

8.0 THE SETTING OF DOWNTON

8.1 Historical Development of the Settlement

Landscape and Location

- 8.1.1 The village of Downton straddles the Avon valley about 11 kilometres south of Salisbury. Downton is at the confluence of two varied landscapes, including chalk river valley and chalk downland. The environmental conditions in and around Downton have played a fundamental role in the development and character of the settlement.

Historical Origins and Evolution

- 8.1.2 Earliest signs of early settlement in the area of Downton date back to Mesolithic times, at Castle Meadow. The site was also occupied in the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods. Settlement would have continued in this area from late Neolithic times with farming in the river valley. A defensive Iron Age hill fort on Clearbury Down was later built, to the northwest of Downton. During the Roman occupation some of the downs were ploughed and a villa, built in the late 3rd or early 4th century A.D., controlled a large farming estate.
- 8.1.3 Major settlement at Downton began in the Saxon period. By the 7th or 8th century Downton was a principle village in the area. The Saxons used the alluvial soils as meadowland, the gravels for pasture and arable, and the chalk for arable and sheep pasture; a system that was to continue to the 19th century.
- 8.1.4 The 12th and 13th centuries saw considerable expansion of Downton. A new Norman church replaced the Saxon one in the late 12th century and was considerably enlarged in the early 13th century. By the mid 13th century there was probably continuous settlement in Downton from the area around the church, crossing the two bridges, through the Borough to the main Salisbury road. Lace making developed during the 17th century alongside the tanning industry in the factories, and remained a major source of employment through to the 19th century.
- 8.1.5 The Moot with landscape gardens developed during the 18th century overlooking the River, on the earthworks of a Norman motte and bailey castle; provides an important landmark in the village. The chalk upland pastures surrounding the village were ploughed during the

18th; however in the late 19th century, an increase in dairy farming led to the replacement of arable fields on the valley gravels by pasture.

- 8.1.6 In the 1950s and 60s both council and private housing was built at Moot Lane while housing estates were also built on the western side of the Salisbury road at Wick. More recent developments have seen the creation of the industrial estate on Salisbury Road, which now contains several small businesses. The tannery closed in 1998 and the site is being used to provide new housing and apartments.

8.2 Environmental Policy Designations

- 8.2.1 Downton is an area of exceptional importance for wildlife and natural features, with many sites of national or international importance. Environmental designations cover a range of habitats with many different reasons for designation; their implications are shown in **Figure 8.1** and discussed in Section 8.8.
- 8.2.2 The Avon river valley is a particular feature, which meanders in a southerly direction, through the village. Its floodplains are considered to be of particular landscape and ecological importance and the valley itself is historically important, particularly where remnants of the water meadow system still exist. The Avon river system is recognised as being of importance to nature conservation, as reflected in its numerous designations including as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)⁴³, a European designation for habitats of rare or endangered species.
- 8.2.3 There are a range of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites within the area, including species-rich grasslands, floodplain grazing marsh and neutral meadow, which reflect the region's diverse landscape and underlying geology. Large areas of ancient woodland and 19th century broadleaved and coniferous plantations dominate eastern parts of the landscape setting to Downton, including Langley Wood and Homan's Copse (SSSI).
- 8.2.4 The landscape setting contains part of the New Forest, which is an area of outstanding wildlife habitats which make it of international significance for nature conservation. Located east and south of Downton, the New Forest within Salisbury District is a highly varied landscape that comprises a mosaic of ancient and ornamental woodland, open heather-covered heaths, rivers and valley mires and historic villages.

⁴³ Salisbury District Council (2003) *Salisbury District Council Local Plan*.

8.3 Cultural and Access Policy Designations

8.3.1 **Figure 8.1** illustrates cultural and access designations within the Downton area.

8.3.2 The majority of land in and around Downton is wholly covered by a locally defined and recognised landscape planning designation (Special Landscape Area) which ensures that only developments with particular regard for the high quality of the landscape will be considered in these areas. In addition to the land within the Special Landscape Area, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty wholly covers the majority of land to the west of Downton. The open landscape to the east and south of Downton falls within the recently designated New Forest National Park, a landscape of national importance for its natural beauty.

8.3.3 The landscape setting of Downton includes Clearbury Ring (scheduled ancient monument), a defensive Iron Age hill fort on Clearbury Down, northwest of Downton. The Moot (scheduled ancient monument) is a key historical feature within Downton, which may have been a defended site or a meeting place in Saxon times. Overlooking the river Avon, The Moot was possibly built on the earthworks for a Norman motte and bailey castle. The site was landscaped as part of the gardens of Moot House in the mid or late 18th century and the mound was much altered in the creation of an amphitheatre. The settlement is within an Area of Special Archaeological Interest, within which known or potential sites of archaeological interest are protected through Local Plan policy.

8.3.4 There is one large historic park and garden in the area, Trafalgar Park (formerly Standlynch), north of Downton. Located on a plateau overlooking the broad Avon river valley and partially enclosed by semi-natural woodland, the park includes historic Trafalgar House and grounds.

8.3.5 A network of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways and byways) traverses the setting to Downton, including routes through grazing marsh and water meadows alongside the Avon river valley (including Millennium Green). Avon Valley long distance footpath passes through the village and links to Salisbury and the New Forest alongside the Avon river valley, via the High Street and past The Moot.

8.4 Topography and Geology

8.4.1 **Figure 8.2** illustrates the topography of Downton, and the surrounding area.

8.4.2 The varied landscape within the area is directly related to its underlying geology, which spans approximately 150 million years of geological history, from the upper Jurassic Period to the present day⁴⁴. The environmental conditions in and around Downton have played a significant role in its historical development. The topography closely reflects the underlying geology, which is characterised by chalk river valley, chalk downland and forest heathland mosaic. The village of Downton is clearly dominated by the existence of water and mostly enclosed to the east and west by chalk downland. The river Avon has eroded a broad valley through the chalk to form low-lying land and some distinctive water meadows and unimproved marshy grassland, providing an important foundation and landscape setting to Downton.

8.5 Townscape Character

8.5.1 The progressive historic development of the village in response to the river setting has resulted in a particularly distinct urban grain structure, with reflective townscape character types.

8.5.2 The alignment of the principal approach roads into the settlement has been influential in determining the distinctiveness of and boundaries to each townscape character type.

8.5.3 **Figure 8.3** illustrates the results of the townscape character assessment, which are described below.

Historic Core

8.5.4 The historic core of Downton is defined as the coherent pre-1800 settlement core; which has strongly influenced the expansion of the village. Situated on the chalk, Downton has evolved from the springline. Its historic core straddles the river Avon and comprises an intrinsic relationship to its distinctive water meadows and marshy grassland. A locally defined and recognised Conservation Area wholly covers the historic core and includes clusters of locally distinctive buildings, with varying architectural styles and materials, which strongly contribute to the visual quality of the Downton's townscape and landscape character.

⁴⁴ Salisbury District Council (2003) *Salisbury District Council Local Plan*.

Victorian Expansion

- 8.5.5 Although Downton was not particularly prosperous during this time, local industry developed during the 17th and 18th centuries (including lace, linen, papermaking and tanning) and housing expanded around the historic core. Victorian expansion within Downton is characterised by a variety of architectural styles and details that span the period from the late 17th century to the mid to late 19th century. Within these areas, some parts of the urban grain are characterised by cottages and some back-to-back terraced houses, small front gardens and long narrow rear gardens.

Commercial / Industrial / Service Development

- 8.5.6 Downton has developed with an industry focused on agriculture, however, the economic focus of the village changed during the 17th and 18th centuries towards local industry, manufacturing and trade. More recently, the village benefits from direct access to Salisbury via the A338, which coincides with modern developments such as an industrial estate to the north of the village.

