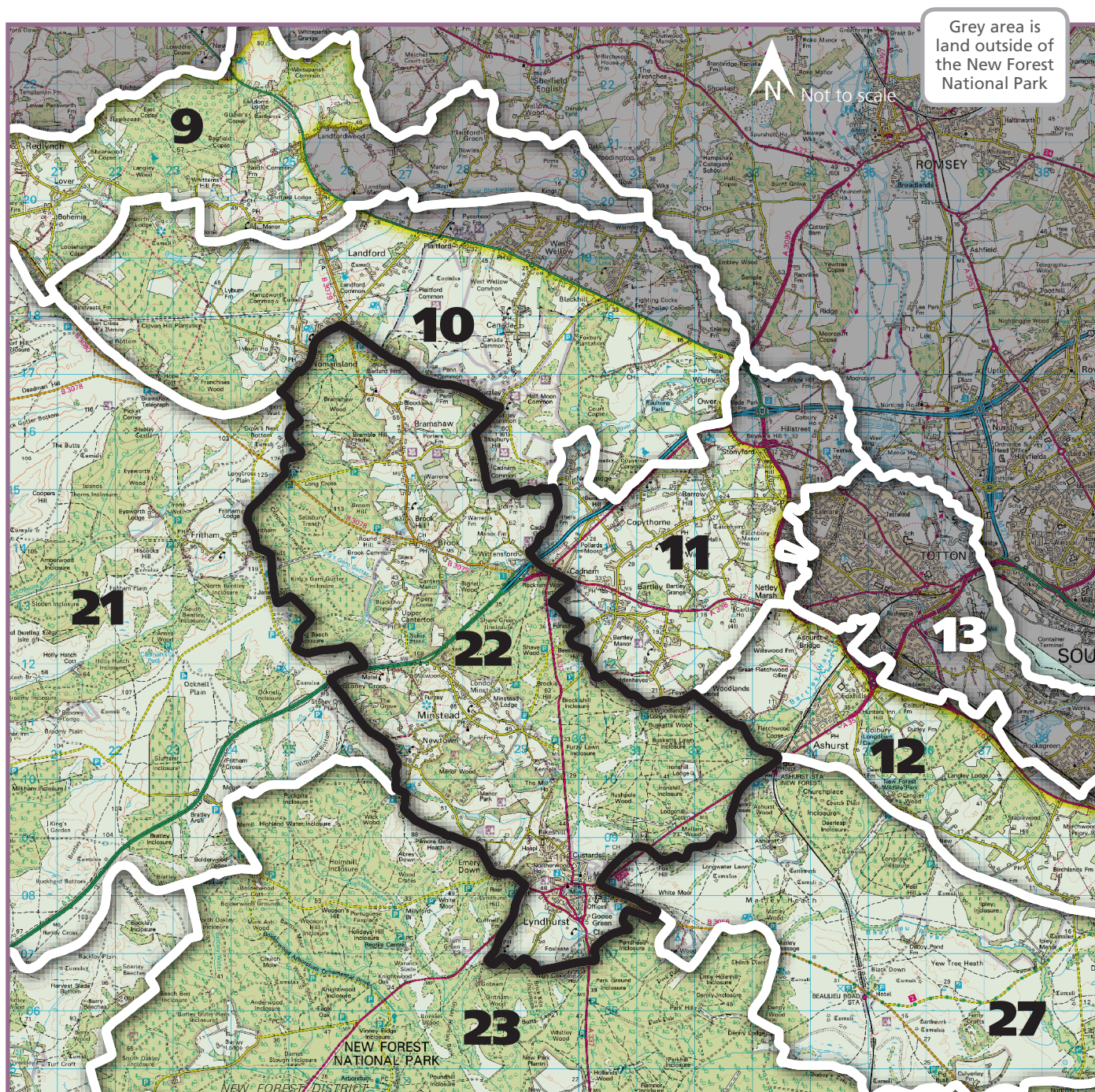




## LCA 22: FURZEY WOODLAND AND VILLAGES

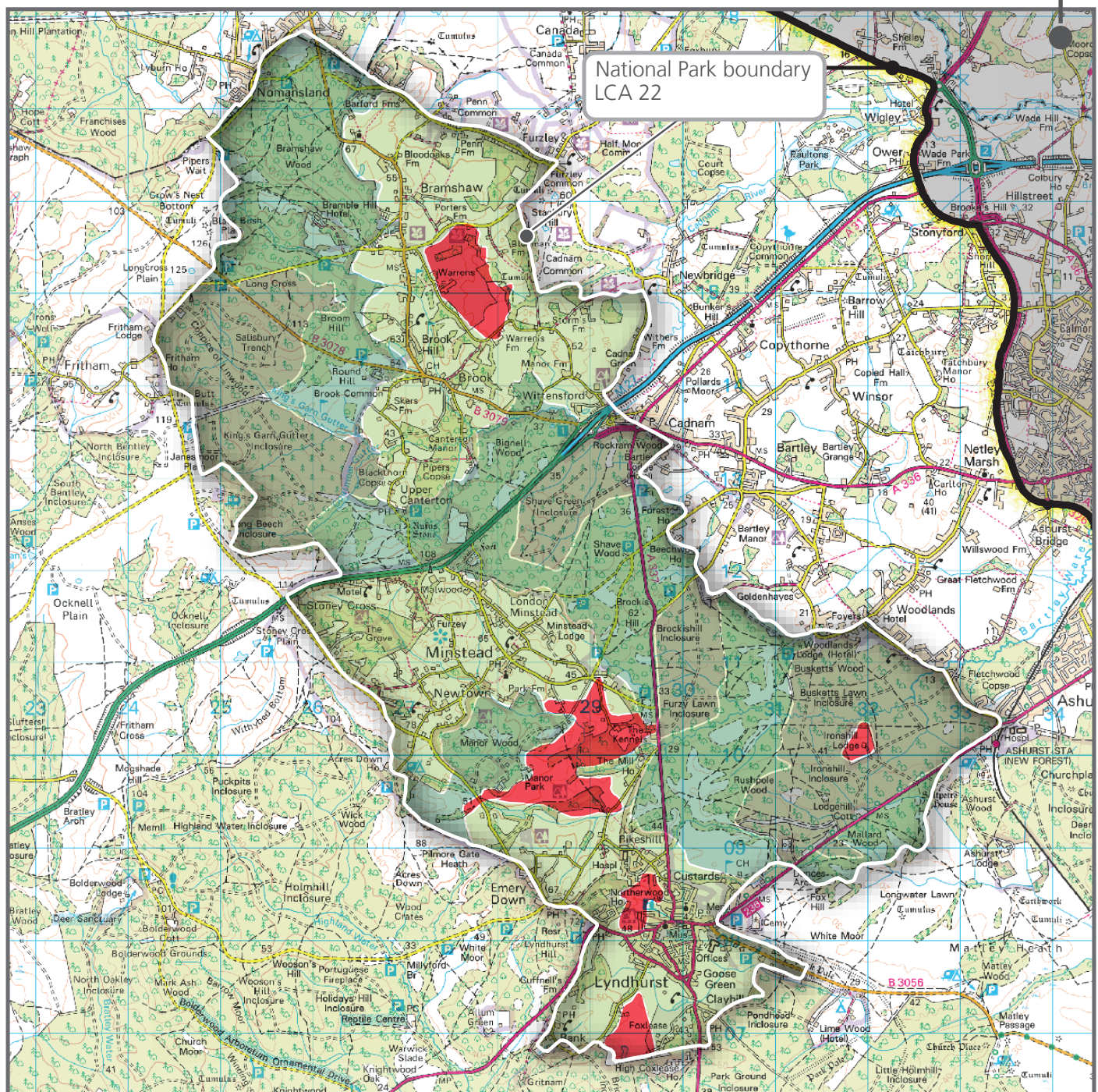
### Location of LCA in the National Park





## Component landscape types within LCA 22

Area in shadow- outside National Park



Not to scale

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- 7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
- 18. Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands
- 19. Timber Inclosures/Plantations
- 21. Historic Parkland

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

## A. LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

### Key landscape characteristics

- Gently undulating landscape on the eastern edge of the Forest drained by several small watercourses which flow east into Southampton Water.
- Pockets of enclosed farmland with small loosely clustered villages focused around a village green such as Bramshaw, Minstead, Brook and Newtown.
- Wide grass verges and commons grazed by freely roaming New Forest ponies and cattle.
- Large areas of ancient and ornamental deciduous woodland and oak and beech plantation in enclosures between the village clearings.
- Lyndhurst, forms a central hub of activity where a number of communication routes and character areas converge, providing a good base for visitors to explore the New Forest.
- Communication routes are of two types; winding leafy lanes through settled areas and dead straight roads across wooded areas. The A31 (T) creates a barrier to movement between the north and the south.
- There are a variety of architectural styles, ages and sizes including 18th and 19th century buildings, giving the feeling of a gradual evolution of a rural community over many centuries.
- The church steeple at Lyndhurst creates a visual landmark and the Rufus Stone is a significant local historic feature.
- Cars, car parks, campsites, people and picnic sites are features of the landscape today.
- Changes in the level of landscape allow unexpected views, sometimes over surprisingly long distances.

