

□ Farmstead Plan Types

**Table showing the primary and secondary attributes used to characterise each farmstead.**

<b>Plan Type Primary Attribute</b>	DISP LC LIN LP PAR RC ROW UNC	Dispersed Loose Courtyard Linear L-plan (attached house) Parallel Regular Courtyard Row Plan Uncertain
<b>Plan Type Secondary Attribute</b>	1, 2, 3, 4 L3 or L4  L u e f h t z cl dw my cov	No. of sides to Loose Courtyard formed by <i>working</i> agricultural buildings Yard with an L-plan range plus detached buildings to the third and/or fourth side of the yard (may be used with LC or RC dependent on overall character) Regular Courtyard L-plan (detached house) Regular Courtyard U-plan Regular Courtyard E-plan Regular Courtyard F-plan Regular Courtyard H-plan Regular Courtyard T-plan Regular Courtyard Z-plan Cluster (Used with DISP) Driftway (Used with DISP) Multi-yard (Used with DISP or RC) Covered yard forms an element of farmstead
<b>Tertiary Attribute</b>	d y	Codes as per Secondary Attribute table e.g. cov or combination of Primary and Secondary Attributes e.g. RCL notes presence of a prominent Regular L-plan within a dispersed multi-yard group. And in addition: Additional detached elements to main plan Presence of small second yard with one main yard evident

**Table showing the key farmsteads types across Shropshire and comparative results found across the West Midlands region.**

Plan Types	Statistics	Definition
Loose Courtyard 1 <b>LC1</b>	<b>6.5% Shropshire</b> 7.3% WM Region	These are very small in scale with a working building to only one side of the yard.
Loose Courtyard 2 <b>LC2</b>	<b>11.0% Shropshire</b> 12.2% WM Region	These are usually small in scale with a working building to only one side of the yard.
Loose Courtyard 3 <b>LC3</b>	<b>5% Shropshire</b> 7.7% WM Region	These are medium in scale with a working building to only one side of the yard.
Loose Courtyard 4 <b>LC4</b>	<b>1.3% Shropshire</b> 2% WM Region	These have working buildings to four sides of the yard, and tend to be large-scale and formal in their layouts. They are concentrated in arable vale landscapes.

<b>Plan Types</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Definition and Sub-Types</b>
Loose Courtyard with L-shaped ranges with additional buildings to 3 <sup>rd</sup> side <b>LCL3</b>	<b>3.3% Shropshire</b> 2.9% WM Region	These are courtyard farms which have buildings to 3 or 4 sides of the yard, but one range (to two sides of the yard) is L-shaped in plan. There is a tendency for those with buildings to 3 sides of the yard to be regular as opposed to loose in form.
Loose Courtyard with L-shaped ranges with additional buildings to 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> sides <b>LCL4</b>	<b>1.7% Shropshire</b> 1.3% WM Region	These are courtyard farms which have buildings to 3 or 4 sides of the yard, but one range (to two sides of the yard) is L-shaped in plan. There is a tendency for those with buildings to 3 sides of the yard to be regular as opposed to loose in form.
Regular Courtyard with L-shaped ranges with additional buildings to 3 <sup>rd</sup> side <b>RCL3</b>	<b>6.2% Shropshire</b> 8.5% WM Region	These are courtyard farms which have buildings to 3 or 4 sides of the yard, but one range (to two sides of the yard) is L-shaped in plan. There is a tendency for those with buildings to 3 sides of the yard to be regular as opposed to loose in form.
Regular Courtyard with L-shaped ranges with additional buildings to 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> sides <b>RCL4</b>	<b>1.7% Shropshire</b> 2.2% WM Region	These are courtyard farms which have buildings to 3 or 4 sides of the yard, but one range (to two sides of the yard) is L-shaped in plan. There is a tendency for those with buildings to 3 sides of the yard to be regular as opposed to loose in form.
Regular Courtyard L-plan <b>RCL</b>	10.1% WM Region <b>7.9% Shropshire</b>	Regular courtyard farmsteads where the buildings are arranged as two linked ranges to create an L-shape. They can comprise a barn and attached shelter shed to a cattle yard, or an interlinked cattle housing and fodder range. Additional buildings are typically small-scale, and not sited facing the yard.
Regular Courtyard U Plans <b>RCu</b>	<b>7.6% Shropshire</b> 8% WM Region	Regular courtyard farmsteads where the buildings are arranged around three sides of a yard which is open to one side.
Regular Courtyard T <b>RCT</b>	<b>1.7% Shropshire</b> 1.3% WM Region	Regular courtyard farmsteads where the buildings are arranged as a T-shaped around one or two cattle yards. Cattle housing and stabling typically extend as two ranges from the longer main range which includes a barn or mixing house.
Regular Multi-Yard Plans <b>RCmy</b>	<b>10.5% Shropshire</b> 9.7% WM Region	These are the largest-scale regular courtyard plans, with cattle housing and stabling around two or more yards. The longer main range typically includes a barn or mixing house with a granary and sometimes cartsheds and stabling.
Regular Courtyard T <b>RCe</b>	<b>1.9% Shropshire</b> 1.5% WM Region	Regular Courtyard E-shaped plans where the buildings are planned around two yards.
Regular Courtyard T <b>RCh</b>	<b>0.1% Shropshire</b> 0.1% WM Region	Regular Courtyard H-shaped farmsteads where the buildings are planned around two yards.
Regular Courtyard F <b>RCF</b>	<b>1.6% Shropshire</b> <b>1.3% WM Region</b>	Regular courtyard farmsteads where the buildings are arranged as an F-shaped plan around one or two cattle yards. Cattle housing and stabling typically extend as two ranges from the longer main range which includes a barn or mixing house.

