



The Case for Reviewing the Boundary of the AONB





AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The Case for Reviewing the Boundary of the Chilterns AONB

Summary

1. The core of the Chiltern Hills is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It covers only half of the area commonly accepted to be The Chilterns. That part of the Chilterns not currently designated lies on the dip slope of the Chilterns escarpment which falls south eastwards to the Thames Valley and the Colne Valley, a tributary of the Thames. The Chiltern Hills National Character Area (110) covers most of the wider Chilterns, the area also covered by The Chiltern Society.
2. A review of the AONB boundary provides a welcome opportunity to reconsider whether more of the Chiltern Hills should be designated as AONB.
3. The Chilterns Conservation Board requests that Natural England consider reviewing the boundary of the Chilterns AONB in four areas covering a total of 331 sq.kms (Map 1);
 - North Hertfordshire - an area to the south of Hitchin and east of Luton. (Area1- 92 sq.kms)
 - South Buckinghamshire - the area between the River Thames, Slough and Chalfont Common (Area 2 – 81 sq.kms)
 - Thames Valley – the area bordered to the north by the Thames and between Cookham (north of Maidenhead) and Caversham (north of Reading) (Area 3 – 78 sq.kms)
 - Eastern Area – the area between Chesham, Amersham, Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead (Area 4 – 80 sq.kms)
4. It is the view of the Conservation Board and relevant partners that these areas are worthy of consideration for designation as part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as they meet the criteria for designation, including the primary justifications of landscape quality. They also are important as they: link local towns and surrounding countryside; provide extensive opportunities for recreation and environmental education, and contain significant numbers of designated sites and areas of environmental and cultural heritage.

5. In selecting areas to be, potentially, considered for designation as AONB the Board and its partners are confident they meet the criteria given in the guidance issued by Natural England in March 2011, in particular that weight must be given to:
 - Landscape Quality
 - Scenic Quality
 - Relative wildness
 - Relative tranquillity
 - Natural heritage features
 - Cultural heritage
6. The Board is aware that recreational opportunities are not a reason for designation of an AONB. However, the Conservation Board does have a statutory purpose to promote enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities. The reality is that the importance and popularity of the Chilterns for recreation is considerable. It is already one of the most visited protected landscapes in Europe with 55 million visits per annum. All four of the proposed areas are in themselves important for their recreational opportunities and are an integral part of the wider access networks and appeal of the Chiltern Hills. For example, both the Chiltern Way and Chiltern Cycleway link the AONB and the proposed areas.
7. It is proposing these four areas the requirements set out in the letter from Natural England of 20th June 2013 have been given considerable weight.
 - Ecological connectivity
 - Climate Change
 - Public Engagement with nature
 - Public benefits from a healthy natural environment.

Landscape Character

8. Areas 1, 3 and 4 fall within the Chilterns National Character Area and Area 2 lies in the Thames Valley NCA. All four exhibit the typical landscape character of the Chiltern Hills - a chalk escarpment facing north-west with a dip slope to the south east running into the Thames Valley. The four areas proposed for possible inclusion in the AONB fall in the transition zone of dip slope to the Thames Valley (including the River Colne). This is an area where the boundary is currently convoluted and long thought to have excluded areas that should have been included at the time of the last boundary review in 1984-1990.
9. It is notable that they are all encompassed by the area covered by The Chiltern Society.
10. Area 2, in South Bucks, although not in NCA 110, is the original ancient designation of Chiltern Hundred and culturally is very much part of the

Chilterns including the renowned Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve. It represents the transition between the Chilterns escarpment and the Thames Valley.

11. The Thames is currently the boundary for a considerable part of the AONB but only includes one side of the river and the river valley. Inclusion of Area 3 will ensure that a more comprehensive landscape approach can be countenanced.

Evidence Base

12. The Board, and its partners, have based the case on the evidence provided by the following data sets:
 - Natural Character Area Profiles
 - Landscape Character Assessments for; Buckinghamshire; Hertfordshire; Wokingham Borough; and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
 - Geology and soils maps
 - Historic Landscape Characterisation
 - Woodland including Ancient Woodland
 - Common land
 - SSSIs, NNRs and SACs
 - Registered Parks and Gardens
 - Conservation Areas
 - Listed Buildings (Grade I and Grade II*)
 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - National Trust Property
 - Public Rights of Way, National Trails and promoted routes
 - Open Access Land
 - Priority Habitats
13. To support the four proposed areas the Board and its partners have compiled the same supporting evidence base for each.
14. The Board is conscious that, whilst all 4 areas exhibit, strongly, various typical characteristics of the Chilterns, they are also distinct in many ways. Whilst the Board requests that the merits of including all four areas as a group are taken into account, it wishes them to be considered on their individual merits too.

