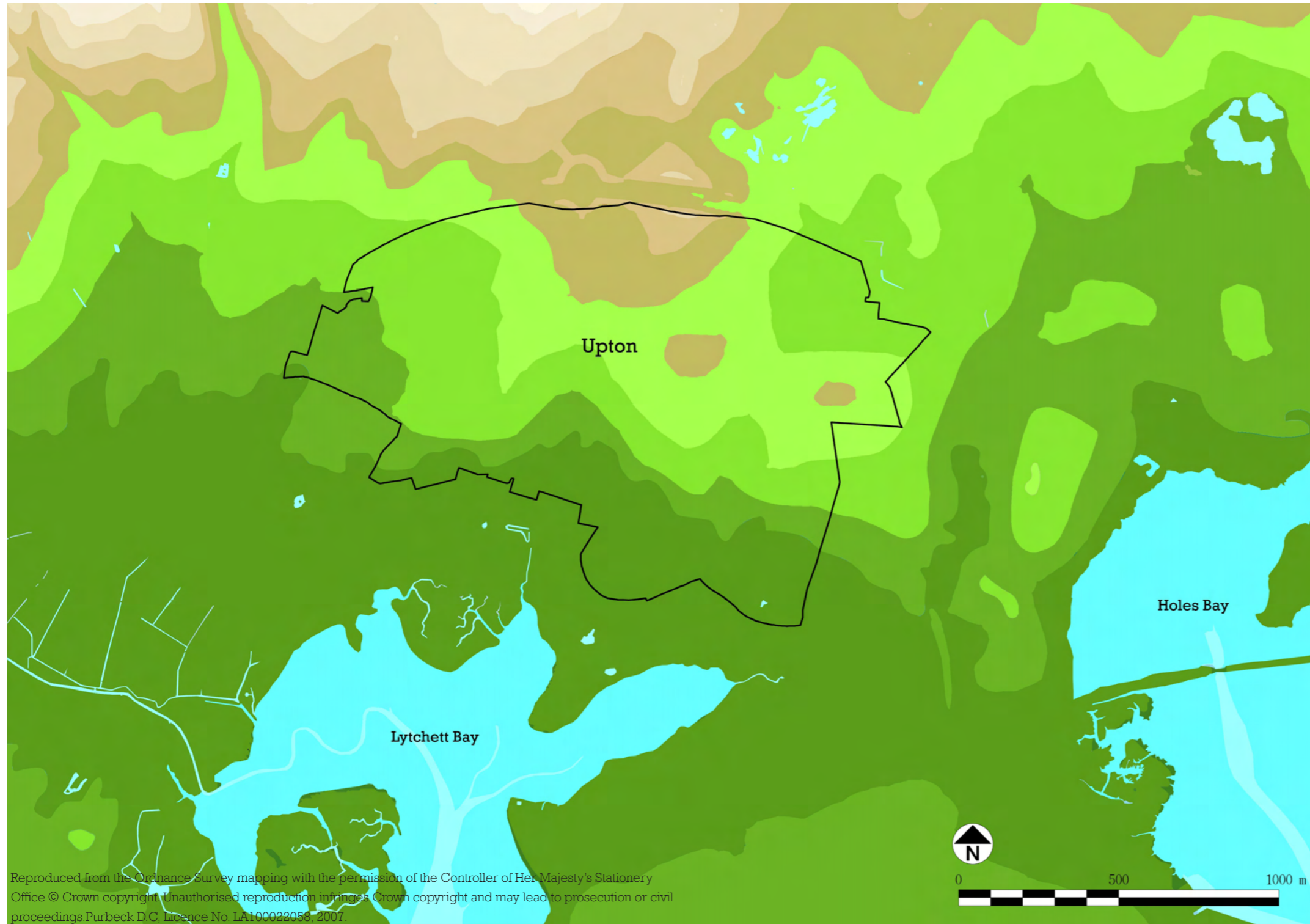


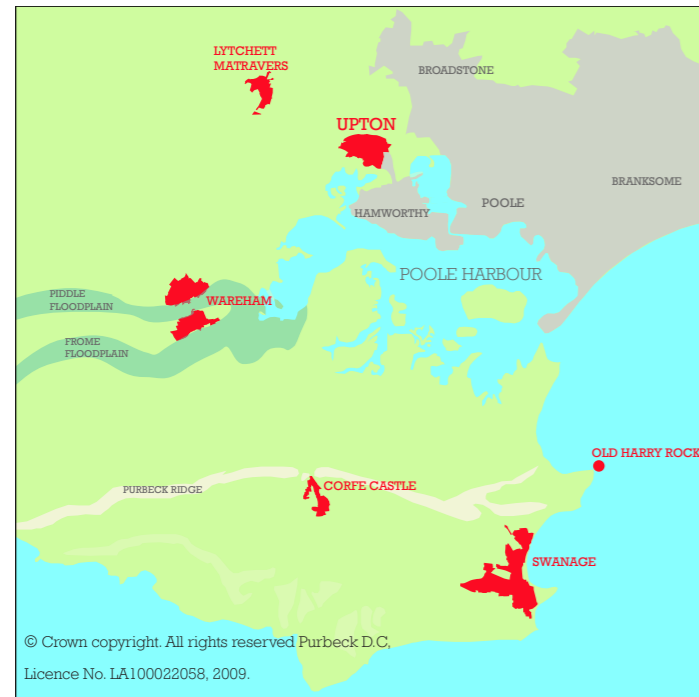
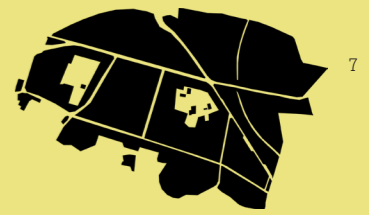


Upton  
Town context  
02.1  
**Geographical context**



The geographical context map shows the topography of landscape around the settlement.

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This location map for Upton shows the context of the town and its relationship with the Poole and Bournemouth conurbation, of which Upton forms the extreme western edge.



Viewed from Upton Heath to the north the town is a relatively discrete feature in the wider landscape.



View towards Upton across Lytchett Bay in the northern part of Poole Harbour. The surrounding topography is a low-lying, relatively level landscape which rises gently towards the north.

2.1.1 Poole Harbour is an outstanding feature of the east Dorset coast, representing a considerable area of sheltered, if shallow, salt water. Whilst it is readily accessible from the sea, it is however substantially protected from open water by the Sandbanks and Studland peninsulas.

2.1.2 Poole Harbour itself is contained within a broad basin of land composed mostly of sands and gravels, that slopes gently towards its deeply indented shoreline of small bays and creeks.

2.1.3 To the north, there is a low sandy ridge that includes Upton Heath, Corfe Hills, Broadstone and Canford Heath.

2.1.4 To the south there is the clearly defined chalk ridge of the Purbeck Hills dramatically interrupted at Corfe Castle and ending in the sea at the Old Harry Rocks (Handfast Point).

2.1.5 Inland, to the west, the land is gently rolling and less dramatic, and is principally defined by the shallow valleys of the Rivers Piddle and Frome that flow into the harbour near Wareham at its western extremity.

2.1.6 The northern and southern shores of the harbour are markedly different insofar that the northern shore is heavily developed as part of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation whilst the southern shore, and indeed the western end of the harbour and Brownsea island, remain undeveloped and largely natural in appearance.

