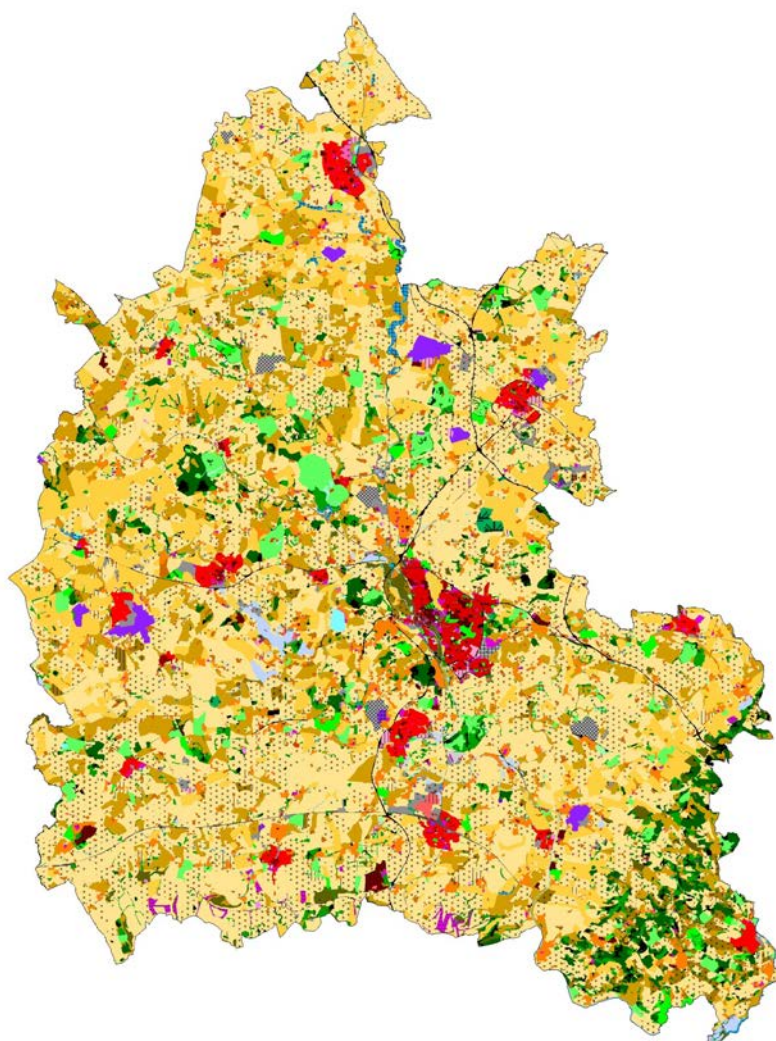


# Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

Full Report



July 2017  
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Oxfordshire County Council

Historic England Project Number: 4659 MAIN



## Chapter 3: The Occurrence and Distribution of Individual Broad and Historic Landscape Character Types

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*for each kind of polygon she gave a colour, or a shade of a colour with or without stipples or hatching so each kind of polygon could be easily identified and she created one hundred and nine different kinds of polygons*

From 'The Legend of Polygonia' by Dr Romola Parish, Poet in Residence.

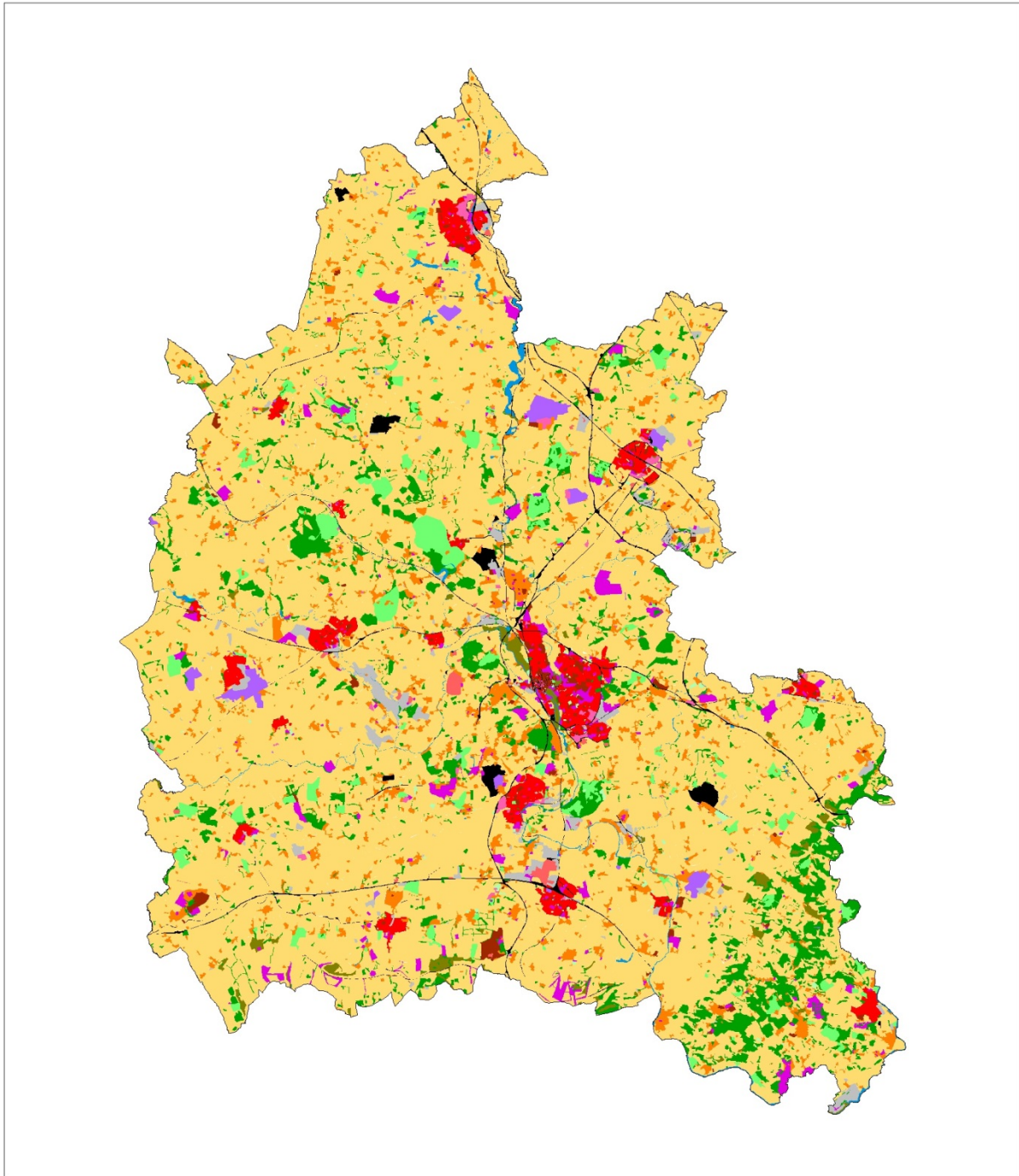
This chapter describes the occurrence and distribution of individual Broad Types and the narrower Historic Landscape Character Types identified across Oxfordshire.
