Pre and Post-war Suburban Housing

- 8.5.7 The pattern of settlement changed very little in area during this period but much rebuilding went on in the existing occupied areas. There was also further expansion in periphery areas, including Lode Hill, Slab Lane and Barford lane. Although the character of the pre-war and post war housing development differs, this townscape type has been grouped, as the scope for this study does not lend itself to a detailed townscape analysis.
- 8.5.8 These suburban housing areas are generally composed of red brick and rendered semi-detached and detached houses with front and rear gardens. These residential areas are generally low-density with some well-established planting and mature trees.

Late 20th Century and Recent / New Residential Development

- 8.5.9 Residential expansion in Downton since the late 20th century has been most substantial during this period and mostly associated with housing estates; often comprising standardised housing layouts and building designs. Buildings are mainly brick semi-detached and detached houses, with front and rear gardens. The street pattern is generally curved, with cul-de-sacs and roundabouts.

8.6 Landscape Character

- 8.6.1 Downton has evolved from a crossing point of the river Avon, south of Salisbury. The village comprises a particularly distinctive landscape setting, situated at the confluence of a number of landscapes including chalk river valley, chalk downland and forest heathland mosaic. Downton's intrinsic relationship with the Avon river valley, with its water meadows and marshy grassland, creates an intimate, rural and tranquil landscape.
- 8.6.2 The high quality of the surrounding landscape is a major constraint on development. The Local Planning Authority considers the landscapes that surround and flow through Downton to be of a high quality, reflected in its current designation as a Special Landscape Area. In addition, the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB covers much of the landscape west of Downton.
- 8.6.3 The composition of landscape character types and areas that provide the landscape context for the settlement are shown in **Figure 8.4**, and are described in the district-wide Landscape Character Assessment.

8.7 Visual Assessment

- 8.7.1 Downton is enclosed to the east and west by broad rolling hills of chalk downland; which is strengthened in southern parts by forest heathland mosaic. The downlands afford expansive views across the village, highlighting its location along the Avon river, which flows through the village in a southerly direction. The village strongly relates to its landscape setting. The river valley, and its associated water meadows and marshy grassland, provide extensive views towards the village, and strongly contribute Downton's sense of place and identity.
- 8.7.2 **Figure 8.5** illustrates the results of a visual assessment of Downton; with particular focus on the interrelationship between the settlement edge and the surrounding landscape. Key viewpoints are shown, including distant and proximal views, both level and elevated. The viewpoints marked are not intended to be exhaustive, but coincide with significant views on approaches to the village. Potentially there are a small number of viewpoints from elevated land outside the figure shown, but they are isolated points, and their views are very distant.
- 8.7.3 Key landmarks within Downton have been identified, which include mainly historic and some modern buildings and structures. They primarily include buildings within the historic core, which would have been important landmarks 150 years ago. St Lawrence's church is a

memorable and distinctive feature within views to Downton, whose church tower is visible from the local landscape setting. Views towards the tower are often viewed against an open skyline with a rural river valley foreground character. This type of view strongly contributes to Downton's sense of place and identity.

8.7.4 Although many of the landmarks are visible from the local setting, few form prominent visual markers in the landscape setting to both settlements, due to landform, vegetation and general urban massing.

8.7.5 Key distinctive / memorable features in the landscape setting to Downton have also been identified; which comprise a mixture of man-made and natural features. The features marked generally coincide with memorable views on approaches to the village.

8.7.6 The interface between the settlement edge and surrounding landscape as observed in immediate views from routes around Downton, has also been assessed and grouped into four different types of views; based on landform, foreground landscape character and settlement edge character:

- Level views, with a countryside or river valley foreground, and a generally soft, well-integrated settlement edge;
- Elevated views, with a countryside or river valley foreground, and a generally soft, well-integrated settlement edge;
- Level views, mixed foreground and a mixed settlement edge;
- Level views, with little / no foreground, and a generally abrupt, harsh and/or poorly integrated settlement edge.

8.7.7 Outside the immediate visual setting of Downton, the wider landscape setting includes countryside with a strongly rural character with river valley estates and 'springline' villages (as shown in **Figure 8.5**); which is important to the context of Downton and fundamental to people's perception of the village as they approach and depart.

8.8 Analysis of Landscape Sensitivities

8.8.1 The particular qualities within the setting of the settlement that are key to its distinctive character, as identified through analysis of the baseline data set out in Section 8.1 to 8.7, are described below. These qualities are considered to be most sensitive/vulnerable to harm through development and other types of land use change and are desirable to safeguard.

Policy and Geographical Context

- 8.8.2 Features, sites and areas covered by environmental, cultural and access designations (**Figure 8.1**) are important elements that enrich the appearance of the landscape and people's experience of it. They strongly contribute to the character, diversity, biodiversity, history and general interest of the landscape setting to and special character of Downton.
- 8.8.3 Downton lies within a highly valued landscape, with designated features, sites and areas spread fairly evenly throughout its setting. The Avon river valley, which meanders through the village, is considered to be of outstanding landscape and ecological importance and broadly correlate to sequences of SSSI and CWS designations.
- 8.8.4 **Figure 8.2** clearly illustrates the topographical setting of Downton. Section 8.1 of the report describes the historical evolution of the village and how it developed within a distinctive river valley setting. The landscapes which surround and flow through Downton are considered to be intrinsic to its character, and at times, strongly contribute to Downton's sense of place and identity. This understanding of the location and evolution of Downton, and how the settlement used the surrounding landscape in an economic sense, is part of the understanding of the relationship between the settlement and its current landscape setting.

Approaches and Gateways

- 8.8.5 The following section describes the approaches and gateways to Downton, reflected in **Figure 8.6**. Approaches to and within the urban area provide the viewpoints from which many visitors see the settlements and gain a perception of their scale. Distance and travel time between countryside and the distinctive core of Downton, and the character of the approaches, play an important role in determining people's perception of the character and scale of the settlement.
- 8.8.6 Both the length and character of the approaches (mostly vehicular) were assessed to determine potentially, how people currently perceive the character and scale of Downton. The approaches were broadly categorised as green/treed/river valley, suburban, commercial or rural / vernacular. The length of the approach is determined by the distance between the urban gateway and the gateway to the distinctive core of Downton.
- 8.8.7 Three categories of gateways were defined. The 'First View' of the settlement is the point along the approach route where the village first comes into view. The 'Urban Gateway' is

the point at which the character of the route becomes built-up and urban. Gateways to the distinctive core of Downton is defined as the point at which the traveller feels a sense of arrival.

Green / Treed / River Valley Approaches

8.8.8 This type of approach is commonly associated with the following features:

- Route lined with woodland, mature tree belts or robust hedgerows / hedgerow trees, often forming a strong sense of enclosure and distinctive approach to the settlement core;
- Views to broad river valley, meandering within the valley floor of grazing marsh, pastures and meadows; generally tranquil in character with varying landscape structure created by groves of willows and poplars.

Suburban Approaches

8.8.9 This type of approach is commonly associated with the following features:

- Route lined with a mixture of residential building types along the road including mainly semi-detached and detached houses of varying architectural styles and building materials, reflecting the period of time in which they were built;
- Route sometimes lined with pre-19th century buildings with a strong vernacular style, reflecting the use of traditional, locally sourced materials such as local stone, flint, slate and thatch.

Commercial Approaches

8.8.10 This type of approach is commonly associated with the following features:

- Route lined with large-scale late 20th and early 21st century buildings, reflective of both settlement's developments towards technology, innovation and service;
- Often unremarkable and at times unattractive character of approach, with many closed facades and non-distinctive architecture, contributing to a monotonous townscape character.

