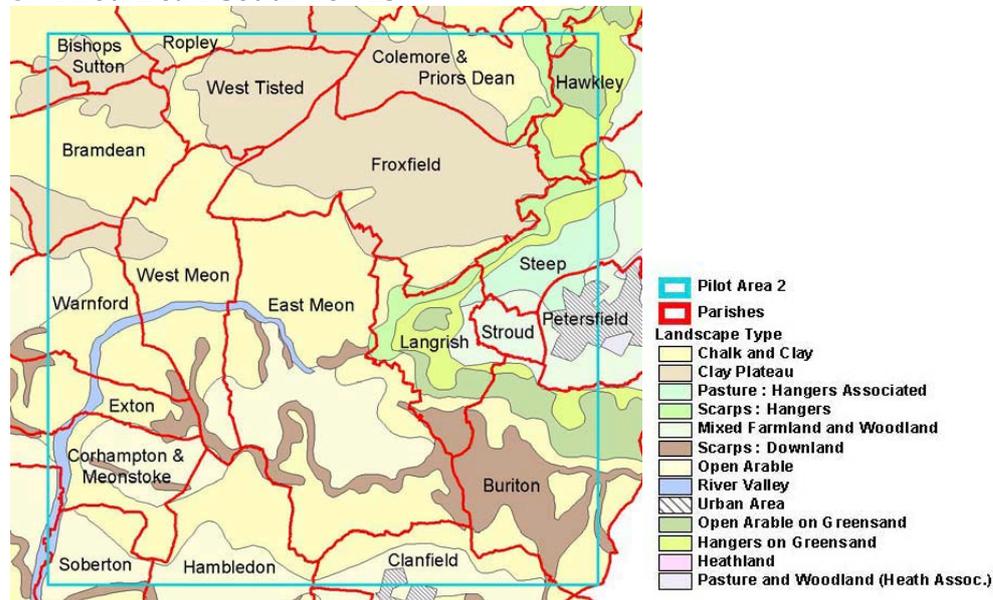


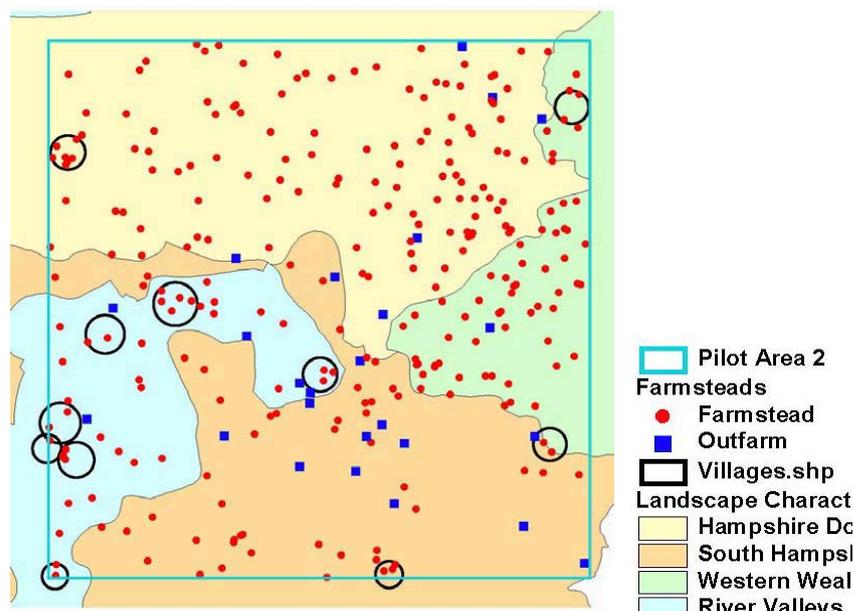
# Excerpts from Farmstead and Landscape Character in Hampshire

## 3.7 Pilot Area 2 South Downs



Within the pilot area there are two major physical features of the landscape: the scarp slope along the north side of the South Downs and the scarps with hangars along the western edge of the Western Weald lowland and Heath. Within the Weald the Landscape Types show the great complexity and variety in the landscape and geology with Arable on Greensand, Mixed Farmland and Woodland, Pasture: Hangars Associated and Hangars on Greensand all occurring within a small area of landscape.

Across the downland and valley areas the dominant Landscape Type is Chalk and Clay with large areas of Clay Plateau in the northern part of the area and Open Arable at the head of the River Meon and along the dip slope of the South Downs.