[3.1 Broad Types](#)

[3.2 Historic Landscape Character Types](#)



### 3.1.3 Broad Type Map



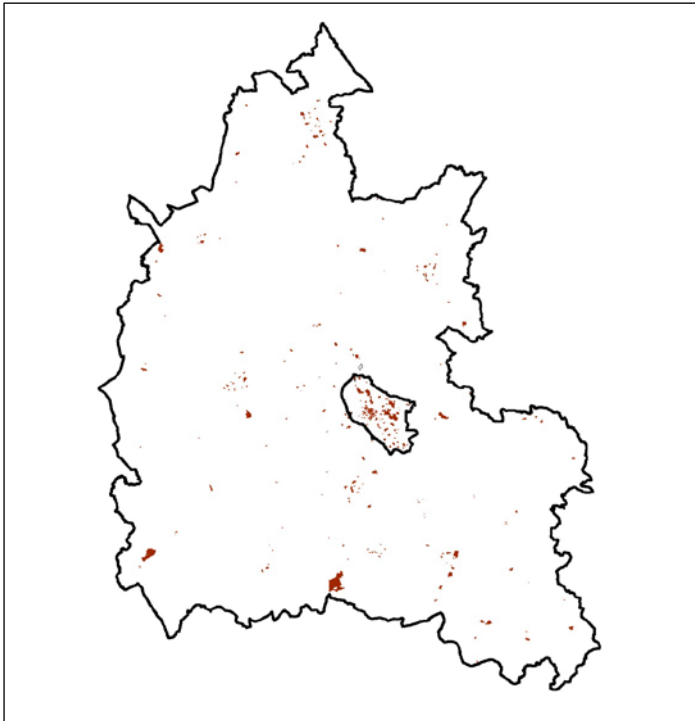
HLC BroadType					
	Civic Amenities		Industry		Rural Settlement
	Civil Provision		Military		Unenclosed Land
	Commercial		Orchards and Horticulture		Urban Settlement
	Communication		Ornamental		Water and Valley Floor
	Enclosure		Recreation		Woodland

The Distribution of Broad Types in Oxfordshire



### Broad Type: Civil Provision

Legend:



**Total Area:** 1862.34 ha (0.7%)

**No. of Polygons:** 951 (5.91%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 2.0 hectares

**Occurrence:** Common

**Definition:** Areas of land which predominantly relate to government or local authority services – education, health, legal, and government – religious and funerary facilities, and the University of Oxford.

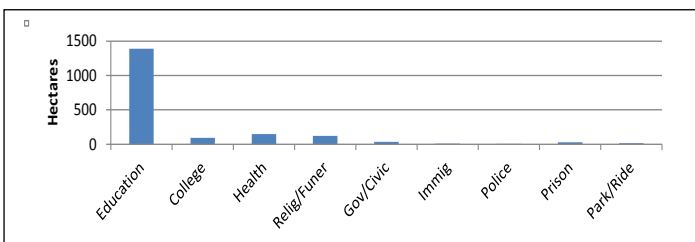


Museum of Natural History, University of Oxford

**Period:** Medieval, Post Medieval, and Modern

**HLC Types:**

- Educational Facility
- Oxford College
- Health Care Facility
- Religious and Funerary
- Government Office and Civic Centre
- Immigration Detention Centre
- Police Station
- Prison
- Park and Ride

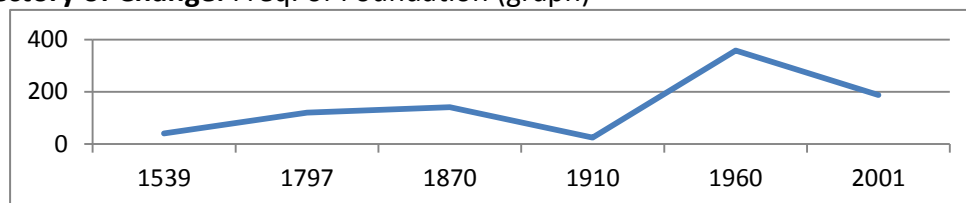




**Description:** Civil Provision includes health, religious and educational facilities, as well as those associated with law and governance. They are, therefore, usually associated with settlements and, whilst they are found across Oxfordshire, they are most common in the county towns and the city of Oxford. Exceptions to this include the Harwell Science and Innovation Centre in a rural location on the southern edge of the county. Educational facilities are far more common than other HLC Types within this category; in part this will reflect the dominance of sites associated with the University of Oxford within Oxford.

**Historic Processes:** This Broad Type originates in Oxfordshire with the founding of the oldest colleges of the University of Oxford and various religious communities from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is steady growth throughout the post-medieval period linked to population and settlement expansion. This accelerates in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the establishment of modern health care, education, and judiciary facilities to service the increasing population.

**Trajectory of Change: Freq. of Foundation (graph)**

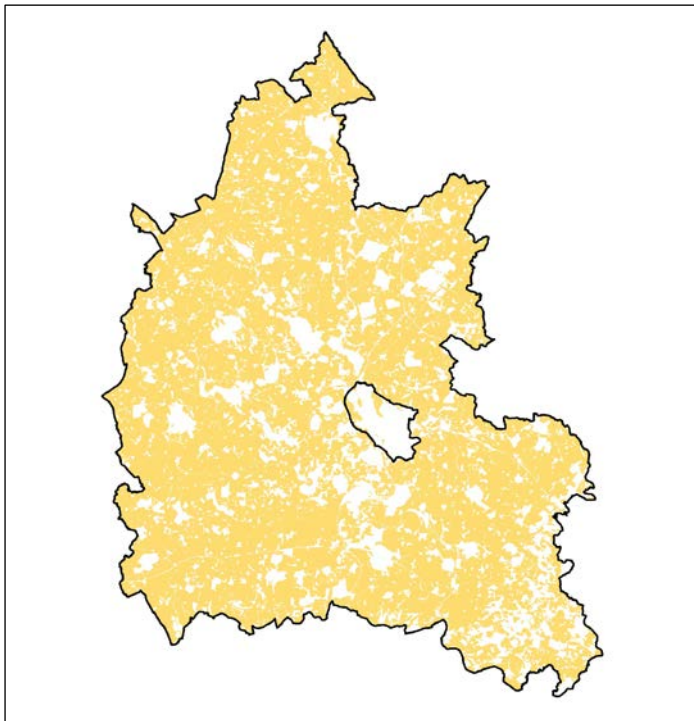


**Factors Influencing Change:** Population and settlement growth has been the main driving factor behind change. To some extent the expansion of the University of Oxford and the world-class hospitals has also played a role. Foundations of this type have slowed since the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but new sites are still being created.



### Broad Type: Enclosure

Legend:



**Total Area:** 191913 ha (73.8%)

**No. of Polygons:** 6335 (39.4%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 30.3 hectares

**Occurrence:** Dominant

**Definition:** Areas of land that are identified as being used primarily for some form of agriculture.

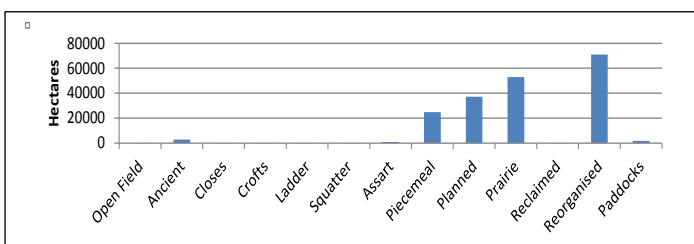
**Period:** Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern

**HLC Types:**

- Open Field System
- Ancient Enclosure
- Closes
- Crofts
- Ladder Field System
- Squatter Enclosure
- Assarted Enclosure
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Planned Enclosure
- Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure
- Reclaimed land
- Reorganised Enclosures
- Paddocks and Stables



Large prairie field south of Dorchester-on-Thames

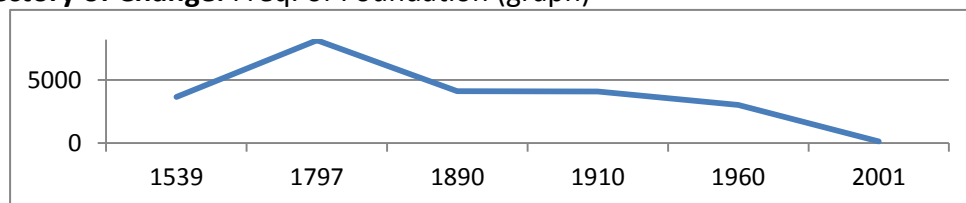




**Description:** This is the predominant type in Oxfordshire, covering around 74% of the total area. Given the nature of this type, Enclosures are most commonly found in rural areas, but some have been recorded within the district of Oxford, on the rural-urban fringe. See discussion of the individual HLC Types for further information.

