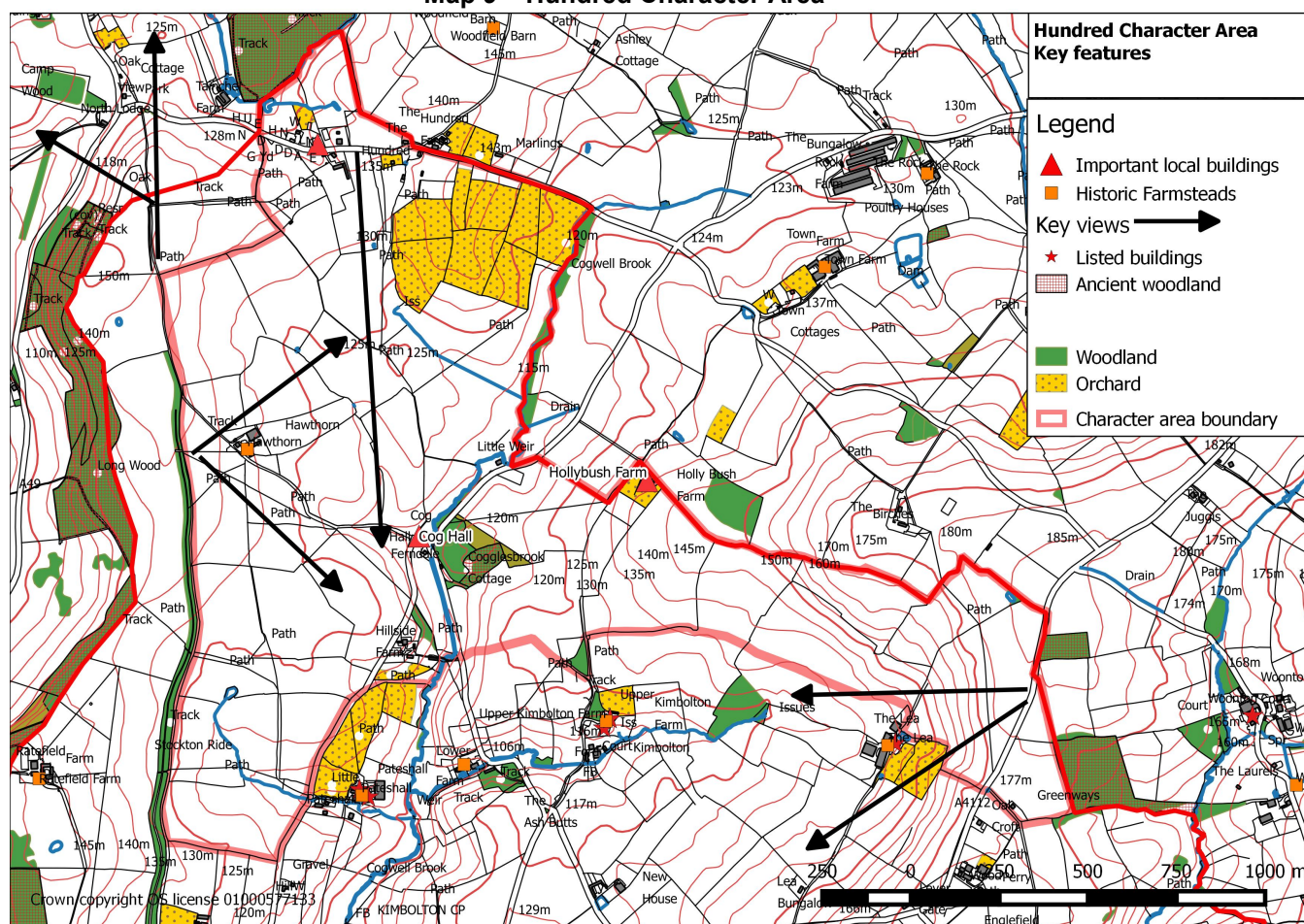


4.4 Hundred Rural Character Area

4.4.1 The Hundred forms the northernmost part of the Parish and is entirely located within the Bromyard Plateau sub-regional Landscape Character Area. The area is wholly within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Character Type which makes up the vast majority of the central and eastern parts of the Parish.

Map 9 – Hundred Character Area



4.4.2 Topography, landform and land use

4.4.3 The landscape is characterised by gently rolling countryside bisected by the valley of the Cogwell Brook which runs through the centre of the area. To the west of the Brook the land rises gradually up to the Stockton Ride / Long Wood escarpment. The eastern part of the area is sheltered by the southern and western slopes of the broad ridge which extends north-eastwards out of the Parish towards Leysters.



