice or quality in the same detail as for the central part of Hampshire. For example, Vancouver includes both the chalk of the Cranborne Chase Character Area and the Avon Valley with the agriculturally poor heath found across the heart of the New Forest.

This Character Area consists largely of acidic sands, clays, gravels and waterlogged bogs and mires. Some parts are too poor to support even woodland. The only agriculture possible was carried out by smallholders practicing a wood – pasture economy based on their extensive common rights in the Forest. Stock rearing was most important, in particular, pigs which were the most numerous animals kept making the New Forest the prime bacon producing part of the county. Additionally, beef cattle, horses and ponies were reared for market. Sheep were traditionally excluded from the Forest because of the deer.

Settlement Pattern
The early settlement of the New Forest and its supposed depopulation by William I has long exercised scholars who have searched for the deserted villages within the Forest. It is certain that the quality of the soils in the central heathland area was never good enough to support more than small, scattered, pastoral communities.

Fringing the Forest heaths there is a distinctive band of settlement that largely represents encroachment into the Forest, a process that records show was underway from the 13th or 14th century at least. Settlement is often found irregularly lining the roads leading in to the Forest which has often led to 'tongues' of small enclosures and cottages stretching out into the Forest.

Within the heathland there are irregular islands of small enclosures and settlement, again largely the result of medieval Forest encroachment although some of these areas may be able to trace their origins back to before the Conquest.

Farmsteads in the Landscape
There are relatively few farmsteads in this area but, with many smallholders having as little as one acre of land, in the New Forest, most cottages were farmhouses. The wood – pasture economy required few buildings and those that were provided by smallholders were likely to be inexpensive and poorly built.

In some parts of the area, notably the western edge, the north-east corner and alongside the Beaulieu River, farmsteads set within small fields taken out of woodland developed where some of the better quality land was to be found. The farmsteads along the western edge of the Forest in particular are often hidden from view by thick woodland and the rapid undulations of the landscape.

Farmstead Plans
Where recognisable farmsteads developed many are of a loose courtyard plan or consist of two or three linked ranges around a yard.

Smallholdings would normally have too few buildings, if any, to describe plan-form.

Buildings and Dating
As the arable acreage was generally very small, barns tended to be smaller, less impressive buildings than those seen in other parts of the county. Where better soils permitted some arable production farmsteads were provided with a barn, usually of three bays although at least one existing barn was enlarged from three to six bays in the late 18th century.

The majority of farm buildings on the larger steadings of the area relate to pastoral farming, in particular the rearing and fattening of stock and so cattle housing is seen on many farmsteads.

The buildings of the poorest in society are often over-looked by the designation process, even when these buildings represent significant aspects of the social history of an area. This is particularly true in relation to the farm buildings of the New Forest commoner. The use of the Forest for common grazing and the

relative poverty of many of the commoners means that farm buildings were often not provided. When they were they were often crude structures built with poor quality materials and so were less enduring. The buildings on smallholdings are small-scale and may consist of what appears to be a number of sheds. Where a group of these buildings survive it may be that they represent an accumulation of buildings over time. It is probable that many of these simple buildings have been demolished as small cottages in the New Forest have become fashionable homes. Occasionally a small group of sheds can be seen to the rear of 20th century houses, possibly where a small cottage has been replaced. It is not possible to make any further statements about the form, dating or survival of such buildings without further research.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

A few traditionally framed and weatherboarded farm buildings are found on the fringes of the Forest, most of the surviving farm buildings surviving from the 18th century and, more commonly, the 19th century, are brick. Cob walling, often left unrendered, is seen in some small farm buildings. Rough boarding using poorer quality planks with the rounded surface of the tree trunk and corrugated tin are commonly seen on the buildings of the smallholdings. Occasionally rat-trap brickwork, the laying of bricks on edge to minimise the number of bricks required, can be seen in buildings and boundary walls.

Roofing

Thatch is rarely seen on farm buildings in the Character Area. Historically materials such as gorse, heather and turves would have been used to roof buildings. Most farm buildings have slate or tile roofs, either plain tile or pantile. Corrugated tin is also commonly used on many small buildings. Slates may be laid 'economically' – leaving a gap between each slate in the row to reduce the number of slates required. This method increases the number of vertical lines and creates a distinctive pattern on the roof.

Area 9 New Forest Coast

Historical Background
Early agricultural commentators appeared to have shown relatively little interest in the New Forest area of the county. Accordingly, their descriptions often do not reflect the variations in agricultural practice or land quality in the area in the same detail as for the central part of Hampshire. For example, Vancouver includes the chalk of the Cranborne Chase Character Area, the Avon Valley and the New Forest Coast area with the agriculturally poor heath found across the heart of the New Forest. The coastal area of the New Forest shares many characteristics with the Avon Valley Character Area, particularly field size and the importance of arable farming.

