

# Rivers Report

## Blackbridge Brook Catchment Area

December 2012

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## Summary

The Blackbridge Brook Catchment area extends from the Downs Road in the south to the shore east and west of Wootton Creek on the northeast coastline of the Isle of Wight. It includes the villages of Wootton Bridge, Fishbourne and Havenstreet and a number of more rural hamlets and isolated farmsteads.

Blackbridge Brook rises as a spring near to West Ashey Farm. It is also fed along its length by a number of tributaries which themselves rise on the higher ground to the east and west of the brook. It is sinuous and natural in character following the contours of the landscape. Part of its length (Chillingwood Brook tributary) partially defines the boundary between the Medieval parishes of Newchurch and Arreton.

The underlying geology is clay with overlying gravel caps with the chalk downs rising in the south of the catchment. The clay creates heavier soils in most of the catchment other than close to the chalk downland where run off has helped to break up the clays and on the well drained chalk itself.

The Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) provides information on the character of today's landscape based on historic land use and changes to field patterns, enclosure, woodland clearance and development. This catchment area would have been heavily influenced by the manors of Wootton, Binstead and Ashey and by the medieval Abbey of Quarr.

The historical changes to the landscape have created three distinctive zones in the catchment area today.

The first of these is in the north of the area, (largely north of the main A3054 road). This has seen the greatest level of development in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with the loss of fields, woodland, heathland and common through the expansion of the villages of Wootton Bridge and Fishbourne and the building of a number of larger detached houses between Binstead and Quarr and at Elenor's Grove. There has also been urbanisation of remaining farmland at Lower Woodside though the development of land for tourism and the amenity use of smaller pasture fields for 'horsiculture'. An exception to this is the landscape close to the site of the medieval Abbey of Quarr which remains as a record of earlier landscape change from medieval assarting of woodland. Historically the coastline of the area was highly important evidenced by the findings of the Wootton – Quarr archaeological survey which has discovered trackways, fishtraps and other structures and artefacts. Quarrying of stone took place in the Binstead area in Anglo-Saxon times and continued in the Norman period being used to build Quarr Abbey and important mainland sites such as Winchester Cathedral. The medieval abbey of Quarr had great influence on the landscape including the establishment of fish ponds, a grange farm at Newnham and fish processing at 'Fish House' now known as Fishbourne.

The second area is south of the first (south of the main A3054 road) to the edge of the main wooded areas (Combley Great Wood, Chillingwood Copse and Rowlands Wood). Historically, evidence tells us that the area was a mosaic of woodland, damp clay and drier gravel heath. Pollen analysis indicates more extensive modification of woodland in the Neolithic period leading to the loss of native Lime woodland. In Anglo-Saxon time the area was not a primary settlement area and was probably largely used for its woodland, wood pasture and heathland grazing resources.

Brick works were established in this area during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries taking advantage of the clays and providing materials for the development boom in the north of the area and elsewhere on the Island. Today this landscape remains pastoral with extensive mature hedgerows, hedge row trees and field trees and is well wooded with a number of individual copses merging into extensive woodland cover. At first sight you might think that the area is relatively unchanged, however we know from the HLC that most of the pasture in the area was assarted from woodland or (in the east and west of the catchment) enclosed from heathland, pasture, meadow, waste, common or green in the medieval and post medieval periods. The woodlands themselves have also changed with a number of Ancient Woodland sites being replanted with a mix of conifers and broadleaved species, and some additional conifer plantations from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

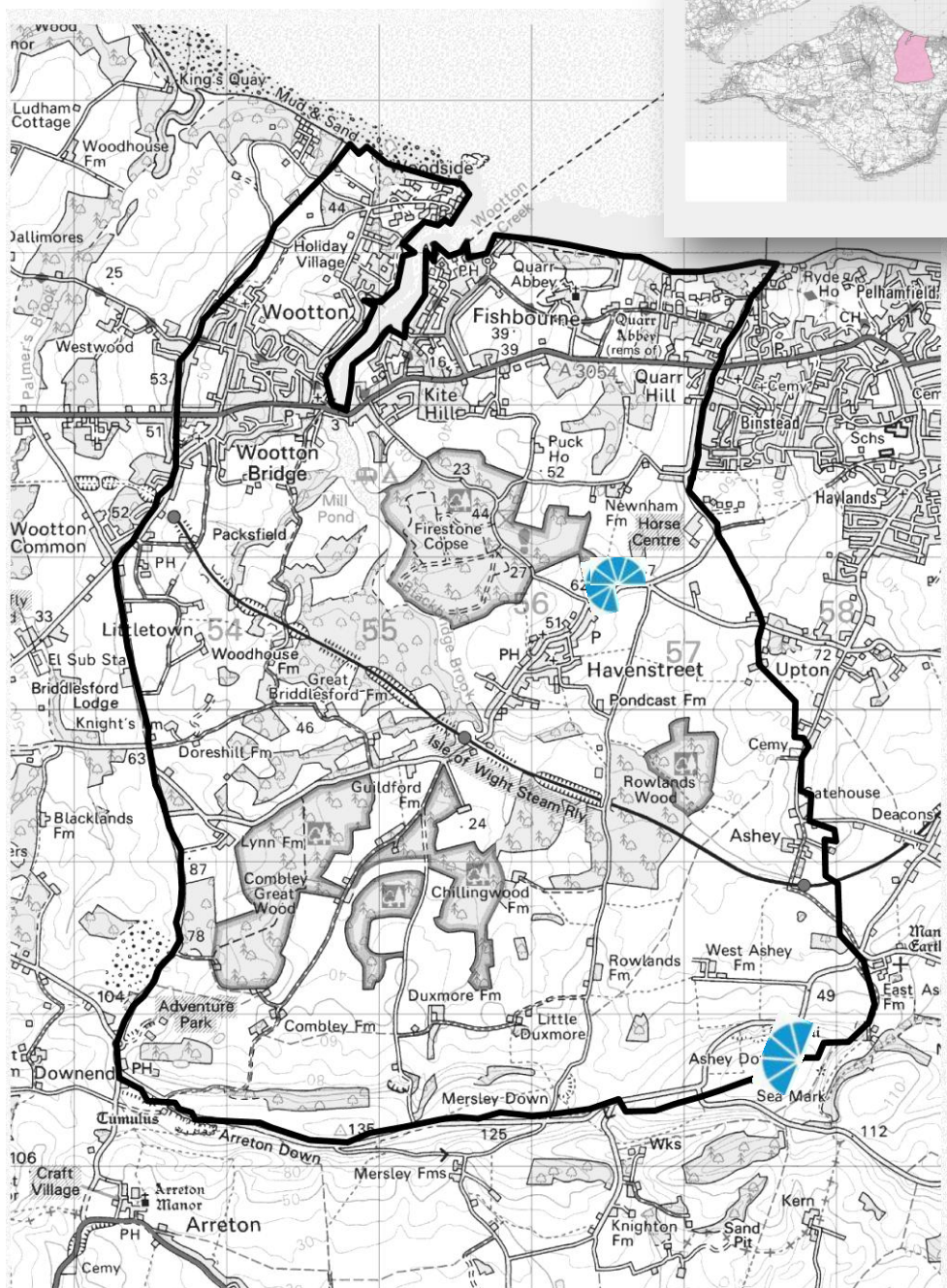
The final area is south of the woodlands and includes more open fields, the downland edge and downland itself. It is likely that the Downs Road may have been used for travelling across the East Wight in prehistoric times. Extensive woodland clearance of the down land took place in the Bronze Age period with these areas becoming important for ceremonial events. Because of the lighter nature of the soils due to the influence of the chalk, it is thought that this area was an important arable cultivation zone from the Roman era through to the Early Medieval period. There is evidence of Iron Age and Roman land use west of Ashe Down. Combley Roman Villa is also sited in the west of this area. Anglo-Saxon's reused Bronze Age burial mounds on the chalk downs as ceremonial sites for their cremations. Medieval pillow mounds were built on Ashe Down as rabbit warrens, an important source of meat. A number of small chalk pits along the base of the downs may date back to the post medieval period. Chalk was extracted to be made into lime for building materials and for spreading on the clay soils to 'sweeten' them for cultivation. Chalk itself is used as a building material in some agricultural buildings close to the downs. The area has a more open character and includes larger fields which have been formed by the re-organisation and amalgamation of fields assarted from woodland to the north or fields enclosed from downland to the south. The lighter soils mean that parts of the area have been cultivated for arable crops although there are also a number of larger improved grassland fields on the downland edge and on the downs themselves. Arable cultivation may have been more widespread in the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the time of World War II when some of the unimproved grasslands were lost to the plough and reseeded as improved grassland.

