

Figure 18. Percentage of Employment by Occupations in Lambourn (2021)

Appendix E – Local Character Areas and Landscape Character Areas

Local Character Areas (LoCA) Description

1.1.49. LCAOD1 covers the northern part of the NDP area, and the West Berkshire LCA provides the following summary for the LoCA:

“The northern part of the Lambourn Valley is steeply undulating with dramatically rolling hills, comprised mainly of large-scale arable agriculture. Fragmented chalk grasslands and occasional wooded areas are also present. The landscape is open, exposed and remote. Settlement is sparse, with the hamlet of Fawley on higher ground and the two villages of Lambourn and Upper Lambourn in their well-contained valley setting. Horse racing is a prominent industry here; and the area has numerous associated stud farms, stables and gallops. There are clear cultural and historical connections to the area’s deeper past, including prehistoric barrows which form prominent landscape features”.

1.1.50. The main detractors that were identified in the LoCA include:

- Loss and fragmentation of chalk grassland.
- Increased plantation tree cover.
- Change in farming practices.
- Change in horse racing industry.
- Development pressures.



- Management of footpaths, bridleways and byways.

1.1.51. LCAWD1 covers the southern part of the NDP area, and the West Berkshire LCA gives the following information for the LoCA:

“A rolling chalk landscape that is characteristically well-wooded between mixed arable and pastureland use. On the steeper slopes there are also areas of calcareous chalk grassland. The area is predominantly rural, with small settlements, such as Shefford Woodlands and Woodlands St Mary, tending to follow the route of the old Roman road. The M4 motorway bisects the landscape. Views are varied; in some areas woodland creates a sense of enclosure, while other areas are more open and expansive”.

1.1.52. The main detractors that are highlighted in the LoCA are the following:

- Over intensification of arable farming practices.
- Lack of appropriate woodland management in some areas.
- Noise and visual pollution created by the M4.
- Ongoing pressure for development.
- Increased traffic near Membury motorway service area as well as on the rural lane road network.
- Localised modern intrusions on the landscape.

1.1.53. LCAUV2 relates to the River Lambourn and the West Berkshire LCA clarifies that:

“The Lambourn Upper Valley Floor character area is a narrow chalk valley which follows the River Lambourn as it flows eastwards from Lambourn to Newbury. There is a large amount of equestrian influence particularly in the northern part of the area with many of the fields now serving as pony paddocks, although fields of pasture also remain. A mosaic of wetland habitats occur along the valley corridor, including a number of designated sites. Settlements are small and well-defined in a linear pattern, with red brick being the most common building material. The valley landform creates a sense of enclosure”.

1.1.54. The detractors mentioned in the LCA are:

- Decline in traditional pasture management.
- Intrusive roads such as the M4 and A34.
- Continued pressure for development leading to the degradation and suburbanisation of the distinct rural character.
- Loss of historic field boundaries and patterns.
- Nutrient enrichment of the river from agricultural run-off.

Landscape Character Area Recommendations

Open Chalk Downland (LCA 1)

Recommendations for NDP:

- Openness is the key quality of this LCA and any features of a tall or visually intrusive nature should be avoided.
- Increased access on foot and horseback would benefit the way in which this landscape could be appreciated by more people.
- Carefully plan any changes to the edge of settlement at Lambourn to ensure any new development is faithful to a local design code for the village.



Figure 19. Key Characteristics and Views in LCA 1

Wooded Downland (LCA 2)

Recommendations:

- Ensure that the SSSIs within the LCA remain in favourable condition, and that grassland habitats are conserved and enhanced.
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the area through protection of the SSSI, LWS and priority habitats within this LCA and seek opportunities for maintaining / enhancing connectivity between these sites/habitats.
- Protect the rural setting and secluded nature of settlements and farmsteads.



Figure 20. Key Characteristics and Views in LCA 2

Membury Airfield (LCA 3)



Recommendations:

- The complex of industrial buildings at this location is partially enclosed by hedgerows and trees whilst other parts are more conspicuous. Additional landscaping would help reduce visual impacts where they exist.
- The scale and planning development at this location needs much careful consideration of any further growth to help avoid further change in character.
- HGVs introduce noise and dust which can lead to synergistic adverse effects on character. Any proposals to increase and expand development at this location should be mindful of such in-combination effects as well as the direct effect of encroachment.



Figure 21. Key Characteristics and Views in LCA 3

Ermin Street (LCA 4)

Recommendations:

- Improve quantity of woodland cover to help reduce noise and visual impacts from the transport corridors.
- Optimise biodiversity in the woodlands and wider habitat mosaic of grasslands and hedgerows.
- Safe crossing points need to be considered for horse riders and walkers alike. Improved connectivity should be an aspiration for the LCA.
- Recognise and where appropriate enhance the character and setting of the various Grade II listed buildings that are distributed evenly throughout the LCA.





Figure 22. Key Characteristics and Views in LCA 4

Figure 23. Key Characteristics and Views in LCA 5

Lower Lambourn Valley Floor (LCA 6)

Recommendations:

- Much scope to improve and enhance the water quality of the River Lambourn.
- This LCA can only support very local level, appropriately designed development types without leading to significant change.

Figure 24. Key Characteristics and Views in LCA 6

1.1.55. See [Lepus Consulting 2020 Lambourn Landscape Character Appraisal](#).