



Erratum

East Herts Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) September 2007

Pages 210 to 212 (Area 93 Hadhams Valley) are incorrect and repeat pages 194 to 196 of this document.

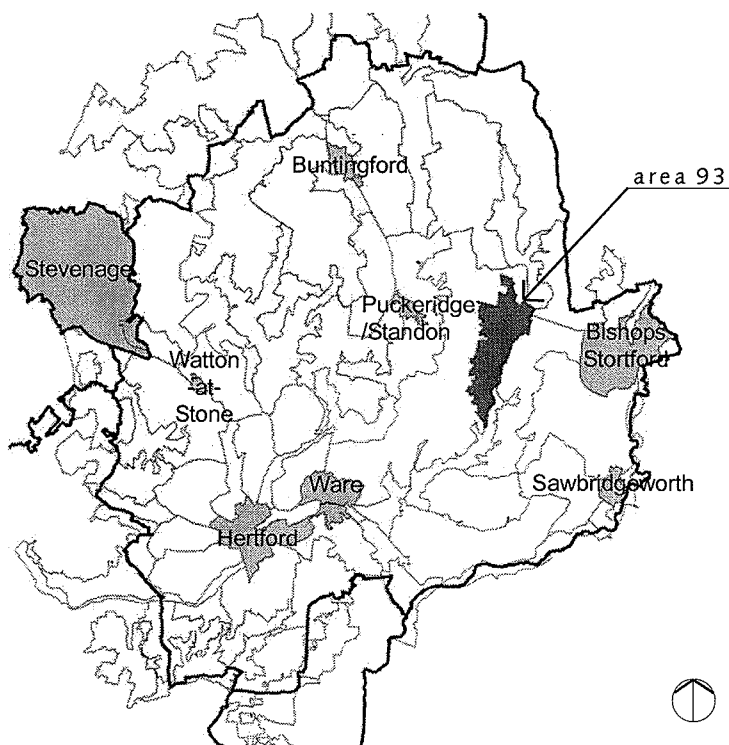
The correct pages for Area 93 taken from the original Landscape Character Assessment report (numbered pages 195 to 198) are as follows:

County map showing location of LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

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Hertfordshire County Council

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LOCATION

Distinctive valley landform from Hadham Cross north to Little Hadham

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Marked valley formation with flat valley floor, within which the river Ash is marked only by linear wetland vegetation rather than as a visible watercourse. It is edged by steep undulating slopes, some densely vegetated, some in arable cultivation, with little pasture. It is characterised chiefly by ancient settlements with historic houses: Much Hadham and Little Hadham, which merit sub-areas.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- extensive linear settlements derived from crossing points on the river
- deep, wide, distinctive river valley with notable ancient settlements at crossing points
- linear feature running north-south with few tributary streams
- watercourse only noticeable from associated wetland trees

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- settlements

Hadham Valley •
Lordship Bridgefoot Farm
(HCC Landscape Unit)



PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology and soils. Deep, well-drained fine loams and clays, over chalky till (glacial drift)

Topography. Strongly undulating river valley slopes along north-south valley; much wider than valley to south, but narrowing in northern section.

Degree of slope. 1 in 12 to 1 in 60; river gradient is 1 in 240

Altitude range. 52m to 100m

Hydrology. The upper reaches of the Ash are frequently dry and there is no obvious watercourse, rather a continuation of wetland vegetation along its course. Arable production down to the watercourse has reduced its ecological potential. Its tributaries are small and insignificant within the landscape.

Land cover and land use. This is wooded farmland, predominantly in arable production with improved pasture in the valley bottom, especially around Little Hadham, and with prominent settlements within the valley and occasional large farm complexes. Forestry and equestrian recreation are subsidiary land uses and there is a small amount of vegetable production.

Vegetation and wildlife. The woodland cover is fragmented and variable, often in quite large blocks transitional between oak/ash/maple and hornbeam, with elder, hazel, poplar, hawthorn and elm also present. Hedgerows are neat and well managed, of medium height and of holly, hazel, thorn, elm/hazel and oak, but without hedgerow trees. Within the valley floor there are still extensive neutral grass pastures, as at Bridgefoot, and important mixed pastures at Hadham Ford, on the banks above the valley floor. These pastures contrast with the strong arable influence elsewhere throughout this area.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Both Much and Little Hadham are significant historic valley bottom settlements, and a substantial pottery and tile manufacturing centre was established here during the period of Roman occupation. The streetscape in Much Hadham has been described as '*visually probably the most successful village in the county. Its kind is that of the wealthy, almost urban village, with big Georgian houses in contrast with the more varied 16th and 17th century cottages*' (Pevsner). Edmund Tudor, future father of Henry VII, was born at Hadham in 1430, which may have prompted its development, together with its importance as the summer palace of the bishops of London. There are two SAMs in this area, the moated mound at Little Hadham and The Lordship moated site at Much Hadham, just to the north of the settlement, and deer parks were recorded in the area in 1199 (Much Hadham Park) and 1275 (Hadham Park). Little Hadham seems to have evolved from a medieval village at Church End, which moved in the 16th century.