## Key management issues

- Woodland management – appropriate management of existing woodland for the landscape, historic environment and biodiversity. This will be achieved either through grant funding or through continued attempts to establish viable economic markets for woodland products.
- Woodland planting – any new woodland planting should be based upon restoration of areas which have some historic basis for woodland cover.
- Hedgerow management – appropriate management of existing hedgerows and potential restoration of historic hedgerows as effective stock boundaries and an important contributor to the landscape character of the area.
- Urban pressures – particularly in the areas defined as Landscape Improvement Zones in the Isle of Wight Landscape Character Assessment but also across the pasturelands in smaller field parcels and close to urban edges. In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century there has been considerable pressure on smaller plots for leisure and amenity use such as ‘horsiculture’. This also includes pressure from development as the result of extension of settlement areas and changes to existing properties and gardens that may impact on vestiges of woodland or veteran trees.
- Change of use / re use of development sites - such as former holiday parks, business parks etc.
- Pasture management – extensive versus intensive grazing and management practices to minimise any diffuse pollution of the watercourse and increase biodiversity.

## Blackbridge Brook Catchment Area

The following map shows the area defined as the catchment for the Blackbridge Brook. Some 2781 hectares in size, the area includes the villages of Wootton Bridge, Fishbourne and the edge of Binstead in the north, close to the coast; the village of Havenstreet further inland to the south; part of the hamlet of Ashe and a number of isolated rural farmsteads and workers cottages in the south and west. The catchment area falls within the modern civil parishes of Ryde, Wootton Bridge and Havenstreet & Ashe. Its extent reflects the area of landscape that has influence on the watercourse through acting as its watershed.



Location from which panoramic photographs were taken

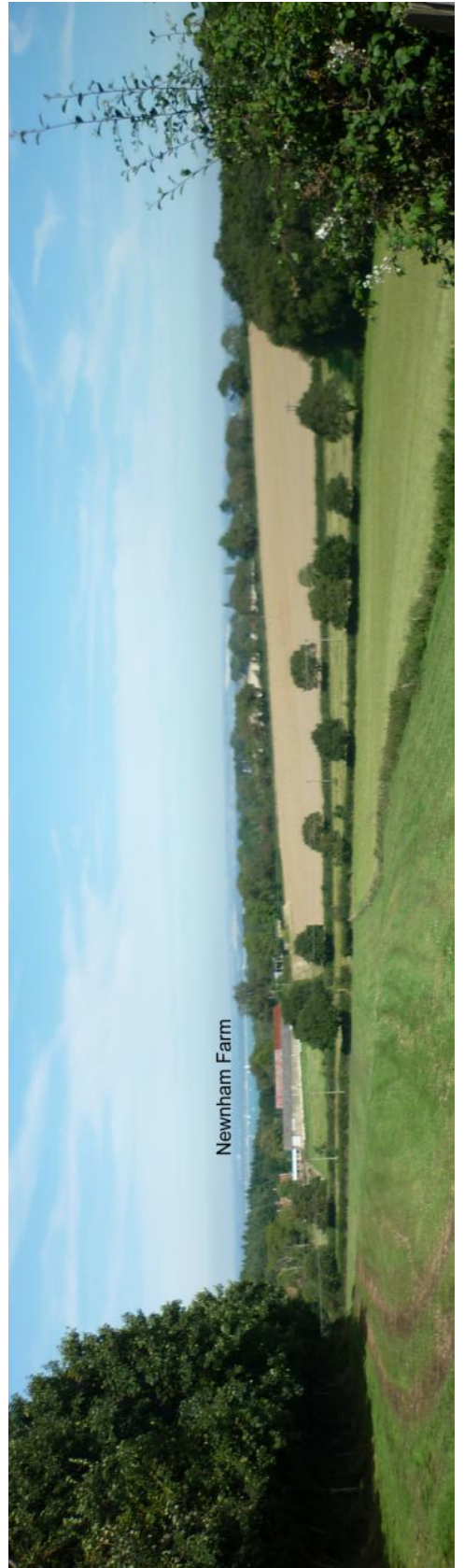
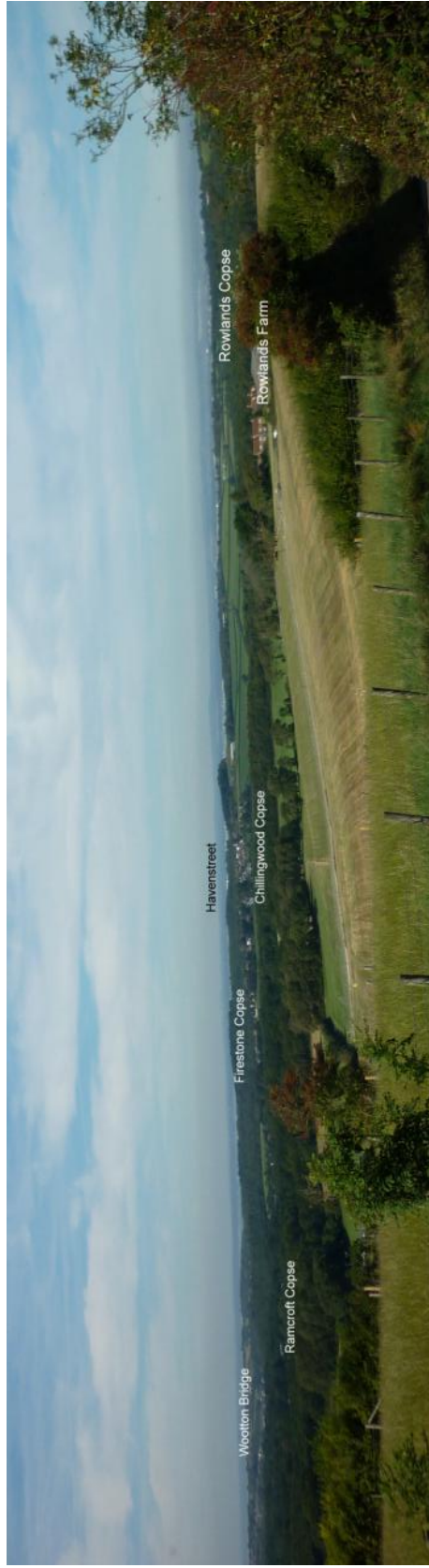


View from Ashley Down looking west and north west.



