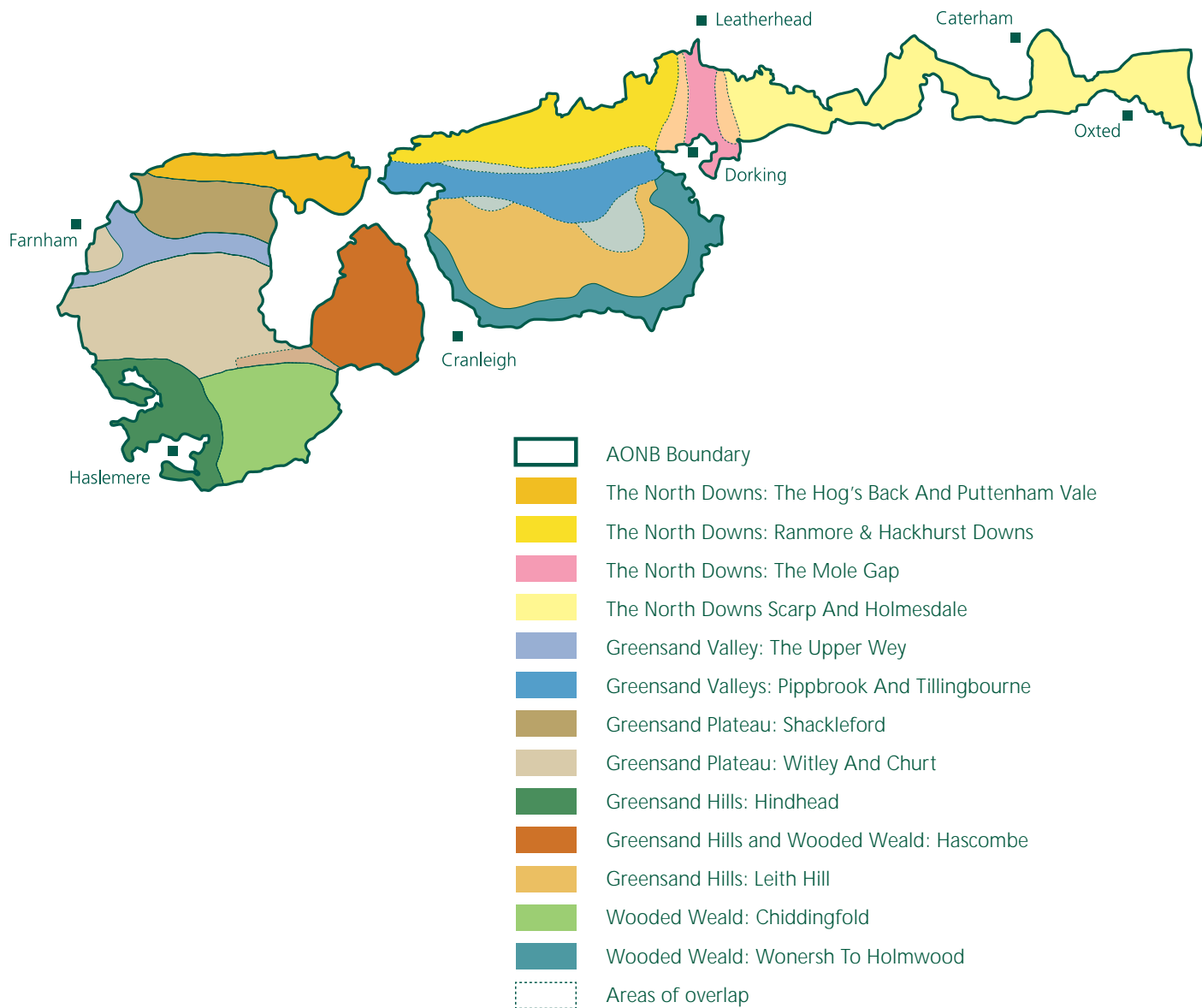


APPENDIX I - SURREY HILLS MANAGEMENT PLAN APPENDIX - LCA (EXTRACT)



Landscape Character Areas

The Surrey Hills Landscape Assessment identified 13 local landscape character areas. Following the Jigsaw Project (2000) and consultation with parish councils and community groups, a statement of significance, the key local AONB objectives and priority local issues have been identified for each area. Cross referencing the key local issues should ensure that the Surrey Hills Management Plan policies will be able to inform local plans and strategies, such as development plans, community strategies and parish plans





The North Downs: The Mole Gap

The Mole Gap has great natural beauty. The passage of the River Mole through the North Downs has created a truly dramatic landscape and one of the most popular visitor destinations in the Surrey Hills. The winding, steep-sided valley has created natural amphitheatres within a beautiful setting of river, water meadows, woodland, parkland, farmland and attractive villages. The area is overlooked by Ranmore, Norbury Park and Box Hill, with its steep, partly exposed chalk cliffs.

