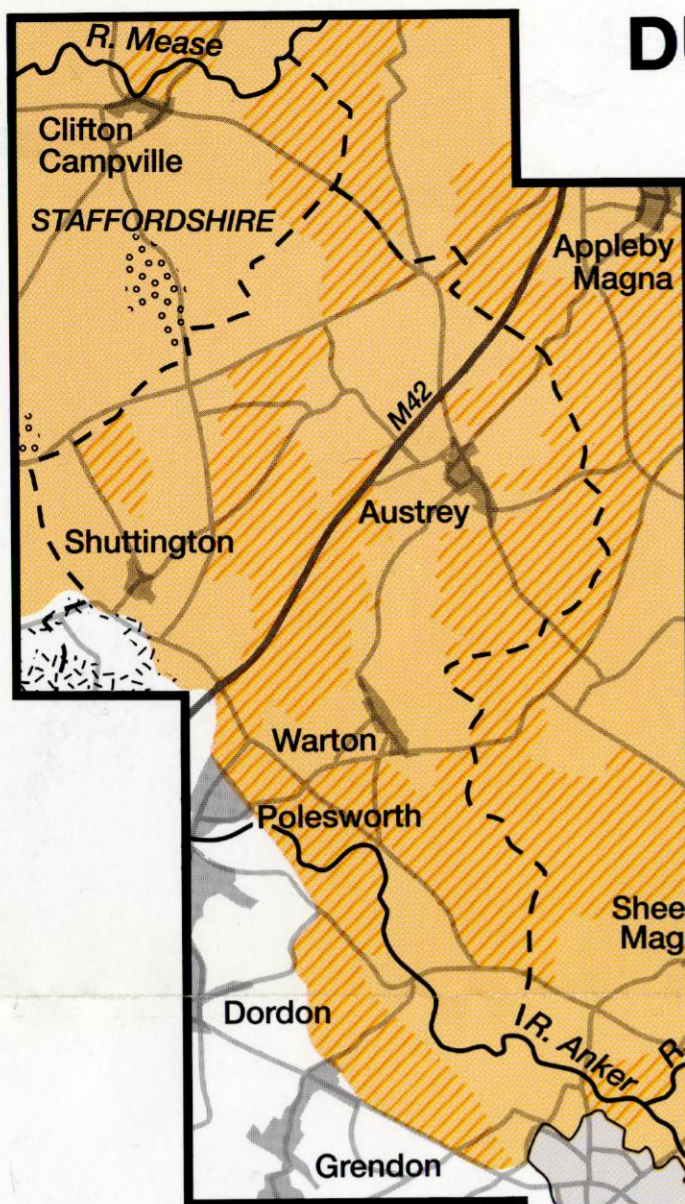


DUNSMORE - HIGH CROSS PLATEAU - MEASE LOWLANDS

Warwickshire Landscapes Project
Assessment and Strategies



MEASE LOWLANDS

A rolling agricultural region characterised by small rural villages.

General strategy

Conserve and maintain the rural farmed character of the region.

ESTATE FARMLANDS

Overall character and qualities

A well ordered agricultural landscape characterised by large country estates and small game coverts.

Characteristic features

- A gently rolling topography of low rounded hills and valleys.
- A late enclosure pattern of large hedged fields.
- Many small regularly shaped game coverts.
- Large country houses often set in mature parkland.
- Small hilltop villages often marked by a tall church spire.
- Winding country lanes bounded by wide grass verges.

Management strategy

Conserve and restore the distinctive rural estate character of the farmed landscape.

HIGH CROSS PLATEAU

A sparsely populated agricultural region distinguished by wide rolling ridges and valleys and a strong rural character.

General strategy

Conserve and enhance the remote rural character of the region.

OPEN PLATEAU

Overall character and qualities

A large scale, open rolling landscape characterised by wide views and a strong impression of 'emptiness' and space.

Characteristic features

- A rolling plateau dissected by broad valleys.
- A medium to large scale, often poorly defined field pattern.
- A sparsely populated landscape of hamlets and isolated manor farmsteads.
- Deserted medieval village sites surrounded by extensive areas of 'empty' countryside.
- Pockets of permanent pasture often with ridge and furrow.
- Prominent belts of woodland.

Management strategy

Strengthen the structure and unity of the landscape through large scale woodland planting.

VILLAGE FARMLANDS

Overall character and qualities

A small scale mainly pastoral hedged landscape closely associated with village settlements around the plateau fringe.

Characteristic features

- A varied undulating topography typically associated with small valleys.
- A mainly geometric pattern of small hedged fields.
- Permanent pasture often with ridge and furrow.
- A nucleated settlement pattern of small rural villages.
- Scattered hedgerow and roadside ash trees.
- Field ponds often fringed by trees and scrub.

Management strategy

Conserve the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape.

DUNSMORE

An intensively farmed, and in places urbanised, region, with a varied rolling, dissected topography characterised by low glacial plateaux and incised, meandering river valleys.

General strategy

Enhance the identity and unity of the landscape by strengthening the wooded, heathy character of the region.