An early influence on the agriculture of the south-eastern part of the Forest was the Cistercian abbey at Beaulieu. The abbey built a large and prosperous estate on the profits from wool and corn grown on the areas of good clay-loam soil. The remains of the barn associated with its grange farm at St Leonard's stand as testament to its agricultural wealth.

Generally, the coastal fringe was an area of corn production combined with cattle rearing from the 17th century although the availability of pasture on the heaths close-by would have also supported pigs turned out in the autumn to feed on the mast giving a truly mixed character to the farming of the area.

Settlement Pattern
Settlement in the area is predominantly dispersed with isolated farmsteads and a few small hamlets and small villages. Many of these settlements had probably developed by the 10th century at least. Some of the historically small villages and the medieval market town of Lymington have been subject to large scale 20th century development.

Farmsteads in the Landscape
Most farmsteads in this area are set in isolation alongside the roads and lanes crossing the landscape. Occasionally two or three farmsteads cluster together creating a small hamlet. Although the density of the dispersed settlement is much lower than in the adjacent New Forest Lowland and Heath Character Area, the farmsteads of this area are larger, more recognisable and have greater prominence in the landscape although the 19th century planned farmsteads often have a relatively low profile and may not include a threshing barn.

Parts of the Character Area lie adjacent to the open Forest and in these areas the small-holdings of the New Forest commoner can be found. Where these smallholdings have surviving farm buildings they can be important features in the immediate landscape.

Farmstead Plans
Most of the larger farms had developed loose courtyard plans by the 19th century with U- and L-shaped arrangements being typical. On the larger estates 19th century planned groups can be found including a model farm complex on the Beaulieu Estate.

Small-holdings would normally have too few buildings, if any, to describe plan-form.

Buildings and Dating
Arable farming was an important element of the agriculture of this area and so most pre 19th century farmsteads are dominated by a threshing barn. The earliest barn in the area is the stone-built monastic barn at St Leonard's grange belonging to Beaulieu Abbey which dates from the 14th century. Inside the ruins of the medieval building is a smaller 16th century barn that is typical of many of the barns found in the area that date from the 16th century to the 18th century. The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped. A few barns are aisled to one or more sides which creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof. Most barns however, do not incorporate aisles.

On most farms where there was arable the grain was stored in free-standing granaries built on staddle-stones from the 18th century. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable. On the few 19th planned farmsteads the granary may be incorporated in one of the ranges, often over the cartshed.

Generally, the provision of shelter sheds for cattle only appears to have become common in the 19th century. Cow houses can be found on most farmsteads and occasionally open-fronted shelter sheds can

also be seen. A number of barns have lean-tos built against the elevation facing the yard. Although sometimes described as cartsheds, some of these open-fronted structures are likely to represent cattle shelters.

Even where there was limited arable, a team of horses would still be required and so stabling can be found on many farmsteads as can open-fronted cartsheds. Stables tend to be well-built as horses were fundamental to the profitability of the holding and so some earlier examples survive although the stables found in this area are often of late 18th or 19th century date.

Although Hampshire, and the New Forest in particular, is famous for its pigs, pig farming on a commercial scale is rarely evidenced by surviving buildings. Most commoners used the Forest to fatten their pigs in autumn and so tended not to construct sties. On farmsteads where dairying was undertaken pigs were normally kept to consume the waste products and so sties can be sometimes be found close to the dairy. Such structures are usually of 19th century date. Due to the limited opportunities for re-use, many sties have been allowed to fall in disrepair or have been demolished altogether.

Little can be said about the farm buildings of the New Forest commoner as they have been largely overlooked in surveys of buildings of architectural or historic interest. The use of the Forest for common grazing and the relative poverty of many of the commoners means that farm buildings were often not provided. If they were they were crude structures built with poor quality materials and so were less enduring. The buildings on smallholdings are small-scale and may consist of what appears to be a number of sheds. Where a group of these buildings survive it may be that they represent an accumulation of buildings over time. It is probable that many of these simple buildings have been demolished as small cottages in the New Forest have become fashionable homes. Occasionally a small group of sheds can be seen to the rear of 20th century houses, possibly where a small cottage has been replaced. It is not possible to make any further statements about the form, dating or survival of such buildings without further research.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

The majority of listed barns in the area are timber-framed and are similar in construction and size to the barns found across much of the county. Stone was used for the massive 14th century grange barn of Beaulieu Abbey at St Leonard's and re-used in the smaller 16th century barn built within the ruins of the older barn. Nearby, the barn 16th century aisled barn at Beaufre was originally timber-framed but encased in brick in the 18th century. The use of brick became more common from the 18th century and replaced timber framing by the early 19th century. In the Beaulieu area a distinctive yellow brick used in the 19th century for most Beaulieu estate farm buildings as well as on many other estates is characteristic.