2.1.7 Upton itself is situated on the northern shore of Poole Harbour on an area of relatively level ground between the water to the south and Upton Heath to the north. It lies beyond the neck of the Hamworthy peninsular between Lytchett Bay to the west and Holes Bay to the east, and below the shallow scarp of Upton Heath. As such it represents the north-eastern extent of Poole, and indeed the wider conurbation, in this area.

#### KEY POINTS

- Upton is located on the north-west edge of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation;
- The town is also situated on the north shore of Poole Harbour;
- The harbour and Purbeck Hills to the south form a fine backdrop to the town;
- To the north of the town is Upton Heath, a large expanse of protected heathland;



## Upton Town context 02.2 Landscape setting



Aerial photograph courtesy of Purbeck District Council. Source: www.getmapping.com

2.2.1 Upton is, in effect, an urban extension of Poole. Whilst the port of Poole grew up in a very specific location that provided accessible land adjacent to relatively deep water, Upton represents an outward extension of the town beyond the earlier extension of Poole on the Hamworthy peninsular. As such, and in contrast to many of the towns and villages of the Purbeck area, it has no significant relationship to its adjacent, wider landscape.

2.2.2 Formerly a few scattered dwellings were situated along the principal roads that crossed the area, but substantial development during the 20th century has filled almost all developable land in the area.

2.2.3 Historically roads have crossed the site of Upton, south-east to north-west from Hamworthy to Blandford, and east to west from Poole to Wareham and Dorchester, but latterly the expanding settlement has been effectively bypassed by the substantial A35 dual carriageway.