View from Ashley Down looking north west.

Views from Havenstreet War Memorial



## The watercourse

Blackbridge Brook rises from springs close to West Ashey Farm to the north of the central chalk downland ridge where the heavier clay Hamstead Bed geology is overlain by gravel deposits (approx 35 meters AOD). It is fed by a number of tributaries from springs rising below the central chalk downland to the west (Little Duxmore Farm (65 meters AOD), Little Duxmore (50 meters AOD), Downend (80 meters AOD)), from the higher clay land to the west (Doreshill and Knights Farm (60 meters AOD), Littletown (50 meters AOD), Packsfield (40 meters AOD) and Fernhill (20 meters AOD)) and from springs occurring in the east, on clay lands north of Havenstreet (50 to 30 meters AOD) then flowing through Firestone Copse.

Two of these are large enough to be given their own names Chillingwood Brook (rises at Duxmore Farm) and Deadman's Brook (rises just south of Lynn Farm and flows through the Combley valley). The confluence of these is in Blackbridge Copse and the resulting stream flows on to join with Blackbridge Brook at Blackbridge just east of Main Road, Havenstreet.

Close to its various sources the watercourse flows through pastoral and arable farmland, it then flows through woodlands on to the old mill pond behind Wootton Bridge, and then into Wootton Creek. Its course follows the natural topography of the land and is sinuous in character. Comparison with the unpublished Ordnance Survey drawings of 1793 shows the watercourse to be little changed. The only significant changes taking place in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with bridge and culvert works taking place for the creation of the Newport to Ryde railway given approval in 1872 and opening in late in 1875.



The old mill pond from Wootton Bridge.

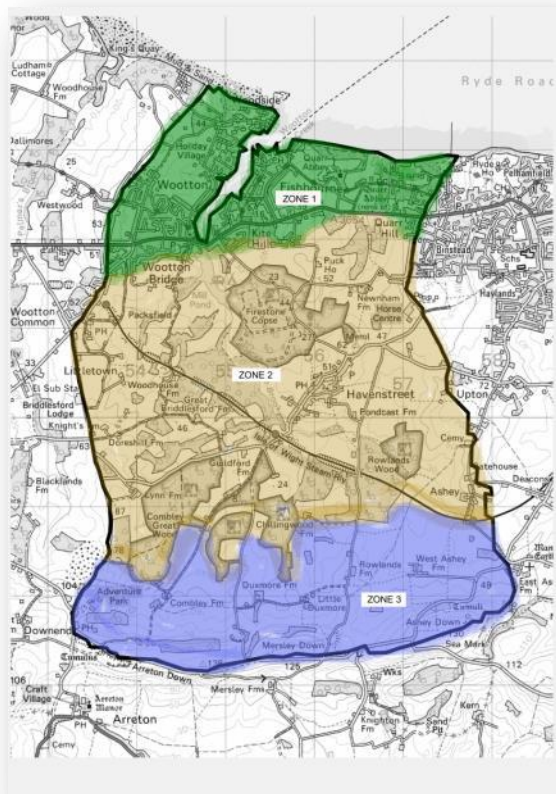
## The wider landscape – an overview

The Isle of Wight Landscape Character Assessment describes the landscape of the whole of the Isle of Wight and defines eleven distinct Landscape Character Types outside of settlement areas across the county. Below are listed the Landscape Types occurring within the Blackbridge Brook Catchment Area :

- Landscape Improvement Zone, areas where urbanising influences have altered and often degraded landscape character, (located in the north east of the area between Wootton Bridge and the coastline).
- Harbours and Creeks (Wootton Creek and the Mill Pond)
- Chalk Downs (the down land ridge in the south of the area)
- Northern Woodlands (largely in the centre of the area and often close to the course of the Blackbridge Brook)
- Traditional Enclosed Pasture (throughout the catchment).

The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of the Isle of Wight identifies and describes Historic Landscape Character Types based on present land use, land management and settlement patterns which reflect different historical processes in their formation. It also defines and describes the past landscape character of the Isle of Wight, using a variety of sources, in order to better understand how this past landscape character has influenced the present historic landscape character of the area. The Blackbridge Brook Catchment Area falls within the Northern Lowlands and East Wight Chalk Ridge HLC Types with the detailed HLC database providing information on individual land parcels, enclosure, time depth, boundaries and other historic environment information.

Although the landscape and historic environment of the catchment is discussed in more detail later in this report, its overall character can perhaps be best described through its sub division into three zones:



Zone 1: This area includes the land to the north of the A3054 and the settlement immediately to the south of this main road. This is the most developed part of the catchment area having seen significant growth of industry, leisure and housing in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. This is particularly the case to the west of Wootton Creek which has seen significant change and urbanising influences. East of Fishbourne the historic landscape around Quarr Abbey has retained a landscape with significant historic character.

Zone 2: The second zone is south of the main settlement and includes the village of Havenstreet and most of the woodland in the area. Pastoral and heavily wooded, this area has many smaller farmsteads, significant areas of ancient woodland, a network of tracks and public rights of way and well developed hedgerows with hedgerow and field trees. Whilst at first perhaps appearing 'timeless' in nature, historically this zone has seen many changes. These include the enclosure of common, waste, pasture, meadow and down land; loss of woodland through assarting (the clearing of woodland for pasture or arable cultivation); creation of plantation woodlands, amalgamation and sub division of fields and changes through the engineering works associated with the coming of the railway. The zone includes meadows, pastures, with some small areas of arable cultivation around Newnham Farm in the east and Doreshill Farm in the west.

Zone 3: The third zone is the more open landscape of the farmland south of the woodland, the downland edge and finally the down land in the south of the area. This area has a more open character, particularly the down land and the large improved grassland and arable fields close to the down land edge. Field sizes are significantly larger in this zone of the catchment; hedgerows are smaller and well manicured with fewer hedgerow. Field trees are scarce when compared to the other two zones with those that do remain often marking the line of lost hedgerow boundaries.

## Landscape change

The Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) is based on the findings of the Historic Landscape Characterisation and describes broad HLC Areas across the Isle of Wight. As mentioned earlier the Blackbridge Brook Catchment is within the Northern Lowlands and East Wight Chalk Ridge HEAP Areas. From this and other documentary sources we can infer that the principal historical processes in the Blackbridge Brook Catchment include:

- Evidence of the strategic importance of the northern coastline and its inlets dates as far back as prehistoric times, particularly in the Wootton to Quarr area. This includes trackways, fish traps, other structures and artefacts.
- It is likely that the 'Downs Road' may have been used as a route for travelling across the eastern part of the Island in prehistoric times.
- Inland, the landscape was a mosaic of woodland, damp clay and drier gravel heath in prehistoric times. Pollen analysis indicates extensive modification of woodland during the Neolithic period leading to the loss of native Lime woodland.
- Extensive woodland clearance from the down land areas took place in the Bronze Age and these also became important sites for ceremonial events.
- The Northern Lowlands area is thought to have been less intensively farmed or settled than other parts of the Isle of Wight during the Roman and Medieval periods.

