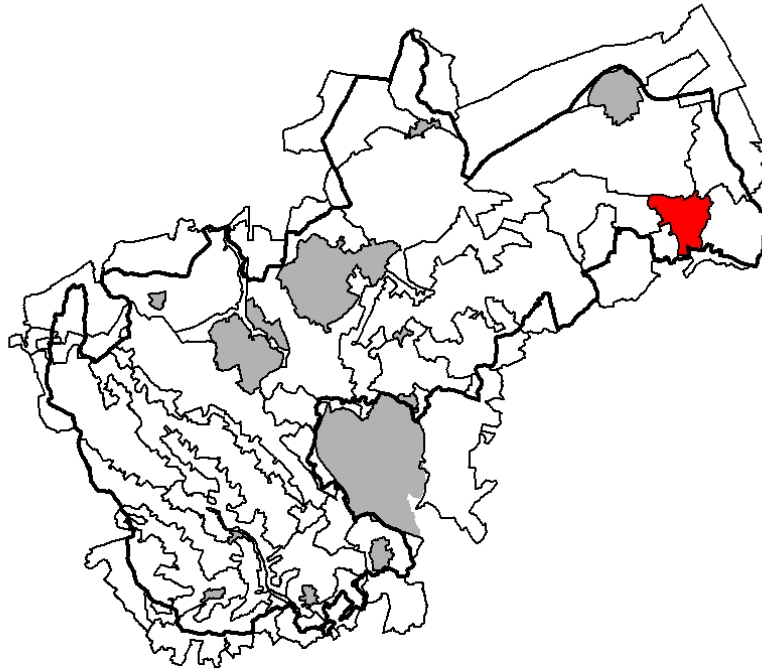


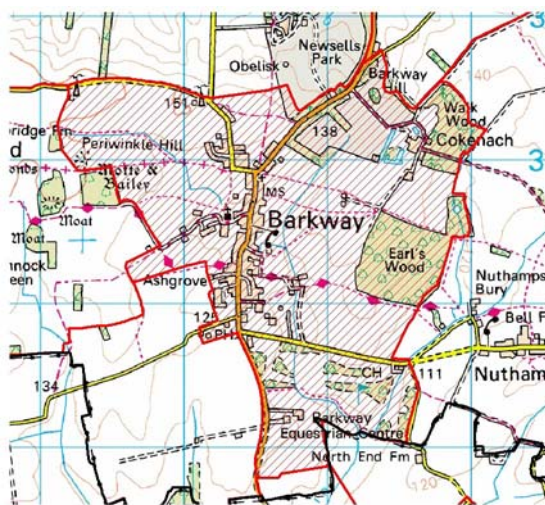
## LOCATION



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## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA

The Character Area is focused on the settlement of Barkway which is strung out along a north-south alignment along the B1368, London Road, which runs between Barley to the northeast and Hare Street a settlement that lies within the Quin valley to the south.



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## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Gently rolling landform falling gently towards the Quin valley to the south. Predominantly arable land use but with pockets of grazing land adjacent to settlements. Well wooded in the north but less so in the south. To the north regular pattern of rectilinear fields with curving boundaries set within an earlier organic pattern of lanes and primary boundaries. Field pattern breaks down to the south of the settlement with extensive open fields and remnant field boundaries.

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Gently rolling landform
- Arable land use
- Regular pattern of field boundaries
- Ribbon development following B1368 London Road

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Telecommunications masts in the north
- Equestrian centre south of the settlement

**ASSESSMENT****PHYSICAL INFLUENCES****Geology & soils**

Predominantly Boulder Clay over Chalk with limited Clay-with-Flints. Damp calcareous clay soils.

**Topography**

Gently sloping plateau falling towards the south.

**Degree of slope**

Typically 1:40.

**Altitude range**

110m to 150m.

**Hydrology**

Network of local streams which often disappear into the chalk. Numerous ponds around the settlement. Artificial lakes at Cokenach Park.

**Land cover and land use**

Predominantly arable land use plus other areas of grazing land. Golf course to southeast of Barkway.

**Vegetation and wildlife**

Rokey Wood is an ancient ash and maple woodland typical of other boulder clay woods to the west. In common with these woodlands it has a varied ground flora.