Rural / Vernacular Approaches

8.8.11 This type of approach is commonly associated with the following features:

- Route predominantly lined with pre-19th century buildings with a strong vernacular style, reflecting the use of traditional, locally sourced materials such as local brick, stone, flint and slate;
- Route dominated by views across an open river valley floor landscape with a strong rural character; often framed by woodland.

Green Corridors

8.8.12 Green corridors (refer to **Figure 8.6**) are the widths of countryside or green space, usually with public access, penetrating from the open countryside into the urban fabric. They provide the settings for open approaches into the village, access for pedestrians and cyclists out into the countryside, corridors for wildlife, and an important landscape setting to some edges of the settlements. They can also be distinctive or supportive areas of landscape, as shown in **Figure 8.7** and discussed in the following section.

8.8.13 The River Avon is an especially important green corridor passing through the heart of Downton. Part of it, the water meadows and marshy grassland, forms an intrinsic element of the village's historic core. This green corridor, amongst others, comprises qualities that form critical elements in defining the historic settlement and its intrinsic setting.

Relationship Between Villages and Downton

8.8.14 Downton lies within a rural, river valley landscape with extensive forest heathland mosaic to the southeast, which combine to form a distinctive setting to Downton. The patterns of farmsteads, manor houses, hamlets and villages surrounding Downton are separated by a predominantly rural landscape (Refer to **Figure 8.6**). Each hamlet/village possesses its own inherent character, and their vernacular buildings reflect the surrounding landscape in their use of local materials. Historic villages such as Woodgreen and Breamore comprise qualities that contribute positively to their character and play a fundamental part of the setting and special character of Downton.

8.8.15 Villages such as these play an important role in the immediate and wider landscape setting to Downton. They contribute to people's experience and perception of the setting to

Downton, particularly as they approach the village from surrounding villages and view Downton in its landscape setting from key viewpoints. The open and mostly rural landscape separating the hamlet/villages, and separating those villages from Downton, play a critical role in preserving the separate identities of these hamlet/villages; therefore increasing the overall sensitivity of several parts of Downton's landscape setting, in visual terms as well as inherent landscape character.

Townscape and Landscape Role and Function

- 8.8.16 The approach to assessing the role and function that townscape and landscape plays in contributing to the distinctiveness of Downton and its landscape setting is described in Section 2.0.
- 8.8.17 The results of this study are illustrated in **Figure 8.7**. This demonstrates the area of townscape and landscape that performs a significant role in contributing to the distinctiveness of Downton and its setting. An interesting feature is that areas of connective and supportive landscape do not extend east of The Ridge at Woodfalls, or west of Wick Down. This is largely because the downlands that surround Downton conceal the extent of the village from the wider landscape and enclose views from Downton; which is accentuated in places by robust vegetation southeast of the village. These areas also afford comprehensive views to the village, largely due to the framework of landform that provide elevated vantage points and highlight its location beside the Avon river valley.
- 8.8.18 Of particular note is the compactness and cohesiveness of the historic core with an intact link to its rural river valley landscape setting. This type of townscape character is briefly described in Section 8.5, and includes such landmarks as historic St Lawrence's Church and The Moot. The visually cohesive historic core is a key element of the distinctiveness of Downton and its setting, and a fundamental quality of the setting and special character of the village. The Moot forms a particularly distinctive historic feature within Downton. Its central and elevated location contributes to several memorable views to and from the village, and stands as a visual reminder of Downton's rich history.
- 8.8.19 An apparent feature is the finger of land that extends through the village and contributes to the distinctiveness of Downton. Rich in biodiversity, these water meadows include landscape components that contribute to a strongly recognisable landscape setting and provide distinctive views towards, as well as a quintessential backdrop to, the historic core

of Downton. The water meadows often borrow from or bestow character to the visually cohesive historic core of Downton.

- 8.8.20 This study has shown that there are defined areas of land (within the parameters of this broad scale assessment) that contribute in different ways to the distinctiveness of Downton and its setting. The visually cohesive historic core, and distinctive and supportive townscape and landscape, are areas that are most characteristic of Downton, and their protection should be prioritised.
- 8.8.21 Areas of connective landscape are also important in the role that they play in contributing to the distinctiveness of Downton and its setting, but they are not distinctive to Downton. They are however, finite and worthy of protection through positive management, conservation and enhancement or potentially, and in only limited locations, development. In such cases, development proposals should respond to the inherent landscape sensitivity of the landscape setting and take account of the potential impacts on the surrounding landscape.

Special Qualities to be Safeguarded

- 8.8.22 Section 8.0 so far has assessed and illustrated factors that contribute to the setting and character of Downton. This section now takes the process one step further to identify the qualities that should be safeguarded in order to protect the setting and character of the settlement. These are listed below (not in any sequence of importance) and illustrated diagrammatically on **Figure 8.8**.
- 8.8.23 Special qualities that contribute to the essence of Downton:
- Definitive relationship between the landform, hydrology and the evolution of Downton, which provides a unique framework to the village;
 - Village focused on the historic core;
 - Compactness and cohesiveness of the historic core with an intact link to its rural river valley landscape setting;
 - Significant areas of distinctive and supportive landscape including river valley, flood meadows and surrounding chalk slopes that provide an intrinsic landscape setting to Downton and offer key views (reflected in its local designations as a ‘Special Landscape Area’);

- Distinctive and memorable approaches to the historic core from first views and urban gateways;
- Trees and woodland form particularly important features within eastern and southern parts of Downton's the landscape setting, often forming distinctive wooded skylines;
- Upper slopes of the chalk downland that form prominent and locally distinctive scenic rim to the village, which are most commonly viewed against an open skyline. The ridgeline of the chalk slopes is particularly sensitive, as it is uninterrupted and often viewed against the skyline;
- A village of human scale, easily crossed by foot and by bicycle with good access to 'green corridors', as well as long distance footpaths and bridleways;
- Designated sites and areas, as well as ancient monuments, enrich the setting of Downton and add a sense of time-depth to the area;
- The distribution, setting, scale, form and inherent character of hamlets/villages (including springline villages) surrounding Downton;
- Sense of tranquillity associated with parts of the river valley and chalk downland, offering key views to the historic core of Downton;
- Historic parks, in addition to their value as open space, contribute favorably to the character, heritage and landscape setting of Downton.

8.9 Development Capacity Recommendations

General Recommendations for the Setting of Downton

8.9.1 The following recommendations have been prepared at a strategic scale and relate to the entire landscape setting of Downton.