### Component landscape types

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

7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
18. Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands
19. Timber Inclosures/Plantations
21. Historic Parkland

### Key positive landscape attributes

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Large areas of Ancient and Ornamental woodland and oak and beech plantations.</li> <li>■ Wide grass verges, commons, wood pasture and lawns grazed by free-roaming livestock.</li> <li>■ Clustered villages centred on a village green and framed by small traditional fields.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A variety of architectural styles, ages and sizes including 18th and 19th century buildings, gives a feeling of a gradual evolution of a rural community over many centuries.</li> <li>■ Important historic feature of the Rufus Stone.</li> <li>■ Historic designed parkland with veteran trees, including Manor Park.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**Relevant designations relating to positive landscape attributes**

Key landscape features	Relevant designations
Large areas of Ancient and Ornamental woodland and oak and beech plantations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The majority of the woodlands fall under the New Forest SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations.</li> <li>■ Some of the woodlands are designated as SINCs.</li> </ul>
Wide grass verges, commons, wood pasture and lawns grazed by free-roaming livestock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Over half of the LCA falls under the New Forest SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations.</li> </ul>
Clustered villages centred on a village green and framed by small agricultural fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Forest Central North and Central South Conservation Areas cover many of the LCA's settlements.</li> </ul>
A variety of architectural styles, ages and sizes including 18th and 19th century buildings, gives a feeling of a gradual evolution of a rural community over many centuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Forest North and South Conservation Areas cover many of the LCA's settlements. Bank is also defined as a Conservation Area.</li> <li>■ There are a number of Listed Buildings within the LCA.</li> </ul>
Important historic feature of the Rufus Stone.	N/A
Historic designed parkland with veteran trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Warren's House is a Grade II* listed building.</li> </ul>



## B. LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

### Current condition

**Landscape structure:** This is a landscape with historic origins still seen today in the presence of large Inclosure woods, ancient wood pasture and commons and small, irregular fields around historic settlements. The structure is largely intact, but has been affected in parts of the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type through hedgerow loss and agricultural intensification – causing a dilution of historic field patterns and traditional pastoral character. Varying levels of grazing are leading to scrub encroachment and impacting on the open character of the area's commons and wood pasture (also within parts of the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands landscape type). Varied management schemes affect the character and integrity of the landscape. Recreational and development pressures are also evident – golf courses affect the setting of historic parkland, amenity land use and visitor facilities such as car parks and picnic sites break up the habitat mosaic. The A31, A337 and M27 are physical barriers to movement in this part of the Forest; and 20th century infill development has impacted on the loosely clustered pattern of the area's historic settlements.

**Landscape elements:** Key elements that combine to contribute towards this landscape's character remain present today, although a number of factors are affecting their current condition. Hedgerow and hedgerow tree loss has been prevalent around settlements in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type, fragmenting an important ecological network and wildlife links to semi-natural woodlands. Varying levels of grazing pressure is leading to scrub and tree encroachment on some commons and areas of wood pasture, whereas verges within parts of the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type can be locally poached by concentrated grazing pressure. The condition of the built form has been diluted in some locations through the use of suburban building styles and materials, including close-board fencing as garden boundaries.

### Landscape change

#### *Key issues and trends*

- Loss of hedgerows and hedgerow oaks due to field enlargement and intensification, impacting on the historic field patterns of the landscape and causing a loss of valued historic and ecological features as well as links to woodlands (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).
- Overgrazing of verges and hedges and varying levels of grazing on some common areas leading to bracken and scrub encroachment.
- An increase in arable fields around settlements, eroding the area's traditional pastoral character and ancient field patterns (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).
- Presence of rhododendron, conifers and other exotics within the landscape's valued Ancient and Ornamental woodlands (in the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands landscape type).
- Past loss of wood pasture to conifer plantations within the Inclosures (in the Timber Inclosures/ Plantations landscape type).
- Changing pests and diseases leading to decline or death of certain tree species.
- Replacement of historic beech and oak Inclosures with 20th century conifer planting. Scrub and rhododendron encroachment further decreasing their biodiversity value (in the Timber Inclosures/ Plantations landscape type).
- Localised poaching in certain locations due to a concentration of commoners' stock for example around Bramshaw and erosion of verges due to parking and vehicle over-run (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).