Cob walling, often left unrendered, is seen in some small farm buildings. Rough boarding using poorer quality planks with the rounded surface of the tree trunk and corrugated tin are commonly seen on the buildings of the smallholdings.

Roofing

Thatch is rarely seen on farm buildings in the Character Area although arable farming would have provided a supply of straw. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings. Pan tile is also seen on some farm buildings.

Area 10 South Hampshire Coast

Historical Background

Early 19th agricultural commentators placed much of the South Hampshire Coast Character Area within the same agricultural region as the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area with the exception of the Portsea and Gosport area. This area lay on brickearths, extensive post-glacial spreads of marine clays, silts and alluvium which led to the area between Bedhampton and Fareham being noted for its corn growing.

Thirsk however, defined the remaining coastal area as a discrete agricultural area where corn production combined with cattle rearing and fattening, dairying, pig-keeping and market gardening all formed important elements of the agricultural economy. This wide range of activities were largely driven by the expanding urban populations along the south coast and, additionally, the location of the naval port at Portsmouth with its large and important victualling yard at Gosport which required large amounts of wheat and meat, much of which would have been drawn from the surrounding area.

The urban populations also had an impact on the fertility and yields as town refuse was taken out to the fields, supporting relatively intensive wheat production. Initially the towns had to pay for the refuse to be taken away, but as the practice grew farmers were charged up to 9s a load.

Whilst the towns were valuable as a market and a source of fertilizer, they also threatened agriculture through expansion. Urban encroachment removed some of the best land from farming, particularly the best wheat lands on the brickearths. This process, which was recognised as early as the 18th century has continued to the point where there are now only fragments of agricultural landscape remaining within the Character Area.

Settlement Pattern

From the 13th century this area has been dominated by urban-type settlements with a concentration of market centres including Portsmouth, Havant, Emsworth, Portchester, Fareham, Gosport and, within the Meon Valley Character Area, Titchfield. Some of these towns developed from earlier rural settlements that probably had their origins in the period between the 8th and 11th centuries. Between these towns there were small hamlets and, particularly in the eastern part of the area, a few villages, probably of similar date, with relatively few isolated farmsteads. Twentieth century development and expansion within the area has often subsumed these villages and hamlets.

The area west of the Meon Valley contained several monastic estates including the Cistercian abbey at Netley, the priory at Hamble-le-Rice and the lands of Titchfield Abbey.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

The western part of the Character Area was predominantly a wood – pasture area within which there were distinct areas of small, early enclosures and large areas of common. Farmsteads were usually loosely clustered together in small hamlets with a few lying in isolation. In some areas, such as along the Hamble Valley, the pattern of small enclosures with areas of woodland survives. In the eastern part of the area farmsteads tended to lie within the villages and hamlets and, where these have not been radically overtaken by urban expansion, farmsteads continue to be important elements of the built environment.

Farmstead Plans

The larger and most valuable holdings were found in the eastern part of the Character Area and accordingly the farmsteads of that area tend to be larger and, with a greater interest in arable, required larger barns whilst some farmsteads were provided with two barns. As is typical across most of the county, where there was a sufficient number of buildings a loose courtyard plan had been adopted on many farmsteads by the 19th century at least. In the western part of the area where, in general, there were smaller farmsteads it was more usual to find L-shaped ranges of buildings although walls may have often formed the remaining sides to create a yard.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

On farms where arable was a significant element of the agricultural economy large barns, often aisled to one or more sides, dominated the farmstead. To the west of the area barns are found on many farmsteads but tend to be smaller, between three and five bays, than those of the east which can be as much as eight or nine bays.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production and the typical timber-framed free-standing granary set on staddle stones can be found on many farms. The majority of granaries date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

The importance of arable meant that teams of horses were required on most farms. Even where there were smaller holdings at least one team of horses would be required and so stables are a common feature of the farmsteads of the area. The working horses could be housed with the riding horses but in some cases separate stabling was provided and there is often a distinction in the quality of the buildings. However, as the working horses were essential in the working of the farm and its profitability, stables were usually well-built structures compared to other animal housing so some earlier examples survive although most are of 18th or early 19th century.

Although Hampshire is famous for its pigs, and records show that pig farming was an important element of the economy in this area, this is rarely evidenced by surviving buildings. Pigs were usually kept where dairying was undertaken and so sties can be sometimes be found close to the dairy. Such structures are usually of 19th century date. Due to the limited opportunities for re-use, many sties have been allowed to fall in disrepair or have been demolished altogether.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although brick, which was available locally across the area, was also used from the 18th century onwards. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been replaced by brick for nearly all large farm buildings.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries where arable farming produced straw as a by-product although tile has been used from the medieval period. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of brick.