The Boundary

15. The Board notes the advice in page 10, of the Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or AONB - March 2011, where Natural England states that, "It is not necessary to identify a precise 'hard' boundary for an area in relation to which the technical criteria are considered at the initial stage." This accords with our own view of the process as it would be both impractical and undesirable to do so at this formative stage.
16. Accordingly, the Board has deliberately not identified a precise boundary for each area. Whilst a potential AONB extension has been identified with a possible boundary, usually in line with the boundary of the landscape character area units, a more in depth assessment is needed to determine the most appropriate boundary should the Chilterns be selected as an AONB for further boundary review work.

Consultation and Support

17. The Board has also faced a dilemma on the extent to which it consults at this formative stage to identify support for a review. From past experience of sensitive geographical issues, a lesson has been not to consult too widely too early until all the evidence has been compiled and there is a solid case to be argued that is capable of withstanding interrogation. To consult too widely too early, inevitably raises either expectation or fear. The review of the boundary can be expected to exercise such emotions with camps developing both for and against, the latter generally from landowners and developers.
18. Those bodies consulted to date, both formally and informally, primarily the local authorities have been supportive in principle. They too need to be party to a much more in depth examination of the precise boundary, not least as there are few obvious and well defined natural features to use - such is the nature of an escarpment dip slope.
19. The Conservation Board has assessed all areas which it wishes to be considered for designation as AONB. This includes the councillors from relevant local authorities who have been appointed to the Board by those councils. This doesn't apply to Area 4 (Thames Valley) as nearly all of it lies within Wokingham Borough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead which do not currently appoint to the Conservation Board.

Full length boundary Review and de-designation

20. This submission is based on four relatively large areas which could, potentially, be designated as AONB. There are a number of much smaller areas that the Board would like to be considered. It is not clear for the purposes of the current exercise if it is appropriate to also put them forward.
21. Two small areas the Board request should be considered for possible designation as AONB are Totternhoe Knolls to the west of Dunstable in Bedfordshire (Central Bedfordshire). This is an area of approx. 100 hectares

immediately adjacent to the AONB which contains common land, a Scheduled Ancient monument (Norman motte) and medieval chalk quarry which is now a county wildlife trust reserve.

OS Map Sheet 165: Aylesbury & Leighton Buzzard
Grid Reference SP986218

<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/explore-enjoy/interactive-map.html#705>

22. A second area is Chorleywood Common near Chorleywood in Hertfordshire (Three Rivers District) which extends to 76 hectares immediately adjacent to the AONB. It supports rare lowland heath.

<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/explore-enjoy/interactive-map.html#367>

OS Map 172
Grid Reference TQ033964

23. Both of these areas were inexplicably left out of the last boundary review. They contain a wealth of wildlife and historical sites with excellent public access. They provide ideal places for quiet recreation and environmental education. Totternhoe Knolls is owned by the National Trust, Central Bedfordshire Council and the Bedfordshire, Wildlife Trust. Chorleywood Common is owned by Chorleywood Parish Council.
24. In view of the difficulties experienced when the Chilterns boundary was last revised (1984-1990) the Board would not wish the full existing boundary to be reviewed. Currently the Board's aspiration is simply to request that Natural England consider the possibility of including four adjacent areas for designation as AONB. Neither is it the Conservation Board's wish that there is any consideration of de-designating existing parts of the AONB.

Benefits of Designation

25. The location of the Chilterns in the south east, only a few miles from London inevitably means the AONB is popular as a place to live and to visit with all the attendant pressures of traffic and development. It is also a place where the wider landscape is a composite of small and large land holdings often with relatively small fragmented land management units and landscape features. This is typified by the woodland cover which, at 21%, makes the Chilterns one of the most wooded parts of England, and yet the typical woodland is less than 50 hectares in extent with a large number less than 10 hectares.
26. Similarly the agricultural land is generally Grade 3, which is not particularly productive and thus there is a mixture of arable and pastoral farming, changing as the agricultural economic climate fluctuates. The result is that farms are generally small with many hobby farmers - 61% of farm holdings are less than 50 hectares and only a small number exceed 300 hectares. There are still a number of larger estates with a traditional approach to land management (farming, forestry, shooting etc.) but they are not large by

comparison with other parts of the country. Only a small number exceed 2,000 hectares.