**Historic Processes:** Enclosure has taken place within Oxfordshire since the medieval period onwards, first as informal Piecemeal Enclosure of Open Fields, heath, and woodland. This process created frequently irregular fields, often with reverse s-shaped boundaries which followed the line of earlier medieval strips. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century a more formal process of enclosure took place, often directed by an Act of Parliament. This created more rectilinear fields which enclosed most of the remaining land and reorganised some of the earlier fields. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, fields were reorganised again by the removal of boundaries to create large Amalgamated Enclosures suitable for modern farming requirements and techniques.

**Trajectory of Change: Freq. of Foundation (graph)**

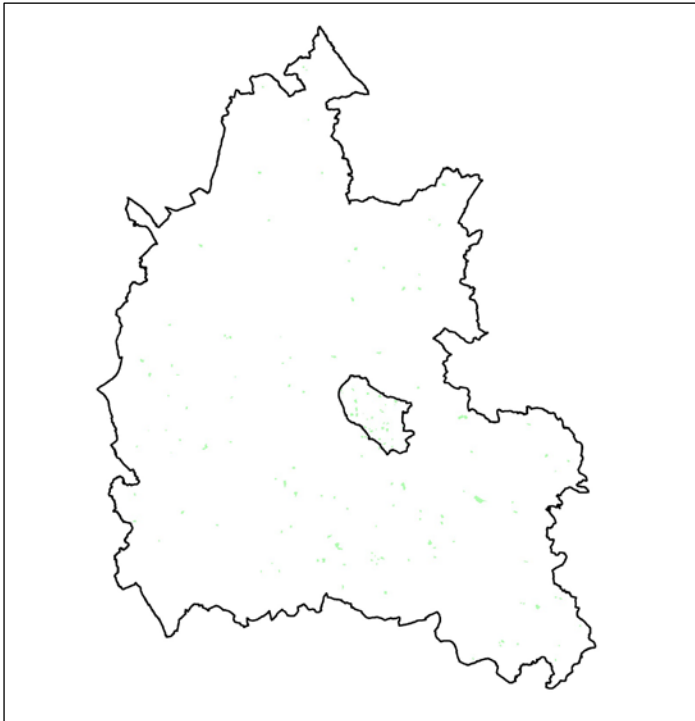


**Factors Influencing Change:** The development of fields relates to the intensification of farming to meet the requirements of expanding populations in the medieval through to the modern period. There is likely to have been some loss of enclosure due to settlement and industrial expansion and the creation of Woodland Plantations during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.



### Broad Type: Orchards and Horticulture

Legend:



**Total Area:** 593.64 ha (0.2%)

**No. of Polygons:** 182 (1.13%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 3.3 hectares

**Occurrence:** Rare

**Definition:** Areas of land identified as some form of small-scale horticulture.

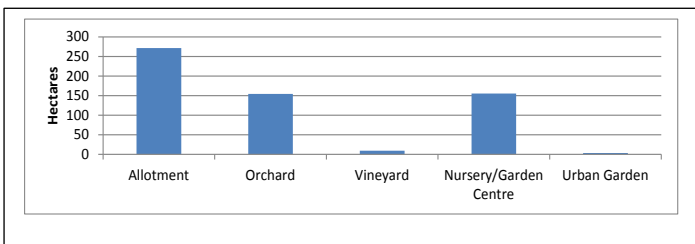
**Period:** Post-Medieval, Modern

**HLC Types:**

- Allotment
- Orchard
- Vineyard
- Nursery/Garden Centre
- Urban Garden



Private orchard in Great Milton



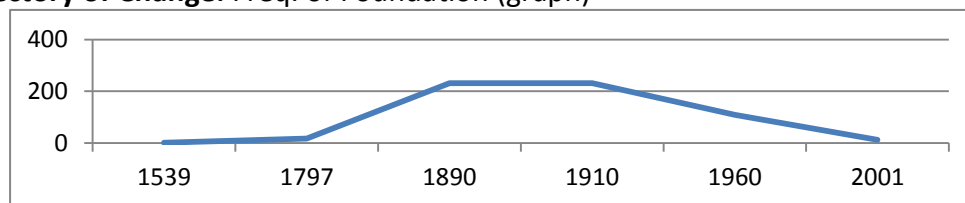




**Description:** Orchards and horticultural sites include Allotments, Orchards, Vineyards, Garden Centres, and Urban Gardens growing produce for market. Sites tend to be small, but occur with some frequency throughout Oxfordshire, with slightly fewer identified in the north of the county than elsewhere. There is a concentration of these sites, particularly Allotments, within the district of Oxford. These types tend to be associated with settlements and are usually found both within and on the edge of built-up areas.

**Historic Processes:** Most of these sites date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century and relate to small-scale horticulture by individuals or communities. Earlier examples of this type did exist in Oxfordshire, but have rarely been recorded by this project due to the nature of the 18<sup>th</sup> century maps used, which often did not record such small units of land. Allotments increased in popularity in the early-mid twentieth century in relation to the World Wars and have since seen a decline. Similarly, Orchards were a more common feature historically, and a number of the Oxfordshire examples date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. At this time most villages had their own Orchard. Some of these community Orchards survive, such as those at Wolvercote and Great Milton. Nurseries/Garden Centres and Vineyards tend to be 20<sup>th</sup> century phenomena.

**Trajectory of Change: Freq. of Foundation (graph)**

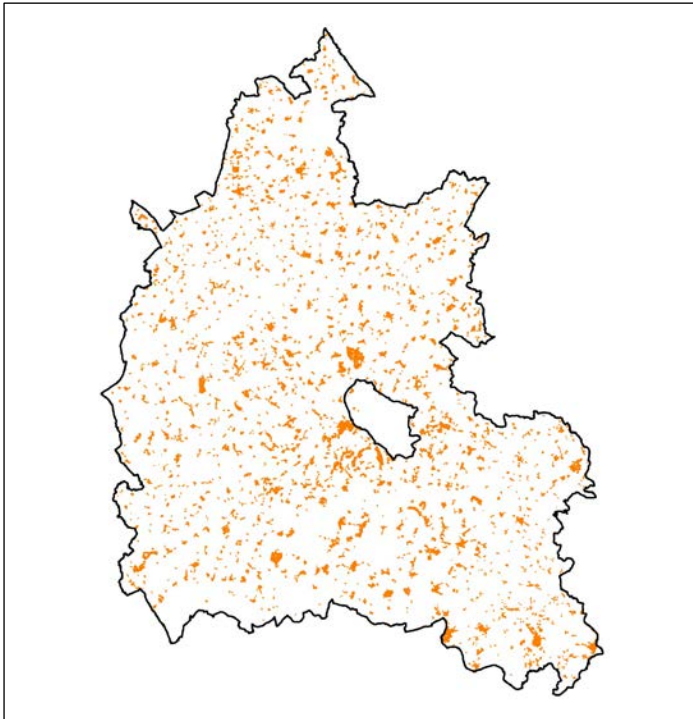


**Factors Influencing Change:** Popularity of these sites in the main relates to the need or desire of individuals and communities to grow their own food. Increases in the 20<sup>th</sup> century relate to the World Wars, but continued use throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century relates to increased concerns for sustainability, local produce, and environmental impact. Garden Centres are also increasing, reflecting desire for garden spaces and increased residential development.