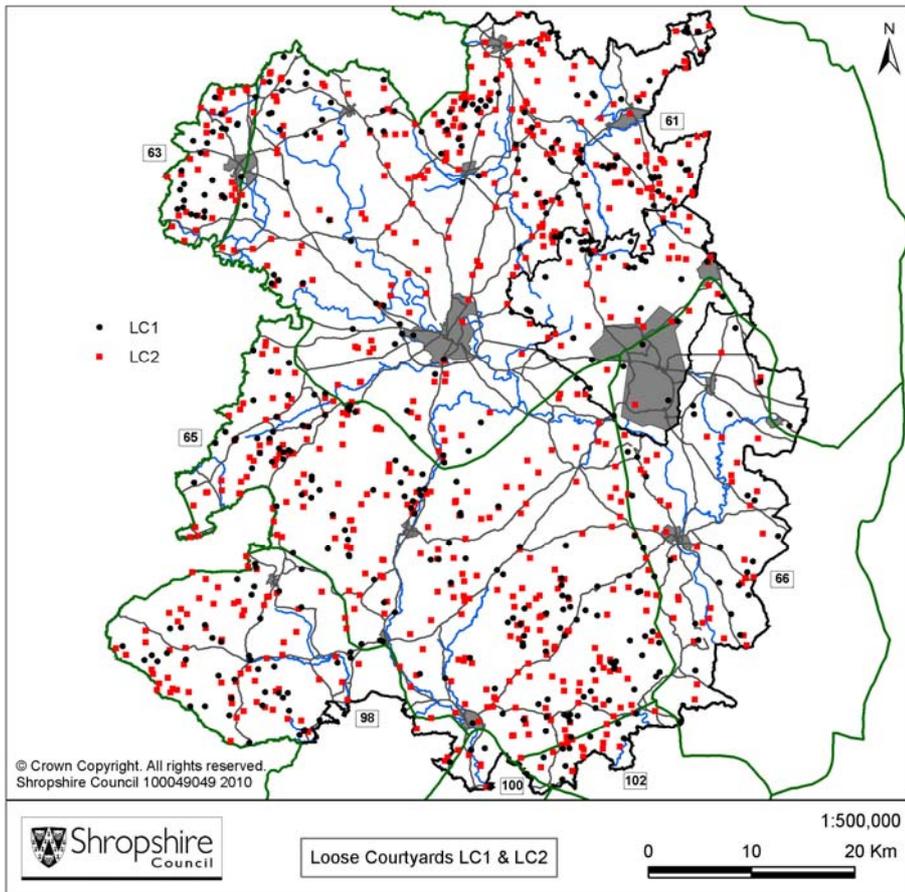
Plan Types	Statistics	Definition and Sub-Types
Linear <b>LIN</b>	<b>10.7% Shropshire</b> 7.3% WM Region	A farmstead where houses and working buildings are attached and in-line. Any detached buildings (in more than 50% of mapped sites) are typically small-scale, such as pigsties and calf houses.
L-plan (attached) <b>LP</b>	<b>3.6% Shropshire</b> 3.1% WM Region	A linear farmstead, extended or planned with additional working buildings to make an L-shaped range. More than 50% have additional detached buildings.
Dispersed Cluster <b>DISPcl</b>	<b>1.7% Shropshire</b> 2.8% WM Region	A dispersed farmstead which includes two or more clusters of buildings within the boundary of the site, which may face working yards. There is no focal yard area.
Dispersed Driftway <b>DISPdw</b>	<b>2.7% Shropshire</b> 1.2% WM Region	A dispersed farmstead where buildings and yards (regular or irregular in their form) are sited along a routeway. There is no focal yard area.
Dispersed Multi-yard <b>DISPmy</b>	<b>4.0% Shropshire</b> 2.6% WM Region	A dispersed farmstead where buildings relate to a number of yards (regular or irregular in their form). There is no focal yard area.
Parallel <b>PAR</b>	<b>0.8% Shropshire</b> 0.6% WM Region	A farmstead, often of linear plan, where the working buildings are placed opposite and parallel to the house and attached working buildings. Around half have additional detached buildings.
Row <b>ROW</b>	<b>0.9% Shropshire</b> 0.7% WM Region	A farmstead where the main range of working buildings are attached in-line and form a long row.