- It is thought that the area of land immediately to the north of the central chalk ridge (our Blackbridge Brook Catchment Zone 3), being better drained than the heavier clay soils further north, formed an important 'sub-chalk' arable zone from Roman through to Anglo-Saxon and Medieval times. This area would have been highly valued for the production of crops for settlement, manors and estates in the area.
- There is evidence of Iron Age and Roman use of land to the west of Ashe Down.
- Combley Roman Villa was built on the slopes of the chalk in the west of the catchment (today within the grounds of Robin Hill).
- Pagan Anglo-Saxons secondary cremations were made in Bronze Age burial mounds on chalk downs.
- 10<sup>th</sup> century charters record grants of land at Stathe (east of Wootton Creek) and at Meolocdune (Ashey Down and land north of Ashe Down).
- In Anglo-Saxon times the Blackbridge Brook Catchment area would have fallen within the 'mother parishes' of Arreton and Newchurch.
- Assarting of woodland and enclosure of heath, waste and common starts to take place in Anglo-Saxon times; these can be particularly seen around the edges of Combley Great Wood.
- The Blackbridge Brook Catchment area was not a primary settlement area in Anglo-Saxon times and was probably largely used for its woodland, wood pasture and heathland grazing resources.
- Quarrying of Bembridge Limestone in the immediate area of Binstead and Quarr with recorded exports to the mainland recorded in the Saxon period. This stone was used at Winchester Cathedral and various other mainland churches in the Norman period.
- Ashe, Binstead, and Wootton are Manors recorded in the Domesday Book in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- A number of manorial chapels became churches and parishes in their own right after the Norman Conquest. Binstead Church was possibly built for workers in the nearby stone quarries in the Norman period and was dependent upon the bishops of Winchester in the medieval period. Wootton Church was also originally a manorial chapel but became an independent parish church in the later medieval period.
- Quarr Abbey was established by the Cistercian order in 1135 and is the only medieval abbey on the Isle of Wight. It has a 14<sup>th</sup> century defensive wall facing the coast to help defend the Abbey from attack). It had granges at Newnham (including fish ponds), and Combley. Buildings at Fish House (later to be called Fishbourne) were associated with the Abbey's storage, processing and export of fish. The Abbey also had an area of wood pasture close to Quarr.
- In medieval and post medieval periods there were still large areas of unenclosed common grazing on clay or gravel heathland in the area at Wootton Common and Lynn Common.
- Havenstreet may date from the medieval period.
- Medieval tide mill at Wootton Bridge.
- Medieval 'pillow mounds' (artificial rabbit warrens ) on Ashe Down
- Small chalk pits at the base of the downs are probably of post medieval date and are associated with the production of lime and the marling of fields. Chalk is used as a building material close to the chalk down land.

- Farmsteads in the area remain small and scattered, although many were part of larger estates such as Asheby Manor (owned by the Abbey of Wherwell near Andover until the dissolution), Quarr Abbey and Wootton.
- Many of the field patterns in the Blackbridge Brook Catchment are derived from the enclosure of common grazing, heathland and assarting of woodland during the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some have been altered by later reorganisation and amalgamation (particularly in Zone 3).
- Asheby Seamark was built on Asheby Down in 1735 and in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century there was also a semaphore station on Asheby Down.
- The new landscape park at Fernhill near Wootton was created in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Thomas Orde-Powlett.
- In the late 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century a number of brick making sites are established in the area (Shore Copse, Ashlake, Wootton Bridge, Lambslease, Brickfields, Old Kemphill, Rowlands).
- 19<sup>th</sup> century development and expansion at Wootton, Wootton Bridge, Fishbourne, Binstead and at Havenstreet. Asheby Farm was a planned 19<sup>th</sup> century planned farmstead. The Ryde to Newport Railway line was built in the early 1870s and opened for business in 1875 (closing in the 1966 and part of the route reopening as the Isle of Wight Steam Railway in the early 1970s).
- 19<sup>th</sup> century Tithe surveys of the 1830s and 1840s record arable cultivation of some of the larger down land enclosures.
- A new Benedictine Abbey was established at Quarr from 1907, including the building of new red brick Abbey buildings.
- The Forestry Commission established extensive coniferous plantation forests across the area (Firestone, Combley Great Wood and others).
- Fishbourne car ferry service commenced in March 1926.
- Intensive arable cultivation of parts of the down land took place after WWII when some unimproved chalk grass land were lost to the plough and reseeded as improved grassland (Asheby Down)
- There are twenty five buildings or structures with Listed status within the Blackbridge Brook Catchment. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century Quarr Abbey building is Grade I Listed and the remaining twenty four are Grade II.
- There are twelve Scheduled Monuments in the area including the Quarr Abbey remains, the Quarr Fish Ponds close to Newnham Farm and Combley Roman Villa site.
- There are numerous other non scheduled sites across the area with entries on the Historic Environment Record. These include find sites, burial mounds, non listed but historic buildings and other sites of interest.

## Estates and Manors

The following estates and manors have had influence on the area.

There are three Manors recorded in the Domesday Book (Wootton Manor, Binstead Manor and Asheby Manor).

### Wootton Manor

This was largely to the west of the Wootton Creek. Its history is summarised as follows. Wootton (Odetone 11<sup>th</sup> century, Woditon 13<sup>th</sup> century) had been held by Queen Edith wife of Edward the Confessor but after the Norman Conquest transferred to King William. It passed into the De Insula family (also known as De Lisle and latterly Lisle family) in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Manor is recorded as having a rabbit warren and fishery in an arm of the sea. The wider estate remained in the Lisle family until the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century when it was sold. Wootton Manor Farmhouse remained in the Lisle family until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the estate passed into the ownership of the White-Popham family who also had lands elsewhere on the Island.

