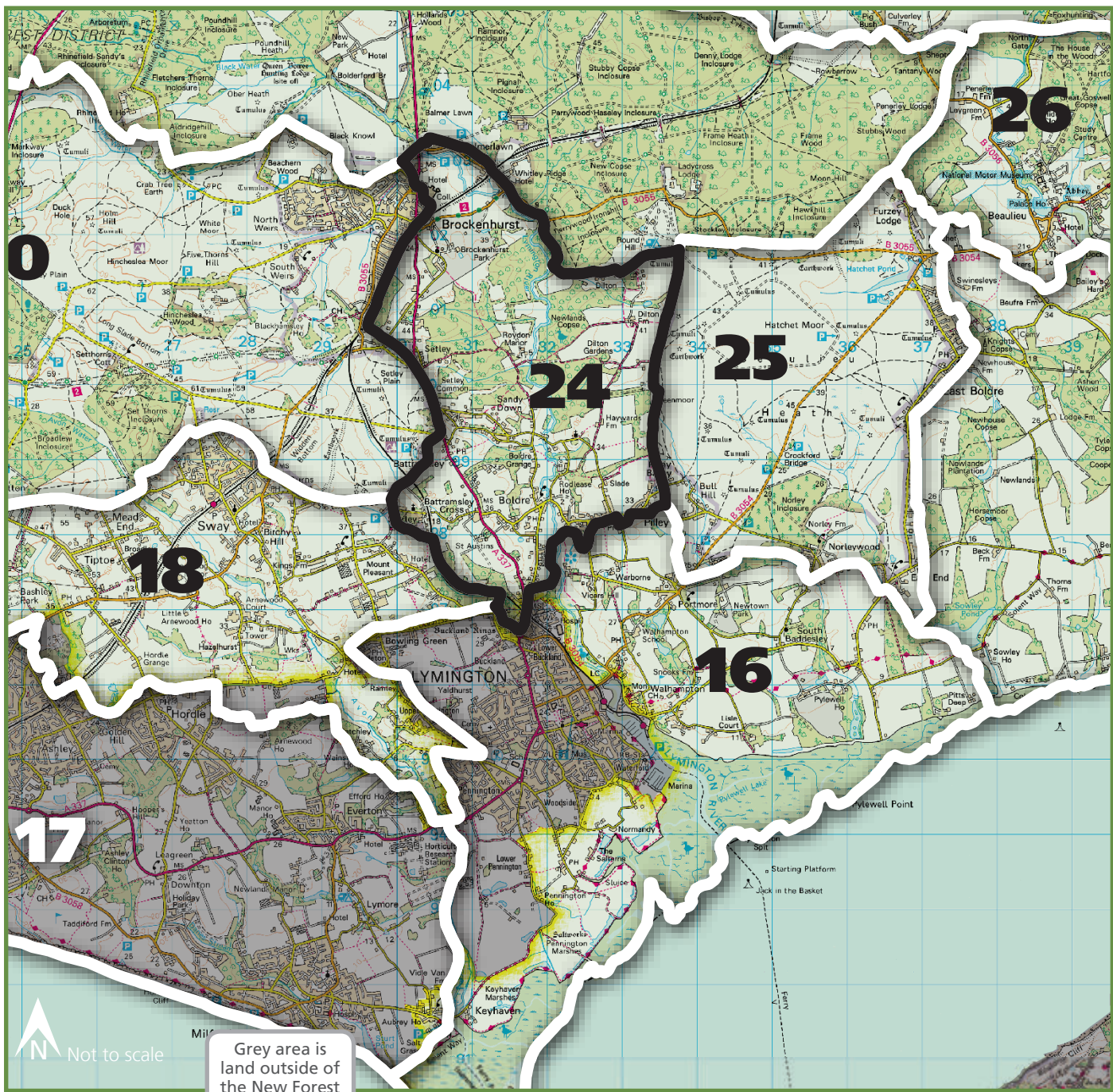




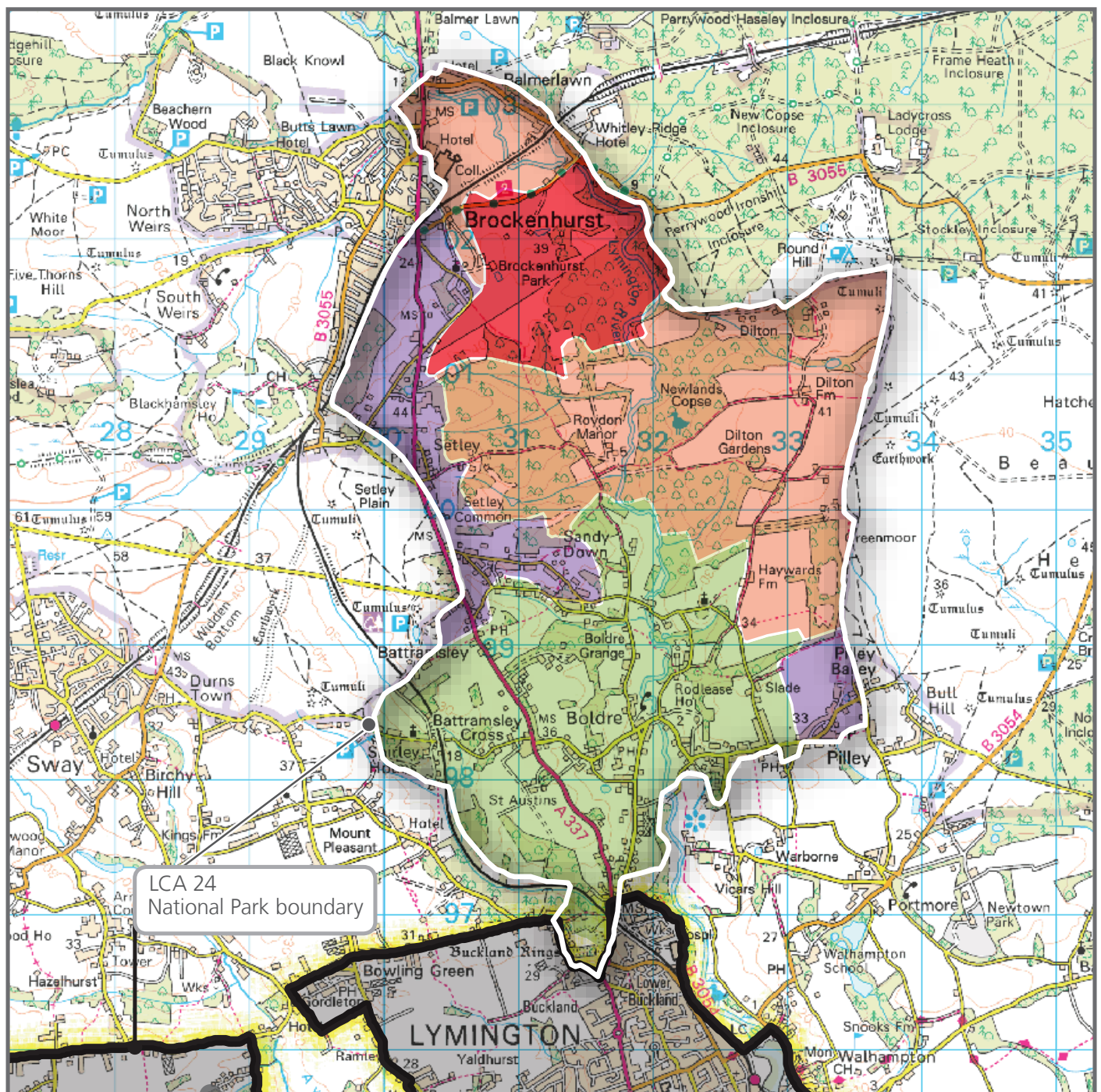
Historic parkland, Brockenhurst Park

LCA 24: LYMINGTON RIVER

Location of LCA in the National Park



Component landscape types within LCA 24



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Not to scale

Area in shadow- outside National Park

- 6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
- 7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
- 13. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland
- 21. Historic Parkland

All of this LCA lies within the New Forest National Park.

A. LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

Key landscape characteristics

- Broad enclosed wooded area of former heathland and commons containing the course of the Lymington River and Brockenhurst Park.
- Ancient woodland, timber plantations and pockets of farmland defined by woodland edges and hedge lines.
- Enclosed former commons at Setley and Dilton.
- Settlements of Setley, Dilton, Pilley Bailey, Shirley Holms and Sandy Down with strong commoning associations.
- Dwellings and smallholdings loosely clustered around a mown village green.
- Extensive recent modern residential development along leafy lanes.
- Narrow, winding shady lanes cross the intimate landscape of the steep sided valley.
- Views are short and enclosed by woodland and hedgerows.

Component landscape types

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

6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
13. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland
21. Historic Parkland

Key positive landscape attributes

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assorted woods and copses linked by a dense network of hedgerows and tree lines. ■ Ancient fields and smallholdings reinforcing historic character, particularly in the south. ■ Heath character, including both open and enclosed commons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lymington River fringed by a mosaic of mixed farmland, parkland and grassland. ■ Winding leafy lanes linking dispersed settlements, historically focused on village greens. ■ Local vernacular of red brick with thatch or tile; weatherboarding is also characteristic. |
|---|--|

Relevant designations relating to positive landscape attributes

Key landscape features	Relevant designations
Assorted woods and copses linked by a dense network of hedgerows and tree lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Roydon Woods are designated as SSSIs and lie within the New Forest SAC. ■ Many copses are SINC.
Ancient fields and smallholdings reinforcing historic character, particularly in the south.	N/A
Heathy character, including both open and enclosed commons.	N/A
Lymington River fringed by a mosaic of mixed farmland, parkland and grassland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The river corridor is designated as a SSSI, and its northern sections fall within the New Forest SSSI. ■ Some of the meadows alongside the river are SINC. ■ Brockenhurst Park is on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens and is designated as a SINC.
Winding leafy lanes linking dispersed settlements, historically focused on village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boldre is within the Forest South East Conservation Area.
Local vernacular of red brick with thatch or tile; weatherboarding is characteristic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boldre is within the Forest South East Conservation Area. ■ There are a number of Listed Buildings scattered across the LCA.
Designed landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brockenhurst Park is listed on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens.

B. LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Current condition

Landscape structure: This landscape has historic origins still strongly visible today through the presence of intact mosaics of ancient fields, assarted woodlands, copses, historic parkland and remnant heathland commons. This ancient structure has been affected incrementally by land use changes and development pressure with a loss of hedgerows and consequential dilution of historic field patterns in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland and Woodland landscape types. In addition, fragmentation of the hedgerow network and its important ecological and visual links to areas of woodland, enclosure of commons within the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type and subsequent lack of grazing, all impact on the open landscape character. A peripheral spread of modern development outside settlements is affecting their historic, clustered form in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape types. In general, however, new development has been well integrated into its landscape setting: set back from the road and often framed by woodland planting.

Landscape elements: This is a landscape with a strong New Forest character made up of key elements which remain present today. Ancient paddocks within the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type continue to be grazed by commoners' stock, although some have been enlarged with changes in land use. Historic woods and copses are strong features of the Enclosed Farmland and Woodland landscape type, some of which have declined in condition through the planting of conifers and a lack of active management. Although not prominent in the landscape, modern development has crept into the area using non-vernacular styles and materials (particularly in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape types). This has diluted the strong red brick character of the built form, so characteristic of this part of the National Park.

Landscape change

Key issues and trends

- Loss of, or over-mature condition of hedgerow oaks along with replacement of hedgerows with fencing is impacting on the area's wooded ecological networks and ancient field patterns (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Enclosed Farmland and Woodland landscape types).
- Loss of ancient field patterns and traditional mixed agricultural land uses (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape types).
- Past conifer planting breaking up the form and composition of the landscape's valued semi-natural woodlands (particularly in the Enclosed Farmland and Woodland landscape type).
- Changing pests and diseases leading to decline or death of certain tree species.
- A decline in the age and species diversity of the area's woodlands and copses, including a lack of traditional management (in the Enclosed Farmland and Woodland and Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape types).
- Past enclosure of commons leading to a decline in heathland management through a lack of grazing, with a spread of birch, bracken and gorse. These are important forest-edge habitats which provide visual and ecological links to the nearby Open Forest (in the Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape type).
- Spread of modern development along roads leading to settlement coalescence and impacting on the traditional clustered character of the landscape's villages and hamlets. Overhead cables are detracting features within many settlements (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape types).
- Use of non-vernacular building styles and materials eroding the historic sense of place and character of the area's historic settlements. This includes the use of unsympathetic property boundaries – such as close-board fencing and ornamental shrubbery (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings landscape types).