Area 11 A Avon Valley

Historical Background

The variations in agricultural practice across the New Forest area were largely ignored by the early agricultural commentators. For example, Vancouver includes both the chalk of the Cranborne Chase Character Area and the Avon Valley with the agriculturally poor heath found across the heart of the New Forest.

The Avon Valley was largely an area of corn production combined with cattle rearing from the 17th century although the availability of pasture in the enclosures along the eastern edge of the area and adjacent heaths would have also supported sheep and pigs giving a truly mixed character to the farming of the valley. Dairying also developed in the 19th century with the introduction of the railways enabling the transportation of fresh milk to the growing urban areas such as Southampton and Bournemouth. Along the valley there are some reasonably large estates which were able to invest in the significant agricultural improvement of the development of watermeadows. These meadows today give the valley floor one of its most distinctive characteristics.

Along the eastern edge of the Character Area there is a narrow band of wood – pasture where the resources of the New Forest available to those with common rights allowed subsistence agriculture possible on very small holdings, with some holdings as small as one acre.

Settlement Pattern

For much of its length the Hampshire part of the River Avon is bordered by sandy heathland of poor agricultural quality. In contrast the wide river valley providing fertile land and has attracted settlement since the Bronze Age at least.

The settlement within the valley is predominantly one of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets with some small villages that were in existence by the 11th century. The villages are not strongly nucleated, for examples, Breamore, which is polyfocal with archaeological evidence for parts of the village having been subject to shrinkage.

Two medieval market towns lie at important crossing points of the river whilst to the south is Christchurch, formerly in Hampshire. Archaeological fieldwork has shown that on the western side of the river many of the farmsteads and hamlets located between the villages were once larger settlement groups. Additionally, there were other small settlement areas, perhaps consisting of only a cottage or small-holding, that have been lost.

Settlement along the eastern edge of the valley, within the wood – pasture area, consists of many small farmsteads and cottages which in some places are loosely clustered to form hamlets.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Farmsteads are predominantly found in isolation, spread along the line the valley between the river on one side and heath on the other. Only in the southern part of the area, where the valley widens, are farmsteads found both close to the river and set up to 2km away from the river. Typically the fields along the valley are small although there is often strong regularity in the field patterns some of which appear to fossilise the lines of strips within the former common fields of the valley which were mainly enclosed by informal agreement, probably during the 17th and early 18th century. Formal Acts of Parliament were mainly used to enclose areas of common and meadow where the drains of the watermeadows were sometimes used as boundaries and give an appearance of regularity to the fields.

This Character Area contained many very small holdings. In the 19th century, records show that in the New Forest as much as 44% of the holdings were of 10 acres or less. Whilst the larger estates farmed the best land along the valley, these small-holders, using their common rights to graze stock, were usually confined to the poorest lands – in this Character Area the areas of wood – pasture and encroachment into the Forest along the eastern edge of the area.

Farmstead Plans

By the 19th century most farmsteads on the larger estates were of courtyard plan, often with connected buildings ranged around two or three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard. Within the valley planned, but not model, farmsteads of the 19th century predominate and are intrinsic to the character of the valley. Small-holdings would normally have too few buildings, if any, to describe plan-form.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

The main farmsteads close to the river demonstrate the presence and importance of arable in their barns, the largest of which are of up to nine bays in length although five bays are more common. Smaller barns of three bays are also commonly found. Few farmsteads, however, had need of more than one barn in contrast to the main corn growing areas in Hampshire and Wiltshire. The earliest barns of the area date from the 16th century and are found on many of the dispersed farmsteads along the valley. The majority of surviving barns are of 18th or early 19th century date.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

As is typical in Hampshire, grain could be stored in free-standing timber-framed granaries set on staddle stones but it is possible that other than on the larger estates there was insufficient grain production to warrant the construction of a granary. Instead, grain could be stored within the house or a granary incorporated into another building. Surviving granaries are usually of late 18th or early 19th century date and are concentrated in the north of the area. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

The provision of shelter sheds for cattle only appears to have become common in the 19th century. Open-fronted, single storey sheds ranged along one or two sides of the yard can be found on many of the farmsteads along the valley. A number of barns have lean-tos built against the elevation facing the yard. Although sometimes described as cartsheds, some of these open-fronted structures are likely to represent cattle shelters.

Even where there was limited arable, a team of horses would still be required and so stabling can be found on many farmsteads as can open-fronted cartsheds.