2.2.4 Upton has expanded up to this road which now forms a precise northern edge to the settlement. With undeveloped heath and woodland to the north, the contrast in character north and south of the road is very marked.

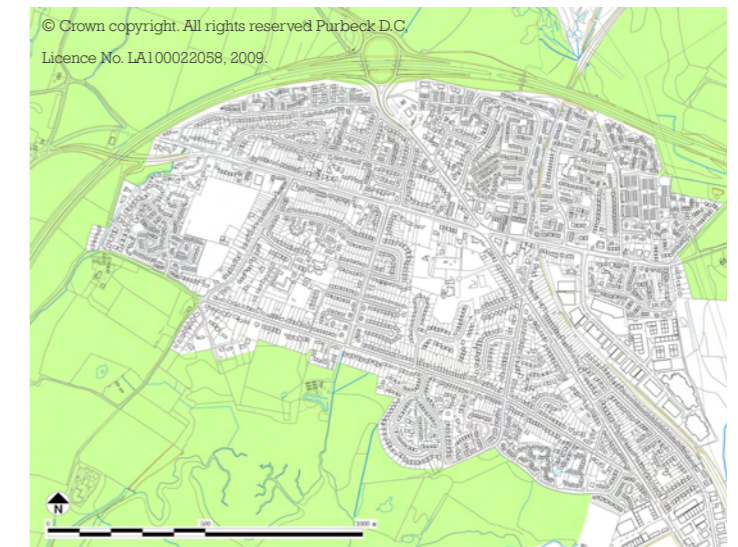
2.2.5 To the south, the settlement has expanded close to the northern edge of Lytchett Bay (which creates another marked contrast), although a relatively deep margin of undevelopable salt marsh, reed bed and wet scrub makes an effective buffer between suburban development and the wild, natural character of the bay itself. However many houses along the northern margin of the harbour have relatively large and well-planted gardens that slope down towards the bay, and this also contributes to creating a generally discrete and sympathetic edge. (Although there is some public access to the shore of Lytchett Bay at the south-east edge of Upton, elsewhere private plots extend right down to dense reed beds, and this sadly prevents wider public access around the bay)

2.2.6 To the east, Upton is separated from Holes Bay by the parkland that surrounds Upton House, now Upton Country Park. This land incorporates some well-established woodland areas that ensure a strong visual barrier between the settlement and the bay.

2.2.7 To the west, the settlement is defined either by

the A35 or it adjoins a narrow strip of agricultural land between the houses and the main road. However a well-established hedgerow of mostly mature oak trees creates a well-defined and contained edge. West of the A35 is Lytchett Minster, a small village that still retains a strong rural character that is of course very distinct from the suburban qualities of Upton.

2.2.8 In views from the west, around Lytchett Minster, Upton is relatively discrete, given the low height of development, and in views from higher ground from Upton Heath, the settlement also remains surprisingly discrete, the relatively low buildings being substantially screened by trees in and around the settlement.