### Binstead Manor

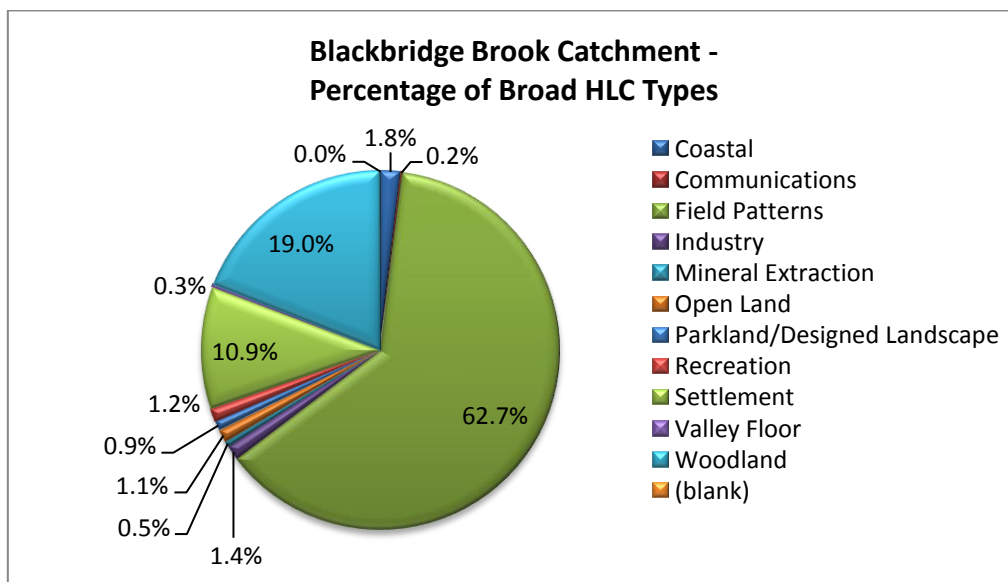
This included the later Manor of Quarr and Newnham. It had been held by Tovi a thegn of Edward the Confessor but at the time of the Domesday Survey was led by William du Stur and later was held by the King. William the Conqueror granted quarrying rights to the Bishop of Winchester to allow stone to be taken for the use in the building of the new Cathedral at Winchester. These rights were extended by William II to allow the Manor to dig for stone across the Island wherever quarries existed. The quarry sites at Binstead were used for stone to build the Cistercian Abbey at Quarr in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and for the export of stone for the building of Norman churches across the south of England and elsewhere on the Isle of Wight. It seems that the Binstead Manor lands were then transferred to Quarr Abbey and were extensive including land east of Wootton Creek at Fishbourne (then known as Fish House), a grange farmstead at Newnham with its medieval fish ponds, land at Kite Hill, Firestone and Havenstreet later known as the Quarr and Newnham Manor. The Abbey also had lands south of Havenstreet at Duxmore, Downend, Combley and Combley Great Wood, later known as the Downend Estate and lands extending over the central down land ridge to Arreton and Haseley. It also held a number of outlying parcels of land west of Wootton Creek including part of Wootton Common and Fattingspark Copse. After the dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the Binstead Manor and the estates of the Abbey were granted to the tenants of Newnham Manor who sold the lands to the Fleming family in 1609. The estate remained intact and within the Fleming and later Willis-Fleming family until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the northern part of the estate, being the land at Fishbourne and upon which Quarr House was built was sold to Admiral Cochrane in 1858. His son sold the house and lands to the Benedictine community from Solesmes in 1907, who then built the new Quarr Abbey. The southern part of the estate remained in the Willis-Fleming family until the estate started to be sold off from 1956 onwards. A portion of Combley Farm and the former Downend Brickworks were sold in 1969 and became Robin Hill Adventure Park. This area includes the Combley Roman Villa site and today is a visitor attraction which hosts the annual Bestival music festival. Combley Farm was sold in 1985.

## Ashey Manor

This manor was granted to the Abbey of Wherwell (near Andover) in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and included extensive lands from Ashey Down north to the coast including the village of Ride (Ryde) and the passage from Ryde to Portsmouth was one of its major sources of income. The medieval Manor site (which is just east of the boundary of the Blackbridge Brook Catchment) was a religious house. On the dissolution of the monasteries and suppression of religious houses in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the lands of the Manor passed to the Worsley family who had been the last tenants of the Abbess. It was divided into two estates due to a member of the family dying intestate with the northern part becoming the Manor of Ryde and the southern part remaining as Ashey Manor. This was sold in 1624 to Thomas Cotele with ownership passing through inheritance to George Lord Mount Edcumbe who sold the Manor to Joseph Bettesworth in 1789. It then passed through marriage and inheritance into the Player and then Brigstocke family.

## Detailed analysis of the HLC data

Using ArcView GIS software an analysis of the HLC has provided the following detailed information for the Blackbridge Brook Catchment Area.



It can be seen that the three largest Broad HLC Types within the catchment are:

Field Patterns (62.7%)

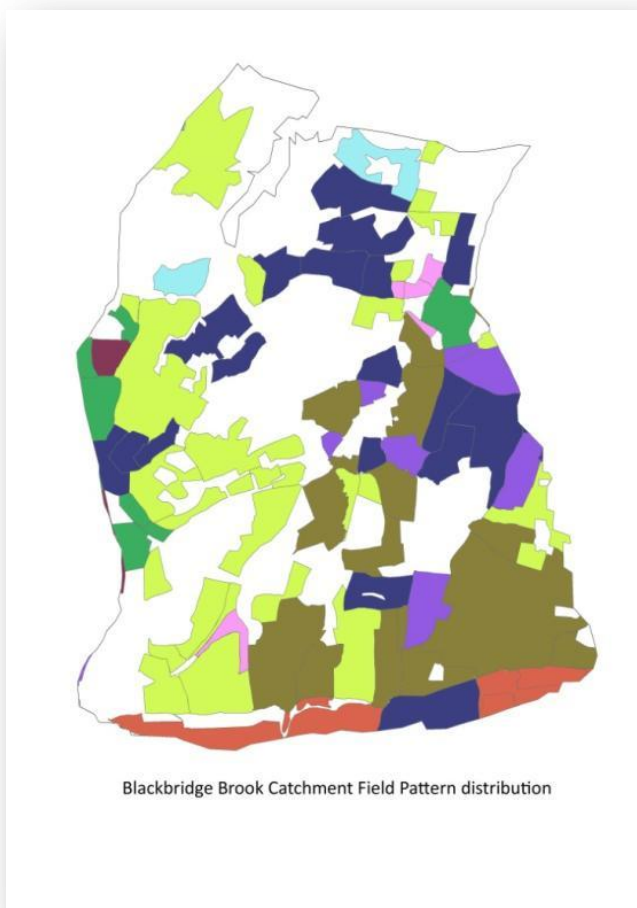
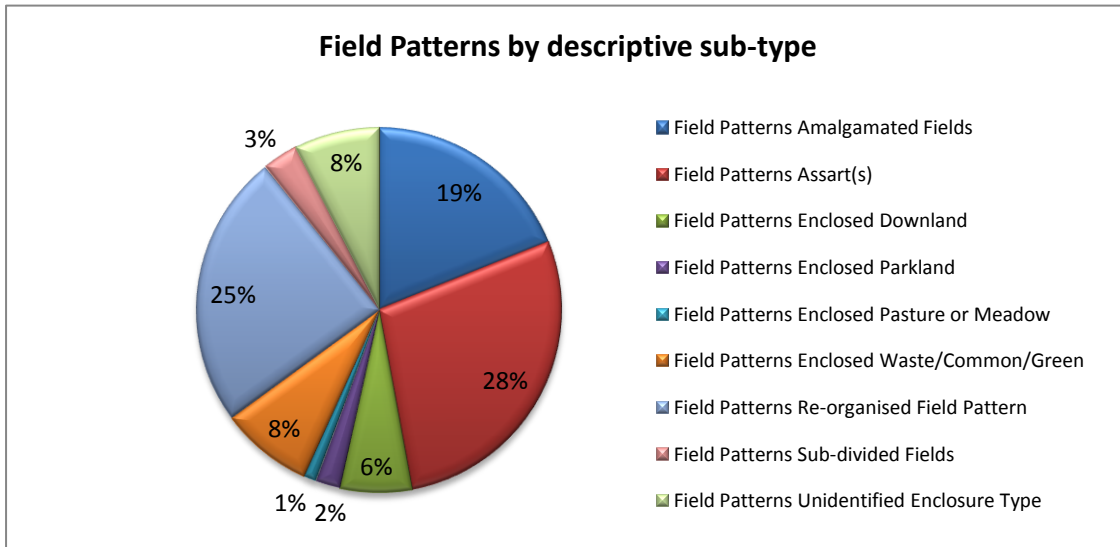
Woodland (19%)

Settlement (10.9%) for the purposes of this report we have grouped this with other Broad Types to create a Development HLC Type which includes Settlement, Mineral Extraction, Industry, Recreation, and Communications (14.2%)

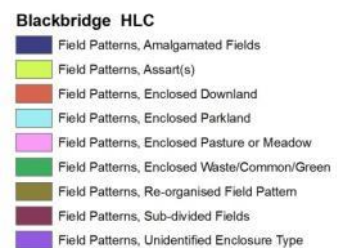
This report will now consider each of these HLC Broad Types in turn to better understand the time depth and changes that have created the historic landscape character of the Blackbridge Brook Catchment area.