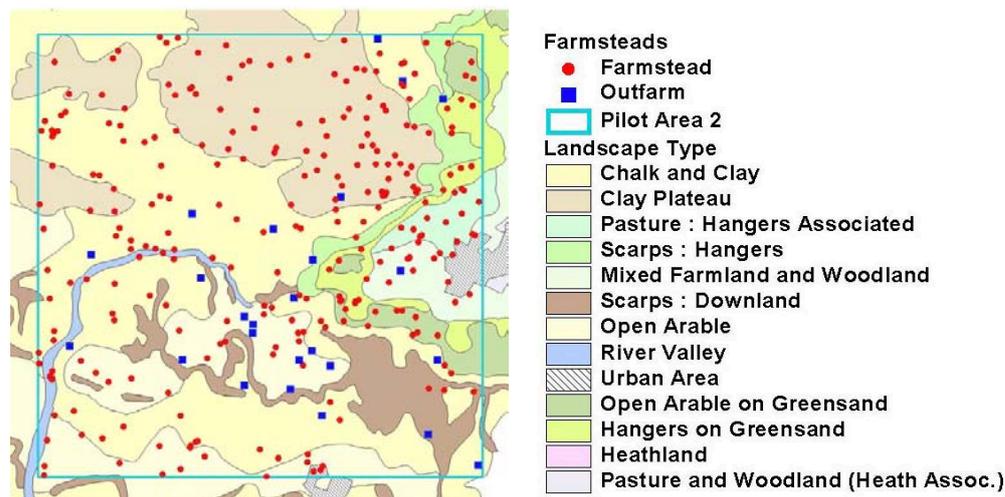


### 3.7.1 Farmsteads against Hampshire Landscape Character Areas

In terms of the density of farmsteads in the landscape this figure shows that the area with the highest density of farmsteads lies in the north-eastern part of the pilot area. However, unlike the distribution of farmsteads across the boundary between the Hampshire Downs and North Hampshire Lowland and Heath character areas examined in the North Wessex Downs pilot area, there is not a marked difference in density along the boundary between the Hampshire Downs and the Western Weald Lowland and Heath. Instead, the density of farmsteads in the Hampshire Downs area increases nearer the boundary between the character areas where dispersed settlement increases – the consequence being many more isolated farmsteads and small hamlets compared to the western part of the character area where villages, such as Bramdean within the pilot area, are typical. The density of farmsteads remains high within the Western Weald Lowland and Heath area except in the south of the area where the town of Petersfield results in an apparent ‘hole’ in the distribution.

The concentration of farmsteads within villages along the valley of the River Meon is not immediately clear from the distribution map unless the general extent of villages are also shown.

The South Hampshire Downs character area shows the lowest density of farmsteads generally although the distribution of farmsteads in the section covered by the pilot area is clearly uneven, with significant areas with no farmsteads or only outfarms or fields barns and other areas with concentrations of farmsteads that are similar to the western part of the Hampshire Downs within the pilot area.



### 3.7.2 Farmsteads against Landscape Types

The distribution of farmsteads in the landscape can be more clearly defined when viewed against the Landscape Types data, as was the case with the first pilot area in the North Wessex Downs.

The greater apparent density of farmsteads in the north-east of the pilot area across the boundary between the Hampshire Downs and the Western Weald Lowland and Heath can be seen to relate to a large clay plateau within the Hampshire Downs that adjoins the Western Weald.

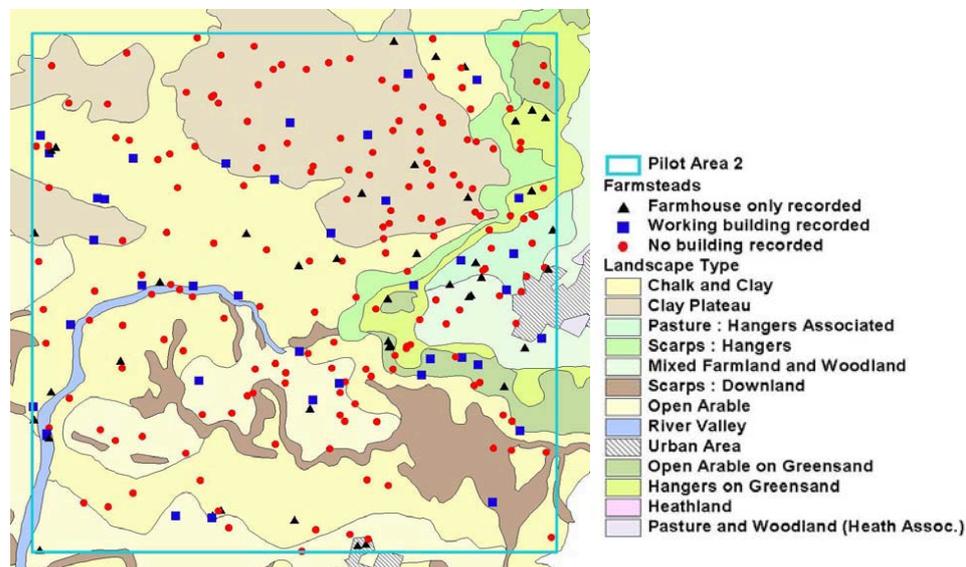
The chalk and clay landscape type covers the largest proportion of the pilot area. Within this landscape type are many farmsteads lying within the main nucleated settlements of the area. Outside of these nucleations, this landscape type appears to have the lowest density of farmsteads of all the landscape types other than on the scarps and hangars.