Landscape designations map

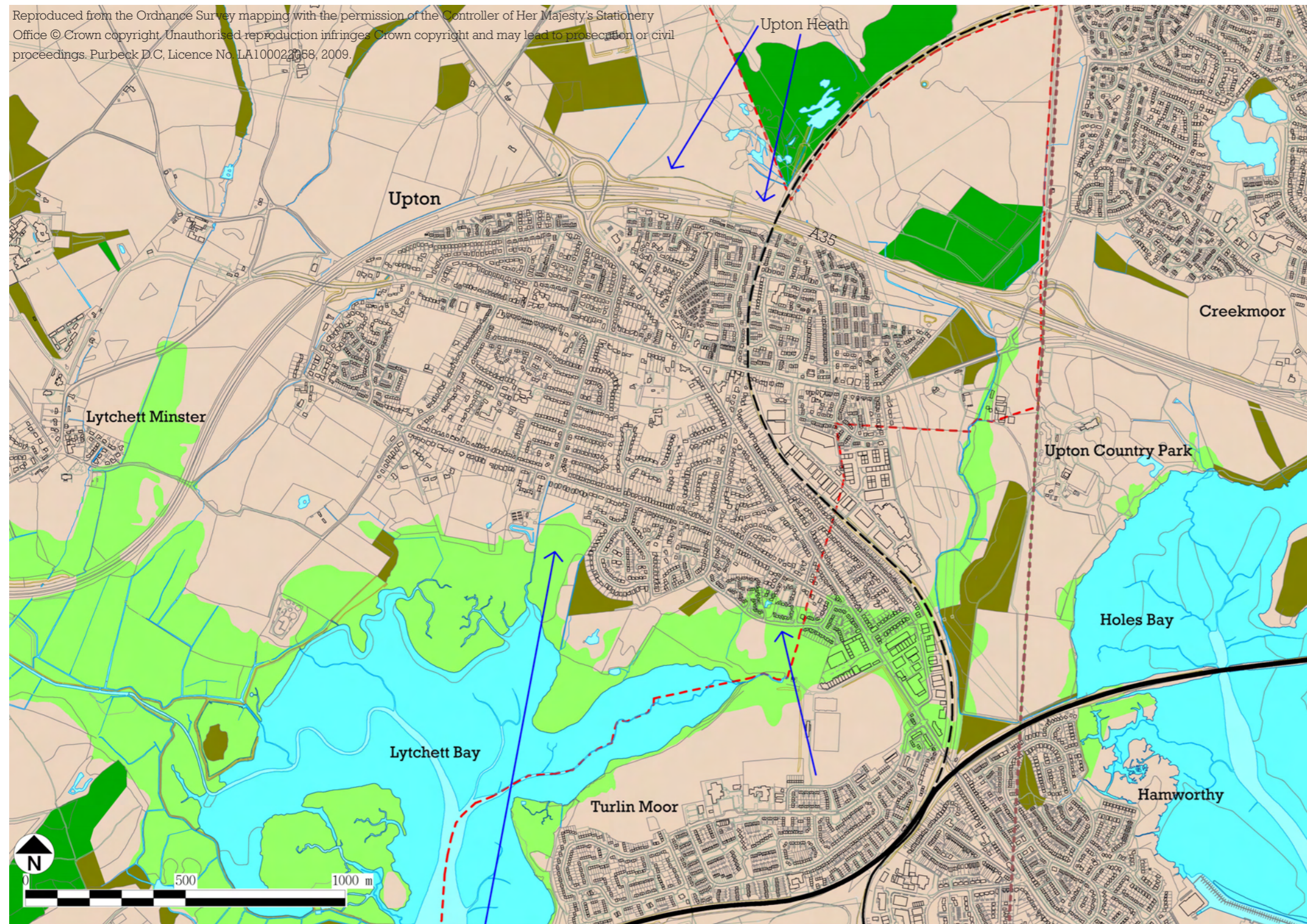
Green belt

### KEY POINTS

- Upton is an extension of the conurbation;
- The town has little relationship with its adjacent or wider landscape;
- The town has expanded to the A35 which forms a precise northern edge;
- The vegetated edge of the harbour creates a deep buffer between the town and bay;
- Upton is relatively discrete when viewed in the wider landscape.



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2.2.9 This drawing shows the main elements that surround Upton. To the south, the settlement merges into development that is part of the Borough of Poole with Hamworthy beyond, whilst Lytchett Bay and Holes Bay, together with Upton Country Park contain it to south and west. The open, rural character of the landscape west of Upton can be readily appreciated, with the historic rural settlement of Lytchett Minster only a short distance to the east. Clearly further development in this direction is likely to compromise the setting of this attractive rural village. The contrast between Upton and the undeveloped Upton Heath is marked. Although generally discrete in external views, the settlement has weak associations or connections with its wider landscape setting.

-  River/water feature
-  Poole Harbour
-  Floodplain
-  Raised land above floodplains
-  Coniferous plantation
-  Mixed & deciduous woodland
-  London to Weymouth railway line
-  Course of former railway line
-  Course of Roman road
-  Principal view towards town from surrounding area
-  PDC borough boundary



## Upton Town context 02.3 Landscape Images



1. **Upton seen from Turlin Moor to the south.** This photograph, taken from the edge of housing development on Turlin Moor, looks across public open space and the eastern arm of Lytchett Bay, concealed behind reed beds, towards Upton beyond. Given the extent of development, it is surprising what little effect the settlement has on views like this, such is the screening effect of vegetation along the north side of the bay and within parts of Upton itself. Most notable is a small but very effective woodland belt around a local high point within the settlement, at Yarrells School, that is seen in the centre of the photograph.

Beyond and slightly to the left is the distinctive form of Beacon Hill whilst on the horizon to the right is the former Beacon Hills brick pit. It is clear from views such as this that building height is an important issue if any future development is not to encroach on the wider landscape setting.