- The definitive relationship between the landform, hydrology and the evolution of Downton is a distinctive feature that should be conserved and enhanced. Measures should be taken to ensure that the contrasts in landform are not masked by inappropriate development or management. In particular, the chalk escarpments that enclose the village are visually sensitive, as they are very prominent in views from within Downton's historic core; especially as it is most often viewed against an open sky. Maintain the open undeveloped skyline of the escarpment, by resisting development of new buildings, telecommunications masts, power lines, or any other vertical elements near the ridgeline;

- Conserve and enhance the integrity of a number of key views to Downton, from where their special character and setting can be perceived. Ensure any new development respects the character, quality and scale of these views, particularly those that strongly contribute to distinctive and memorable approaches to the historic core from first views and urban gateways (refer to **Figure 8.6**);
- Conserve and enhance the short and/or distinctive approaches to Downton, which contribute to a memorable approach and sense of arrival to the settlement core. Resist development that does not respond to the inherent landscape sensitivity of the setting area or take account both its setting and potential impacts on the surrounding landscape and its approaches. Avoid ribbon development along all routes to the settlements, especially where this would narrow the gap between the settlement and necklace villages;
- A distinctive feature within Downton is the intrinsic relationship it possesses with its river valley setting, including ‘green corridors’ that provide links between the settlement core and the open countryside. Rural river valley landscapes protrude into the heart of the village, in most cases complementing and/or enhancing its character; providing the foreground of key views to the historic core. The green corridors need to be conserved and managed to ensure new development will not impose unacceptable adverse effects on the character of the landscape, or the way that it is perceived, and without compromising the values attached to it;
- Conserve the ‘human scale’ of Downton, and enhance ease of travel within the village by foot and bicycle; particularly between residential areas and the historic core. Ensure peripheral development is easily accessed via coherent, direct, attractive, safe, comfortable and legible footpaths and cycle paths, which link into the existing greenspace (including ‘green corridors’) and public footpath / cycle path network;
- As discussed in section 8.2, all features, sites and areas covered by environmental, cultural and access designations (**Figure 8.1**) are important elements that enrich the appearance of the landscape, as well as people’s perception and experience of it. Specific conservation, management, enhancement and development control measures need to be developed and employed in these areas, which enrich and strongly contribute to the setting, special character and identity of Downton;

- As outlined in section 8.2 and 8.8, the rural river valley landscape, including areas of water meadows beside the river Avon, combine to form an important visual and historical setting to Downton and surrounding springline villages. These qualities are recognised in local designations (refer to section 8.3), and any new development and/or change proposed should be accommodated without having unacceptable adverse effects on the character of these special rural river valley landscapes;
- As outlined in section 8.7 and highlighted in 8.8, it is essential to employ management, enhancement planning policy and development control measures to safeguard and strengthen the diversity of character and pattern of necklace villages within the setting of Downton. Resist new development that impedes on their physical separation from other settlements, their rural landscape settings and their scale;
- Enhance and celebrate gateways and arrival points to the historic core.
- Ensure all new developments adhere to the set of place-making principles and standards of good urban design as established by CABI and English Partnerships, to ensure a strong identity and sense of place. These include connectivity, development grain, mixed use, quality public realm, legibility, robustness and visual delight (as set out in as the *'Vision for Salisbury – Area Development Framework'*⁴⁵).

Area-Specific Recommendations for the Setting of Downton

8.9.2 The following recommendations relate to specific areas within the setting of Downton as defined in **Figure 8.8** and the classification of townscape and landscape role and function categories shown in **Figure 8.7**.

Recommendations for Areas within Distinctive and Supportive Landscapes

8.9.3 Area 1

- Conserve the exposed grass, and in places wooded, chalk escarpment, which form a distinctive and visually prominent backdrop to many views from within Downton. Resist new development that disrupts the undeveloped nature of the skyline. This is particularly

⁴⁵ Salisbury District Council (2007) *Vision for Salisbury – Area Development Framework*.

important in western parts of the area, where the escarpment is prominent in views from a wider landscape;

- Conserve key views that strongly contribute to memorable and distinctive approaches to Downton by public footpaths (including ancient trackways) and bridleways. Resist new development that disrupts key views to important landmarks and features within Downton and its setting;
- Resist new development that would result in any reduction in the area's tranquillity;
- Conserve the historic rural setting of ancient monuments within the wider landscape setting, which add a sense of time-depth. Consider the effects of any new development outside this area on views to and from Clearbury Ring.

8.9.4 Area 2

- Conserve the historic rural setting of locally distinctive listed buildings within Downton. Ensure the sense of setting, scale, form and inherent character of such clusters of buildings is not lost with the location of new development;
- Conserve the historic core's intact link to its rural river valley landscape setting, which strongly contribute to the identity and special character of Downton and its historic core;
- Conserve key views across the Avon river valley that strongly contribute to memorable and distinctive approaches to Downton. Resist new development that disrupts key views to important landmarks and features within Downton and its setting;
- Resist any development that detracts from the high level of landscape and ecological value, as well as associated quintessential views within the river valley;
- Resist new development that would result in any reduction in the area's tranquillity;
- Conserve and enhance locally distinctive wooded skylines, which enrich and strongly contribute to the setting and special character of Downton;
- Potential to soften visually harsh and abrupt settlement edges in this area through additional tree and shrub planting.

Recommendations for Areas within Connective Landscapes

8.9.5 Area 3

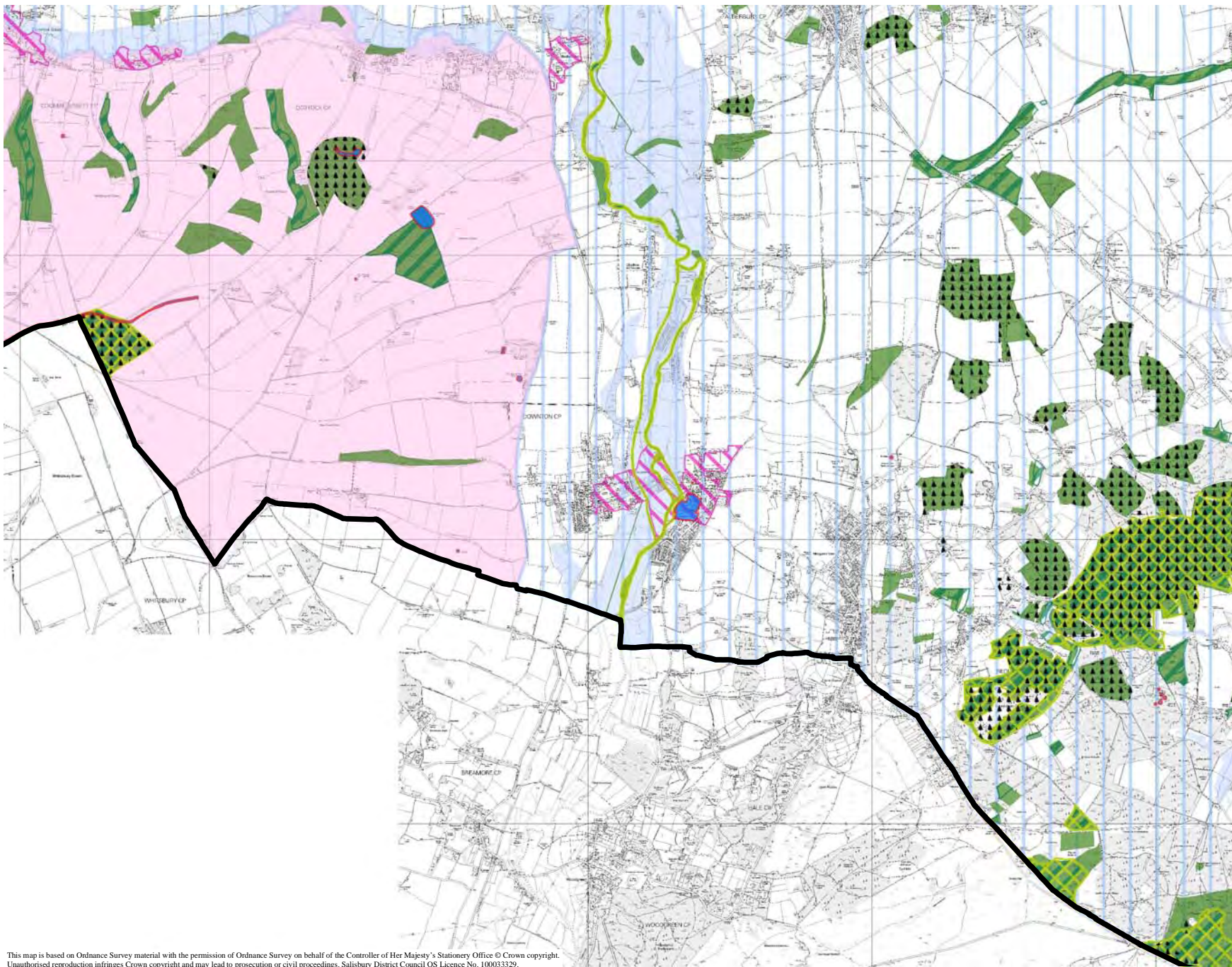
- Ensure that any new development respects the scale, setting and form of the existing settlement and appropriate design and mitigation measures are put in place to

accommodate new development without significant adverse effects on key views to the chalk escarpment;

- Ensure that any new development does not detract from or disrupt key views to Downton;
- Potential to soften visually harsh and abrupt settlement edges in this area through additional tree and shrub planting.