27. There are over 2,000 hectares of common land providing a valuable and special resource for wildlife, the historic environment, environmental education and recreation, but are scattered across 200 sites.
28. The aspiration to manage on a landscape scale needs a relatively high input because of the fragmented nature of ownership and the landscape and habitat mosaic.
29. The desire to maintain the landscape character and special qualities enjoyed by so many visitors requires a robust and clear stance on development and the design of buildings. One effect of the AONB designation is to deflect development into surrounding areas. This is both eroding the quality of those areas and the setting of the AONB itself.
30. Designation as AONB will confer on the proposed areas a much better prospect of managing on a landscape scale and by ensuring development is more appropriate in terms of scale, setting and design will conserve and enhance the landscape of the proposed areas and the existing AONB.

Area 1 – North Hertfordshire

Total Area – 92km²

Currently the southern boundary of the AONB follows the A505, a dual carriageway which runs north eastwards in a more or less straight line from Luton to Hitchin. This road does not follow any natural feature and must be considered an arbitrary boundary. The natural landform and landscape character runs across the line of the road from north to south following the dip slope of the Chiltern escarpment towards the River Colne, a tributary of the Thames.

Despite the A505 being a major road it sits down in the landscape and does not unduly affect longer views. The area put forward for consideration lies to the south of this road. There is no discernible difference in the landscape on either side of the road. This is borne out by a series of considerations including the: geology; soils; landscape character, and Historic Landscape Characterisation.

The area falls between the growing towns of Luton and Hitchin and forms part of the setting of both. All of the proposed area lies within Hertfordshire; in fact all of it lies within North Hertfordshire district.

Landscape Quality

A relatively large area is owned by three estates which have maintained, what could be called, a traditional approach to estate management. In addition to extensive areas of mixed farmland there is a good network of field boundaries and woodland. Shooting for game birds remains a high priority for each landowner. There are relatively large areas of land in stewardship including HLS.

The extent of the area proposed for consideration as AONB is based on the boundary of the landscape character units.

Scenic Quality

This is one of the most unspoilt parts of Hertfordshire and, whilst adjacent to Hitchin and Luton, there are no large towns or villages within the area under consideration. It is typified by a well-managed area of lowland mixed farming and woodland and a network of ancient lanes. Running through the heart of the area is the Mimram Valley, which in the southern part of the area includes the River Mimram (chalk stream flow is erratic and often doesn't flow the full length of the valley) . This is a typical chalk stream and has working watercress beds at Whitwell.

Many of the villages and houses display architectural features and styles showing their origin as estate holdings.

Relative Wildness

This has been a well-managed area for centuries largely due to the dominance by traditionally managed estates, including the Bowes-Lyon family (the Queen's mother's family). There is a notable absence of discordant features and activity

giving a sense of getting away from it into an area of farmland still relatively rich in wildlife .It has a timeless quality which is rare in this part of the county.

Relative Tranquillity

In the busy south east and east of England all such assessments are based on relative perception. Compared to surrounding areas this is a haven of peace and tranquillity. It has no large settlements or busy roads. There is an extensive network footpaths, bridleways, cycleways and promoted routes allowing those who are seeking the quiet enjoyment of the countryside plenty of opportunities.

Luton airport lies to the west of the area and this inevitably disturbs that sense of tranquillity. That affects all of the existing AONB as it lies under the flight paths and holding stacks for Luton and Heathrow airports.

Cultural Heritage

The area is notable for a number of extensive registered parks and gardens. Close to the boundary of the proposed area is the Grade 1 Luton Hoo mansion and its Capability Brown landscape.

Support

Support for consideration of the area as AONB is provided by a cabinet resolution (28/09/2010) of North Herts DC; Cllr Richard Thake, Herts CC; Cllr Ian Reay appointed to the Conservation Board by Herts CC and Liz Hamilton, chairman of the CPRE Hertfordshire.