PLATEAU FARMLANDS

Overall character and qualities

A simple, often heavily wooded, farmed landscape, typically confined to low plateau summits, and characterised by sandy soils and remnant heathy vegetation.

Characteristic features

- A gently rolling topography of low glacial plateaux.
- An 'empty' landscape of former waste with few roads and little settlement.
- A regular geometric field pattern defined by closely cropped hawthorn hedges.
- Many mature hedgerow oaks.
- Large blocks of ancient woodland.
- An historic land use pattern reflected in the local abundance of 'heath' names.
- Remnant heathy vegetation in woodlands and roadside verges.

Management strategy

Maintain and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape.

PLATEAU FRINGE

Overall character and qualities

A rather variable, often large scale farmed landscape with a varied undulating topography and characterised by a nucleated settlement pattern of small, often shrunken villages.

Characteristic features

- An undulating topography of low rounded hills and narrow meandering river valleys.
- Large, arable fields, often with a poorly defined field pattern.
- Pockets of permanent pasture and smaller hedged fields, usually associated with more steeply sloping ground.
- A nucleated settlement pattern typically comprising loose clusters of dwellings.
- Isolated, brick built farmsteads.

Management strategy

Enhance the overall structure and key features within the farmed landscape.

DUNSMORE PARKLANDS

Overall character and qualities

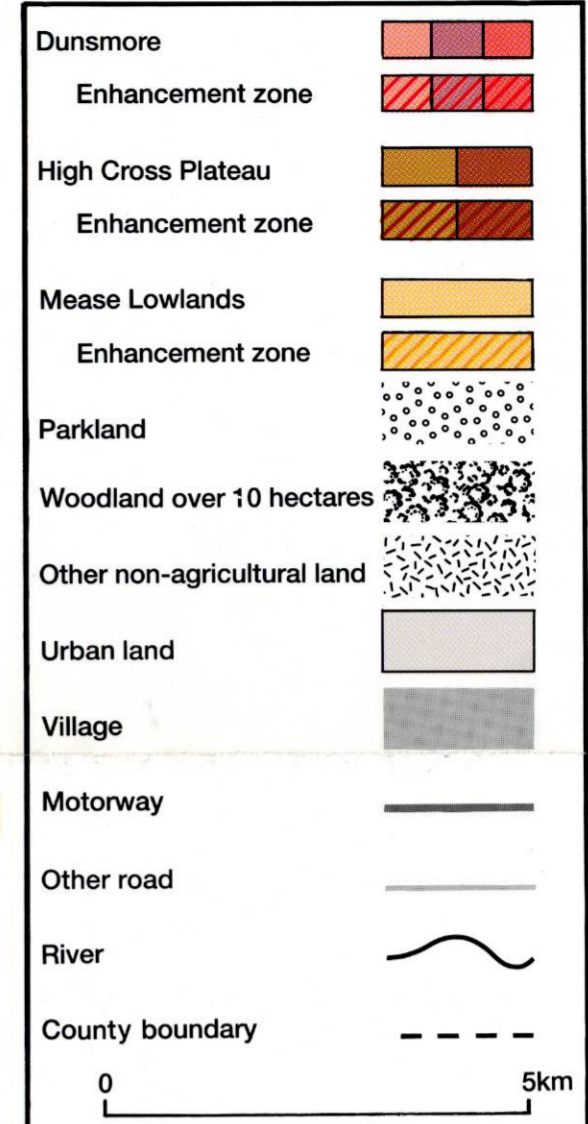
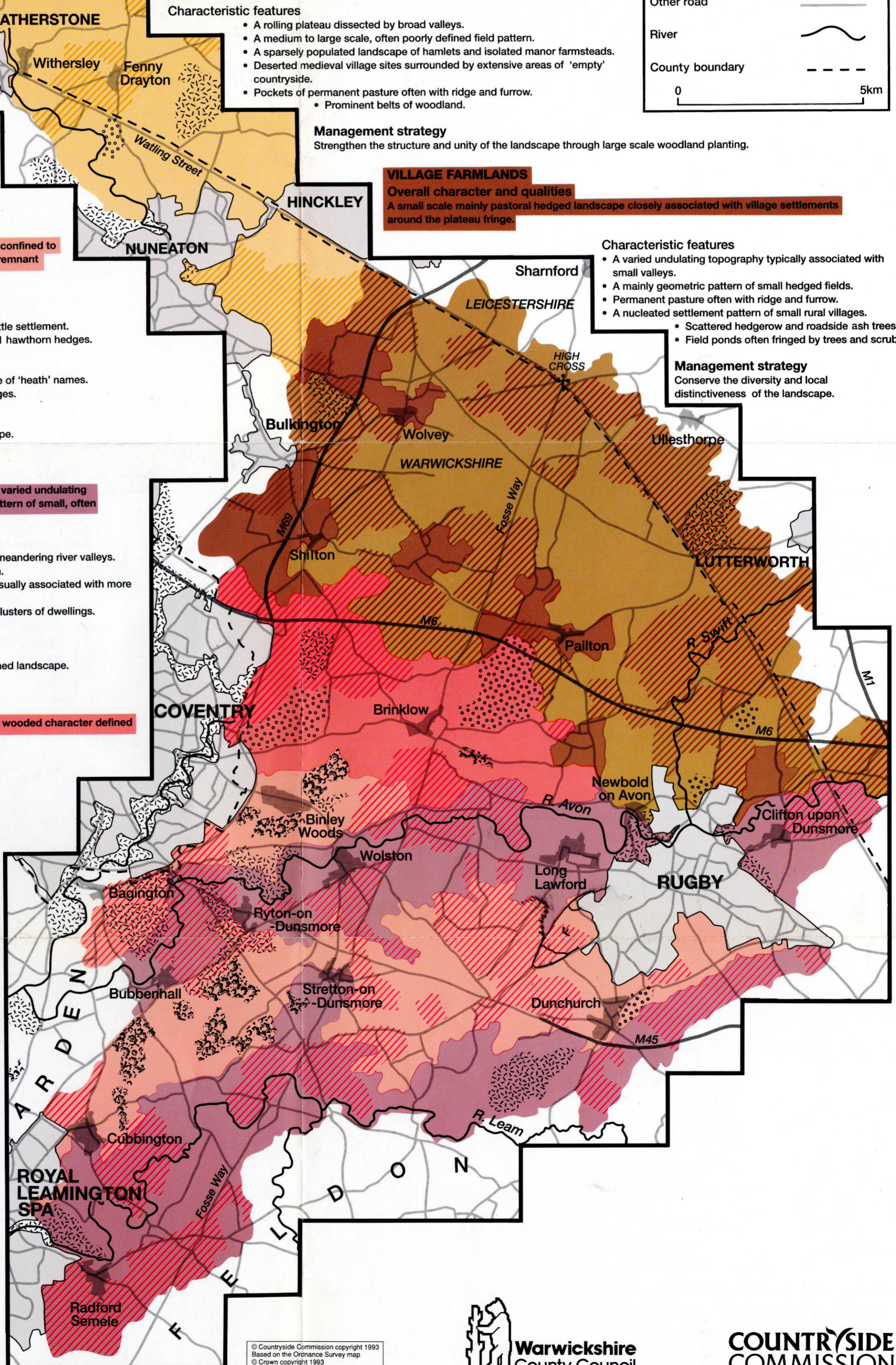
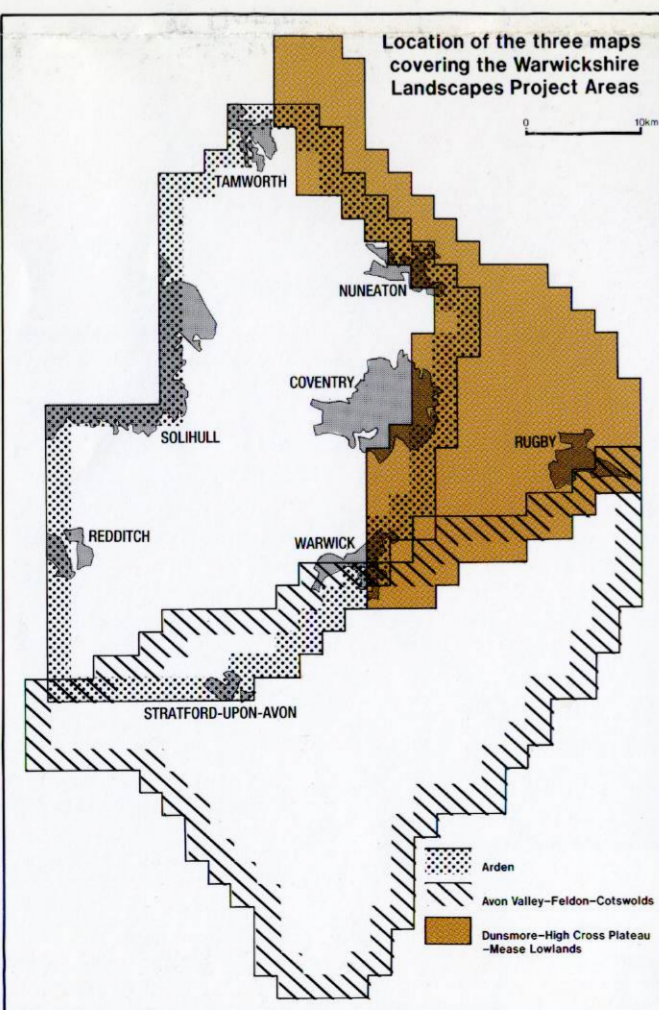
An enclosed, gently rolling estate landscape with a strongly wooded character defined by woodland edges, parkland and belts of trees.

Characteristic features

- Middle distance views enclosed by woodland edges.
- Belts of mature trees associated with estate lands.
- Mature parkland with large country houses.
- Mature hedgerow and roadside oaks.

Management strategy

Maintain and enhance the enclosed wooded character of the landscape.



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