The close association of farmsteads with the River Meon can be seen more clearly in this map than the Character Area map although relatively few farmsteads actually lie within the River Valley area.

In contrast to the open arable landscape type of the North Wessex Downs pilot area, open arable forms a relatively small part of the pilot area and is occupied by many farmsteads. Its association with the Meon, which actually rises within the area, may explain the concentration of farmsteads within this area. The main source of the river and some other streams that rise in the locality attracted settlement. This landscape type also contains the greatest number of outfarms or field barns, several of which are sited close to the foot of the chalk scarp.

Across the southern part of the area the steep north-facing scarp of the South Hampshire Downs provides an area largely unsuitable for farmsteads. Where farmsteads are located within this landscape type they are usually sited within dry valleys or combs cutting into the elevated scarp landscape. Similarly, the steep hangars along the western edge of the Western Weald Lowland and Heath are also largely unsuitable for farmsteads.

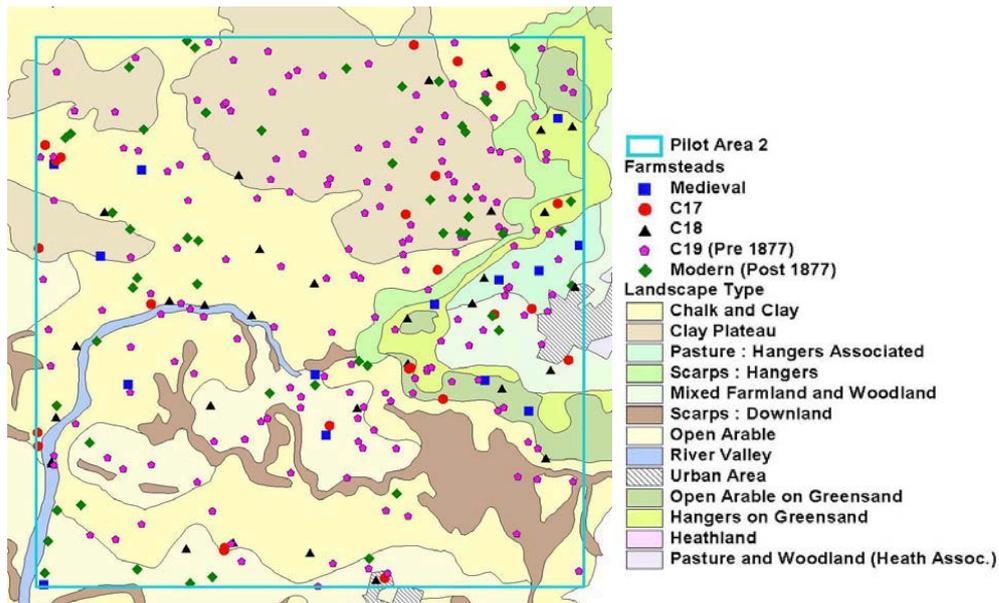
The Western Weald Lowland and Heath is a complex landscape with rapidly changing soils and landscape types. All the landscape types in the pilot area contain farmsteads, with only the Mixed Farmland and Woodland type having a significant area with no recorded farmsteads. This may be due to it lying with the parish of Petersfield, a small medieval market town where such an area would have been valuable common grazing for the animals of the townsfolk.



### 3.7.3 Farmsteads by record type against Landscape Type

This distribution map identifies those farmsteads that include a listed building. After the identification of all farmsteads from historic and modern mapping the *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* relating to all the parishes within the pilot area were examined to identify listed agricultural buildings. Farmsteads that have a listed farmhouse only have been differentiated from those where there are listed working agricultural buildings. This method differs from the approach in the North Wessex Downs pilot area where the data available from the AHBR, incorporating information on unlisted and curtilage buildings was available.

The main contrast between the two pilot areas is the number of farmsteads that have been identified as only having a listed farmhouse. Such farmsteads are concentrated in the eastern part of the pilot area particularly within the Western Weald. Overall, most landscape types contain farmsteads that have listed buildings and there is no marked difference between the areas. What is striking is the proportion of farmsteads (only 25%) that have a listed building to those that have been identified only through mapping (13% of the total are Post1877 farmsteads).