Image 35 – the gently sloping countryside looking south from the Hundred Lane. Showing the gradual slope from east to west with the Cogwell Brook in the wooded corridor left.

4.4.4 Land use is mainly arable and grass. There is a large commercial orchard fronting Hundred Lane and a smaller orchard attached to Hillside Farm. There is a small wood adjoining the crossroads at Lower Kimbolton.

4.4.5 Roads, streets, routes

4.4.6 The two principal lanes which run through the area are single track and enclosed by mature native hedgerows. Hundred Lane forms the northern boundary and links directly to the A49 trunk road. Pateshall Lane runs through the centre of the area and provides the link between Kimbolton village and Middleton on the Hill. A secondary lane runs from near Ferndale to Lower Kimbolton.



Image 36 – typical narrow lane with mature native hedgerow

4.4.7 The A4112 borders the eastern edge of the area. This is a relatively busy two lane road with a wide verge on one side in this vicinity.

4.4.8 There is a limited network of footpaths.

4.4.9 Historic features



Image 37 – the graveyard and site of Methodist Chapel, Hundred

4.4.10 There are no listed buildings in the area.

4.4.11 The small triangular shaped plot fronting Hundred Lane is the site of an old Methodist Chapel and a graveyard with a number of headstones. The Chapel was removed in 1999 and only one roof truss remains with the concrete step which was at the entrance.

4.4.12 Settlement pattern and buildings

4.4.13 The area has a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern made up of farmsteads and free-standing dwelling houses.

4.4.14 The exception is the small hamlet at the Hundred which contains a collection of well-spaced cottages and farmsteads and the site of the Methodist Chapel – all spread along the Hundred Lane.

4.4.15 The majority of domestic buildings in the area are of a modest two storey scale and of traditional style and construction. There is a range of building materials – perhaps the most varied of all of the rural areas of the Parish. While the majority of buildings are mainly or at least in part constructed of sandstone, there are fine examples of timber at Hundred Cottage and Cog Hall, the former with a thatch roof. Roofing materials are also

varied with extensive use of clay tile and slate. A feature common to many buildings is the massive stone chimney stack, often associated with a bread oven.



Image 38 – Hundred Cottage showing the thatch roof, sandstone and timber walls.



Image 39 – Orchard House – the original building of sandstone with a brick extension and massive chimney stack.

4.4.16 There are a number of more modern bungalows in the area – built of brick with slate or tiled roofs. These include Ferndale and Little Weir located in the valley of the Cogwell Brook.

4.4.17 The key farmsteads are Hawthorn and Hillside which are located on rising land to the west of the Cogwell Brook. The farmsteads use a similarly diverse range of materials including brick and sandstone.



Image 40 – Hollybush Farmhouse

4.4.18 Landmarks



Image 41 – Cog Hall

4.4.19 The key 'landmark' buildings in the area are:

- Hollybush Farmhouse.
- Hundred Cottage
- Cog Hall

4.4.20 Green and natural features

4.4.21 The principal natural features are the extensive network of hedgerows and associated hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are predominantly mixed native species and on the whole are well maintained but with some opportunities for enhancement.

4.4.22 The Cogwell Brook has substantial areas of woodland cover and provides an important wildlife corridor. The extensive area of broadleaf woodland to the east of Ferndale and Cog Hall includes a small area of ancient woodland.



Image 42 – the high hedge on Pateshall Lane

4.4.23 On Pateshall Lane there is a length of very high hedge.

4.4.24 Views

4.4.25 The elevated western parts of the area provide a number of far reaching views, particularly from Hawthorn Farm. There is another fine view along the gentle western slopes of the Cogwell Brook valley from the public footpath at Hundred Lane looking south.



Image 43 – the view from near Hillside Farm towards Kimbolton Church

4.4.26 At Hillside Farm there is a good view towards the Church. The key views are shown on Map 9.

4.4.27 Summary of key defining characteristics / other observations

4.4.28 The area is made up of gently rolling countryside with a tranquil, undisturbed character. There is an interesting and varied range of buildings from a range of eras but the majority are of a pleasing, domestic style and scale. The countryside is used for mixed farming and is enclosed by a network of well maintained native hedgerows.

4.4.29 Management guidelines and priorities

4.4.30 The key priorities are:

- Conservation and management of existing hedgerows.
- Conservation and enhancement of traditional orchards
- Conservation and restoration of tree cover including along the Cogwell Brook.
- Maintain the dispersed settlement pattern and resist proposals for prominently located large scale buildings.