Area 2 - South Bucks

Total Area - 81 sq km

Landscape Character

1. To the north of the M40, the AONB boundary currently skirts the northern edge of Beaconsfield and then follows minor roads to the East as far as Chorleywood. The existing boundary cuts across the transition zone between the Chilterns dipslope and Thames Valley.
2. The majority of the proposed area lies within the Thames Valley NCA, with a small area to the north being within the Chilterns NCA.
3. The proposed area shares much of the landscape character of adjacent areas currently within the AONB.
4. Most of the area proposed is described in the Bucks Landscape Character Assessment as mixed use terrace/ wooded terrace – undulating terrace landforms formed on river terrace deposits, forming a transition zone between the Chilterns dipslope and the Thames Valley landscapes.
5. Inclusion of the rural northern stretch of the Lower Misbourne Valley (East of Gerrards Cross) would provide opportunity to enhance ecological connectivity along the river valley, linking to the Upper Misbourne Valley within the AONB to the north. The River Alderbourne is another important chalk stream of Chilterns character which would be included.
6. The area to the north of the M40 (Bulstrode/ Seer Green/ Chalfonts) is a classic 'dipslope' landscape which links the area to the south of the M40 to the existing AONB.
7. Agriculture and woodland are the predominant land uses, along with high level of recreational land use – particularly along the urban edge (e.g. horseculture, golf courses) – together with Country Parks (Black Park and Langley Park).

Landscape quality

8. There are significant areas of high quality, well managed landscape with the inevitable pockets where management is less evident and quality has suffered as a result. All such statements are relative. This area retains a remarkable extent of important designated sites including ancient woodlands, lowland heath, registered parks and gardens and common land.
9. The landscape quality varies across the area, however significant areas of high quality landscape remain. Inevitably the M40, as a major transport corridor has a significant impact in places on the landscape quality and intactness. However, away from the M40 corridor the high level of woodland cover helps to limit the extent of the impacts and create more intimate views.

Some areas of high historic and landscape value - for example around Jordans - are fragmented and would benefit from more co-ordinated management.

Relative wildness

10. The area is bisected by the M40 and close by the M25 to the east, with Slough to the south. Nonetheless there remain tracts of semi-natural habitat and woodland and scenic beauty where it is possible to get a sense of relative wildness, all the more important for being adjacent to busy urban areas.

Relative tranquillity

11. The M40 corridor and proximity of the M25 inevitably have an impact on levels of tranquillity in parts of the area. Away from the transport corridors there are however more tranquil areas, enhanced by the highly wooded nature of the landscape.

Geology

12. The underlying bedrock is primarily white chalk or sedimentary bedrock deposits (Lambeth Group) – this is the same underlying geology as most of the AONB. To the south around Stoke Poges/ Slough the area extends onto London Clay.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

13. The proposed area would extend the AONB to take in the historic area known as the Chilterns Hundreds. References to the Chilterns Hundreds can be found as far back as the mid-13th century when the term was used to refer to the three hundreds of Desborough, Burnham and Stoke.¹
14. Particular features - common land, wood pasture, historic woodlands, designed parkland.

Historic sites

15. The area has a significant number of historic sites, notably 9 historic parks and gardens including Cliveden (grade 1) and Bulstrode Park Camp - the largest British encampment in Bucks.

Woodland: - including ancient woodland

16. The Chilterns is one of the most heavily wooded areas of the country, with a particularly high proportion (56%) of the woodland in the AONB being ancient. The proposed extension is a continuation of this well-wooded ancient

¹ 'The three hundreds of Chiltern: Introduction and map', A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3 (1925), pp. 32-34

landscape, with over 4,700 hectares of woodland (58% of the area) of which 39% is ancient. Important areas of woodland include Burnham Beeches and Stoke Wood.

Biodiversity - SSSIs/ SACs/ priority habitat

17. The area has a high concentration of good quality priority habitat including particular lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland beech and yew woodland, and lowland heathland. There are also a number of traditional orchard sites to the north of the M40 between Beaconsfield and Chalfont St Giles. Statutory sites include Burnham Beeches (SAC), Stoke Common (SSSI), Black Park (SSSI) and Littleworth Common (SSSI).
18. Chalk river habitat is also an important feature along the Misbourne and Alderbourne valleys.
19. These are classic Chilterns habitats and opportunities to enhance ecological connectivity would be increased by their inclusion within the AONB.

