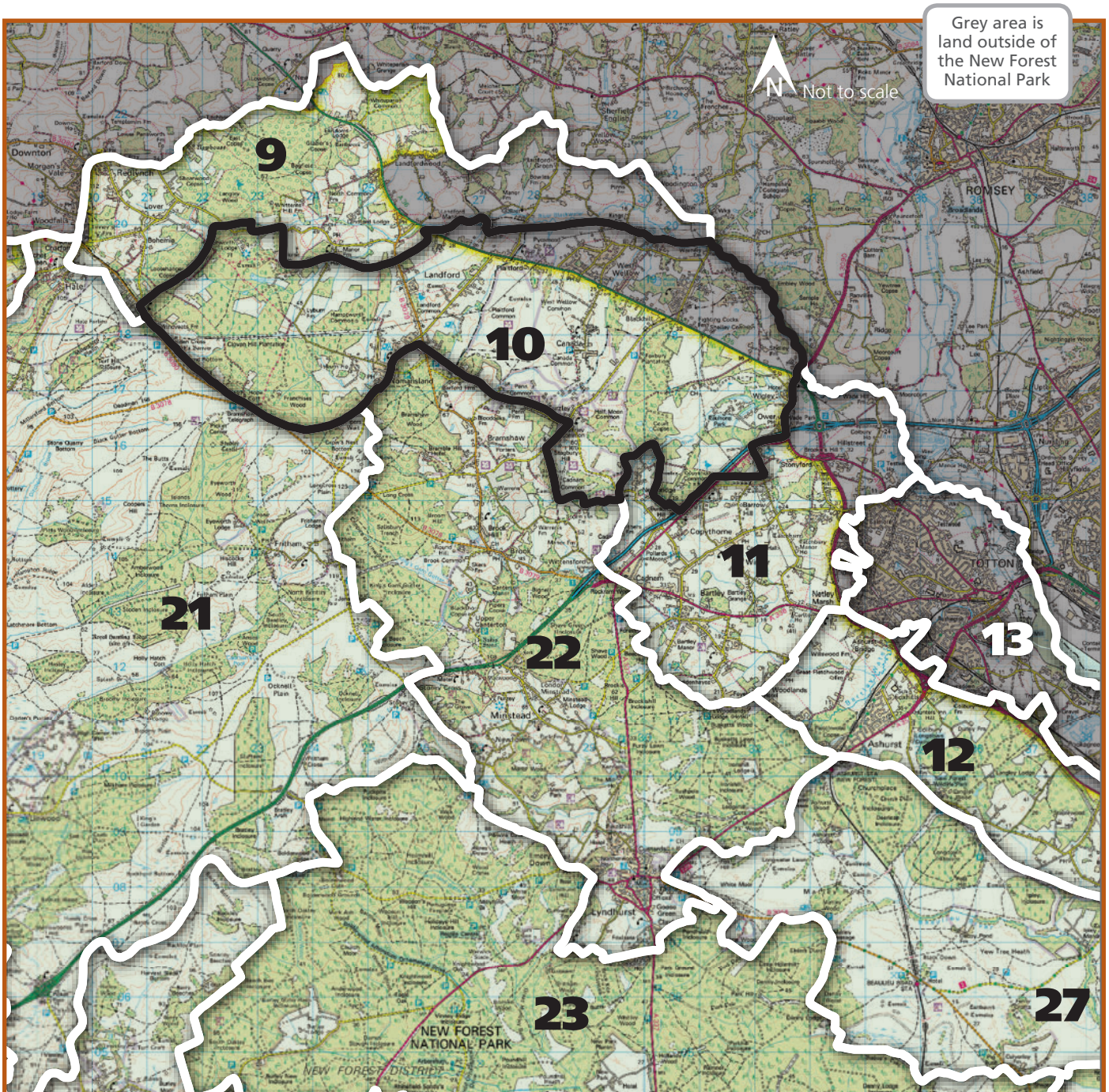




Pigs during the pannage season, Half Moon Common

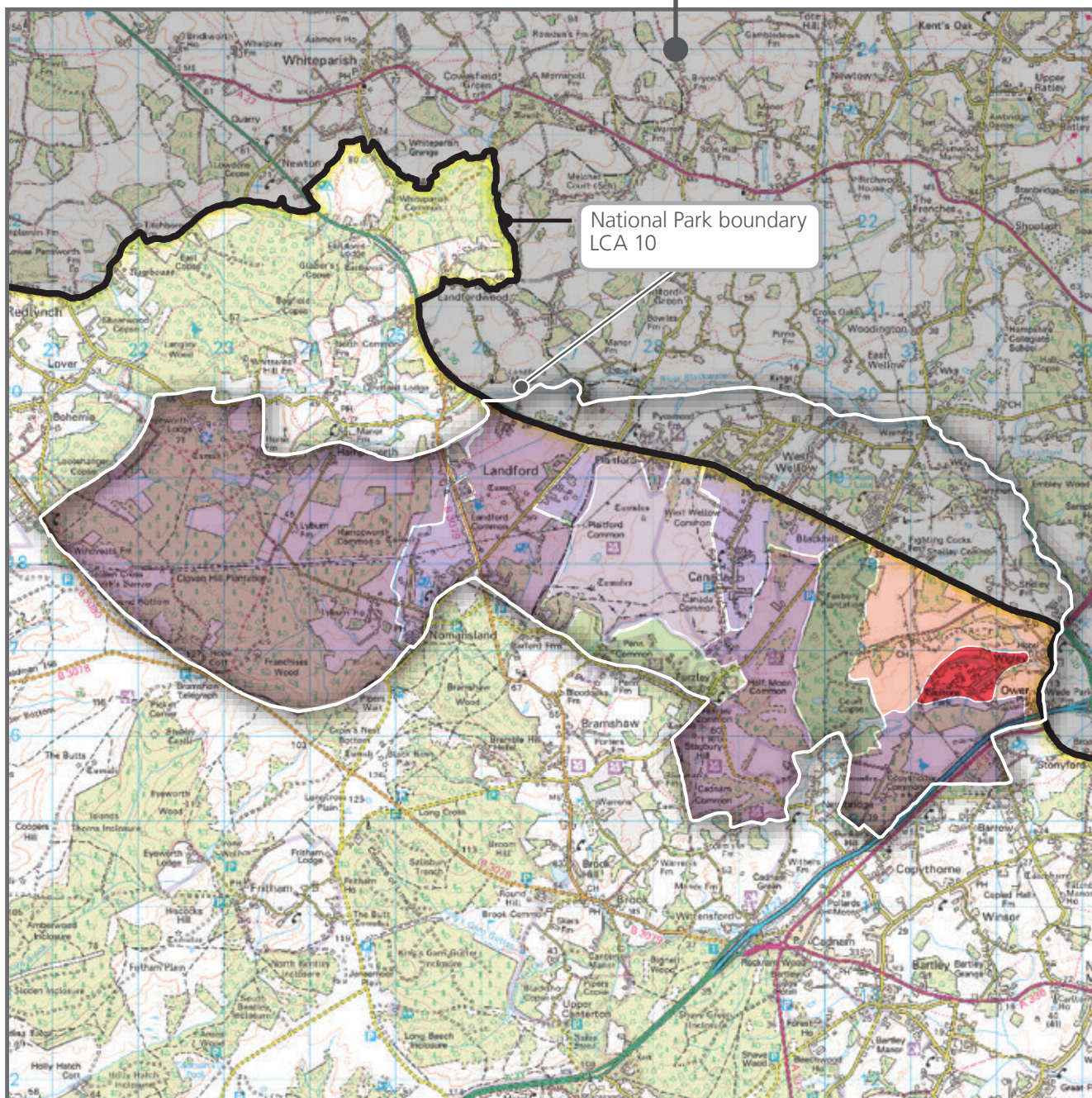
LCA 10: WEST WELLOW HEATHS AND COMMONS

Location of LCA in the National Park



Component landscape types within LCA 10

Area in shadow- outside National Park



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Not to scale

- 5. Heath Associated Estates
- 6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
- 7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
- 13. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland
- 19. Timber Inclosures/Plantations
- 20. Heathland
- 21. Historic Parkland

The northern edge of this LCA lies outside the New Forest National Park, beyond the main A36 highway, which forms the boundary.

A. LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

Key landscape characteristics

- A mosaic of remnant heathland commons, remnant pasture woods with ancient oak and beech pollards, farmland and woodland on the undulating northern edge of the forest.
- Strong healthy character resulting from the underlying older geological deposits and acid soils, reflected in the presence of gorse, bracken, birch and Scot's pine.
- Areas of unenclosed grazed heathland common including Half Moon, Cadnam, Canada, Penn, West Wellow and Plaitford Commons.
- Enclosed former commons at Landford and Copythorne, outside the perambulation boundary.
- Distinctive dense linear settlements with residential properties in long narrow plots generally facing away from the commons. A variety of housing styles and ages facing onto the commons indicates recent infill.
- Long views over commons are limited by the domed topography of the elevated areas or encroaching scrub.

Component landscape types

The main landscape types found within this LCA, in the New Forest National Park, are:

5. Heath Associated Estates
6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
13. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland
19. Timber Inclosures/Plantations
20. Heathland
21. Historic Parkland

Key positive landscape attributes

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enclosed wooded estates comprising heathland and pine/oak plantations. ■ Linear settlements within a pattern of ancient rectilinear paddocks, with a close relationship to the adjacent commons. ■ Areas of ancient farmland, including traditional field patterns around Penn Common. ■ A pastoral landscape of Parliamentary fields on the outer edges of the area. ■ Ancient deciduous woodlands, some of which have been assarted since the medieval period, including wood pasture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unenclosed common heathland supporting acid grassland, patches of heather and clumps of Scots Pine which are valued landscape features. ■ Areas of New Forest lawn, grazed by commoners' livestock. ■ Some enclosed heaths – forming the northern fringe of Penn Common. ■ Mixed inclosure plantations on areas of heathland in the east of the area (e.g. Foxbury Plantation). ■ Small area of designed Historic Parkland at Paultons Park. |
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Relevant designations relating to positive landscape attributes

Key landscape features	Relevant designations
Enclosed wooded estates comprising heathland and pine/oak plantations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Parts of Clovenhill Plantation fall within the New Forest SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.
Linear settlements with a pattern of ancient rectilinear paddocks, with a close relationship to the open commons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Furzley lies within the Forest Central North Conservation Area.
Areas of ancient farmland, including historic fields around Penn Common.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part is designated as a SINC. ■ Forms part of the Forest Central North Conservation Area.
A pastoral landscape of parliamentary fields on the outer edges of the area.	N/A
Ancient deciduous woodlands, some of which have been assarted since the medieval period, including wood pasture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 'Bramshaw Commons' and parts of Clovenhill Plantation fall within the New Forest SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.
Unenclosed common heathland supporting acid grassland, patches of heather and clumps of Scots Pine which are valued landscape features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 'Bramshaw Commons' and parts of Clovenhill Plantation fall within the New Forest SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site. ■ Parts of Hamptworth Common are within the New Forest SSSI. ■ Penn Common is part of the Forest Central North Conservation Area.
Areas of New Forest lawn, grazed by commoners' livestock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 'Bramshaw Commons' fall within the New Forest SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.
Some enclosed heaths – forming the northern fringe of Penn Common.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SINC at Lampards Farm and Wicksmoor.
Mixed inclosure plantations on areas of heathland in the east of the area (e.g. Foxbury Plantation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The plantations around Half Moon Common fall within the New Forest SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.
Small area of designed Historic Parkland at Paultons Park.	N/A

B. LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Current condition

Landscape structure: This is a landscape with historic origins and structure. Mosaics of common heathland, deciduous woodland and traditional field patterns are still intact although plantations have changed the structure of the landscape and modern infrastructure including roads and power lines have cut across it. The Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type has largely retained its structure of distinctive rectilinear paddocks, although it has been subject to infill development and changes in land use have replaced some of the small paddocks. Hedgerow loss has altered the structure of some of the pastoral areas in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland/Woodland landscape types and vegetation growth, along with the presence of large electricity pylons, has changed the structure of the open heathlands. Although Paultons Park has been developed as a theme park, the historic landscape largely remains intact with new developments integrated into the historic landscape structure.