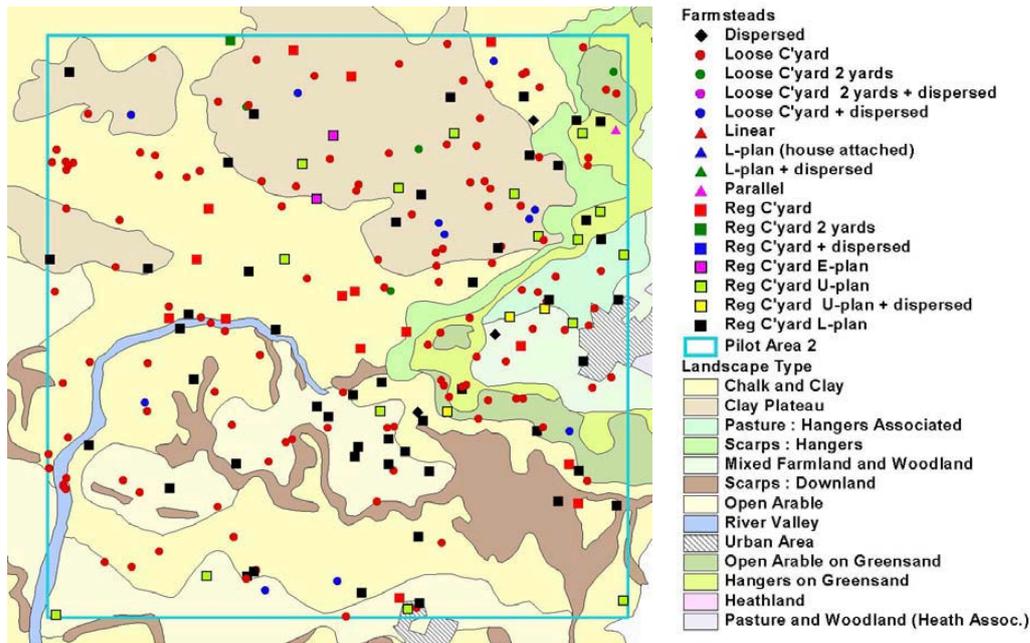


### 3.7.4 Farmsteads by date against Landscape Types

Farmsteads of medieval date as represented by surviving recorded buildings are concentrated in the Western Weald Lowland and Heath character area but within that area there appears to be no distinct correlation between early farmsteads and landscape type. Only the Mixed Farmland and Woodland landscape type has no recorded medieval farmsteads. However, it is recognised that the sample of each of the landscape types within this character area are relatively small.

There are also a number of farmsteads represented by 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the Western Weald, reinforcing the suggestion that early farm buildings are more likely to survive within an area that contained smaller farm holdings and where there was probably a greater number of freeholders with farmsteads developed through the clearance of woodland, in some cases from before the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Seventeenth-century farmsteads are scattered across the remainder of the pilot area with several being located in nucleated villages but most lie within hamlets or relatively isolated positions. There is also no clear distinction in the distribution of 18<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads across the pilot area although, again, the numbers within the Western Weald are relatively high.

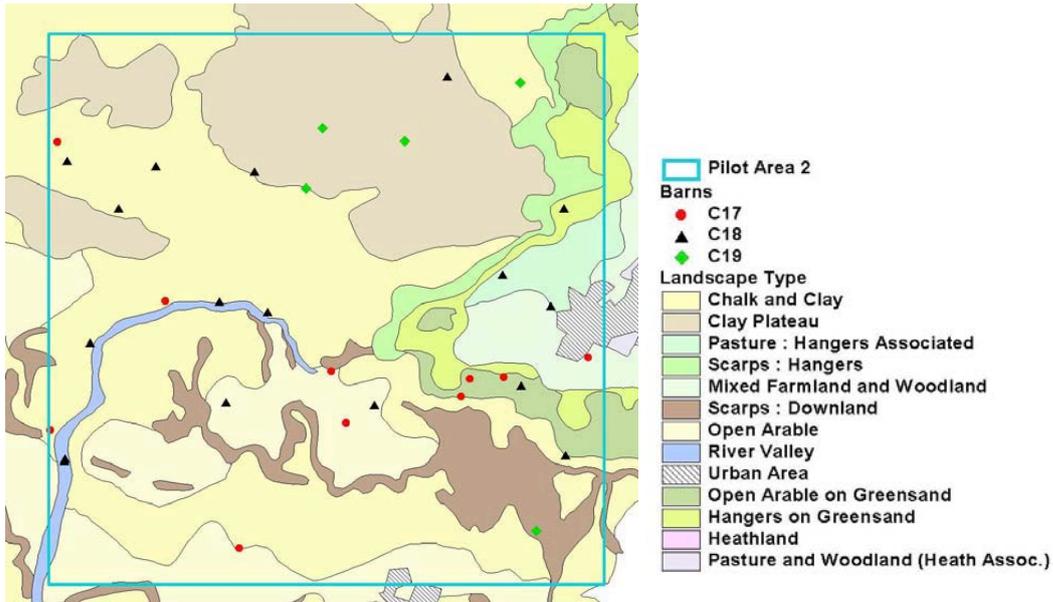
The majority of farmsteads dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century in this exercise have been assigned that date on the basis of their appearance on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Survey maps of c.1872. Therefore it is only possible to say that they were in existence in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. To what degree buildings of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date survive on any of these farms is unknown and is a question that will need to be addressed by a closer examination of the evidence available. However, it is possible to identify some areas where 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads appear to cluster, for example, on the large clay plateau within the Hampshire Downs character area. Here the density of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads is greater than on the clay and chalk landscape to the south-west, particularly on the part of the plateau adjoining the Western Weald. Although some of these farmsteads are clearly associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure of what was probably common, the greatest concentration lie scattered across an area of small irregular fields, some of which may have been created through a process of enclosure by agreement of arable land. Nineteenth-century farmsteads are also predominant in the open arable area in the centre of the pilot area although they are less conspicuous in the open arable area along the southern edge of the pilot area where farmsteads post-dating the 1870s are more frequent. Post 1870s farmsteads also cluster in the chalk and clay area to the north of West Meon and in the eastern part of the large clay plateau area.