Support

20. Support for consideration of this area as AONB has been provided by Alan Goodrum, the Chief Executive of the Council, Cllr Alan Walters, appointed by South Bucks DC to the Conservation Board and the local MP, Rt.Hon Dominic Grieve MP

Area 3 - Thames Valley

Total Area - 78 km²

Landscape Character

1. This area lies wholly within the Thames Valley NVCA, immediately to the south of the Chilterns NCA .
2. This area lies to the south of the River Thames. The river itself doesn't provide a boundary to the Chilterns which it may seem to do at first sight. The chalk and clay cap with flints is typical of the Chilterns and extends some way south of the Thames. It supports land uses and a landscape that demonstrates all the typical characteristics of the Chilterns, which has been borne out by the more detailed landscape character assessments. An examination of the geology and soils maps shows that the River Thames doesn't flow to the south of the Chilterns escarpment but incises it
3. The Berkshire LCA (identifies a number of discrete areas that are in keeping with the Chiltern AONB character – all of which are within the Chilterns NCA. These include:
 - Open chalk lowland
- this “forms the southern edge of the chalk dip slope of the Chilterns”
 - Elevated wooded chalk slopes - “...mirroring the nearby landscape of the Chilterns
 - “...Chiltern Hills, of which this landscape type could be considered an outlier..”
4. Long expansive views across the Thames Valley highlight the strong landscape character of both sides- that lying within the designated AONB to the north and the area to the south of the river

Landscape Quality

5. The Berkshire LCA identifies a “very distinctive landscape with an overall strong landscape character” (18.27). The condition is described as ‘good’ though landscape integrity is subject to threats similar to those of the rest of the Chilterns (design and siting of rural buildings, new woodland, hedgerow decline and recreational pressures).
6. Landscape strategy calls for conservation (restoration) and enhancement.

Scenic Quality

7. The combination of steep, wooded chalk slopes rising from the Thames floodplain gives rise to high scenic value highlighted in the popular National Trust owned Winter Hill which affords views across the Thames to Marlow and into the heart of the AONB. In the opposite direction, views south from

Cookham Dean take in the wooded escarpment of Cliveden Estate, Windsor Castle and beyond.

Relative Tranquillity

8. Despite being in the busy south east, beneath the Heathrow flight path, with the A4 and M4 to the south and the A404 Marlow by-pass to the east, this area enjoys surprising zones of tranquillity. Possibly the contrast between these busy transport corridors serves to emphasise the tranquillity found by entering areas such as the Wargrave Marshes adjacent to the Thames, the numerous mature woodland or by using the historic rights of way that cross the chalk plateau slope.
9. As a result, the area is popular for recreational use by residents and visitors from the surrounding urban areas.

Geology

10. Chalk geology dominates- the same Seahaven and Newhaven Chalk Formations as underlie the existing AONB.
 - Thames cuts through chalk escarpment – vagaries of the last ice age resulted in this area being cut off from the main part of the Chilterns.
 - Steep slopes to Thames Valley
 - Dry valleys

Historic Landscape Character and Cultural Heritage

11. Particular features include
 - common land, wood pasture, historic woodlands, designed parkland.
12. The Thames provided an important transport and trade route with riverside settlements developing as a result (include Cookham, Bourne End, Marlow, Wargrave and Sonning). Henley, at one time, was the highest navigable port with trade then passing over the Chilterns to rejoin the Thames at Wallingford. Similarly the Thames provided the route to London for the Chiltern firewood, furniture and fruit trades.
13. Many settlements have been important throughout early Church history - Bisham Abbey, Hurley Priory, while Reading, to the west, grew up around Reading Abbey.
14. Pinkneys Green is a large NT owned common (2 km²) to the east of the area bordering Maidenhead.
15. Buildings – many of the villages have characteristic brick and flint buildings. The clay with flints deposits on the dip slope running down through the A4

supported an active brick and tile industry that existed well into the 20th century (e.g. Knowl Hill and Kiln Green).

16. Historic Parks – widely spread across the area include Park Place, Yeldall Manor and Hall Place (now home to Burchett's Green agricultural college).
17. Other cultural connections include the Hennerton Backwater north of Wargrave (featured in Jerome's 'Three Men in a boat'), the hamlet of Dunsden Green (Wilfred Owen).