## Field Patterns

Within this Broad HLC Type there are a number of descriptive sub-types the proportion of each is shown in the following pie chart.

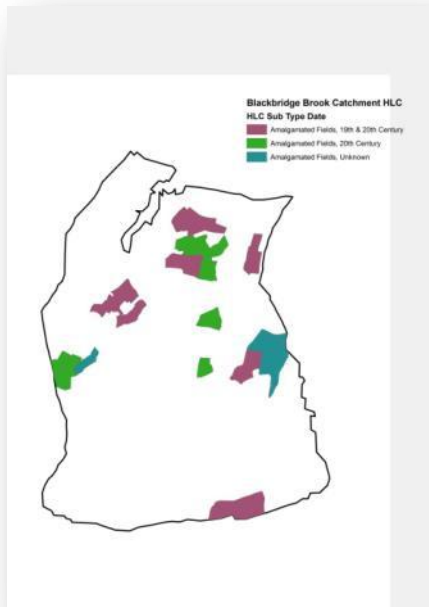


This map shows the distribution of the various Field Pattern descriptive sub-types across the Blackbridge Brook Catchment area. These are described in more detail below.



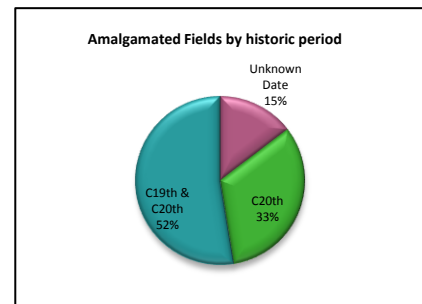
## Amalgamated fields

These are fields that consist of a number of historic fields that have been joined together they differ from fields classified as 'Re-organised' (see below) in that they still show evidence of the earlier field patterns. Amalgamation may have occurred at various periods through history. For the Blackbridge Brook Catchment these have been mapped below:



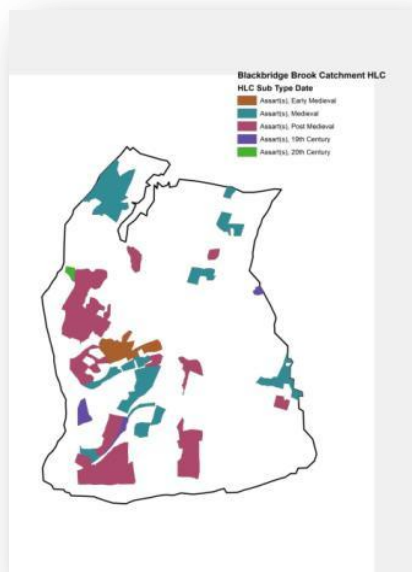
Most of the amalgamated fields in this catchment area date from the C19th and C20th and are found in all three zones in

the Blackbridge Brook Catchment. Exceptions are a field parcel close to the western boundary near Doreshill the date of which is unknown and north east of Rowlands Wood the date of which is unknown but perhaps could be from the Post Medieval period; its eastern boundary relates to the pre dissolution boundary of ownership between the Quarr Abbey and the Asheby Manor and Wherwell Abbey. Later it formed a Tithing boundary.



## Assarts

Fields that were created for cultivation or grazing through the removal of woodland a process also known as assarting are known as assarts. Assarting has taken place in this landscape and catchment area as far back as the Neolithic period and was particularly intensive on the down land in the Bronze Age. The HLC has used information from documentary evidence including maps and charters and then used this to assign an historic period for assarts. For the Blackbridge Brook Catchment they have been mapped below:

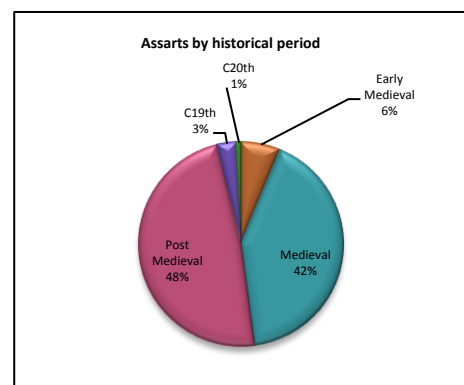


Assarting has taken place in all three zones of the catchment area.

48% of the assarts were formed in the Medieval period, with a further 48% being

formed in the Post Medieval period from 1500 to 1799.

This tells us that despite the fact that the area is well wooded today in relation to other parts of the Isle of Wight, it has seen significant loss of woodland in the



past. If we make the assumption that the areas of woodland that were assarted were previously ancient woodland and we look at the remaining area of ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland (being sites that have been woodland since at least AD 1600 but may have been subject to felling and replanting with coniferous and broadleaved species since that date) at present day, we can calculate the percentage loss of ancient woodland in the catchment area.

A = Assart(s) 492.65 hectares

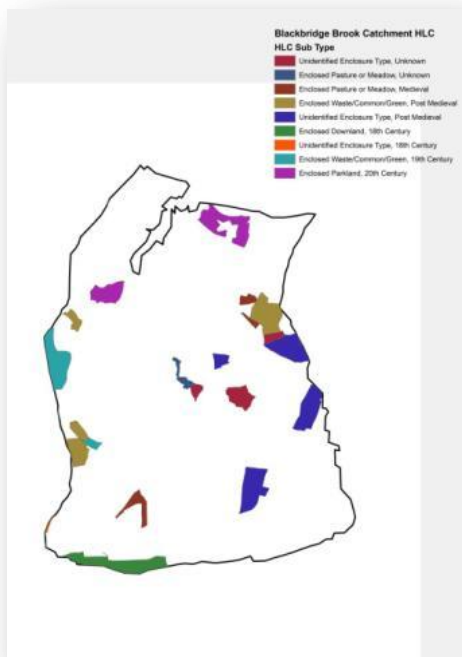
B= Remaining Ancient Woodland 141.47 hectares + Replanted Ancient Woodland 260.05 hectares = 401.52 hectares.

Our assumption that A+B= C being the total Ancient Woodland area (894.17 hectares)

Therefore A (Assarts) = 55% of original woodland, so 55% loss of Ancient Woodland.

## Enclosure

17.8% of the field patterns of the catchment area are identified as some form of enclosure (an additional 7.5% being identified as having an unknown enclosure type).