### 3.7.5 Farmstead plan against Landscape Type

The four major divisions in plan type are: Loose Courtyards; Regular Courtyards including L-plans detached from the house with a clear yard; Linear/L-plans with the house attached and Dispersed plans (See 2.2.5). The plan of 237 farmsteads was recorded. There were 57 sites where no plan form was recorded, 52 being 'Modern (Post 1877)' farmsteads. The remaining 5 were farmsteads or field barns with only one building.'

Loose Courtyard Plans	139/237	Generally, across Hampshire the loose courtyard plan is the most common farmstead layout encountered and this is shown to be the case in the pilot area also with 59% of farmsteads being of this plan type.
Regular Courtyard Plans	94/237	Regular courtyard plans are found at 40% of the farmsteads in marked contrast to the 13% seen in the North Wessex Downs area. L-shaped courtyards appear to be an important characteristic of many of the farmsteads in this part of the county (24%) and are distributed across all the main landscape types although there is a concentration of this plan type in the central area of Open Arable where a number of outfarms are of L-plan form. Overall almost half of the outfarms are L-plan courtyards (12/25). There is also a significant number of U-plan and E-plan farmsteads (22) across the other landscape types but the density of regular courtyard plans increases towards the east of the area.
Linear, L-plans and Parallel Plans	1/237	There is only one parallel plan farmstead in the area and no linear or L-plan farmsteads.
Dispersed Plans	4/237	As with linear, L-plan and parallel plans, dispersed plans form an insignificant proportion of the farmstead plans of the area.

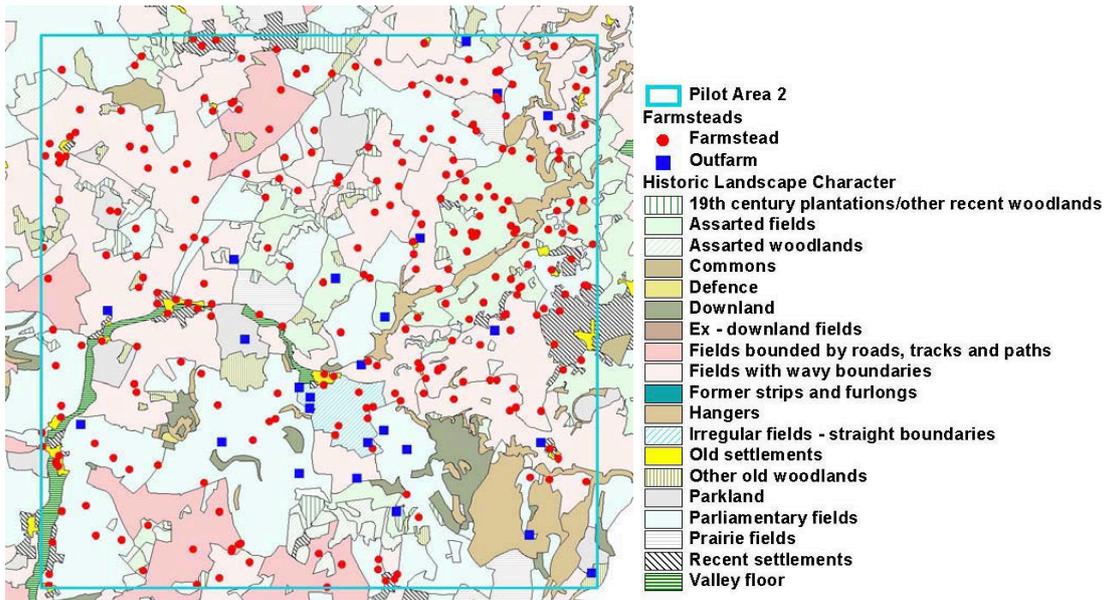


3.7.6 Barns by date against Landscape Type

This figure, using only listed building data, clearly demonstrates the paucity of actual information available for historic farm buildings in this part of Hampshire at least. The limited number of dated barns means that it is difficult to make a meaningful analysis of their distribution other than the presence of barns along the valley of the Meon. The most important issues brought out by this distribution map relate to the farmsteads that are not represented in this figure:

- Do they have barns?
- If so, of what date and what are the building materials used?
- If not, were they not provided with barns or have the barns been demolished?
- Are there barns of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date which have been altered to a point whereby they are not listable?
- Is the *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* deficient in this area?

These questions can only be addressed through fieldwork.