Natural Heritage

18. SSSIs include Bisham Woods (also part of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC) and Cock Marsh.
19. The area contains significant priority habitats including:
 - Deciduous woodland;
 - Traditional orchards;
 - Lowland calcareous grassland;
 - Lowland fen;
 - Flood plain grazing meadow;
 - Quality semi-improved grassland.

Woodland

20. Important areas of ancient woodland include Remenham Woods and Bisham Woods SSSI As one of the 9 sites which together form the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC, Bisham Woods is the only site currently outside the AONB boundary.

Area 4 – Eastern Area

Total Area – 80km²

Landscape quality

1. Currently the boundary of the AONB runs to the north and west of Berkhamsted and then around the towns of Amersham, Chesham, Little Chalfont and Chorleywood. The area between Chesham and Chorleywood follows much of the valley of the River Chess.
2. Much of the gently sloping plateau that forms the dip slope from Chesham and Berkhamsted towards the M25 is not included in the current boundary. The proposed area forms much of the setting for Berkhamsted, Chesham, Hemel Hempstead, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth and includes as part of the proposed boundary the Rivers Gade and Bulbourne and Grand Union Canal as they flow from north west to south east towards the River Colne. The northern and eastern banks of the rivers and their associated valley sides are generally built up throughout the area.
3. The extent of the area proposed for consideration as AONB is generally based on the boundary of the local landscape character units.

Scenic Quality

4. There is no discernible difference in the landscape between the current boundary and the proposed area. This is borne out in particular by the geology and soils with most of the area forming part of the Chilterns NCA. It lies within Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, principally covering parts of Dacorum BC, Three Rivers DC and Chiltern DC.
5. Many of the villages and houses display materials use and architectural features and styles very similar to those found in the AONB.

Relative wildness

6. The area is relatively well settled, though does include some areas of mixed farmland, woodland, a good network of field boundaries and significant amounts of common land. There are no truly remote parts of the area though there are many places where a sense of isolation does occur and this is helped by there generally being a lack of discordant features.

Relative tranquillity

7. Despite the area being bounded by main roads and a number of towns and large villages, and being interspersed with other smaller settlements there remains a sense of peace and quiet in much of the area because there are no main settlements and roads within the area itself. With some of the more minor routes it is possible to feel isolated with the advantage that the

tranquillity of the area is not affected. The area is also criss-crossed by numerous rights of way including part of the Chilterns Cycleway.

Natural heritage features

8. The area has many sites which contain priority habitats, including extensive areas of deciduous woodland (much of it Ancient Woodland), semi-improved grassland and traditional orchards.

Cultural heritage

9. Though the area does not exhibit extensive numbers or areas of cultural importance, it still has a significant area of common land on a great number of sites, as well as important numbers of scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens.