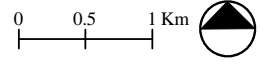
Recommendations for Rural Areas Beyond the Landscape Setting

- 8.9.6 Proposals for development and land use change within the rural areas beyond the landscape setting of the settlement should address the management strategy and objectives for the relevant landscape character areas (see **Figure 8.4**), as set out in the district-wide Landscape Character Assessment.



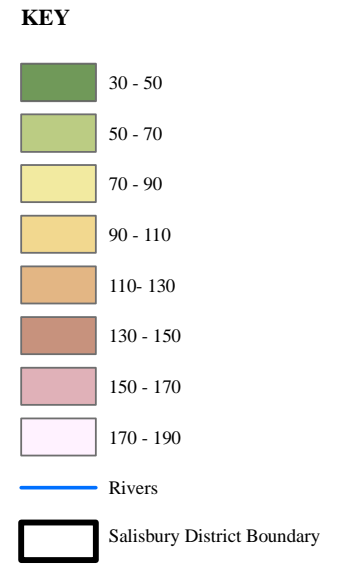
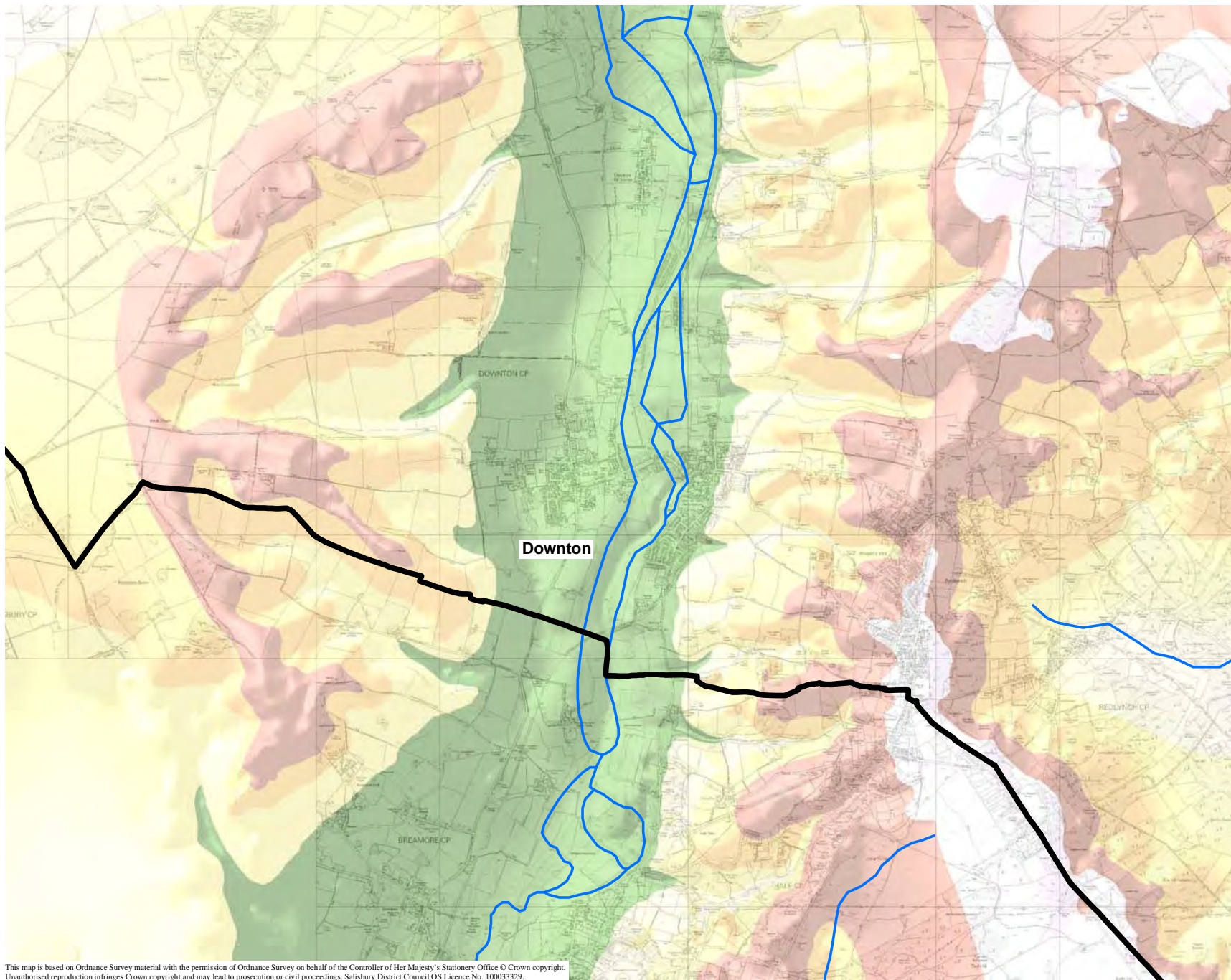
- KEY**
-  Special Areas of Conservation
 -  SSSI
 -  Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 -  Ancient Woodland
 -  County Wildlife Sites
 -  Conservation Areas
 -  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 -  Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
 -  Special Landscape Areas
 -  Flood Plain
 -  Salisbury District Boundary

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FIGURE 8.1
POLICY DESIGNATIONS