Landscape elements: The condition of individual elements in the Heathland landscape type is generally good with a mosaic of different land cover elements and active grazing by commoners' livestock. However, there is evidence of scrub, birch, and bracken encroachment in places. The condition of plantation woodland within the Timber Inclosures/Plantations landscape type is changing – for example some areas of conifer plantation have been removed at Foxbury Plantation for heathland restoration. In the Heath Associated Estates landscape type there is evidence of scrub, birch, rhododendron and bracken encroachment (e.g. rhododendron invasion at Hamptworth Common, birch dominated woodland near Landford). In the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type there is evidence of dereliction of dwellings and loss of traditional boundaries around dwellings. The hedgerows in the Enclosed Farmland/Woodland and Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape types are in a variable state of repair - some sections are overgrown while others are gappy. The condition of hedgerow oaks is also variable.

Landscape change

Key issues and trends

- Further loss or fragmentation of hedgerows is altering the structure of the Ancient Forest Farmlands, by affecting the small-scale field pattern sense of enclosure (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings and Enclosed Farmland/Woodland landscape types).
- Loss of hedgerow oak trees and overgrown lengths of hedgerows altering the structure of the landscape (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland/Woodland landscape types).
- Past planting of conifers on heathland. Clearfell in some locations restoring the original habitat and positively affecting the Heathland and Timber Inclosures/Plantations, and Heath Associated Estates landscape types.
- Changing pests and diseases leading to decline or death of certain tree species.
- Encroachment of birch, bracken, pine and gorse onto areas of heathland, changing its open character (particularly in the Heathland and Timber Inclosures/Plantations landscape types).
- Some woodlands are suffering from a lack of active management, leading to an even age structure and species range, and invasion by species such as rhododendron and birch (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland/Woodland landscape types).
- Expansion of coniferous and non-native species in private gardens is eroding the rural character of the area (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
- Replacement of native hedgerows or open roadside property curtilages with impermeable and suburban boundary treatments e.g. close board fencing and ornamental brick walls is eroding the rural character of the landscape (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
- Encroachment of settlement onto commons is changing the traditional character of the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings and Heathland landscape types.
- Proliferation of signage of a variety of styles and colours is eroding the rural character of the

landscape (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type and the Enclosed Farmland/Woodland type).

- Visual intrusion of the main A36 carriageway, with associated modern development is encroaching into the northern part of the character area.
- A sand and gravel extraction site, just outside the National Park by Landford Manor, is visible from within the LCA north of Landford.
- Pound Bottom to the south of the LCA is a major landfill site.

C. LANDSCAPE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (LQOS) / STRATEGY

Vision

A landscape of grazed open commons comprising heathland habitats, semi-natural woodlands and clumps of character Scots Pines which are valued landscape features, forming a mosaic with wood pasture comprising oak and beech pollards which enable strong visual and physical connections to the wider Forest. Traditional patterns of fields fringing the commons are bounded by a strong network of well managed hedgerows with frequent hedgerow oaks. Inclosure woodlands are dominated by broadleaved species, and are well integrated into their historic landscape setting. It is a landscape with unmarked rural lanes, scattered low density linear settlements, and a unified vernacular building style.

Overall Landscape Strategy

The priority in this landscape character area is to **protect** the positive landscape attributes valued within it. This will require active protection.

This should be accompanied by a strategy to **manage** the landscape to improve those attributes that are in poorer condition to improve overall quality.