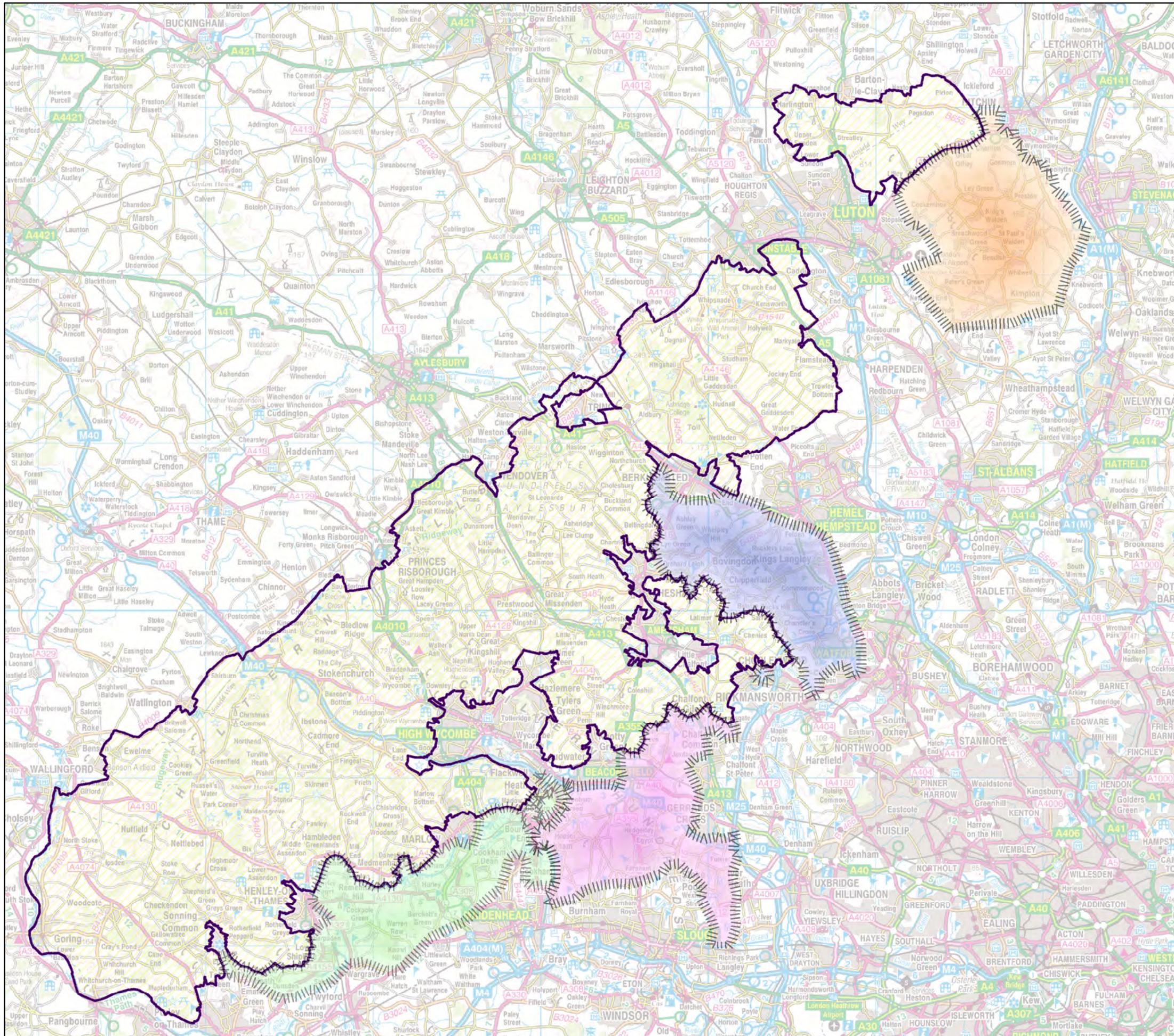
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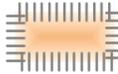
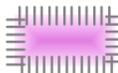
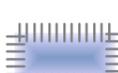
10. Cllr Ian Reay appointed to the Conservation Board by Herts CC; and the CPRE Hertfordshire

Appendix 1

Schedule of Maps

1. Chilterns AONB + proposed extensions
2. National Character Areas for Chilterns and Thames Valley
3. Area 1 – North Hertfordshire
4. Area 2 – South Buckinghamshire
5. Area 3 – Thames Valley
6. Area 4 – East Chilterns
7. Geology- Chilterns
8. Geology- Area 1
9. Superficial Geology – Area 1
10. Geology – Area 2
11. Superficial Geology- Area 2
12. Geology – Area 3
13. Superficial Geology – Area 3
14. Geology – Area 4
15. Superficial Geology- Area 4
16. Landscape Character Assessment- Area 1
17. Landscape Character Assessment – Area 2
18. Landscape Character Assessment- Area 3
19. Landscape Character Assessment – Area 4
20. Nature Conservation- SSSI/NNR/SAC
21. Priority Habitats – Area 1
22. Priority Habitats – Area 2
23. Priority Habitats – Area 3
24. Priority Habitats – Area 4
25. Woodland
26. Ancient Woodland
27. Water Catchments
28. Historic Environment; SAMS/Registered Parks and Gardens
29. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Area 1
30. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Area 2
31. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Area 3
32. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Area 4
33. Access- National Trails and CRoW Open Access Land
34. Access – Public Rights of Way – Area 1
35. Access – Public Rights of Way – Area 2
36. Access – Public Rights of Way – Area 3
37. Access – Public Rights of Way – Area 4