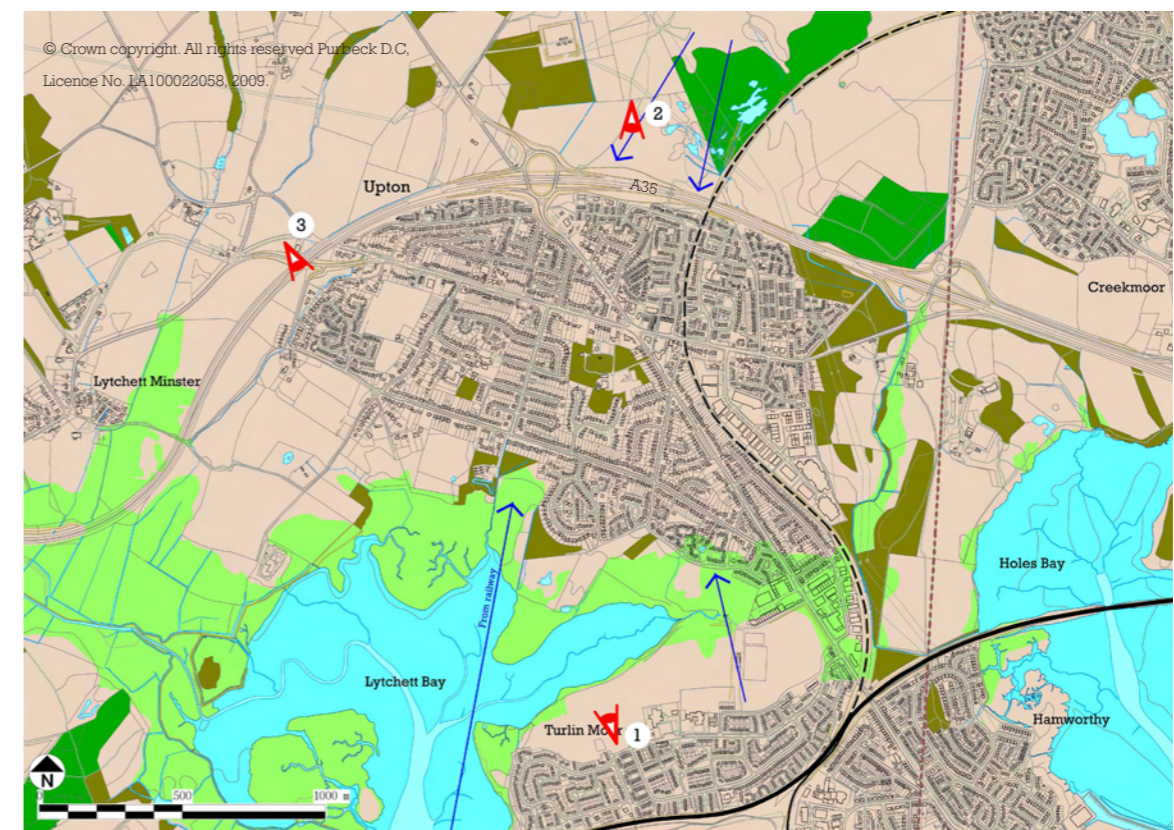


2. **Upton seen from Upton heath, north of the A35.** Immediately north of Upton, beyond the A35, there is an extensive area of rising open heathland from which are many fine views across Upton and Poole towards Poole Harbour and the Purbeck Hills beyond. In this view, taken from the lower slopes of Upton Heath, the Purbeck Hills can be seen in the distance in the centre of the view with high ground in Upper Parkstone on the left. The A35 dual carriageway that separates the heath from Upton is situated in the middle distance, but it is hidden from view in a cutting although part of the elevated A35/A350 junction can be seen on the right.

Development in Upton itself is visible beyond, but nonetheless it is again surprising how discrete the development is. This is largely because of the effect of vegetation in and around the settlement, however, as with others views towards Upton, it can be appreciated that any new development much higher than that which currently exists could significantly affect such views.



3. **The western edge of Upton seen from the B3067 bridge over the A35 dual carriageway.** This photograph demonstrates the well-contained edge that visually separates suburban sprawl from adjoining open countryside and the rural village of Lytchett Minster, off view to the right. The established hedgerow/woodland belt contains many mature oak trees and it makes a particularly successful and appropriate edge and screen to what is, in effect, the westernmost edge of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation.



Landscape map indicating the positions where photographs were taken.