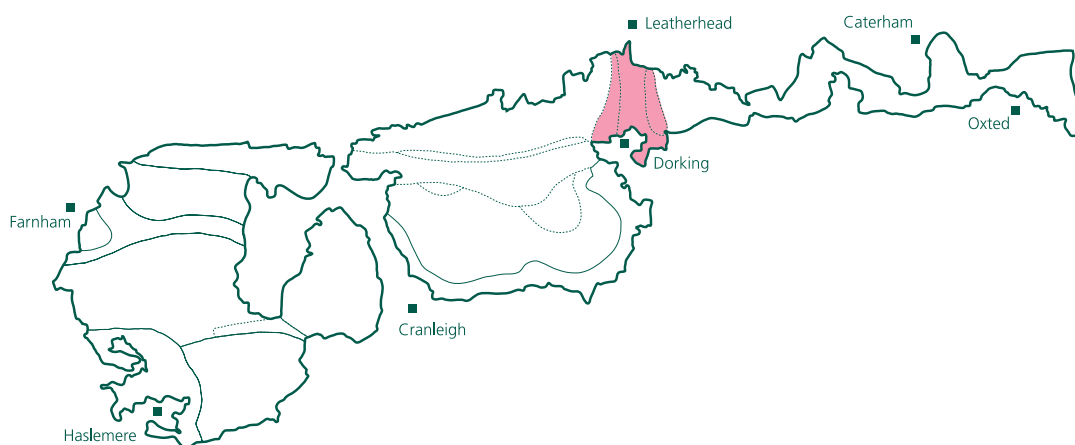
The key local AONB features identified

- Densely wooded valleys particularly juniper, yew and box woodland (eg Box Hill, Givons Grove, Juniper Hill)
- Steep sided cliffs overlooking valley and high points commanding spectacular views (Box Hill, Norbury Park, Mickleham Downs)
- Narrow, winding, enclosed lanes with hedgerow and wooded boundaries (eg Headley Lane, Chapel Lane)
- Meandering River Mole, with riparian trees water meadows, bridges, stepping stones
- Rich cultural heritage of writers and artists (eg Daniel Defoe, Fanny Burney, Jane Austin, George Meredith, John Skelton, Robert Louis Stevenson)
- Regular field pattern of rolling pasture with bushy hedgerows (in valley), but smaller field units near Headley

The key local AONB issues identified

See proposed management plan policy

Impact of traffic on narrow lanes and in villages	TT1
Decline in quality of hedgerows	F2
Impact of urban fringe pressures	LU2
Impact of visitors on facilities and landscape	RT4
Decline in quality of parkland, parkland features and historic features	HC3
Lack of awareness about historic and cultural associations	HC4





The North Downs Scarp and Holmesdale

The prominent scarp slope of the North Downs provides a dramatic and dominant feature overlooking the farmed landscape of the Holmesdale Valley and wooded Greensand Hills to the south. The scarp comprises a rich mosaic of pasture, ploughed land, downland, woodland and scrub. The north facing dip slope is an open, undulating, large scale landscape, with wooded shaws, pasture, large arable fields, parkland, scattered small settlements, isolated farmsteads and narrow lanes. In contrast, the Holmesdale Valley is more densely settled with major road corridors, extensive industry and an agricultural landscape of mixed farming and dense hedges.

The key local AONB features identified

- Extensive species rich ancient semi natural woodland, beech woodland, shaws and coppice
- Tracts of open downland, heathland, wood pasture and commons (eg Limpsfield Chart, Headley Heath, Banstead Heath, Walton Heat
- Historic parkland, estates and parkland features (eg Marden Park, Gatton Park, Titsey Estate, Betchworth Park)
- Far reaching, expansive views from scarp viewpoints across Greensand Hills and Weald (eg Crookham Hill, Gravelley Hill, Colley Hill, Box Hill)
- Major road corridors (eg M23, M25, A22, A25, A217), but also network of narrow, winding, enclosed lanes
- Field patterns from large -scale arable (east) to small -scale pastures with boundaries of woodland, shaws and hedgerows (west)
- Recreational access via tracks and drove ways (eg North Downs Way) and attractions (i.e. Box Hill, Colley Hill, Gatton Park, Headley Heath, Epsom Downs)

The key local AONB issues identified	See proposed management plan policy
Impact of traffic on narrow and sunken lanes	TT1
Impact of the M23, M25, A22, and A217 corridors	TT4
Impact of urban fringe and suburban pressures	LU2
Decline in open downland, heathland and common	NC2
Fragmentation of farmland and increased horse grazing	F1
Decline in quality of hedgerows and hedgerow trees	F2
Impact of mineral extraction and landfill	LU3

