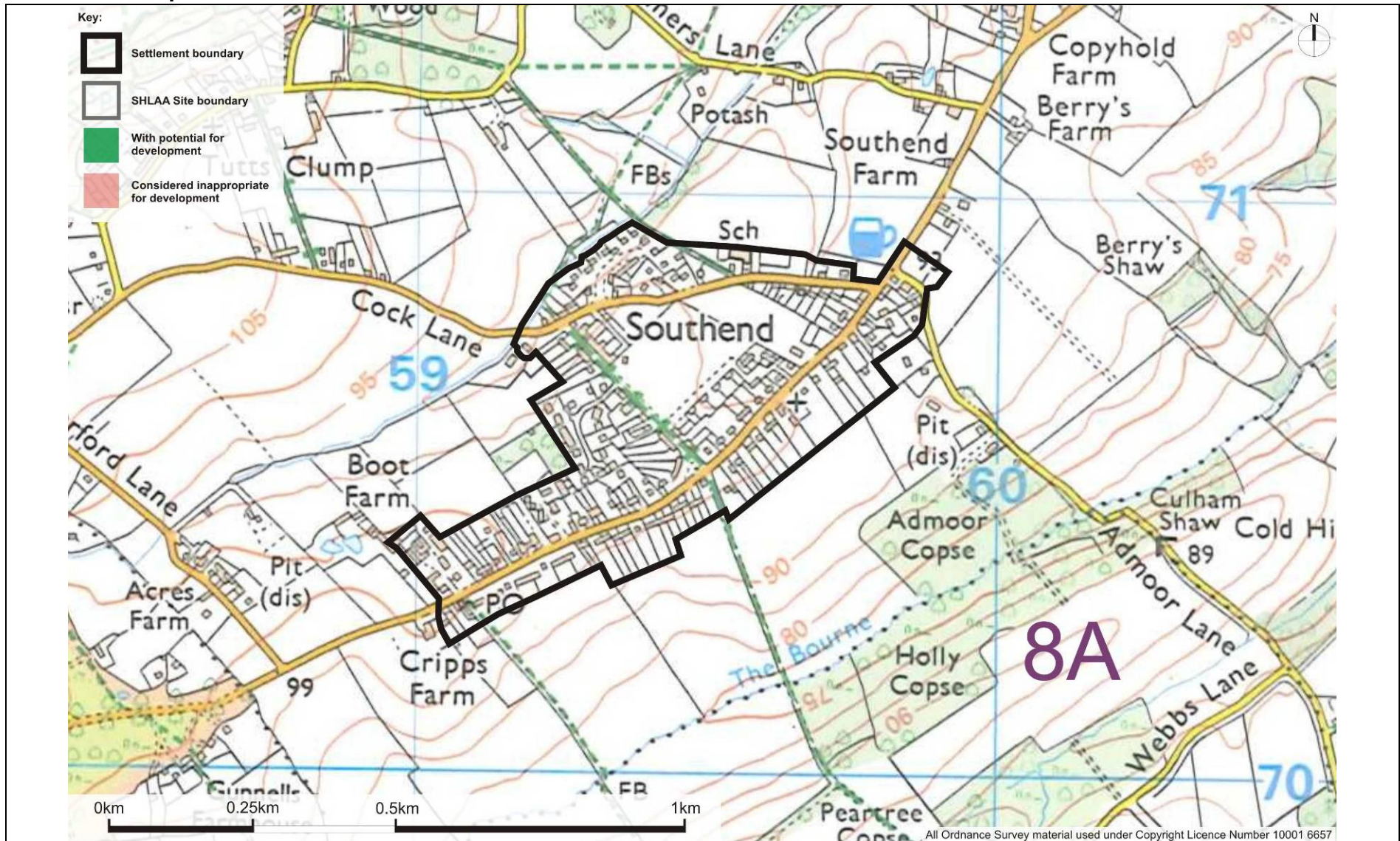

2.9. Service Village: Bradfield Southend – No SHLAA sites

Assessment of Settlement..... 161

Settlement map:



Assessment of Settlement

Settlement Bradfield Southend
North Wessex Downs AONB Character area LCA 8A: Hermitage Wooded Commons Lowland Mosaic
Date of site visit 20 January 2011
Surveyors BK
<p>Key landscape characteristics</p> <p>AONB LCA (unless source noted otherwise) 8A Hermitage Wooded Commons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad undulating plateau • Intricate mosaic of woodland, pasture and small areas of remnant heathland • Large interconnected woodland blocks (along river Bourne) • Strong hedgerow pattern with mature trees • Enclosed and intimate character • Small irregular fields of informal and piecemeal enclosures • Intricate network of rural lanes, many sunken and overhung with woodland • Ancient and semi-natural woodland • Reorganised fields and paddocks, formerly pre 18th C irregular fields (HLC) • Blurring of the urban/rural boundary as result of introduction of paddocks (HECZ) • Network of lanes with old hedgebanks (NDLCA LCT15) • Linear woodland (NDLCA LCT15)
<p>Key visual characteristics</p> <p>AONB LCA (unless source noted otherwise) 8A Hermitage Wooded Commons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low wooded horizons

Key settlement characteristics**AONB LCA** (unless source noted otherwise)**8A Hermitage Wooded Commons**

- Dispersers settlement pattern characteristic of encroachment into woodland and commons
- Linear roadside settlements as at Southend
- Development has extended beyond the settlement boundary
- Original centred on two drove roads
- Mix of farmhouses and poly-focal hamlets with several nuclei clustered around road junctions at Southend (HECZ)
- Housing developments from the 1960s concentrated around the historic settlements of South End, typified by small housing estates and developments constructed around the historic nuclei. Development at South End has shifted the settlement's focus to the south-west and away from the historic core (HECZ)
- Ridgetop roads and settlements (NDLCA LCT15)
- Insensitive modern infill development (NDLCA LCT15)

Summary of the key characteristics of the settlement and landscape constraints on the extent and location of development

The whole of Southend and its hinterland lies within the AONB landscape character area LCA 8A Hermitage Wooded Commons. The village extends along a low ridge at 95 to 100m AOD above the river Bourne valley to the south and the river Pang valley to the north. A minor stream in a shallow valley defines the northern edge of the village. The settlement is largely linear in character, as the historic nucleated hamlets have been linked through more modern housing along Cock Lane and South End Road, although these are linked by development along Heath Road. The settlement edge is fragmented but much more clearly defined at the west end of the village on Cock Lane and at the top of Aldmoor Lane. The village has few open views; with framed views into adjacent fields. The Bourne valley is a local feature and the local tree and hedgerow cover helps to contain the village.

The village still maintains its ridgetop character and largely retains a linear pattern. The impact of modern infill development is partly mitigated by the lack of large or medium sized estates and the open space between Cock Lane and South End Road. The village would benefit from a greater sense of containment and clearer definition to the main approaches into the village. This is already in evidence at Cock Lane and further development beyond the existing boundary here should be resisted. The character of Aldmoor Lane should be conserved and development should not extend down the ridgeline slopes. Minor extensions at each end of South End Road might be achieved without harm to the AONB provided that an opportunity was sought to enhance the settlement edge and the village did not expand beyond any well defined landscape features.

Sources:

North Wessex Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment 2002;

Additional information from:

Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment 2003 (BLCA)

Newbury District Landscape Character Assessment 1993 (NDLCA)

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

Historic Environment Character Zoning (HECZ)