Field pattern. Irregular, of medium size, with neat trimmed hedges.

Transport pattern. The B1004 continues its meandering route along the valley side. With very narrow or absent verges it remains narrow and sunken, in strong contrast to the A120, which it abuts at Little Hadham. This fast road brings the 21st century to the northern part of the area, despite its origins as a Roman road.

Settlements and built form. This is an area of large ancient villages.

- The main street of Much Hadham is long, of very high architectural quality and beautifully maintained, with a succession of large mansions and cottages. The village is surrounded by many well-kept former farmhouses and cottages.
- Little Hadham contains many timber-framed farmhouses and cottages, with a notable group by the A120 crossroads, dated 1500 and 1726, but the village does not have the consistency and coherence offered by Much Hadham. Other built features within the area include flint walls, the use of thatch and the presence of glasshouses.

OTHER SOURCES OF AREA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Pevsner, N., rev. Cherry, B., *Hertfordshire*, Penguin (2000).
English Heritage *List of Scheduled Ancient Monuments*.

VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION

From outside this area is concealed by its landform - the valley sides - and their vegetation. Locally it is visible from the plateau and the A120 'dip'. Views within the area are filtered by landform and vegetation, but there is a constant awareness of the valley floor. The scale of landscape elements is small to medium within this contained and unified landscape, which is generally very tranquil **Rarity and distinctiveness.** Highly valued for the consistency and quality of the domestic architecture within the settlements, especially Much Hadham

VISUAL IMPACT

The chief impact of built development in this area is the housing within the historic settlements. The cultural pattern is intact and well managed. There has been some land-use change from pasture to arable, but this is not extensive.

ACCESSIBILITY

Footpaths are fragmented across the valley, linear within it, in fair condition. The golf course associated with the two settlements is located in an adjoining area, on the plateau.

COMMUNITY VIEWS

There is some recognition of the distinctiveness of the landscape in this stretch of the valley, mainly centred on Much Hadham village (D)

LANDSCAPE RELATED DESIGNATIONS

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Landscape Conservation Area

CONDITION

<i>Land cover change:</i>	insignificant
<i>Age structure of tree cover:</i>	mature
<i>Extent of semi-natural habitat survival:</i>	interrupted
<i>Management of semi-natural habitat:</i>	good
<i>Survival of cultural pattern:</i>	interrupted
<i>Impact of built development:</i>	high
<i>Impact of land-use change:</i>	low

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

<i>Impact of landform:</i>	prominent
<i>Impact of land cover:</i>	apparent
<i>Impact of historic pattern:</i>	continuous
<i>Visibility from outside:</i>	widely visible
<i>Sense of enclosure:</i>	contained
<i>Visual unity:</i>	unified
<i>Distinctiveness/rarity:</i>	unique

CONDITION	GOOD	Strengthen and reinforce	Conserve and strengthen	Safeguard and manage
	MODERATE	Improve and reinforce	Improve and conserve	Conserve and restore
	POOR	Reconstruct	Improve and restore	Restore condition to maintain character
		WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
		STRENGTH OF CHARACTER		

STRATEGY AND GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING CHANGE: SAFEGUARD AND MANAGE

- encourage landowners to safeguard existing hedges, increase hedged field boundaries, create permanent grass strips around field margins and prevent spray drift, using financial incentives as available
- continue to ensure that the county's archaeological heritage is protected and preserved through the planning process, and made accessible to the general public
- resist the loss of ancient hedgerows and secure their positive management
- achieve appropriate management of veteran trees and pollards by disseminating best practice, re-establishing traditional management and developing realistic incentives
- promote the reinstatement of grazing to parkland and pasture woodland
- within parkland, encourage landowners to seek appropriate advice on the re-pollarding and care of veteran trees
- encourage farmers to create buffer strips along watercourses, rather than cultivating right up to them, in order to protect the watercourses from run-off, create linear habitats and increase their ecological value
- encourage the creation of 'green links' in the form of hedges, beetle banks, etc., from watercourses to nearby habitats, such as woodland and hedges, to provide ecological corridors and a range of habitats, in the interests of increasing biodiversity
- encourage the reversion of arable to pasture and the management of grasslands to maximise their biodiversity potential
- encourage good management of woodland and plantations to promote locally indigenous species, a diverse age structure and a species-rich ground flora
- ensure that equestrian development in this area does not detract from its landscape character via inappropriate structures, buildings or fences
- promote management of the planting along the A120 to benefit locally indigenous species



• Ford across river Ash near Lordship Farm (HCC Landscape Unit)