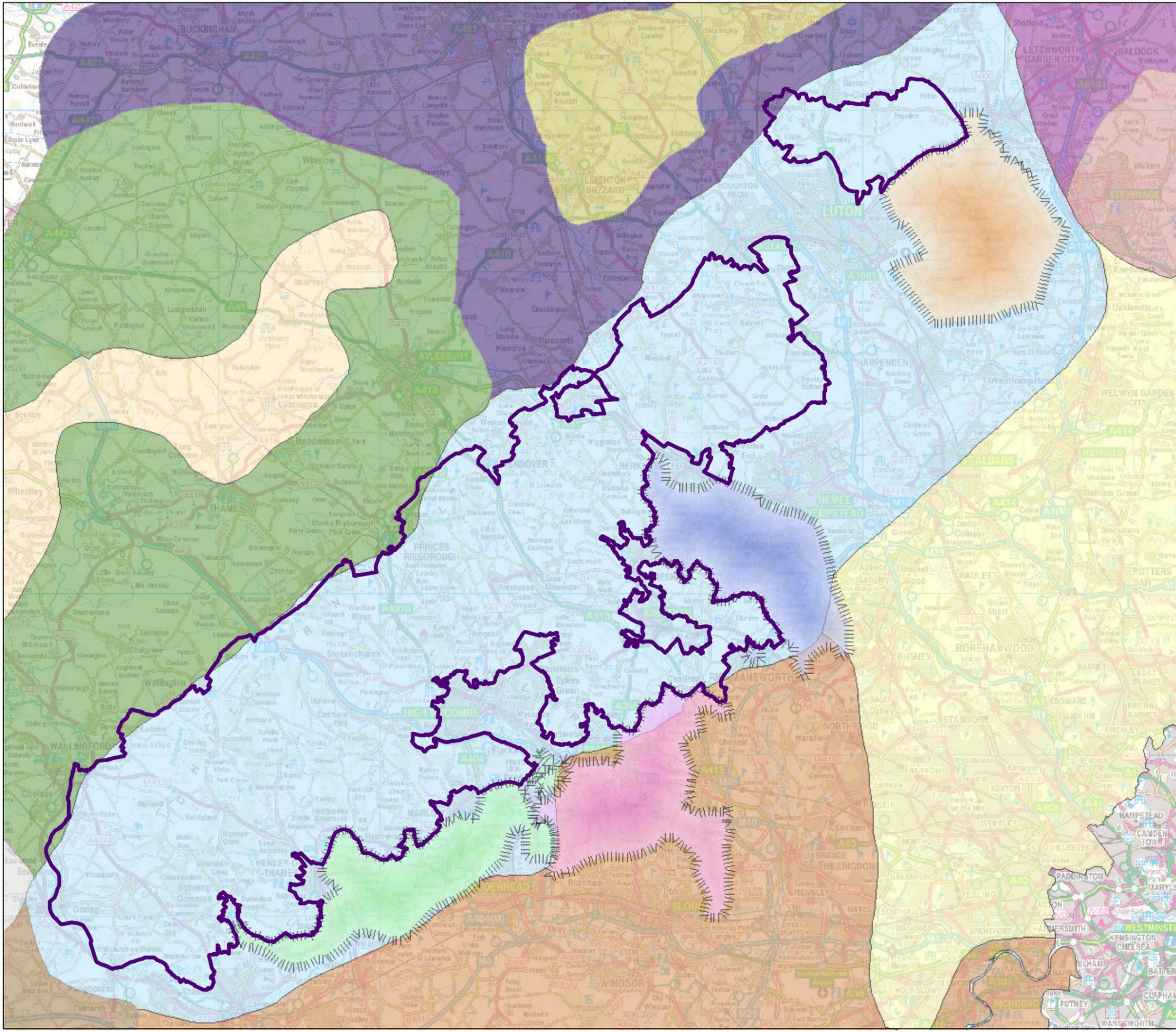


-  Area 1: North Hertfordshire
-  Area 2: South Buckinghamshire
-  Area 3: Thames Valley
-  Area 4: Eastern Area
-  Chiltern AONB

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Potential Chiltern AONB Boundary Variations

Drawing 1: All Areas



National Character Areas

-  Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge
-  Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands
-  Berkshire and Marlborough Downs
-  Chilterns
-  East Anglian Chalk
-  Midvale Ridge
-  Northern Thames Basin
-  South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland
-  Thames Basin Heaths
-  Thames Valley
-  Upper Thames Clay Vales
-  Area 1: North Hertfordshire
-  Area 2: South Buckinghamshire
-  Area 3: Thames Valley
-  Area 4: Eastern Area
-  Chilterns AONB Boundary

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Potential Chiltern AONB Boundary Variations

Drawing 2: National Character Areas