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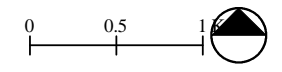
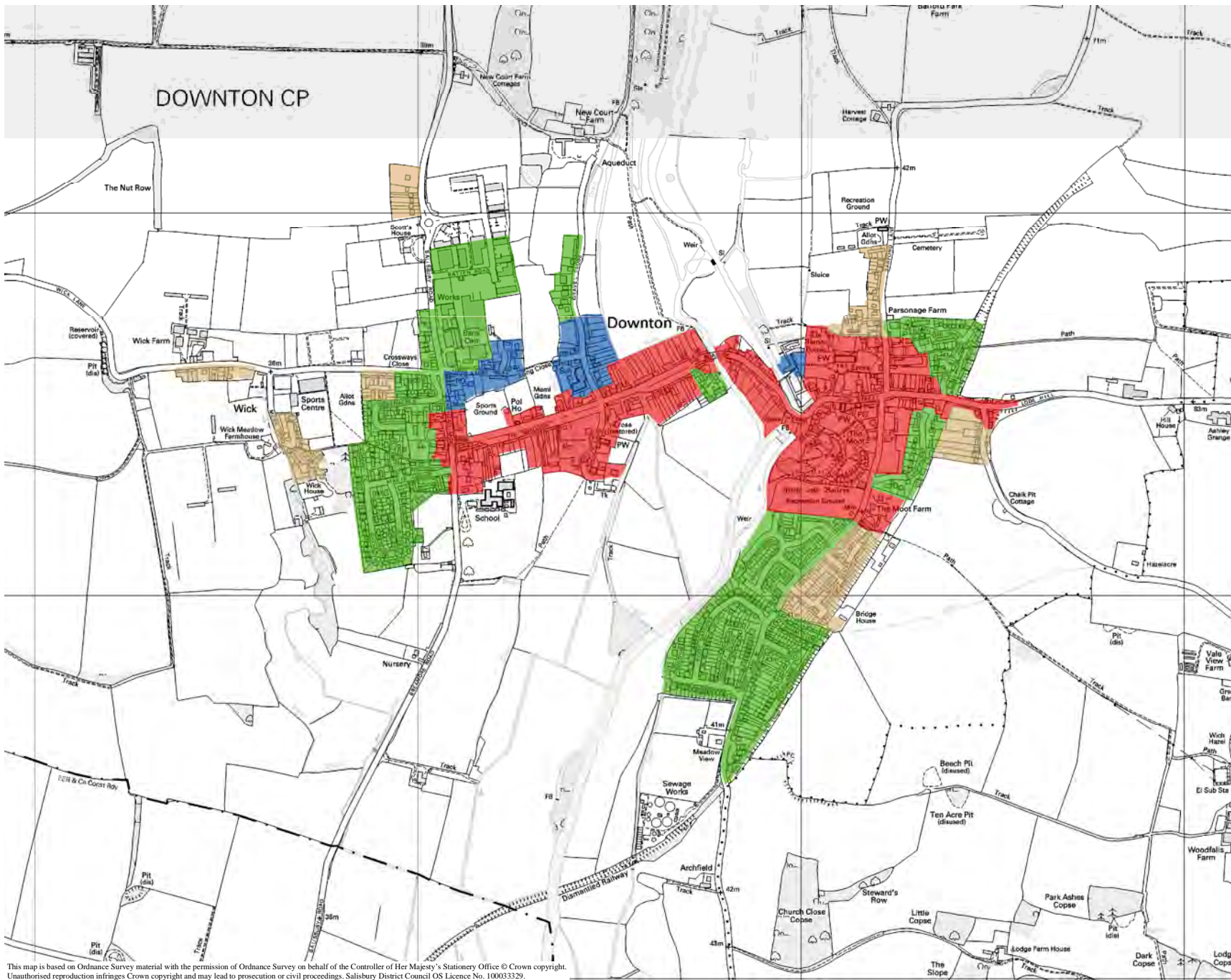


FIGURE 8.2
TOPOGRAPHY



KEY

- Historic Core
- Victorian Expansion (including terraced housing)
- Commercial / Industrial / Service Development
- Pre and Post-War Development (including military and suburban housing)
- Late 20th Century and Recent / New Residential Development

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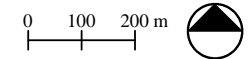
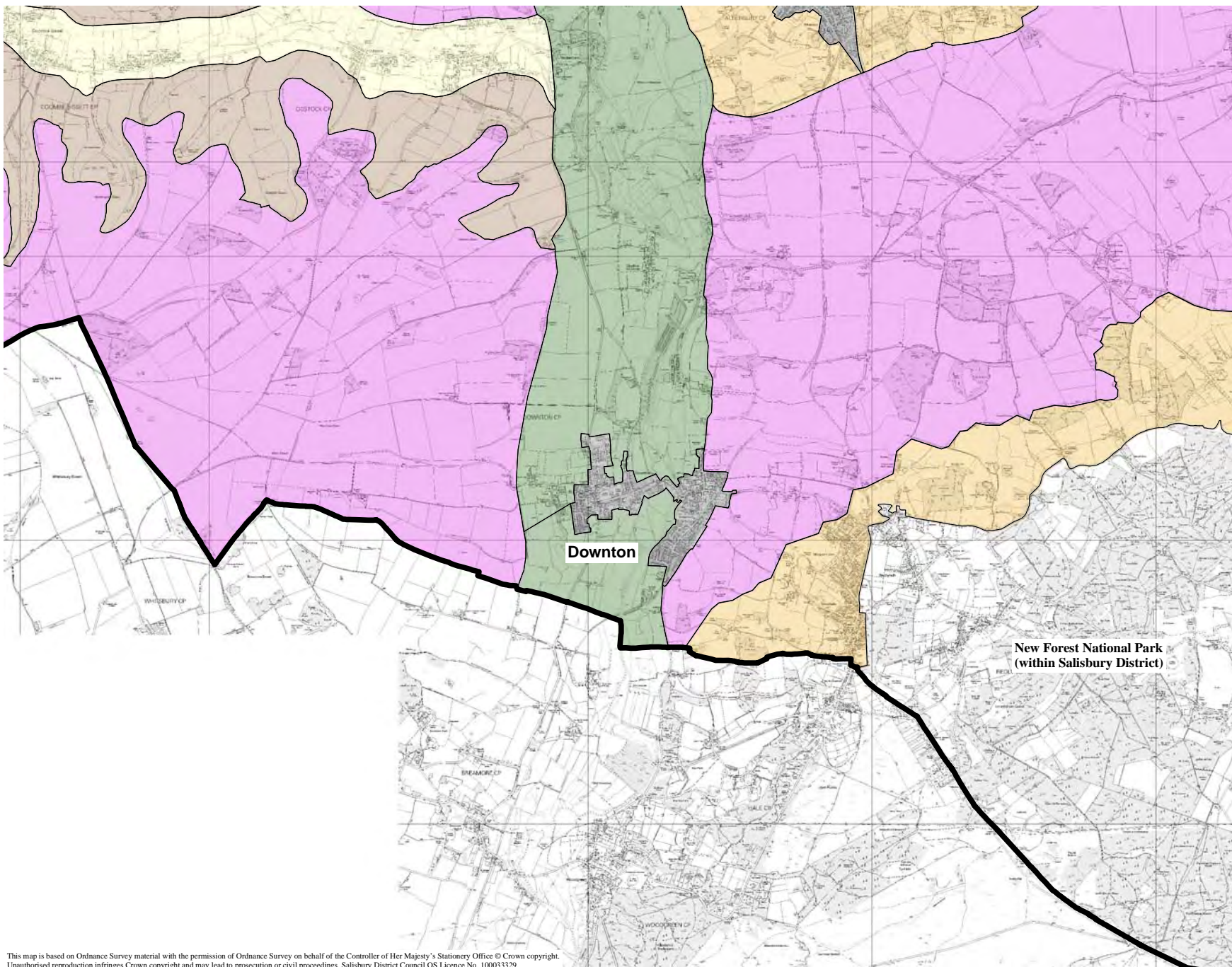


FIGURE 8.3
 TOWNSCAPE CHARACTER



KEY

- A Narrow Chalk River Valley**
A4 Lower Avon Narrow Chalk River Valley

- B Broad Chalk River Valley Slopes**
B2 Ebble Broad Chalk River Valley Slopes

- C Broad Chalk River Valley Floor**
C2 Ebble Broad Chalk River Valley Floor

- D Chalk Downland**
D6 Downton Chalk Downland
D7 Cranborne Chase Chalk Downland
D8 Netherhampton Chalk Downland

- F Forest Heath Mosaic**
F1 Farley Forest Heath Mosaic
F2 Landford Forest Heath Mosaic