Although Hampshire is famous for its pigs, pig farming on a commercial scale is rarely evidenced by surviving buildings. Where dairying was undertaken pigs were normally kept to consume the waste products and so sties can be sometimes be found close to the dairy. Such structures are usually of 19th century date. Due to the limited opportunities for re-use, many sties have been allowed to fall in disrepair or have been demolished altogether.

Little can be said about the farm buildings of the New Forest commoner as they have been largely overlooked in surveys of buildings of architectural or historic interest. The use of the Forest for common grazing and the relative poverty of many of the commoners means that farm buildings were often not provided. If they were they were crude structures built with poor quality materials and so were less enduring. It is not possible to make any further statements about the form, dating or survival of such buildings without further research.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although brick was used from the 18th century onwards, particularly for stables, as there was an established brick and tile industry in the Alderholt and Verwood area. By the mid-19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all large farm buildings. Some earlier timber-frames were encased or the panels filled with brickwork at this time. Occasionally in the area, some small farm buildings and features such as farmyard walls could be built of chalk cob.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings. Buildings held by commoners could also be thatched using materials available on the heath such as gorse, bracken and possibly turf.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of brick.

Area 11 B Test Valley

Historical Background
Defining a single character within a river valley that cuts through a number of different character areas can be difficult. Additionally, in terms of agriculture the river valley Character Areas are largely divorced from the adjacent areas that would have formed the majority of land farmed from steadings often located in the valley settlements. Therefore, the character of the farmsteads within the river valleys can be more a reflection of the adjacent Character Areas than the valley itself.

The upper part of the Test Valley is bounded by the all three of the downland Character Areas which form the central chalk belt that was historically famous for its sheep and corn farming. The farms within this chalk landscape were the largest and most valuable in the county. The development of watermeadows during the later 17th and 18th centuries are characteristic features of the chalk valleys of the county, particularly during winter when the channels of the watermeadows fill with water emphasising the degree to which the landscape has been manipulated.

To the south of the South Hampshire Downs is the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area, a landscape of markedly different character to the chalklands. Here the landscape adjacent to the valley consists of small, irregular fields, associated with many isolated farmsteads and small hamlets created through assarting of woodland from the 14th century at least.

Settlement Pattern
Where the Test passes through the chalk, settlement is concentrated into linear villages, most of which were in existence by the 11th century, lying on either side of the river interspersed with some isolated farmsteads, some of which may date from the 13th or 14th century. Some of the larger villages strung along the valley actually consist of a number of townships that would each have had its own unit of land stretching up from the valley.

In the section of the Character Area bounded by the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath and, in the lower reaches of the valley to the west, the New Forest Lowland and Heath Character Areas, settlements have tended to stay further away from the river although there are a few small villages and the market town of Romsey close to the water.

Farmsteads in the Landscape
Within the majority of the Character Area that is bordered by the chalk the oldest farmsteads were generally located within the valley settlements. The linear arrangement of most of these villages dictated by the topography, means that most buildings lie close to the road and so farm buildings are often prominent features of the settlements.

Enclosure of the open fields associated with these valley settlements was largely undertaken by agreement from the later 18th century although within the Mid Hampshire Downs Character Area enclosure through 18th and early 19th century Acts of Parliament predominate. Enclosure resulted in the movement of some farmsteads out of the village centres to be relocated within the new enclosures but many remained in the villages. Meadow in the valley often remained in common and was developed as watermeadows.

In the lower reaches of the valley in the area of Romsey the valley is wider and predominantly watermeadow. There a few farmsteads within the Character Area.

Farmstead Plans
By the 19th century most farmsteads in the area were of courtyard plan with unconnected buildings ranged around two or three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard and some of the smaller farms would have had L-shaped plans consisting of a barn, stables, cartshed and granary. As is typical across much of the county, the farmhouse was usually set to slightly away from the farmyard and rarely forms one side of the yard.

The are some examples of farmsteads within the valley that were wholly rebuilt in the 19th century and these are more likely to have the developed plan forms that incorporated the ‘modern’ ideas of the time. There are however, few model farms within the area.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

The importance of the arable farming carried out on within the adjacent chalkland Character Areas is reflected in the size and numbers of barns that can be seen on many farmsteads. Although many farmsteads within villages are on ancient sites and there are some 17th century barns, surviving barns are predominantly of 18th century date. This may reflect the wealth of the farmers of this area at that period who were expanding arable production. Often two barns were provided on a farmstead and often staddle barns were built in the 18th century. Barns are typically of five bays and aisled to at least one side and often to three or all four sides. Larger barns of up to 10 bays and smaller barns of 3 or 4 bays are also found. Many of the latter form part of properties that are no longer associated with agriculture.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production. The usual timber-framed and weatherboarded free-standing granary set on staddle stones seen across the county is common to many farmsteads. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

Although sheep and corn was the principal agricultural system of the chalklands, some cattle rearing and fattening was carried out in the river valleys. However, there are few early buildings associated with the housing of cattle. Medieval records indicate that byres were provided on some estates, probably mainly for plough oxen, but if any of these buildings have survived, they have yet to be recognised. Where shelter sheds for cattle are found they are usually 19th century additions to earlier complexes and consist of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard. It is possible that on some farms an existing building such as a barn would be used to house stock.