C. LANDSCAPE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (LQOS) / STRATEGY

Vision

A traditional New Forest landscape displaying its historic origins through a pattern of small historic settlements. These are set within a framework of well managed ancient woodlands and copses, historic parkland, grazed open commons, mixed agricultural fields and ancient paddocks used for grazing which are linked by a complete network of lush hedgerows with frequent oak trees. Commons are open in character and grazed by commoners' livestock. Woodlands and copses contain a diverse age and species range of broad-leaves with a rich ground flora and the river is fringed by grazed meadows and parkland with veteran trees. Clustered settlements centred on village greens display their distinctive red brick vernacular and are linked by quiet leafy lanes.

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 24)

Future landscape management guidelines

Field patterns and boundary features

1. Manage and protect a healthy stock of hedgerow oaks, to preserve these important landscape features.
2. Protect and strengthen the landscape's ancient small scale field patterns, bounded by a well-managed hedgerow network to reinforce the historic origins of the area.

Forestry and woodlands

3. Plan for the gradual restoration of conifers with broadleaf species within the area's valued semi-natural woodlands. Where appropriate, restore coppice management to ensure a varied age-range and structure of the landscape's assorted woodlands and copses.

Agricultural land use and biodiversity

4. Protect the stock of land available for grazing, and maintain grazing levels on the area's pockets of heathland by commoners' stock.
5. Protect the open and unenclosed character of the landscape's remaining commons, maintaining their use for the grazing of commoners' livestock. Manage and remove areas of secondary woodland, particularly birch, from the remaining areas of common land to enhance their open character.

Historic landscapes and features

6. Manage and protect the historic Brockenhurst Park, including grazing of wood pasture and the protection of veteran trees.

Development and settlement edge

7. Protect the clustered form and dispersed, rural character of historic villages centred on greens, including avoiding the spread of development along roadsides.
8. Protect the network of rural, leafy lanes by reducing levels of signage and street lighting, and encouraging sensitive road engineering works where required.
9. Protect and enhance the rural character of the landscape's historic villages, with property boundaries of native-species hedgerows or locally sourced timber fencing, rather than more suburban boundary treatments (e.g. close board fencing).
10. Refer to the Forest South East Conservation Area Appraisal for details on historic landscape setting, layout and plan form of the historic settlement of Boldre, and for information on architectural styles, materials and detailing of buildings within this settlement.

Summary table LCA 24 showing landscape issues and guidelines by Landscape Type

Landscape type	Summary of issue	Management guidelines (number)
Enclosed Farmland and Woodland	Loss of or over-mature hedgerow oaks; replacement of hedgerows with fencing.	1,2
	Past conifer planting in semi-natural woodlands.	3
	Decline in age and species diversity of ancient woodlands.	3
Ancient Forest Farmlands	Loss of or over-mature hedgerow oaks; replacement of hedgerows with fencing.	1,2
	Subdivision of fields.	4
	Decline in age and species diversity of ancient woodlands.	3
	Spread of modern development along roads.	7,8
	Use of non-vernacular building styles and materials, including for property boundaries.	9,10
Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings	Subdivision of fields.	4
	Past enclosure of commons; spread of birch, bracken and scrub.	5
	Spread of modern development along roads.	7,8
	Use of non-vernacular building styles and materials, including for property boundaries.	9,10
Historic Parkland	No identified issues.	6
ALL – LANDSCAPE-WIDE ISSUES	Development pressure (National Park-wide issue).	7,8

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LCA 24: LYMINGTON RIVER

Traditional back-up pastures, Sandy Down



Historic parkland, Brockenhurst Park