- Salisbury District Boundary**

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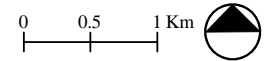
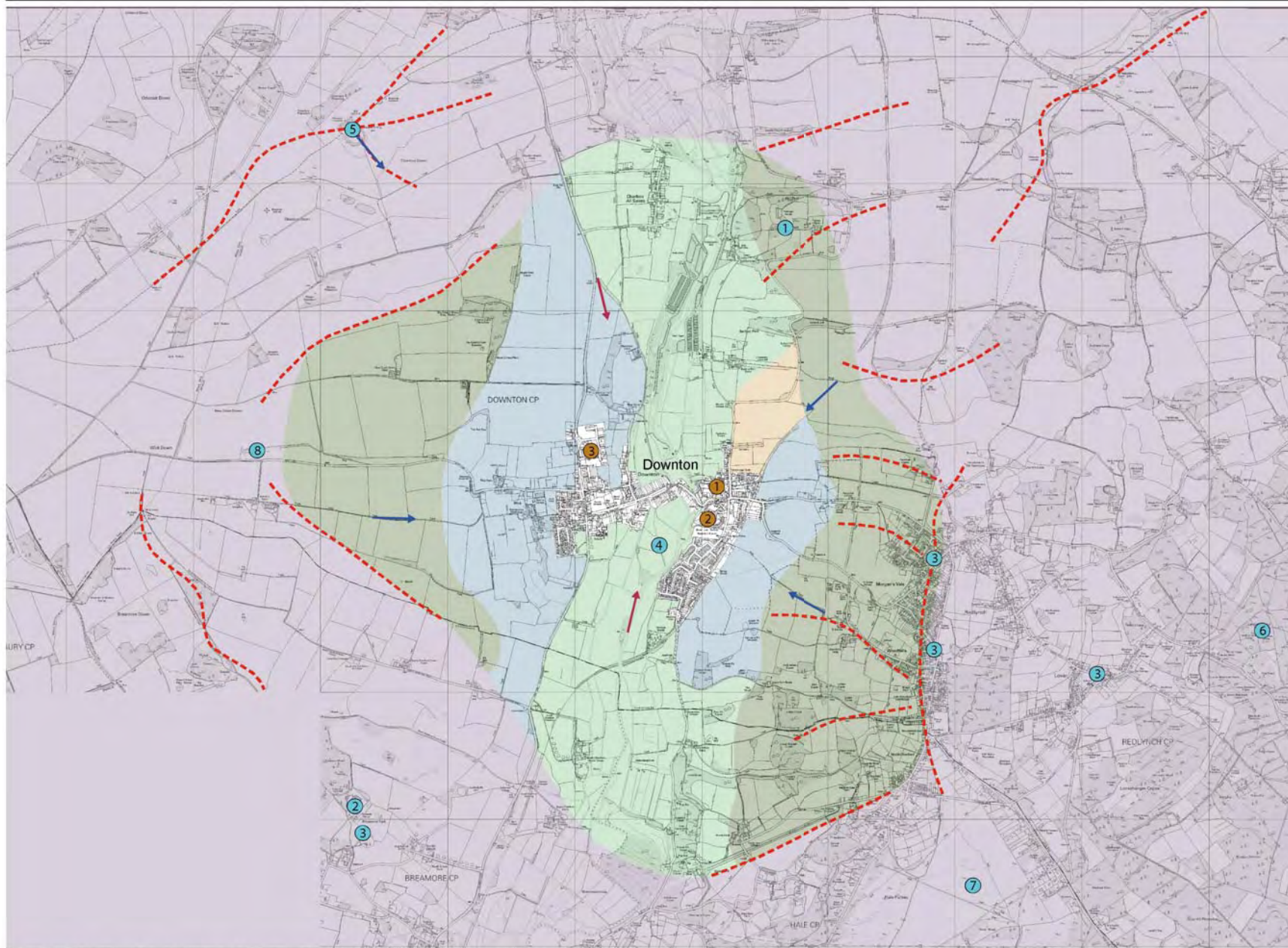







FIGURE 8.4
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



KEY

-  Key elevated panoramic view to Downton
-  Key low-level view to Downton
-  Key Downton landmark
-  Distinctive / Memorable features in the setting of Downton
-  Ridgelines

TOWNSCAPE / COUNTRYSIDE INTERFACE

elevation, foreground character and built edge character as seen in immediate views from settlement setting

-  Level views, countryside or river valley foreground, generally soft settlement edge
-  Elevated views, countryside or river valley foreground, generally soft settlement edge
-  Level views, little / no foreground, generally harsh, abrupt settlement edge
-  Level views, mixed foreground, mixed settlement edge
-  Rural setting with necklace villages (including springline villages)

Key Downton landmarks:

1. Downton St. Lawrence Church
2. The Moot Garden
3. Downton Business Centre / Industrial Estate

Distinctive / Memorable features in the setting of Downton:

1. Trafalgar Park
2. Breamore House
3. Village Churches
4. Millennium Green
5. Clearbury Ring
6. Langley Wood and Homan's Copse
7. New Forest
8. Wick Down

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Not to Scale



FIGURE 8.5
VISUAL ASSESSMENT



KEY

- First view of Tisbury
- Urban Gateway
- Gateway to distinctive Downton
- Approaches between first view and distinctive Downton
- A Road
- Secondary Road
- Long distance footpath