Stables in the area are often built of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate roofs. The majority of surviving examples are of 18th or 19th century date.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although there are some examples of the early use of brick from the 17th century. From the 18th century onwards brick was commonly used for many farm buildings, particularly for stables and in the southern part of the Character Area where there were brick and tile industries nearby. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all large farm buildings. Many smaller buildings of the farmstead were constructed in chalk cob.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or, in and near the chalklands, chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be relatively high.

Area 11 C Itchen Valley

Historical Background

Defining a single character within a river valley that cuts through a number of different character areas can be difficult. Additionally, in terms of agriculture the river valley Character Areas are largely divorced from the adjacent areas that would have formed the majority of land farmed from steadings often located in the valley settlements. Therefore, the character of the farmsteads within the river valleys can be more a reflection of the adjacent Character Areas than the valley itself.

The upper part of the Itchen Valley is bounded in part by the all three of the downland Character Areas which form the central chalk belt that was historically famous for its sheep and corn farming. The farms within this chalk landscape were the largest and most valuable in the county. The development of watermeadows during the later 17th and 18th centuries are characteristic features of the chalk valleys of the county, particularly during winter when the channels of the watermeadows fill with water emphasising the degree to which the landscape has been manipulated.

To the south of the South Hampshire Downs is the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area, a landscape of markedly different character to the chalklands. Here the wider landscape adjacent to the valley consists of small, irregular fields created through assarting of woodland from the 14th century at least and areas of small but regular fields representing the enclosure of areas of common and heath, often by Act of Parliament. However, the valley itself has been subject to large-scale urbanisation with the growth of Eastleigh and the expansion of Southampton.

Settlement Pattern

Where the Itchen passes through the chalk settlement is concentrated into linear villages of at least 11th century origin lying on either side of the river interspersed with occasional farmsteads, some of which may date from the 13th or 14th century. Some of the smaller settlements along the valley appear to be the remnants of shrunken villages.

The section of the Character Area south of Winchester has a higher density of settlement with several large villages, also probably of pre 11th century origin, on both banks of the river. In the short section of the valley that remains open countryside between Eastleigh and Southampton there are no villages and only a small number of isolated farmsteads.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Within the majority of the Character Area that is bordered by the chalk the oldest farmsteads were generally located within the valley settlements. The linear arrangement of most of these villages means that most buildings lie close to the road and so farm buildings are often prominent features of the settlements.

Enclosure of the fields associated with many of these valley settlements appears to have been largely by agreement from the 17th century onwards and resulted in the movement of some farmsteads out of the village centres to be relocated within the new enclosures. Meadow in the valley often remained in common and was developed as watermeadows.

The short section of the Character Area that cuts through the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area is a wide, flat valley that was used as meadow, with considerable evidence for watermeadows. Only along the eastern edge of the area are there fields that are small and irregular suggesting enclosure from woodland, a process that was underway by the 14th century.

Farmstead Plans

By the 19th century most farmsteads in the area were of courtyard plan with unconnected buildings ranged around two or three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard and some of the smaller farms would have had L-shaped plans consisting of a barn, stables, cartshed and granary. As is typical across much of the county, the farmhouse was usually set to slightly away from the farmyard and rarely forms one side of the yard.

The are some examples of farmsteads within the valley that were wholly rebuilt in the 19th century and these are more likely to have the developed plan forms that incorporated the ‘modern’ ideas of the time and these may be associated with some of the larger estates found along the valley.

There are, however, few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

The importance of the arable farming carried out on within the adjacent Character Areas is reflected in the size and numbers of barns that can be seen on many farmsteads. Often two barns were provided on a farmstead and sometimes the second barn was a staddle barn. Barns are typically of five bays and aisled to at least one side and often to three or all four sides. Smaller barns of three or four bays are also found whilst the largest barns are of up to ten bays.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production. The usual timber-framed and weatherboarded free-standing granary set on staddle stones is common to many farmsteads. Most granaries are of 18th or 19th century date although occasionally granaries assigned an earlier date can be found. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

Although sheep and corn was the principal agricultural system of the chalklands, some cattle rearing and fattening was carried out in the river valleys. However, there are few early buildings associated with the housing of cattle. Medieval records indicate that byres were provided on estates such as those of the bishops of Winchester but if any of these buildings have survived, they have yet to be recognised. Where shelter sheds for cattle are found they are usually 19th century additions to earlier complexes and consist of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard. It is possible that on some farms an existing building such as a barn would be converted to house stock.