Management guidelines number
(as per following table LCA 10)

Future landscape management guidelines

Field patterns and boundary features

1. Protect the mosaic of small scale fields bounded by well-managed hedgerows with a healthy stock of hedgerow oaks to reinforce historic landscape character (particularly in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland/Woodland landscape types).

Biodiversity

2. Protect the mosaic of heathland habitats through grazing and restoration work, including a gradual restructuring of conifer plantations to heathland and controlling levels of bracken and other invasive species (particularly in the Heathland and Heath Associated Estates landscape types) in line with the New Forest SAC plan.

3. Protect areas of wood pasture and ancient commons, particularly through grazing by commoners' stock. Protect the edge of commons from settlement encroachment in line with relevant HLS agreements.

Forestry and woodlands

4. Protect and manage the landscape's semi-natural ancient woodlands (including assarted woodlands) to maintain a diverse age structure and species range and control the spread of birch and rhododendron (particularly in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland/Woodland landscape types).
5. Manage and enhance the species- and age-diversity of the area's mixed plantations. Gradually move towards a greater proportion of broadleaf species through replanting. Climate change and disease will have an impact on the balance of species.

Development and settlement edge

6. Protect the pattern of small linear settlements and scattered smallholdings and dwellings – maintaining the rural character of the landscape with, for example, property boundaries of native hedgerows or railings rather than suburban close-board fencing, external lighting kept to a minimum and selection of deciduous species rather than ornamental conifers on garden boundaries (particularly in the Heath Associated

- Smallholdings and Dwellings and Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape types).
7. Protect the strong functional and visual links between the linear settlements and their landscape setting and manage common grazing to maintain the character of these settlements.
 8. Protect the rural network of narrow lanes and residual commons – including keeping signage to a minimum and reducing street lighting (particularly in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
 9. Protect the landscape from increased noise / visual impacts from the sand and gravel extraction site outside the National Park (near Landford Manor) and inside the National Park

at Pound Bottom. For example, through woodland planting.

10. Refer to the Central Forest North Conservation Area Appraisal for details on historic landscape setting, layout and plan form of the historic settlements, and architectural styles, materials and detailing of buildings within these settlements.

Historic landscapes and features

11. Protect and manage the historic features associated with Paultons Park – particularly the Capability Brown landscaped gardens and tree avenues.

Summary table LCA 10 showing landscape issues and guidelines by Landscape Type

Landscape type	Summary of issue	Management guidelines (number)
Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings	Loss and fragmentation of hedgerows and hedgerow trees affecting historic field patterns.	1
	Spread of development onto common land.	3,8,10
	Proliferation of unsympathetic signage in the landscape.	8,10
	Spread of development associated with the A36.	8,10
Heathland	Past conifer planting on areas of open heathland.	2,5
	Encroachment of secondary woodland, bracken and gorse on open heath.	2,3
	Spread of development onto common land.	3,8,11
Timber Inclosures / Plantations	Past conifer planting on areas of open heathland.	2,4
	Encroachment of secondary woodland, bracken and gorse on open heath.	2,3
Ancient Forest Farmlands	Loss and fragmentation of hedgerows and hedgerow trees affecting historic field patterns.	1
	Lack of woodland management, leading to birch and rhododendron incursion.	4
Heath Associated Estates	Past conifer planting on areas of open heathland.	2,5
	Encroachment of secondary woodland, bracken and gorse on open heath.	2,3
	Spread of development onto common land.	3,8,11
	Visibility of a minerals extraction site (outside the National Park).	9
Enclosed Farmland / Woodland	Loss and fragmentation of hedgerows and hedgerow trees affecting historic field patterns.	1
	Lack of woodland management, leading to birch and rhododendron incursion.	4
	Proliferation of unsympathetic signage in the landscape.	8,10
	Spread of development associated with the A36.	8,10
ALL – LANDSCAPE-WIDE ISSUES	Development pressure (National Park-wide issue).	6,8,9,10

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LCA 10: WEST WELLOW HEATHS AND COMMONS

Pigs during the pannage season,
Half Moon Common