### Broad Type: Rural Settlement

Legend:



**Total Area:** 15991.1 ha (6.1%)

**No. of Polygons:** 2702 (16.8%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 5.9 hectares

**Occurrence:** Common

**Definition:** An area of land identified as part of a village or hamlet, a country house, or a farmstead.

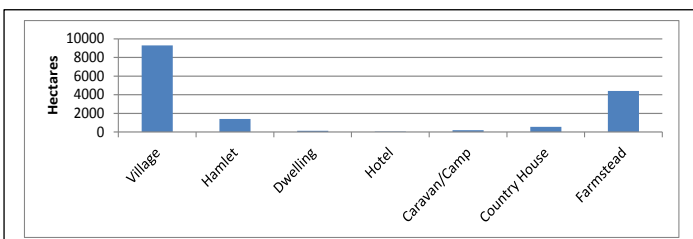
**Period:** Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern

**HLC Types:**

- Village
- Hamlet
- Dwelling
- Hotel
- Caravan/Chalet/Camping
- Country House
- Farmstead



Castle Farm, Denton

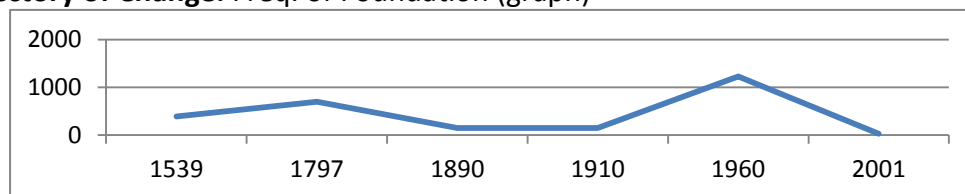




**Description:** Rural settlement includes land within Villages and Hamlets along with isolated Farmsteads, Country Houses, and Dwellings larger than one hectare. This type is found throughout Oxfordshire and is characteristic of this largely rural county. There is a concentration of larger Villages in the area surrounding Oxford, including Kidlington and the joined villages of Cumnor and Botley. Conversely small Villages and Hamlets dot the rural landscapes such as those along the River Thames in the west of the valley – Radcot, Chimney, and Shifford, for example – and on the Cotswolds Plateau to the north – Epwell, Balscote, and Shutford being good examples.

**Historic Processes:** Rural settlements are often some of the oldest parts of the Oxfordshire landscape, with the cores of some Villages, like Standlake and Crawley, dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries and, in some cases even earlier. Some of these earlier settlements, like Chimney, have shrunk in size since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and now survive as only a cluster of houses and a farm. Farmsteads within these settlements, on the whole, tend to predate those in isolated positions. These farms located away from settlement, such as Lower Dornford Farm, are often associated with enclosure of common ground and open fields in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Country Houses in Oxfordshire generally date to the post-medieval period, but some reuse older sites or older buildings such as Eynsham Mill House. The 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen expansion of Villages through housing developments and the creation of new education, health, and commercial sites.

**Trajectory of Change: Freq. of Foundation (graph)**

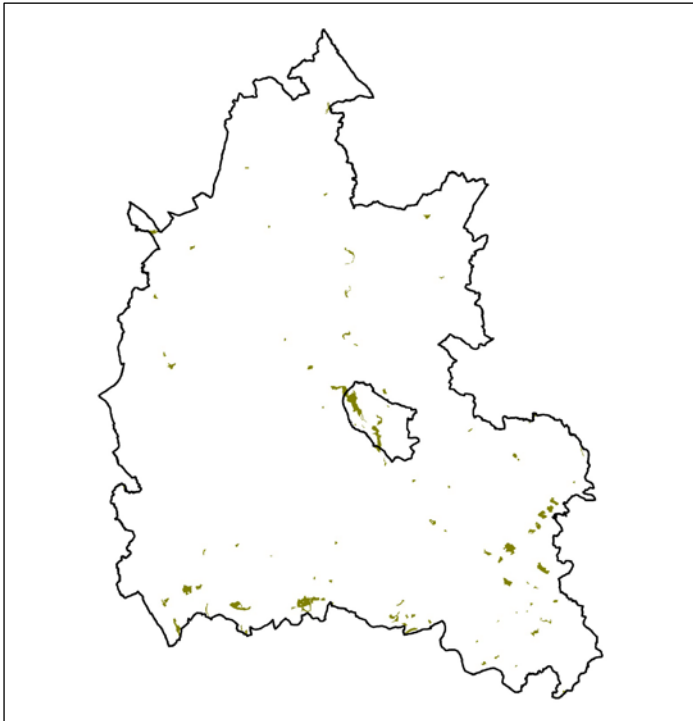


**Factors Influencing Change:** The growth (or decline) of the rural settlement type is closely linked to population change and agricultural regimes. Peaks in foundations of this type in the 20<sup>th</sup> century closely reflect population increase. This rate of growth appears to have slowed into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but with the population still growing, pressure for more homes will continue. With settlement expansion there is the possibility that adjacent settlements will merge with each other and with towns.



### Broad Type: Unenclosed Land

Legend:



**Total Area:** 1927.64 ha (0.7%)

**No. of Polygons:** 161 (1%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 12 hectares

**Occurrence:** Rare

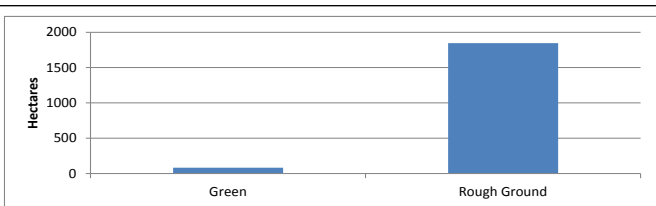
**Definition:** Areas of land which have remained largely unimproved or unenclosed over a period of time, including downland, riverine landscapes, common and meadows, and greens

**Period:** Prehistoric, Medieval, Post Medieval

**HLC Types:**  
Green  
Rough ground



Rough ground on White Horse Hill, near Uffington  
(Courtesy of Richard Oram)

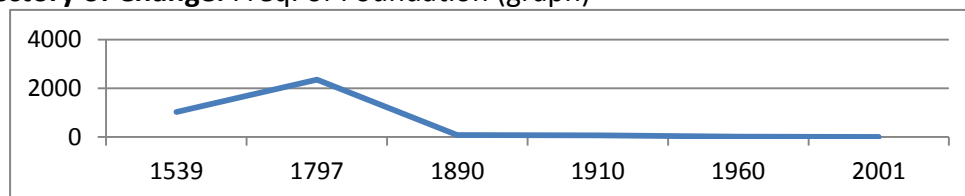




**Description:** Unenclosed land includes Greens and Rough Ground – which comprises downland, commons, riverine landscapes, and meadows. In Oxfordshire, Rough Ground, unsurprisingly, covers more land than Greens. In part this reflects a bias towards these larger sites and a lack of greens captured by the project due to their small size. Across the county there are discrete concentrations of Unenclosed land: on the chalk of the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns scarp, beside the River Cherwell and the River Thames, and in the city of Oxford. These distributions are discussed in more detail in the case study which compares the occurrence of Unenclosed land in the county and in the city of Oxford.