Stables in the area are often built of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate roofs. The majority of surviving examples are of 18th or 19th century date. Cartsheds of between three and five bays are found on most farmsteads.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although there are some examples of the early use of brick from the 17th century. From the18th century onwards brick was commonly used for many farm buildings, particularly for stables. By the mid 19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all large farm buildings. Some smaller buildings of the farmstead were constructed in chalk cob.

Roofs

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries where there was arable production although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or, in and near the chalklands, chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be relatively high.

Area 11 D Meon Valley

Historical Background

Defining a single character within a river valley that cuts through a number of different character areas can be difficult. Additionally, in terms of agriculture the river valley Character Areas are largely divorced from the adjacent areas that would have formed the majority of land farmed from steadings often located in the valley settlements. Therefore, the character of the farmsteads within the river valleys can be more a reflection of the adjacent Character Areas than the valley itself.

The upper part of the Meon Valley is bounded by the South Hampshire Downs Character Area which forms part of the central chalk belt that was historically famous for its sheep and corn farming. The farms within this chalk landscape were the largest and most valuable in the county. The development of watermeadows during the later 17th and 18th centuries are characteristic features of the chalk valleys of the county, particularly during winter when the channels of the watermeadows fill with water emphasising the degree to which the landscape has been manipulated.

To the south of the South Hampshire Downs is the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area, a landscape of markedly different character to the chalklands. Here the landscape adjacent to the valley consists of small, irregular fields created through assarting of woodland from the 14th century at least and areas of small but regular fields representing the enclosure of areas of common and heath, often by Act of Parliament.

The Meon finally passes through the South Hampshire Coast Character Area before flowing into the Solent. Although there are large urban areas to either side of parts of the valley in these lower reaches, the valley itself retains a high degree of rural character. Historically the landscape over much of this section of the Character Area has been influenced by two factors: the presence of Titchfield Abbey, with its park, and the 17th century reclamation of the estuary and canalisation of a branch of the river as far as Titchfield by the Earl of Southampton. To the west of the former estuary there was extensive areas of common that was being progressively enclosed by the 17th century. The landscape bordering the lower part of the Meon developed a specialism in market gardening, supplying the growing urban areas of Portsmouth and Southampton as well as the Royal Navy through its victualling yard at Gosport.

Settlement Pattern

The pattern of settlement within the Character Area can be divided into two parts; the northern area bordered by the South Hampshire Downs and the remaining southern section. In the north settlement is concentrated into linear villages of at least 11th century origin lying close to the river interspersed with farmsteads, some of which were of manorial status, developed in the medieval period. Some of these farmsteads may represent shrunken settlements.

The southern part of the Character Area is notable for its lack of major settlement in the valley apart from the two market towns of Wickham and Titchfield located at important crossing points of the river. Other than these small towns there are only a scattering of isolated farmsteads and water mills along the valley, many of which are of medieval origin.

Farmsteads in the Landscape

Within the area bordered by the chalk the oldest farmsteads were generally located within the valley settlements or along the valley between the villages. Enclosure of the fields associated with these farmsteads appears to have been largely by agreement from the 17th century onwards whilst the meadow in the valley often remained in common and were developed as watermeadows.

Farmstead Plans

By the 19th century most farmsteads in the area were of courtyard plan with unconnected buildings ranged around two or three sides of the yard. However, few farmsteads had buildings that fully enclosed the yard and some of the smaller farms would have had L-shaped plans consisting of a barn, stables, cartshed and granary. As is typical across much of the county, the farmhouse was usually set to slightly away from the farmyard and rarely forms one side of the yard.

The are some examples of farmsteads within the valley that were wholly rebuilt in the 19th century and these are more likely to have the developed plan forms that incorporated the ‘modern’ ideas of the time.

Hampshire has a wealth of timber-framed houses, many of which originated as the homes of farmers although most have long been disassociated with agriculture. In this area, as is the case across much of the county, only occasionally does the farmhouse form one side of the farmyard in close association with the farm buildings. Instead the house is often set at right angles to the yard, presenting only the gable end to the farmyard. Where the house does from one side of the yard, it may be indicative of an early, possibly medieval, date for the house.