Enclosed Downland is around 6% of field patterns and around 4% of the total catchment area. The HLC tells us that 58% of enclosure of downland dates from the C20th (north of Mersley Down, Ashey Down), 29% from the C18th (north of Arretton Down) and around 3% from the Post Medieval period (also north of Mersley Down).

Enclosed Parkland constitutes around 2% of the field patterns and around 1.3% of the total catchment area. Two sites are recorded at Fernhill, Wootton Bridge and Quarr Abbey House Park both enclosed in the C20th. Both are within our Zone 1.

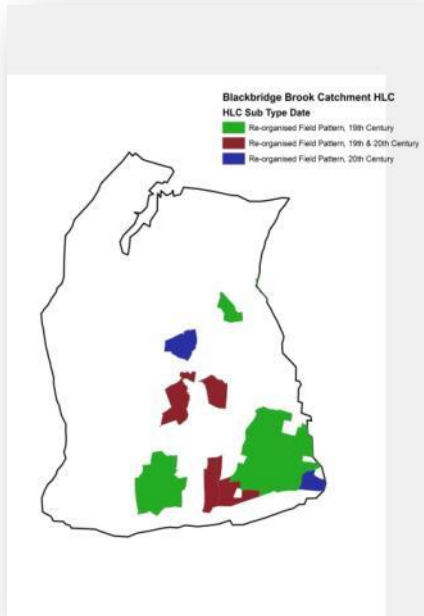
Enclosed Pasture and Meadow constitutes around 1% of the field patterns and less than 1% of the total catchment area. It is largely focussed on the area around Newnham Farm and at Combley Farm. Nearly 70% of this descriptive sub type is of medieval origin (Combley and one parcel at Newnham) the remaining

area being enclosed in the C19th and C20th.

Enclosed Waste/Common/Green constitutes around 8% of the field patterns and around 5% of the total catchment area. It occurs in Zone 2 of the catchment area. 38% was enclosed in the Post Medieval period (including an area east of Newnham Farm, an area adjacent to Wootton Station and parts of the former Little Lynn Common close to Lynn Farm) and the remaining 62% in the C19th (Bridlesford Lodge area part of the former Wootton Common and a further area close to Lynn Farm part of the former Little Lynn Common).

## Re-organised fields

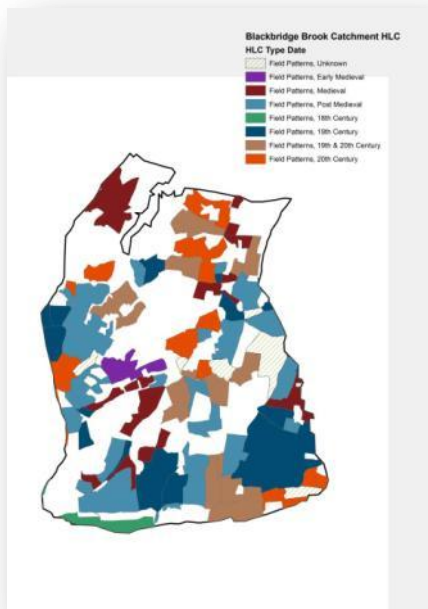
These fields have been re-organised through removal of boundaries between previous smaller historic fields to create larger field parcels. Unlike 'Amalgamated' fields these fields show little evidence (if any) of the former fields or have had their boundaries significantly altered.



The map of re-organised fields shows change from the C19th and C20th. There is a particular focus on the fields in the south east of the area and in Zone 3 in the fields immediately north of the down land edge, although there are also changes in Zone 2.

## Field Pattern change by historic period

The map below shows the distribution of field pattern change by historical period.



The HLC records the earliest documented changes occurring in the Early Medieval and Medieval periods and focussed particularly close to Briddlesford, Quarr, Wootton, Newnham, Ashey, and around Combley Great Wood and largely associated with assarting.

Post Medieval changes (1500 to 1799) are more wide spread in Zones 2 and 3 and is associated with assarting, enclosure and sub-divided fields.

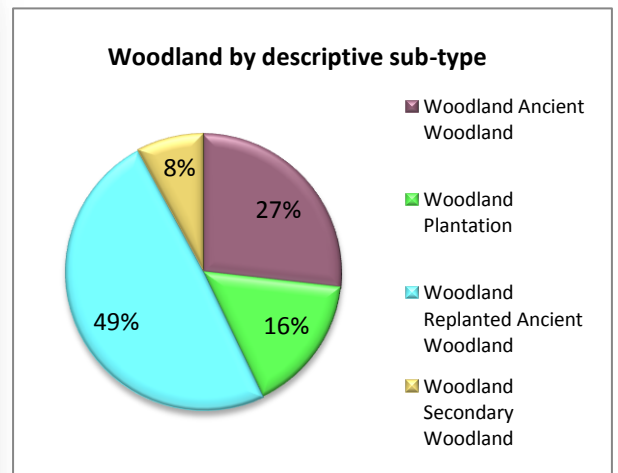
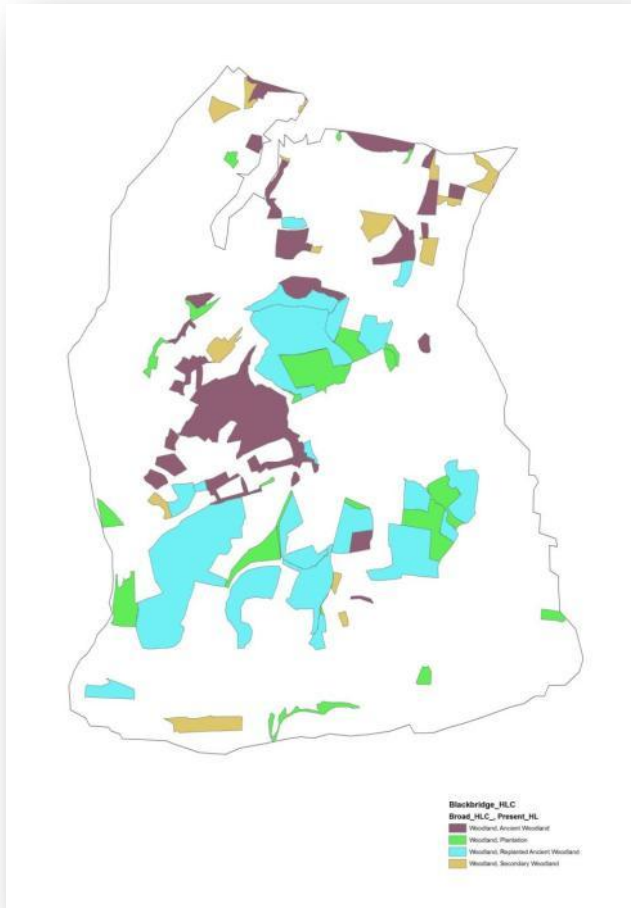
The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the enclosure of parts of the chalk down land in the south west of the catchment.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw wide spread change to field patterns across the whole catchment with re-organised fields, amalgamated fields, and enclosure of commons.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were further wide spread field pattern changes across the catchment with enclosure of down land, enclosure of commons, enclosure of parkland, amalgamated and reorganised fields.