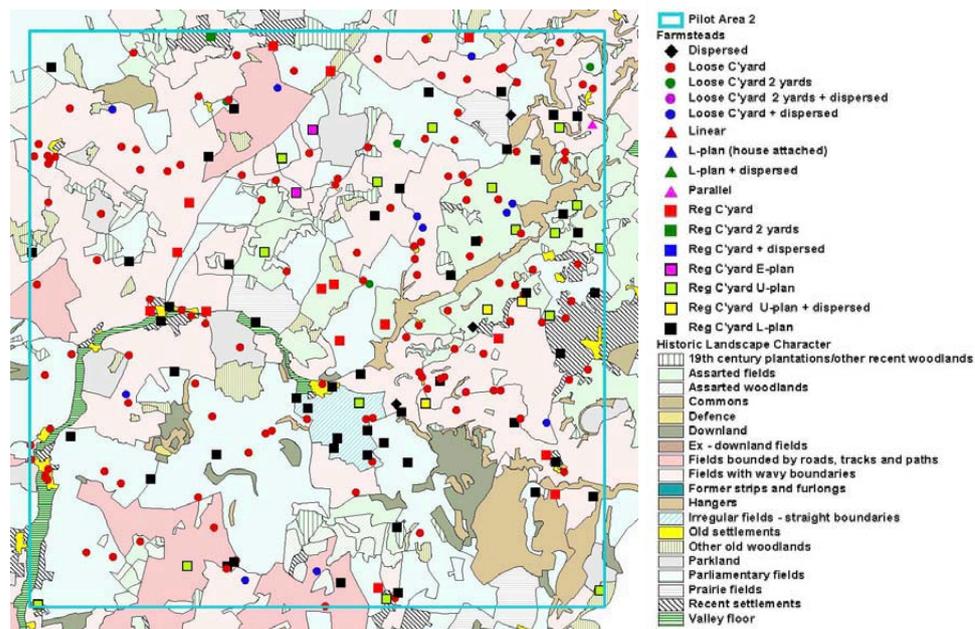


3.7.7 Farmsteads against Historic Landscape Character

As in the North Wessex Downs pilot area, the three predominant HLC types in the pilot area are Assorted Fields, Fields with Wavy Boundaries and Parliamentary Fields. These are joined by a fourth HLC type – Fields Bounded by Tracks, Roads and Paths. This HLC type is defined as the result of post-medieval informal enclosures within a framework of old drives roads to and from downland.

When compared to the North Wessex Downs pilot area, where the contrast in farmstead density between the downland landscape and the clay landscapes was marked, there is less of a distinction in this pilot area. However, broadly, the pattern of distribution of farmsteads across the HLC types is the same. The highest density of farmsteads in the landscape corresponds quite closely to the area of Assorted Fields, which bridges the boundary between the Western Weald and the Hampshire Downs Character Areas. The Parliamentary Fields areas tend to have a lower density of farmsteads than the areas of Fields with Wavy Boundaries and Fields Bounded by Roads, Tracks and Paths. The number of outfarms in the Parliamentary Fields area tends to make this HLC type appear to have a higher density of sites.

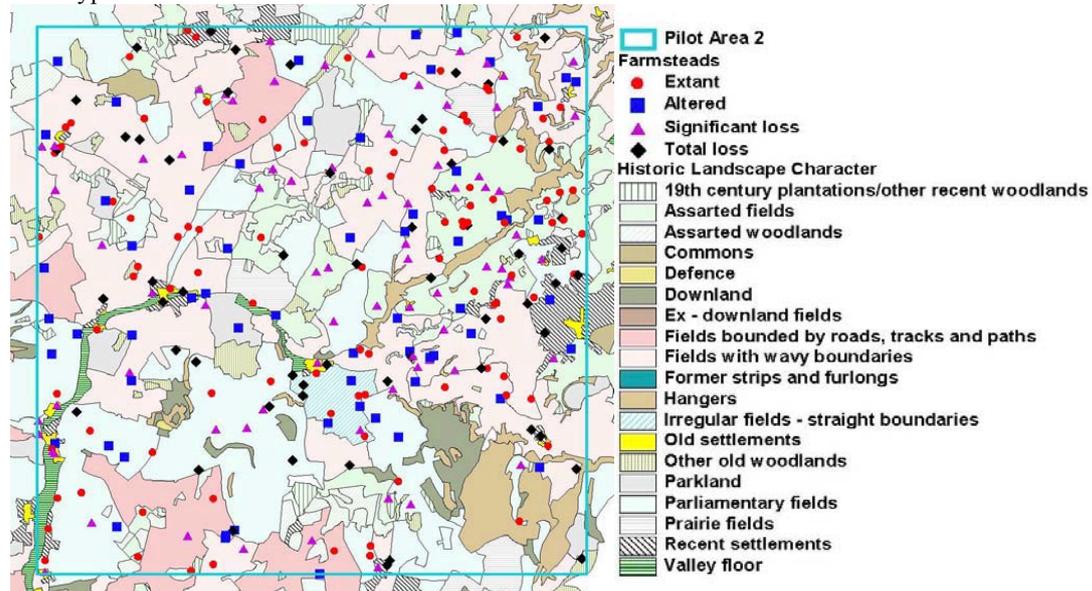
With regards to farmstead within villages many of the farmstead sites fall within the HLC type ‘Old Settlement’ although in most instances historic farmsteads are also found close to, but outside the ‘Old Settlement’ cores. In one instance, Bramdean in the north-west corner of the area, all of the farmsteads recorded lay outside of the ‘Old Settlement’ area. Of these farmsteads, one has medieval origins and three have at least 17<sup>th</sup> century origins. The ‘Old Settlement’ area focuses only on the area of the village where properties are concentrated. Obviously equally old settlement areas represented by farmsteads strung alongside lanes and close to the detached church were excluded.