- Golf courses, including that on the edge of the historic Warren's Park, modify the landscape's historic character and land use (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands and Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands landscape types impacting on the Historic Parkland landscape type).
- Some areas of recreational horse keeping present within the agricultural landscape, which potentially impact on the traditional availability of land for grazing (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).
- Busy road corridors, particularly the A31 and the start of the M27, are prominent physical barriers to movement in this landscape and produce significant local impacts on levels of tranquillity.
- Piecemeal loss of hedgerows marking the boundary of residential properties, including replacement with close board fencing (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).
- Some areas of modern development are out of keeping with local vernacular styles and materials, particularly on the edge of the busy centre of Lyndhurst. Overhead cables often detract from the historic character of the area's villages (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).

## C. LANDSCAPE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (LQOS) / STRATEGY

### Vision

A varied New Forest landscape which demonstrates its historic origins through interlinked habitat mosaics and historic settlements. The landscape's historic plantations and Inclosure woodlands contain a greater proportion of broadleaved species set within a mosaic of wood pasture and open glades; whilst the area's valued ancient and ornamental woodlands have a range of different age of trees with ancient and veteran oaks, beech and holly. Wide grass verges, commons, wood pasture and lawns are grazed by commoners' livestock as a continuing forest tradition. Historic parkland with veteran trees stands out as a feature within the landscape. Villages retain their clustered form with a variety of architectural styles, ages and sizes.

### 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 22)

### Future landscape management guidelines

#### *Field patterns and boundary features*

1. Protect and replace hedgerow oaks as important landscape features. Reduce grazing pressure on some verges and hedges.
2. Protect and strengthen the landscape's small scale fields, bounded by well managed hedgerows to reflect the historic origins of the landscape. Strengthen and restore ecological/ visual links between the hedgerow network and areas of woodland (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).

#### *Agricultural land use*

3. Balance grazing pressure on some common areas to avoid bracken and scrub encroachment. Protect and manage commons, verges and wood pasture through common grazing, potentially opening up some of the Inclosures to enhance and restore further areas of wood pasture. Refer to the appropriate Forest Design Plan for further detailed information (in the Timber Inclosures/ Plantations, Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands and Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape types).
4. Protect traditional commoners' smallholdings and the stock of grazing land for commonable animals (In the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).

#### *Forestry and woodlands*

5. Protect and manage the area's important Ancient and Ornamental woodlands, including continued grazing by commoners' stock and rhododendron removal to maintain a diverse age structure and species range.

6. Manage the species- and age-diversity of the area's plantations and Inclosure woodlands – gradually moving towards a greater balance of native broadleaves through selective felling of conifers and natural regeneration. Refer to the appropriate Forest Design Plan for further detailed information (in the Timber Inclosures/ Plantations landscape type).
7. Protect the biodiversity and landscape value of the landscape's semi-natural woodlands, including promoting the planting of native trees and shrubbery in gardens (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).
9. Reduce the visual and noise impact of the A31 and M27 road corridors including allowing vegetation succession along verges.
10. Refer to the Forest Central North, Forest Central South and Bank Conservation Area Character Appraisals 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.

#### *Development and settlement edge*

8. Protect and enhance the rural character of the landscape's historic forest villages, including promoting the use of native hedgerows rather than suburban close board fencing (in the Ancient Forest Farmlands landscape type).

**Summary table LCA 22 showing landscape issues and guidelines by Landscape Type**

Landscape type	Summary of issue	Management guidelines (number)
Ancient Forest Farmlands	Loss of hedgerows and hedgerow oaks through agricultural intensification.	1,2
	Arable intensification around settlements.	1,2
	Some areas of intense grazing pressure on verges.	3
	Recreational horse keeping potentially reducing stock of grazing.	4
	Loss of traditional hedgerow property boundaries.	8
	Some modern development out of keeping with the local vernacular and settlement patterns.	10
Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands	Presence of rhododendron and other exotics.	5,7
Timber Inclosures / Plantations	Past loss of wood pasture to conifer plantations.	6
	Replacement of beech and oak with conifers; scrub and rhododendron encroachment.	6
ALL – LANDSCAPE-WIDE ISSUES	A31 and M27 road corridors intruding into the landscape and eroding levels of tranquillity.	9

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF LCA 22: FURZEY WOODLAND AND VILLAGES**

Grazed verges, Bramshaw



The Rufus Stone