An abundance of ancient oak, ash and maple woodlands are centred around the Cokenach Estate. Examples include Wynnd's Grove and Doctors Grove and Earls Wood and Walk Wood former coppice-with-standards woodland now partly ornamental.

Herb paris and various orchids are recorded from the woodlands where fallow deer are also a feature.

Barkway Meadow is an example of damp, unimproved neutral grassland

**HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES**

Earthworks, which may represent the remains of a deserted medieval village, lie at Cokenach in the northeast. A motte and bailey castle lies to the northwest at Periwinkle Hill.

The medieval settlement of Barkway lies to the southwest of Cokenach and was recorded in the Domesday Book as Berchewig. The church of St Mary Magdalene, Cokenach, dates to the 13th century. A prehistoric ring ditch lies to the northwest of Barkway.

**Field Pattern**

The historic agricultural landscape pattern consists of a mixture of, 20th century leisure use, 18th century and later enclosure, prairie fields – post 1950s boundary loss, post 1950s enclosure. Informal medieval parkland lies to the northeast, (Cokenach designated as an Historic Park and Garden). Ancient woodland and small areas of 19th – 20th century plantation to the west and unimproved rough pasture to the south.

**Transport Pattern**

The B1368 London Road runs down the centre of the Character Area.

**Settlements and Built Form**

The historic settlement pattern is characterised by the ribbon development of Barkway following the B1368, London Rd. Barkway High Street contains several buildings of note including a late Medieval Hall House, which has a jettied gable with entrance facing the street, The Red House a large 18th century house, now two dwellings, and a rebuilt Hall House of Wealden type.

**EVALUATION**

**VISUAL AND SENSORY PERCEPTION**

Focused on the surroundings of the settlement of Barkway. There is a transition from the large scale open landscapes in the south to the more intimate smaller scale in the north.

**Rarity & distinctiveness**

Landscape type comparatively common within the District. Cokenach parkland in the north provides local distinctiveness.

**VISUAL IMPACT**

Local development and agricultural buildings feature at a local scale.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

Well covered by network of lanes, tracks and rights of way.

**COMMUNITY VIEWS**

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) have undertaken Tier B (Community of Place) consultations. Views of the local community have been sought and contributor's responses to each of the Character Areas will be analysed and a summary of the responses provided by HCC.

**LANDSCAPE RELATED DESIGNATIONS**

LC2	Landscape Conservation Area
GD 1906	Cokenach

**EVALUATION**

**CONDITION**

Land cover change:	Localised
Age structure of tree cover:	Mature
Extent of semi-natural habitat survival:	Widespread
Management of semi-natural habitat:	Not obvious
Survival of cultural pattern:	Interrupted
Impact of built development:	Low
Impact of land-use change:	Low

**Matrix Score:** **Moderate**

**ROBUSTNESS**

Impact of landform:	Apparent
Impact of land cover:	Prominent
Impact of historic pattern:	Apparent
Visibility from outside:	Locally visible
Sense of enclosure:	Partial
Visual unity:	Coherent
Distinctiveness/rarity:	Frequent

**Matrix Score:** **Moderate**

CONDITION	GOOD	Strengthen and reinforce	Conserve and strengthen	Safeguard and manage
	MODERATE	Improve and reinforce	Improve and conserve	Conserve and restore
	POOR	Reconstruct	Improve and restore	Restore condition to maintain character
		WEAK	MODERATE	STRONG
ROBUSTNESS				

**GUIDELINES**

**STRATEGY AND GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING CHANGE:**

**Improve and Conserve**

- Promote management of ancient woodlands to encourage a diverse woodland flora
- Promote the creation of buffer zones between intensive arable production and areas of semi-natural habitat and the creation of links between habitat areas
- Promote hedgerow restoration along the lines of historic field boundaries and for the creation of visual links between existing woodland areas
- Promote the use of traditional field hedges in place of post and wire enclosures to new grazing areas
- Protect and preserve the pattern of narrow winding lanes and associated hedge banks, sunken lanes, verges and hedges
- Promote the diversity of hedgerow species and the planting of standard hedgerow trees
- Maintain and extend the rights of way network
- Encourage the planting of new ash and maple woodlands and management of existing
- Encourage the development of new marshland/fen habitats on boulder clay
- Encourage the development and implementation of landscape management plans for historic parkland at Cokenach