**Historic Processes:** Downland in Oxfordshire, such as that surrounding the White Horse at Uffington, has predominantly been created by clearance of woodland in the prehistoric period. Whilst it may have been used for pastoral farming, its character remains open and little improved. Rights to common grazing in the county date back to at least Domesday, with the Freeman of Oxford and Wolvercote recorded as possessing rights on Port Meadow, which survives to the present day. The meadows recorded in Oxford may also date to the medieval period as they are owned and managed by some of the oldest Oxford Colleges, for example Christ Church Meadow which still grazes long-horned cattle in the centre of Oxford. Open riverine landscapes in their current form are likely to have been created as the surrounding land was enclosed for agricultural purposes in the medieval and post-medieval period. Greens are also likely to date to this period and relate to the development of rural settlements.

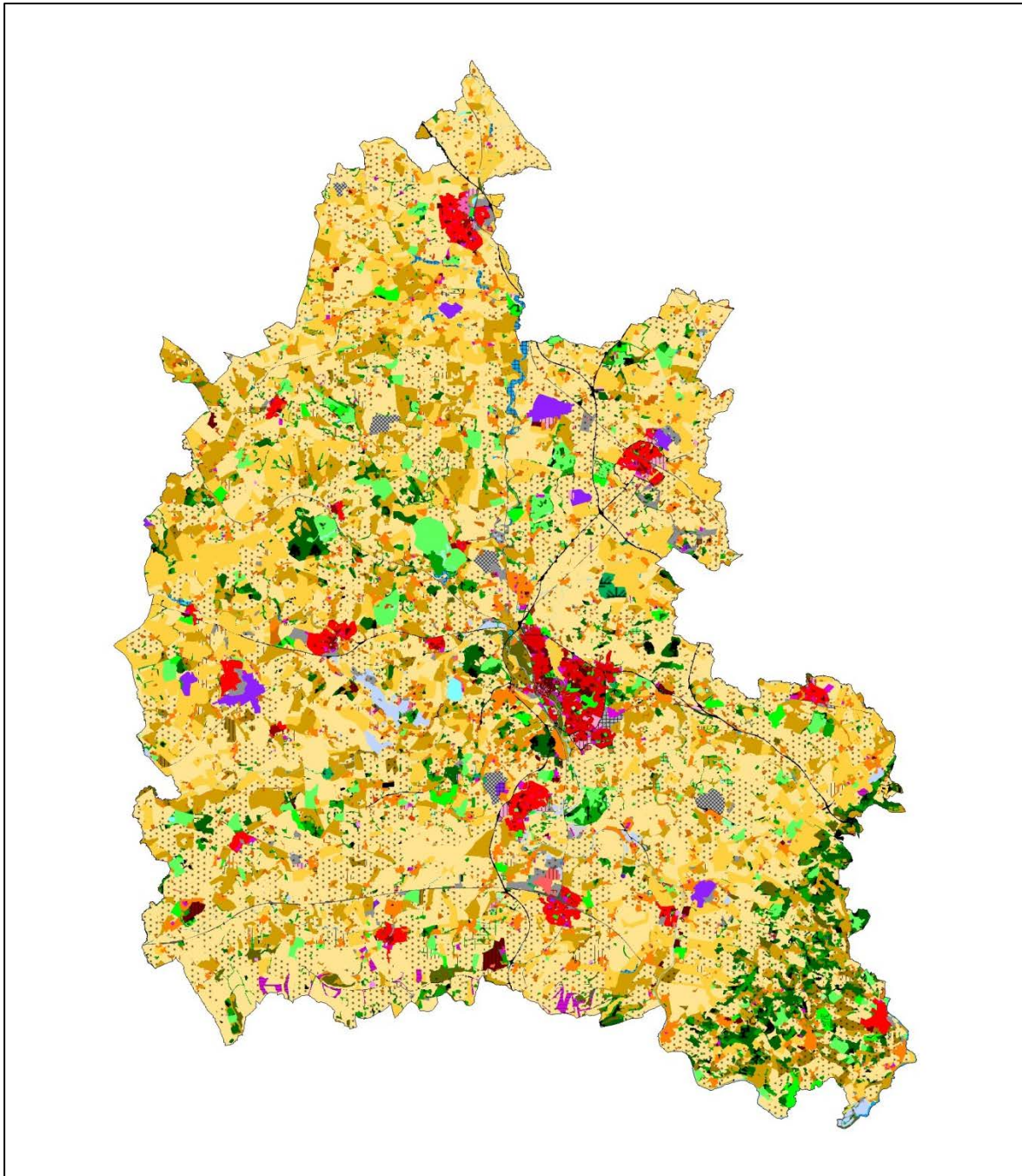
**Trajectory of Change: Freq. of Foundation (graph)**



**Factors Influencing Change:** The loss of unenclosed land to agriculture has had the biggest impact on this character type. As population and settlement pressure continues to grow, it is likely to increasingly affect this type. The designation of a number of these landscapes as SSSIs and AONBs, however, may protect them to some extent for future generations.



### 3.2.3 Historic Landscape Character Type Map



The Distribution of HLC Types in Oxfordshire



HLC Types					
	Reservoir		Crofts		Sports Facilities
	Utilities		Ladder Field System		Racing Sports Sites
	Sewerage Treatment works		Squatter Enclosure		Other Leisure facilities
	Waste Disposal		Assarted Enclosure		Community Centre
	Educational Facility		Piecemeal Enclosure		Country Park
	Oxford University College		Planned Enclosure		Public Park
	Health Care Facility		Prairie / Amalgamated Enclosure		Golf Course
	Religious and Funerary		Enclosed Reclaimed land		Hunting Site
	Gov Office and Civic Centre		Reorganised Enclosures		Nature Reserve
	Immigration Detention Centre		Paddocks and Stables		Managed Archaeological Site
	Police station		Processing Industry		Village
	Prison		Manufacturing		Hamlet
	Park and Ride		Mill / Mill Complex		Rural Dwelling
	Bank		Energy Industry		Rural Hotel
	Business Park		Extractive Works		Rural Caravan/Chalet/ Camping site
	Fish Farm		Flooded Extractive pits		Country House
	Office/Commercial		Depot		Farmstead
	Offices		Industrial Estate		Unenclosed Green
	Shops		Scrap Yard		Unenclosed Rough Ground
	Retail park		Timber Yard		Historic Urban Core
	Shopping Centre		Castle		City
	Road Side Service Centre		Hillfort		Town
	Road		Defence Site		Urban Dwelling
	Main Road		Military Base		Urban Hotel
	Major Road Junction		Military Airfield		Public House
	Bridge		Military Barracks		Market
	Motorways		Military Shooting Range		Urban Caravan and Camp site/ chalet site
	Bike Path/ bridleway		Military Communications		River
	Ridgeway		Allotment		Fresh Water Body
	Car Park		Orchard		Water Meadow
	Rail transport sites		Vineyard		Watercress Beds
	Canals and Locks		Nursery/ Garden Centre		Ancient Woodland
	Airfield (Commercial)		Urban Garden		Secondary Woodland
	Telecommunications		Parkland / Designed Landscape		Plantation
	Open Field System		Deer Park		Woodland Pasture
	Ancient Enclosure		Ornamental water body		Hanger
	Closes		Domestic Garden		