3.7.9 3.7.9 Farmsteads by plan type

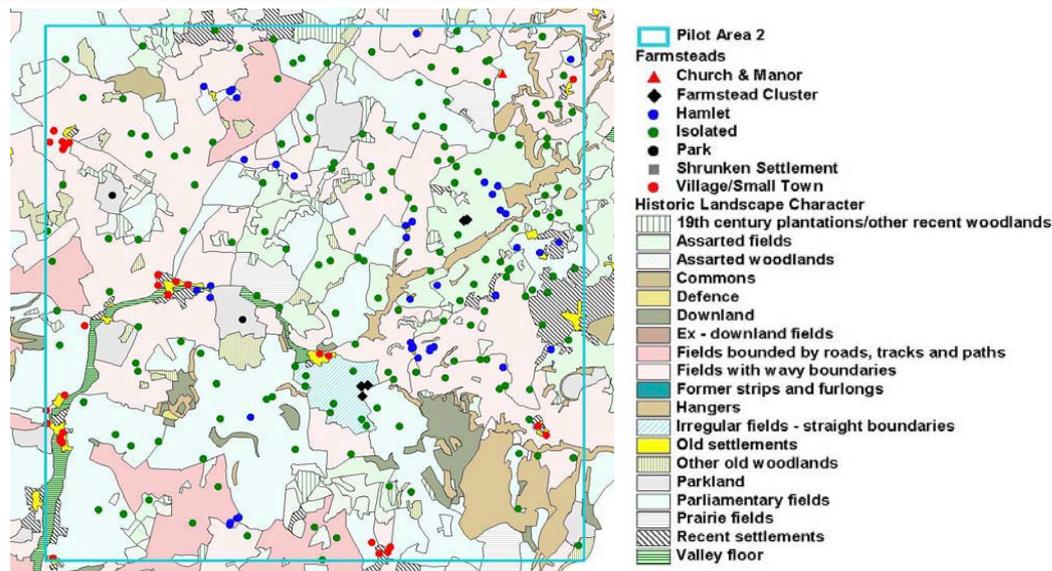
The figures for the proportion of each plan type are presented in 3.75 above. The density of regular courtyard plans of all forms increases towards the east of the pilot area and there appears to be a closer association of these plans with ‘Parliamentary fields’ and ‘Assorted fields’ than with the enclosure by agreement HLC types. This distribution may be explained by the increasing importance of having adequate housing for cattle in small, mixed farming areas such as the Western Weald Lowland and Heath and where farmsteads were created during the process of enclosure, particularly of remnants of common, during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. On the older enclosed landscapes represented by ‘Fields with wavy boundaries’ and ‘Fields bounded by roads, tracks and paths’ it may be that the earlier loose courtyard was more likely to be adapted to accommodate some cattle through the construction of shelter sheds against the side of the barn or as a separate range along one side of the yard. It is likely that the re-planning of a farmstead to create a regular courtyard only occurred on the larger estates, such as that of the Nicholson family who derived their wealth from enterprises outside of agriculture. Such estates are mainly found in the central northern part of the pilot area and are often associated with HLC types indicating old enclosures.

As described above, the number of L-plans, particularly in the ‘Parliamentary fields’ area is partly due to the number of outfarms within the area. They are also more commonly found where small farms were typical.



3.7.10 Farmstead survival against Historic Landscape Character

Extant	46/241	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19% of farmsteads appear to have experienced little alteration.</li> <li>• Spread of extant farmsteads is relatively even across the area.</li> </ul>
Partial Loss	61/241	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively even distribution across pilot area.</li> </ul>
Significant Loss	76/241	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in all HLC type areas but predominantly in areas Enclosure by Agreement.</li> </ul>
Total Loss	58/241	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributed across all HLC type areas.</li> <li>• Within the Parliamentary Fields several, though not all, of the sites where Total Loss has occurred were outfarms or field barns.</li> <li>• Half of the outfarm/field barns sites have been lost.</li> <li>• 29% of Total Loss sites are L-plan courtyards.</li> <li>• A significant proportion of Total Loss sites also lie within areas of Recent Settlement.</li> </ul>



3.7.11 Farmsteads by settlement type

Displaying the distribution of farmsteads according to the type of settlement they are associated with – village based, hamlet, loose farmstead cluster, within a landscape park or in isolation in the landscape shows a clear east-west division in the pilot area. To the west farmsteads are predominantly within villages, particularly along the Meon valley, or stand in isolation. The eastern side of the area is marked by the number of farmsteads that are found within hamlets.