Buildings and Dating

The importance of arable farming is reflected in the size and numbers of barns that can be seen on many farmsteads, even those within the southern part of the valley where adjacent areas were wood-pasture and farms mixed. Often two, and sometimes three barns were provided on a farmstead. Barns are typically of five bays and aisled to at least one side and often to three or all four sides. It is of interest that the larger barns, of eight or nine bays, lie within the southern part of the Character Area. Smaller barns of three or four bays are also found, often in the grounds of former farmhouses, long since removed from agricultural activity.

There are few examples of the use of fixed steam power or horse-engines for threshing as during the 19th century labour was cheap and plentiful. Therefore barns in Hampshire rarely have horse-engine houses or ancillary buildings with chimneys. Portable threshing machines were widely used by the later 19th century but these involved no form of extension or intervention in existing fabric.

The roofs of many farm buildings of all periods are half-hipped although some barns are aisled on all sides and so are fully hipped. The use of aisles creates a low eaves line and emphasises the mass of the roof. This feature is particularly characteristic of the chalkland areas of the county.

Granaries also reflect the importance of corn production. The usual timber-framed and weatherboarded free-standing granary set on staddle stones is common to many farmsteads. Ventilation was important and so granaries are often provided with louvered window openings. In some cases the louvers are adjustable.

Although sheep and corn was the principal agricultural system of the chalklands, some cattle rearing and fattening was carried out in the river valleys. However, there are few early buildings associated with the housing of cattle. Medieval records indicate that byres were provided on estates such as those of the bishops of Winchester but if any of these buildings have survived, they have yet to be recognised. Where shelter sheds for cattle are found they are usually 19th century additions to earlier complexes and consist of low open-fronted shelters facing into the yard.

Stables in the area are often built of brick or brick and flint with tile or slate roofs. The majority of surviving examples are of 18th and 19th century date.

The wealth of farmers, particularly in the northern part of the area, is also often demonstrated in the farmhouses. Many were enlarged, refaced in brick or totally re-built in the 18th or early 19th century.

Building Materials and Features

Walling

Most pre-19th century farm buildings are of timber-frame construction, usually with weatherboarded walls although brick was used from the 18th century onwards, particularly for stables. By the mid-19th century timber-framing had been totally replaced by brick or brick and flint construction for nearly all large farm buildings. Many smaller buildings of the farmstead were constructed in chalk cob.

Roofing

Straw thatch has been the traditional material for roofing farm buildings for centuries although tile has been used from the medieval period on some larger buildings. Tile, and more recently, corrugated steel has replaced thatch on many farm buildings. From the mid-19th century slate became more common although tile also continued to be used on new buildings.

Boundaries and Surfaces

Within and around the farmsteads boundary walls are commonly built of flint and brick or, in near the chalklands, chalk cob with thatched or tile cappings. Where cob is used the walls tend to be higher.

APPENDIX III

FARMSTEAD POINT DATA ATTRIBUTES

This Appendix presents the attributes used for recording farmsteads as point data. It should be noted that this attribute list has been amended to reflect the experience gained by the pilot project and is the format being used for the roll-out of the farmstead point data collection across Hampshire.

Farmstead Point Data Set Attributes		
PRN	Unique No.	Numeric sequence chosen to fit with any existing data set PRNs
Site Name	Modern Name (historic name)	Modern farm name with historic name (if different) recorded in brackets
Event	FARMSTEAD OUTFARM	Farmstead with house Outfarm or field barn
Plan Type		Combination of Primary and Secondary Plan Attributes eg LC3; RCe etc.
Plan Type Primary Attribute	DISP LIN PAR LP LC RC	Dispersed Linear Parallel L-plan (attached house) Loose Courtyard Regular Courtyard
Plan Type Secondary Attribute	1, 2, 3, 4 d L u e Y	No. of sides to loose courtyard formed by *working* agricultural buildings Additional detached elements to main plan Regular Courtyard L-plan (detached house) Regular Courtyard U-plan Regular Courtyard E-plan Presence of second yard
Farmhouse Position	ATT LONG GAB DET UNC	Attached to agricultural range Detached, side on to yard Detached, gable on to yard Farmhouse set away from yard Uncertain
Location	VILL HAM FC ISO PARK SMV	Village location Hamlet Loose farmstead cluster Isolated position Located within a park Shrunken village site
Survival	EXT ALT ALTS DEM HOUS LOST	Extant – no apparent alteration Partial Loss – less than 50% change Significant Loss – more than 50% alteration Total Change – Farmstead survives but complete alteration to plan Farmhouse only survives Farmstead/Outfarm totally demolished
Sheds	SITE SIDE	Large modern sheds on site of historic farmstead – may have destroyed historic buildings or may obscure them Large modern sheds to side of historic farmstead – suggests farmstead probably still in agricultural use
Notes		Free text field to add notes relating to the character or identification of a record