HLC Types Legend

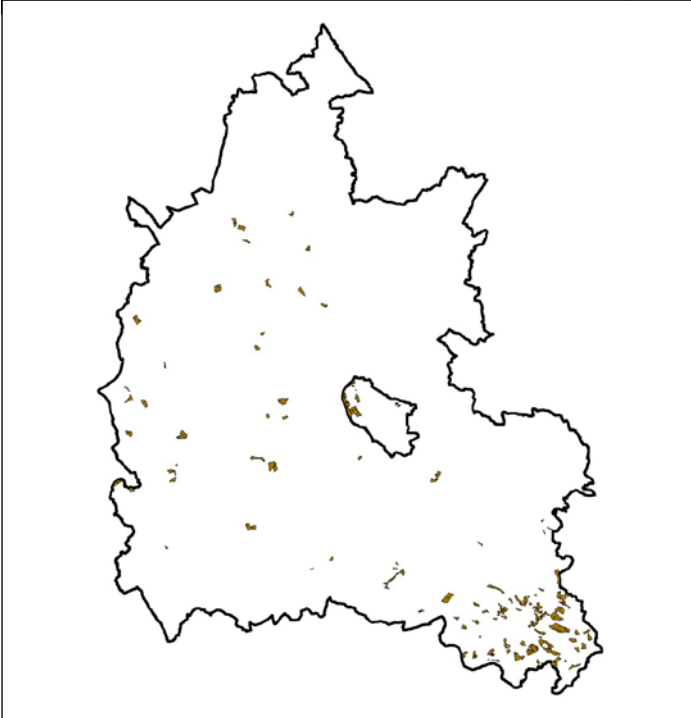
### 3.2.4 Report on each HLC Type

What follows are reports for each HLC Type identified in Oxfordshire. Some HLC Types have been considered alongside other similar types, for example Main Road and Major Junction.



## HLC Type: Ancient Enclosure

**Broad Type:** Enclosure



Ancient Enclosures, south east of South Leigh (© Google Maps)

**Legend:**



**Total Area:** 2893.6 ha (1.11%)

**No. of Polygons:** 151 (0.94%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 19.16 hectares

**Occurrence:** Rare

**Definition:** Areas of land enclosed prior to the 18th century. These fields can be co-axial or irregular. Co-axial field systems have a sinuous pattern of small, elongated fields. Irregular field systems consist of piecemeal enclosures of various sizes and shapes. N.B. This HLC type has been used variously throughout the project. It is described as pre-18th century fields, but, at times, it has also been used to indicate fields shown on the mid-late 18th century Roque and Davis Maps. It is possible, therefore, that earlier 18th century fields have been characterised as Ancient.

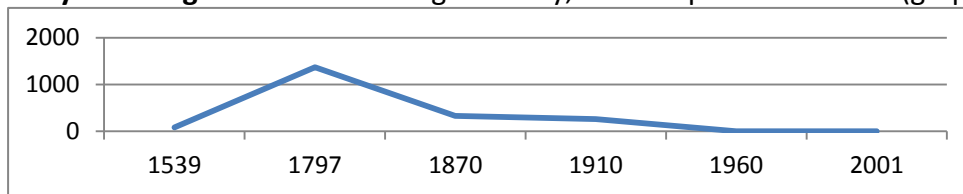
**Period:** Medieval, Post-Medieval





**Description:** The most common type of enclosure dating to the medieval or earlier post-medieval period surviving in Oxfordshire's current landscape, this type is found in distinct parts of the county. Its greatest concentration is in the south-eastern corner of the county, in an area corresponding with the Chiltern Hills and AONB. This type is also scattered across the district of West Oxfordshire, but this does not tie in with the Cotswold AONB. Comparatively few sites have been identified in the districts of the Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire, outside of the Chilterns AONB, and no sites are recorded in Cherwell District. The distinct distribution of this type will reflect different degrees to which the various parts of the county have been subjected to agricultural reorganisation and change. It is also likely to relate to settlement expansion, with those parts of the county characterised by concentrations of small 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century villages being the same parts of the county where Ancient Enclosures survive.

**Trajectory of Change:** -63.4% Declining Critically, and Freq. of Foundation (graph)



**Factors Influencing Change:** Reorganisation of fields in the later post-medieval and modern periods has led to a reduction in this type. Settlement expansion and associated infrastructure schemes will also have had an effect on this type.

**Biodiversity Potential:** Medium

By their nature these fields and their hedgerows tend to be more established and can potentially support a range of species. The size and irregularity of some of these fields reduces the likelihood that they will have been intensively used by modern farming.

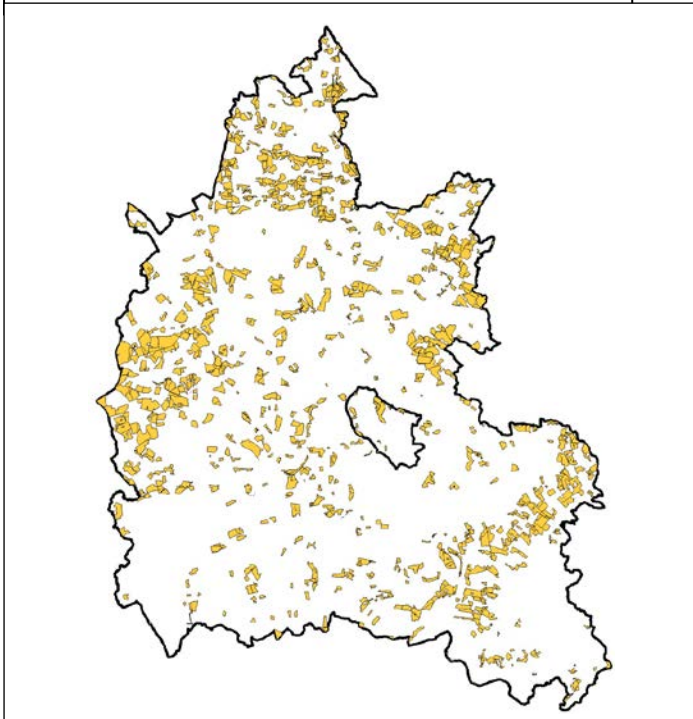
**Archaeological Potential:** High

Unlikely for there to have been wholesale truncation or destruction of features; significant archaeological deposits or historic buildings may still survive.



## HLC Type: Planned Enclosure

**Broad Type:** Enclosure



**Legend:**



**Total Area:** 37106.8 ha (14.3%)

**No. of Polygons:** 1032 (6.41%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 35.96 hectares

**Occurrence:** Common

**Definition:** Fields with a predominantly straight boundary morphology giving a geometric and regular appearance. Normally laid out by surveyors these field patterns are often the result of enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. This type of field system often overrides earlier systems.

**Period:** Post-Medieval, Modern

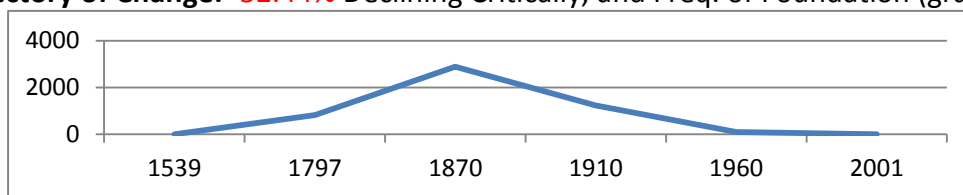


Planned Enclosures around Leys Farm, north of Hook Norton (© Google Maps)



**Description:** Planned Enclosures are amongst the most common landscape type identified in Oxfordshire. Whilst found throughout, there are broadly four concentrations in the county – in the north around Banbury, in the north-east around Bicester, in the south-east along the Chilterns escarpment, and in the west in the rural landscape beyond Witney. The creation of regular, often very regular, fields over large areas was a feature primarily of the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in Oxfordshire. These fields enclosed the remaining Open Fields and heaths and reorganised many earlier fields. Whilst they brought extensive change to the landscape they have since also been subject to change and reorganisation. For example, one of the most regular areas was removed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century by the construction of Brize Norton airfield and the town of Carterton.