Across the whole of the pilot area farmsteads within hamlets nearly always associated with the older HLC types of ‘Assarted fields’, ‘Fields with wavy boundaries’ or ‘Fields bounded by roads, tracks and paths’.

An initial comparison of the survival of farmsteads in respect to their location suggests there is little difference in the level of survival of farmsteads in hamlets and villages with 52% of hamlet based farmsteads and 55% of village based farmsteads falling into the Total Loss or Significant Loss categories of change. Isolated farmsteads however, appear to have fared considerably better, with only 40% of isolated farmsteads (not including outfarms) falling into two categories of greatest change.

A similar exercise can be undertaken for examining the distribution of plan types in relation to the location of the farmstead. For the South Downs pilot area the results, using the principal plan types encountered in the area. Loose Courtyard, Regular Courtyard and Dispersed are set out below:

	Village		Hamlet	Isolated		
Regular courtyard	10/34	<b>29%</b>	11/55	<b>20%</b>	80/219	<b>36%</b>
Loose courtyard	24/34	<b>71%</b>	42/55	<b>76%</b>	119/219	<b>54%</b>
Dispersed	0/34	<b>0%</b>	1/55	<b>2%</b>	11/219	<b>5%</b>

The main distinction in plan types is between regular and loose courtyards. From this analysis it appears that around three quarters of village and hamlet based farmsteads are loose courtyard whereas only around half of isolated farmsteads have loose courtyard plans. Isolated farmsteads have a greater proportion of regular courtyard plans.

At this stage it is not feasible to undertake this level of analysis using any of the landscape character areas or landscape types.

Within the HLC data there is a character area ‘Parliamentary fields’. This character enclosure (polygon) area does not purport to show the extent of enclosure by Act but areas that have the character of such enclosure ie. generally straight, surveyed, field boundaries and regularity in field size and shape. Such fields could be created through an Act or by enclosure by agreement. To examine the correlation between ‘Parliamentary fields and actual parliamentary enclosure with historic farmsteads the areas of enclosure by Act as shown in *A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900* (Chapman and Seeliger, 1997) were mapped using 1:10,000 base mapping.

**Some notes on methodology:**

3.1.1 The first objective of Stage 3 of the project was to examine the methodologies for data capture in order to allow the presentation of present-day farmstead character at a broad (landscape) scale. The project design required an examination of the potential for working within the Historic Landscape Character areas in order to investigate the possibility of using HLC as a predictive tool for the characterisation and management of HFBs and the targeting of resources.

3.1.2 This stage of the project was to also examine in detail the potential for analysing farmstead character against the County and District Landscape Character Areas through the use of existing data sources relating to the historic building resource, which could be used to test the broad character statements made in Stage 2 of the project.

3.1.3 To undertake these examinations, two pilot areas marked by different character areas were to be used for the data capture and analysis. One was to be an area of the North Wessex Downs AONB, the second area selected includes part of the South Downs AONB.

3.2.2. Within the HLC data there is a character area ‘Parliamentary Fields’. This character enclosure (polygon) area does not purport to show the extent of enclosure by Act but areas that have the character of such enclosure ie. generally straight, surveyed, field boundaries and regularity in field size and shape. Such fields could be created through an Act or by enclosure by

agreement. To examine the correlation between 'Parliamentary fields and actual parliamentary enclosure with historic farmsteads the areas of enclosure by Act as shown in *A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900* (Chapman and Seeliger, 1997) were mapped using 1:10,000 base mapping.

#### *Methodology for Pilot Area 2 South Downs*

The selection of Hampshire as the location for this pilot project was partly determined by the availability of geo-referenced historic building and other data. This data was used as the starting point for the data collection in the North Wessex Downs pilot area but, as the project aim was to examine methodologies that would be applicable on a national scale, it was decided to take a different approach to data capture in the South Downs pilot area.

In the South Downs pilot area the primary source of farmstead data was the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" map. All farmsteads shown were recorded together with their plan form and location, as in the first pilot area. Comparison between the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition mapping and modern OS mapping allowed the recording of change and of any farmsteads that have been created after the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition mapping. The same classifications were used for these attributes as in the North Wessex Downs pilot area.

To develop an understanding of the date of the farmsteads, a manual check of the *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest* was made to identify listed agricultural buildings. Attribute fields for recording the date of Farmhouses, Barns, Granaries, Cattle housing, Cartsheds, Oast Houses and Dovecotes were added to the data set. A field to record the number of barns on the farmstead was also added. Although time consuming, this method would be applicable to any area without spatial historic building data although since the development of this project the possibility of using geo-referenced listed building data from English Heritage should remove the need for such manual data collection exercises.