## Woodland

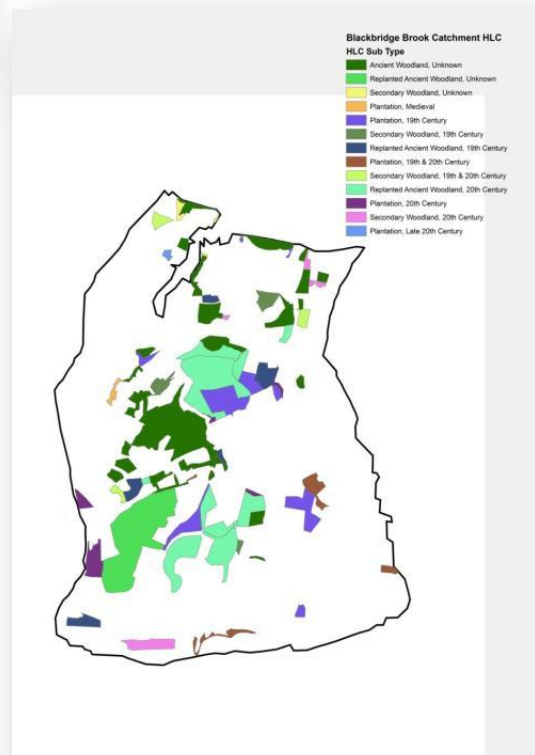
19% of the Blackbridge Brook Catchment is identified as woodland in the Isle of Wight HLC. We have set out above the loss of significant areas of ancient woodland through Medieval and Post Medieval assarting of woodland to create fields for pasture or cultivation. Despite this the catchment is still a well wooded landscape as can be seen from the panoramic photographs. The addition of numerous mature hedgerow trees and field trees in pasture create many views where woodland tree and woodland cover dominate the character of the area.



The map on the left shows the distribution of woodland across the catchment area by descriptive sub type.

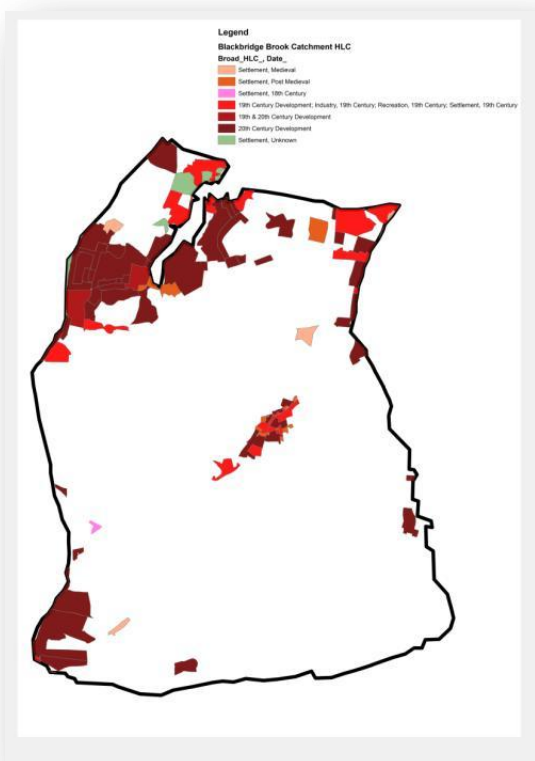
The pie chart shows the proportion of each type of woodland across the catchment area.

The map on the right shows the distribution of woodland across the catchment by historical period. Zones 1 and 2 have significant areas of Ancient Woodland (assumed permanent woodland cover since 1600). There are significant areas of Plantation (including Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites) and Secondary Woodland dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is one small area of possible Medieval Plantation woodland at Packsfield (Ways Copse and Symthershill Copse).



## Development

This category includes a number of Broad HLC Types including mineral extraction, industry, communications, recreation, and settlement. These have been grouped together to show 'development' across the catchment area (some 14.2% of the total area).



It can be seen from the map to the left that Development has been particularly focussed on the north of the area in Zone 1. This includes initial historic settlement cores dating from the Medieval and Post Medieval periods and dramatic expansion of development in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The village of Havenstreet is also shown with its expansion in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the south west of the area and in Zone 3 there is a concentration of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development associated with the quarrying, brick making and latterly the Robin Hill Adventure Park at Downend.

## Tables of data

Row Labels	Values		Sum of Area (acres)
	%	Hectares	
Field Patterns	62.7%	1745.05	4312.02
Woodland	19.0%	528.02	1304.74
Settlement	10.9%	302.88	748.42
Coastal	1.8%	48.89	120.80
Communications	0.2%	5.45	13.48
Industry	1.4%	37.81	93.42
Mineral Extraction	0.5%	13.78	34.05
Open Land	1.1%	31.15	76.97
Parkland/Designed Landscape	0.9%	24.64	60.90
Recreation	1.2%	33.48	82.73
Valley Floor	0.3%	9.18	22.69
(blank)	0.0%	0.81	2.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2781.15</b>	<b>6872.22</b>

Row Labels	Values	
	%	Area square meters
<b>Coastal</b>	<b>1.76%</b>	<b>488888.33</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>54541.36</b>
<b>Field Patterns</b>	<b>62.75%</b>	<b>17450488.97</b>
Amalgamated Fields	11.88%	3302655.78
Assart(s)	17.71%	4926469.96
Enclosed Downland	3.93%	1094305.11
Enclosed Parkland	1.35%	374489.75
Enclosed Pasture or Meadow	0.74%	204554.53
Enclosed Waste/Common/Green	5.14%	1429732.28
Re-organised Field Pattern	15.26%	4243343.90
Sub-divided Fields	2.02%	561208.77
Unidentified Enclosure Type	4.72%	1313728.90
<b>Industry</b>	<b>1.36%</b>	<b>378080.20</b>
<b>Mineral Extraction</b>	<b>0.50%</b>	<b>137796.67</b>
<b>Open Land</b>	<b>1.12%</b>	<b>311482.83</b>
<b>Parkland/Designed Landscape</b>	<b>0.89%</b>	<b>246447.77</b>
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	<b>334801.43</b>
<b>Settlement</b>	<b>10.89%</b>	<b>3028816.36</b>
<b>Valley Floor</b>	<b>0.33%</b>	<b>91840.16</b>
<b>Woodland</b>	<b>18.99%</b>	<b>5280213.12</b>
Ancient Woodland	5.09%	1414763.42
Plantation	3.06%	850555.58
Replanted Ancient Woodland	9.35%	2600540.58
Secondary Woodland	1.49%	414353.54
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>27811486.25</b>

Sum of Area (Hectares)	Column Labels											Grand Total
	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post Medieval	18th Century	19th Century	19th & 20th Century	Early 20th Century	20th Century	Late 20th Century	Unknown		
Row Labels												
Coastal	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Communications	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Field Patterns	1.1%	7.9%	14.9%	2.5%	14.4%	8.6%	0.0%	8.2%	2.4%	2.8%		62.7%
Industry	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%		1.4%
Mineral Extraction	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%		0.5%
Open Land	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%		1.1%
Parkland/Designed Landscape	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.9%
Recreation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%		1.2%
Settlement	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	1.2%	0.6%	1.5%	3.4%	2.0%	0.9%		10.9%
Valley Floor	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%		0.3%
Woodland	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	3.1%	0.9%	1.6%	5.2%	0.2%	7.8%		19.0%
Grand Total	1.6%	8.5%	15.5%	2.5%	20.0%	10.3%	3.4%	18.1%	5.5%	14.5%		100.0%