**Trajectory of Change:** -52.44% Declining Critically, and Freq. of Foundation (graph)



**Factors Influencing Change:** Settlement expansion and the amalgamation of fields of this type to create very large fields in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have contributed to a decline of this type. Some 20<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosures have been created, such as on Ot Moor, where unenclosed land had survived into the modern period.

**Biodiversity Potential:** Low - Medium

Potential will vary depending on location, the quality of boundaries, and intensity of modern farming. This type is often intensively farmed in the modern period and boundaries can be quite recent, both factors which will reduce biodiversity.

**Archaeological Potential:** High

Unlikely for there to have been wholesale truncation or destruction of features; significant archaeological deposits or historic buildings may still survive.

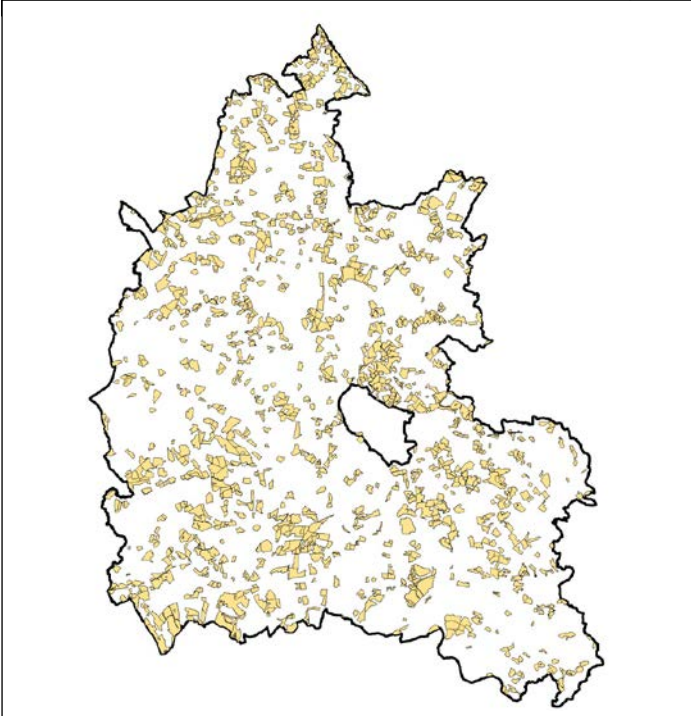


## HLC Type: Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosure

Legend:



**Broad Type:** Enclosure



**Total Area:** 52856.4 ha (20.3%)

**No. of Polygons:** 1253 (7.78%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 42.18 hectares

**Occurrence:** Abundant

**Definition:** Patterns of large fields (in excess of 10 hectares), some with boundaries over 1km long. Often resulting from post WW2 combination of holdings and the removal of earlier boundaries creating land units convenient for highly mechanised arable, or for extensive livestock raising.

**Period:** Post-Medieval, Modern

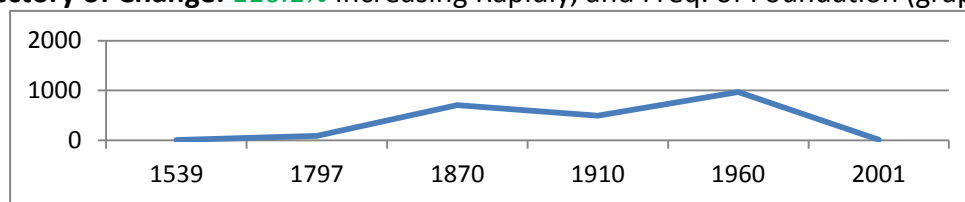


Prairie Field near Dorchester-on-Thames



**Description:** This is one of the most frequently found types in Oxfordshire's 21<sup>st</sup> century landscape. It is widespread and most parts of the county have sites of this type. Two areas have slightly fewer examples – the western edge and the south-eastern corner of the county – but the distinction is slight. These two areas overlap with, but are not wholly confined to, parts of the Cotswolds and Chilterns AONBs. This type predominantly dates to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and post-war agricultural changes, but there are a significant number of examples from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century where older fields were amalgamated to allow more intensive farming or where the last remnants of the open field system and commons were enclosed as large fields. This type affected both earlier irregular (Ancient and Piecemeal) and regular (Planned) fields.

**Trajectory of Change:** 116.1% Increasing Rapidly, and Freq. of Foundation (graph)



**Factors Influencing Change:** The development of this type relates to the intensification of farming and is, therefore, linked to population increase. Fields of this type will be affected by schemes to reintroduce old hedgerows.

**Biodiversity Potential:** Low - Medium

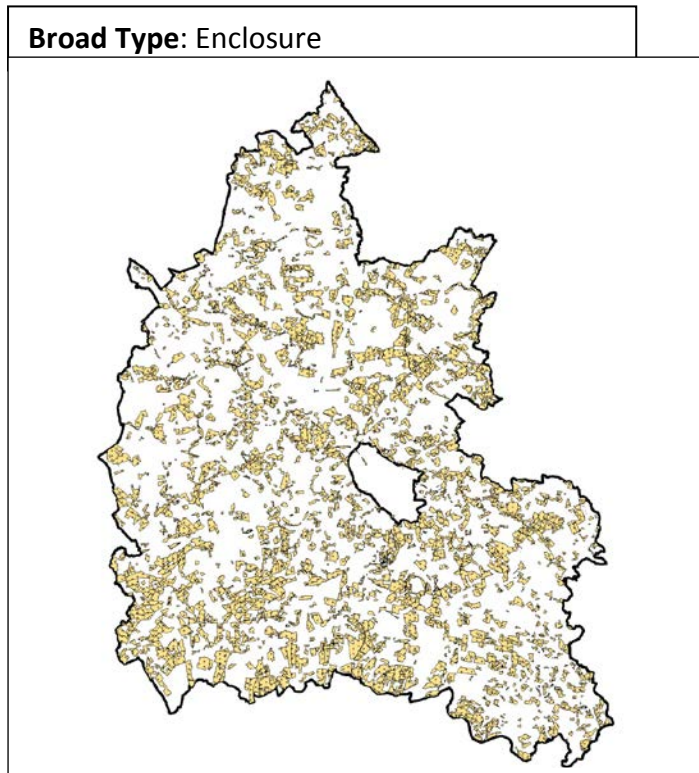
These fields are frequently the most intensively managed and have the fewest hedgerows and trees. They are, therefore, often species poor.

**Archaeological Potential:** High

Unlikely for there to have been wholesale truncation or destruction of features; significant archaeological deposits or historic buildings may still survive.