CHARACTER OF APPROACHES

- Green / Tree / River valley
- Suburban
- Commercial / Retail

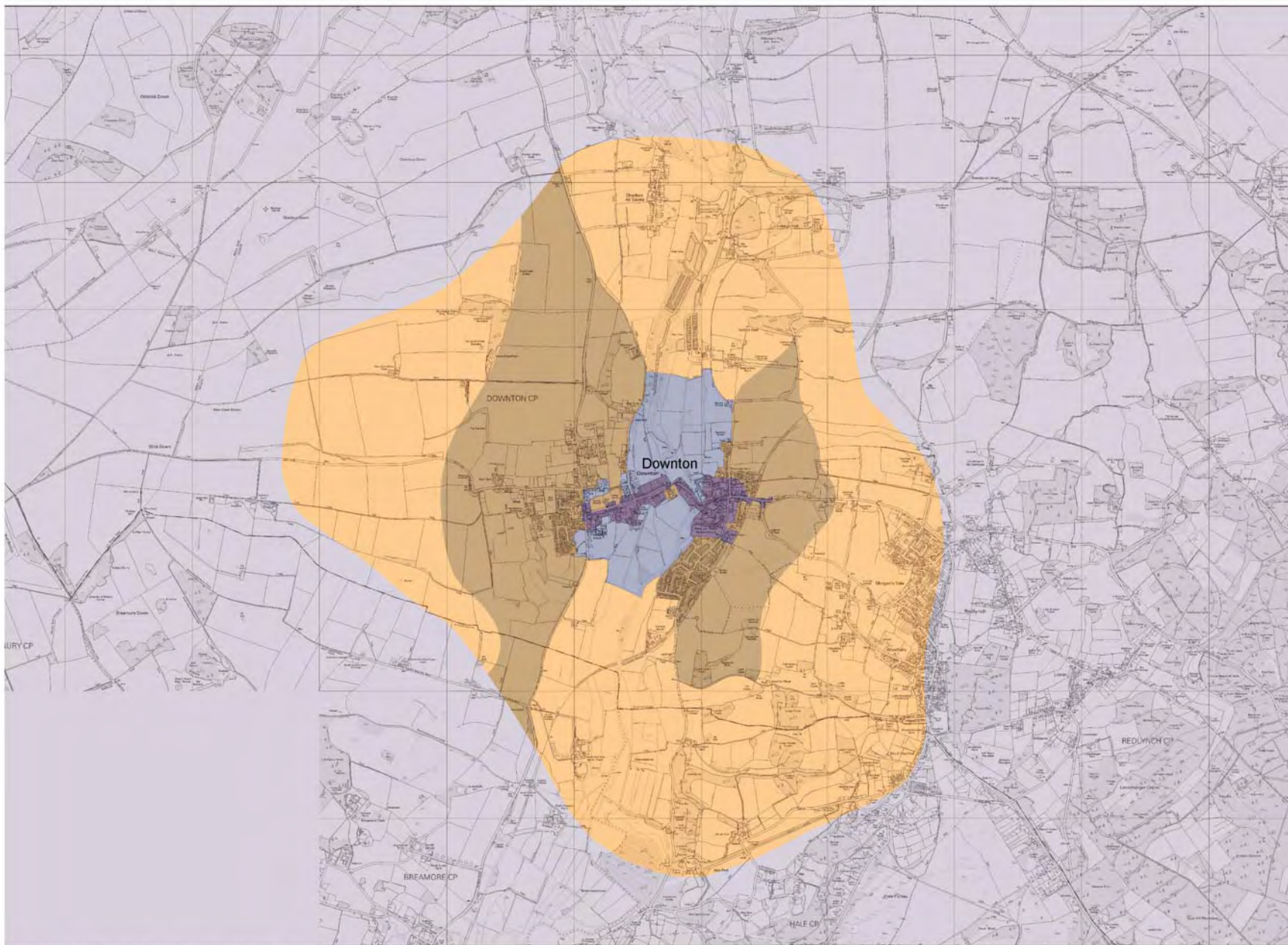
SELECTED FEATURES ON APPROACHES

- Green finger
- Distinctive Downton
- Necklace villages (including springline villages)
- Open countryside separating necklace villages and these villages and Downton

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FIGURE 8.6
TOWNSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE
ANALYSIS



KEY

- Visually Cohesive Historic Core**
 This is the compact Saxon or Medieval core. Elements such as historic street pattern, building type, scale, architectural style, detailing and materials all generate a strong sense of story for the settlement.

- Distinctive Townscape / Landscape**
 These are areas defined as specifically recognisable and distinctive to the settlement. They include townscape and landscape components such as quintessential views, the interaction of buildings forming spaces or the setting to local events, landform, setting and backdrops to the settlement, areas of rich biodiversity, historic approach routes and landmarks of distinctive character. These areas, frequently contiguous with the historic core, often borrow from or bestow character to them.

- Supportive Townscape / Landscape**
 These are areas of townscape / landscape which support the character of the historic core and areas distinctive to the settlement. They provide the backdrop and ambience, and bolster the sense of place of the village and its approaches.

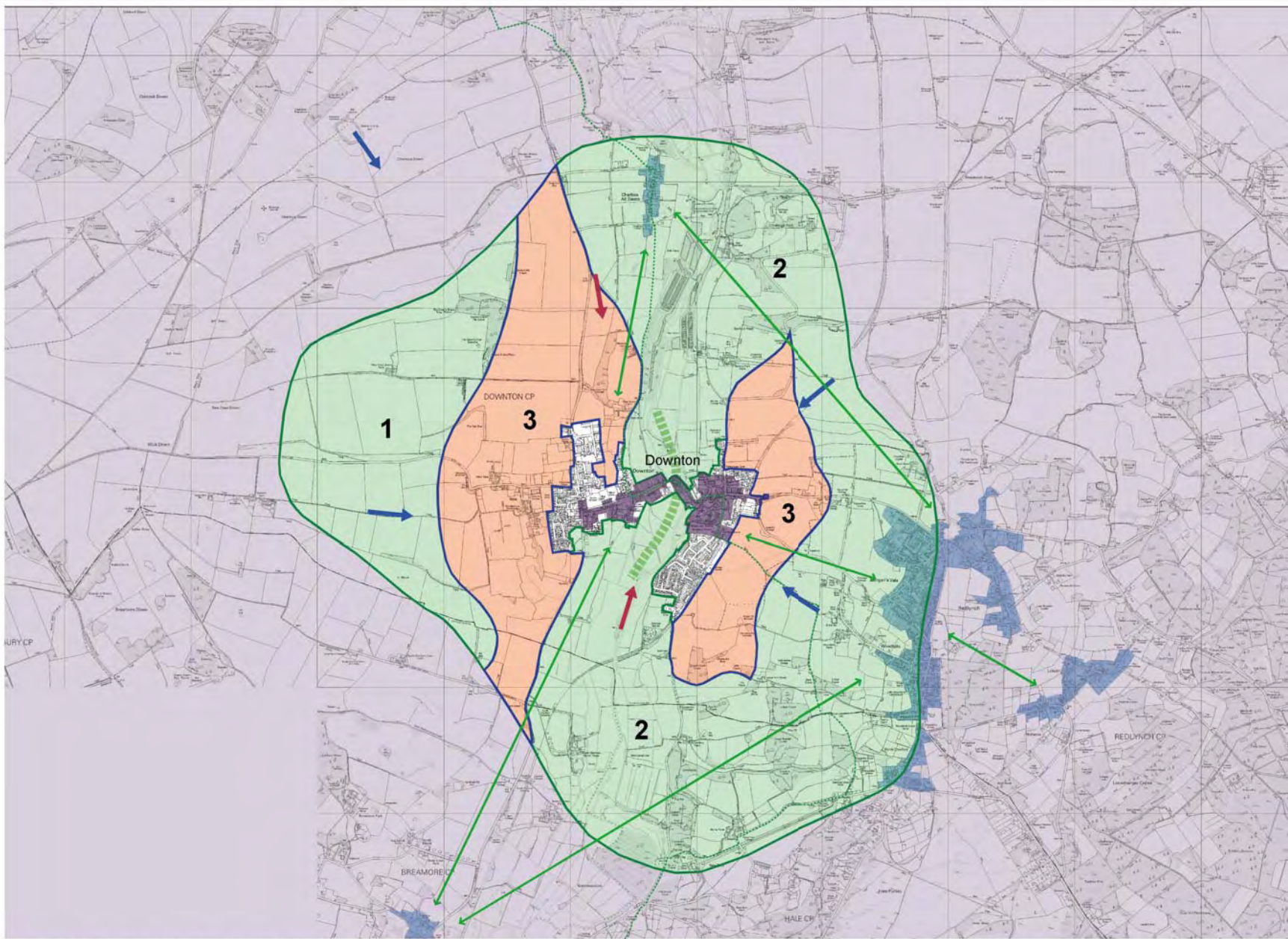
- Connective Townscape / Landscape**
 These are areas of townscape / landscape which are an integral part of the settlement and its environs, but lack individual distinction, or do not play a significant contribution to the setting of the settlement. This classification does not render these areas unimportant, or lacking in their own identity. Rather, they are often areas divorced from or weakly attached to their landscape setting, or from landmarks within the landscape or historic core. The use of mass-produced building materials, standard suburban layouts, styles and details are also contributing factors in the lack of local identity.

- Outer Rural Areas**
 These are areas of landscape from which distinctive views of the village are scarce or absent. The function of this landscape is in providing a backdrop to views of the settlement, and in providing a setting for approaches to connective, supportive and distinctive areas of townscape and landscape.

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FIGURE 8.7
TOWNSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE
ROLE AND FUNCTION



- KEY**
- Historic Core
 - Rural setting with scattered villages
 - Necklace villages (including springline villages)
 - Open countryside separating necklace villages and these villages and Downton
 - Green finger / Corridor
 - Distinctive and supportive landscape
 - Key elevated panoramic views to Downton
 - Key low-level views to Downton
 - Long distance footpath
 - Peripheral areas with particular qualities to be safeguarded (see Section 8.9 for recommended guidelines)
 - Landscape that is not distinctive or supportive. Resist development that expands the influence of these areas and/or threatens the special qualities of Downton and its setting

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