### HLC Type: Reorganised Enclosure



Partial boundary removal in a field near Great Milton

**Legend:**

**Total Area:** 71063.1ha (27.3%)

**No. of Polygons:** 2729 (16.95%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 26.04 hectares

**Occurrence:** Abundant

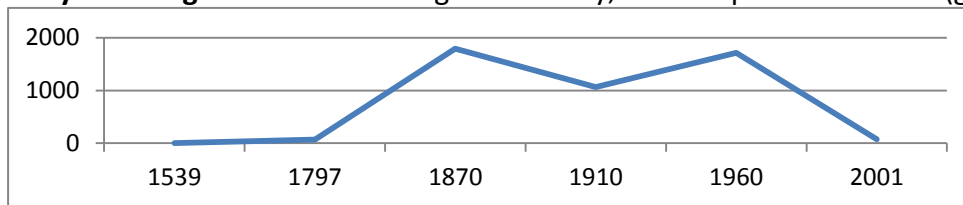
**Definition:** Fields showing signs of modern adaptation through large scale re-organisation of earlier field boundaries. Frequently occurring next to railways and modern infrastructure developments such as motorways, roadways and bypasses where older field patterns have been disrupted. Often characterised by significant boundary loss since the 1st Edition OS map. N.B. This HLC Type has been used variously throughout the project. It is described as a modern (i.e. post 1900) phenomena, but, at times, it has been used to describe 19th century reorganisation of earlier fields. Some of these are likely to be the result of Enclosure Acts.

**Period:** Post-Medieval, Modern



**Description:** This is the most common type in Oxfordshire, covering more than 27% of the landscape. In part this will be due to the way in which it has been characterised, with some Planned Enclosure being recorded as this type. However, regardless of this, this type shows the extent of change the agricultural landscape has experienced since originally being enclosed. Most parts of the county have been affected, leaving few surviving medieval and 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century landscapes. Particularly dense concentrations can be found in the Vale of the White Horse and in South Oxfordshire, between the Chilterns scarp and Oxford. Less affected areas include those around Banbury, in the north of the county, and west of Oxford around the villages of Buckland and Hinton Waldrist.

**Trajectory of Change:** 44.9% Increasing Moderately, and Freq. of Foundation (graph)



**Factors Influencing Change:** This type is dependent on the alteration of fieldscapes to meet the demands of growing populations and changing agricultural regimes. It is also affected by settlement expansion and the development of rail and road networks.

**Biodiversity Potential:** Low - Medium

By their nature these fields often have few established hedgerows and have been intensively farmed. These factors will reduce potential for biodiversity.

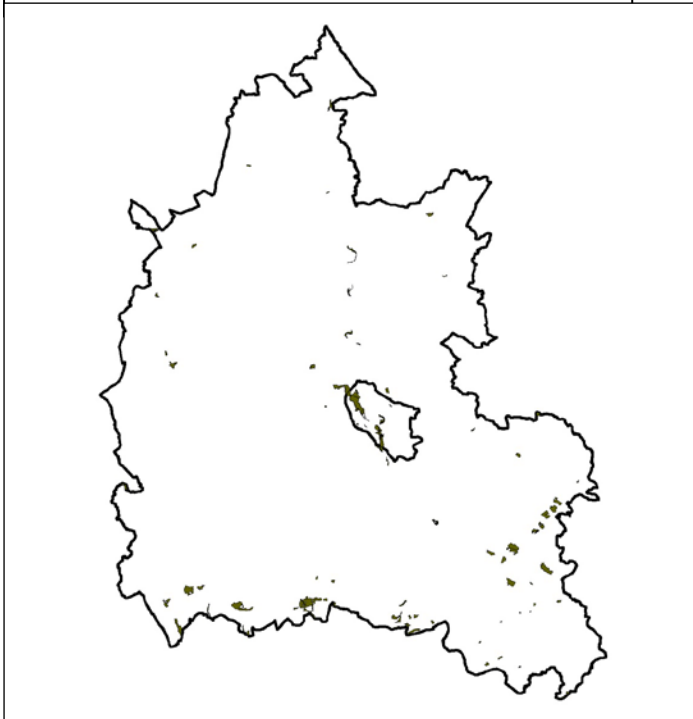
**Archaeological Potential:** High

Unlikely for there to have been wholesale truncation or destruction of features; significant archaeological deposits or historic buildings may still survive.



## HLC Type: Rough Ground

**Broad Type:** Unenclosed Land



**Legend:** 

**Total Area:** 1844.8 ha (0.71%)

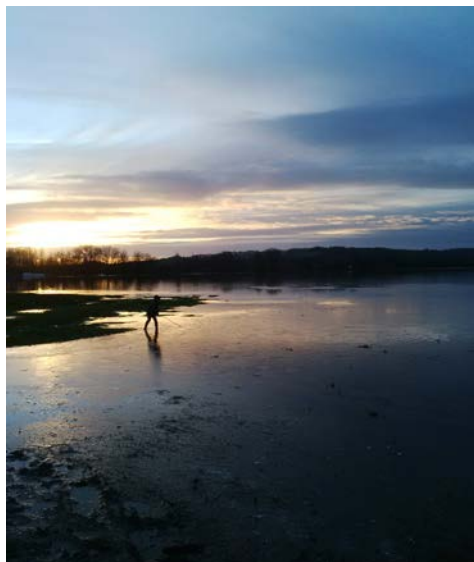
**No. of Polygons:** 146 (0.91%)

**Av. Polygon Size:** 12.6 hectares

**Occurrence:** Rare

**Definition:** Areas which show no visible evidence of recent agricultural improvements, which have evolved to their recent extent as a result of a process of woodland clearance, grazing, and episodes of agriculture and settlement since early prehistory. Includes: Upland, Downland, and unimproved common ground.

**Period:** Medieval, Post-Medieval



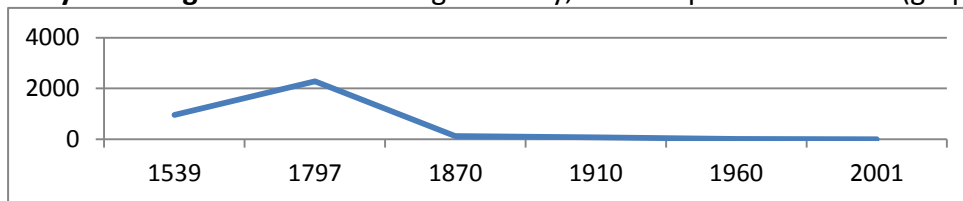
Flooded Port Meadow, Oxford





**Description:** Large areas of unenclosed land still survive in Oxfordshire's modern landscape and form discrete clusters: on the chalk downlands in the south and south-east of the county, along the River Cherwell to the north of Oxford, and, surprisingly, within Oxford. The first concentration coincides with the North Wessex and Chilterns AONBs and includes open chalk landscapes such as Ardington Down and Swyncombe Down. The second two concentrations focus on riverine landscapes – along the Cherwell in the area of Shipton-on-Cherwell and along the Thames within the city of Oxford. The high frequency of Rough Ground in the city appears to be the consequence of two factors – the university and Port Meadow. Many of the colleges keep meadows in the town – Christ Church Meadow, Magdalen's Long Meadow, and Merton's Music Meadow, for example – and the college boathouses lie within an open riverine landscape by the Thames. However, it is the contribution of Port Meadow which is most significant. On the eastern edge of the city, this meadow covers in excess of 160 hectares and was first recorded in Domesday.

**Trajectory of Change:** -67.7% Declining Critically, and Freq. of Foundation (graph)



**Factors Influencing Change:** This type developed prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has since been in decline. This decline is mainly due to enclosure, but is also affected by settlement expansion. In Oxfordshire, much of this land is now used for recreational purposes – horse racing and walking on the downs, rowing along the Thames etc. – and this type may depend on the continued popularity of these activities.

**Biodiversity Potential:** High

Some of the least managed parts of the landscape and amongst the oldest, this type is likely to support a wide range of species and have high potential for biodiversity.

**Archaeological Potential:** High

Unlikely for there to have been wholesale truncation or destruction of features; significant archaeological deposits or historic buildings may still survive.