▮ *Loose courtyard plans by secondary attribute*

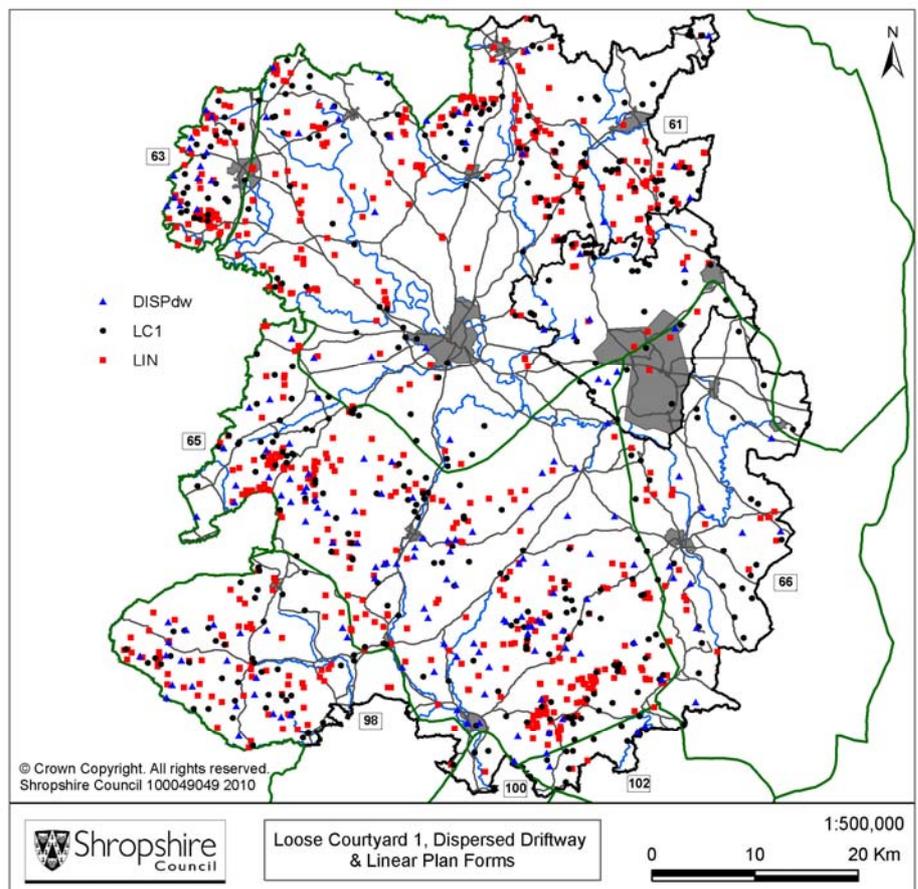
Loose Courtyard Plans are often the product of piecemeal development and can range from small farmsteads with a single building on one side of the yard and the farmhouse (LC1) to a yard defined by working buildings to all four sides (LC4). Loose Courtyard plans form 29.3% (1816) of all recorded plan types. Of the Loose Courtyards 1109/1816 (61.1%) are the smaller LC1 or LC2 types (Figure 30).

*Loose courtyard with one working building*

Very definite patterns emerge from the distribution of LC1 plans (6.5% of county), which are principally found in upland areas in south-western half of the county, in the Shropshire and Clun Hills, and in common edge locations in the Oswestry Uplands in the north-west. In the Shropshire Hills and Oswestry Uplands in particular they are clustered around industrial areas, where it is likely that small-scale farmers supplemented their income working in the quarrying and mining industries. There are also significant concentrations in the north-eastern corner of the county where extensive areas of heathland and wetlands cover the Shropshire Plain. Other small-scale farmstead plan types are often found in association, including linear plans, L-plans (house attached) and dispersed driftways particularly in the Oswestry Uplands and Regular L-plans in areas of heath.



**Left, Figure 30**  
Map showing the distribution of loose Courtyard farmstead with working buildings to one and two sides LC1 & LC2



**Right, Figure 31**  
Map showing the distribution of Loose Courtyard Farmsteads with working buildings to one side, Linear Farmsteads and Dispersed Driftway Farmsteads

NCA	LC1	LC2	LC3	LC4	LCL3/4
Area 61 Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain	157	271	129	31	127
Area 63 Oswestry Uplands	26	33	10	5	14
Area 65 Shropshire Hills	139	249	106	27	81
Area 66 Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau	32	46	24	7	47
Area 98 Clun and North West Herefordshire Hills	46	76	36	6	36
Area 100 Hereford Lowlands	4	4	3	2	4
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Shropshire</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

#### *Loose courtyard with two working building*

The LC2 plans comprise the most common loose courtyard plan form, making up 11.0% of all plan types. They also share the same pattern as LC1 in association with other small farms, but have a much wider distribution beyond these areas, including significant numbers in the estate landscapes of the Shropshire plain. The distribution is comparable to RCL. Beyond the common edge and industrial areas the LC2 are comparable to the larger LC3 farmsteads, possibly suggesting that some of the latter plans may have developed from LC2 as farmers prospered in the more agriculturally rich landscapes.

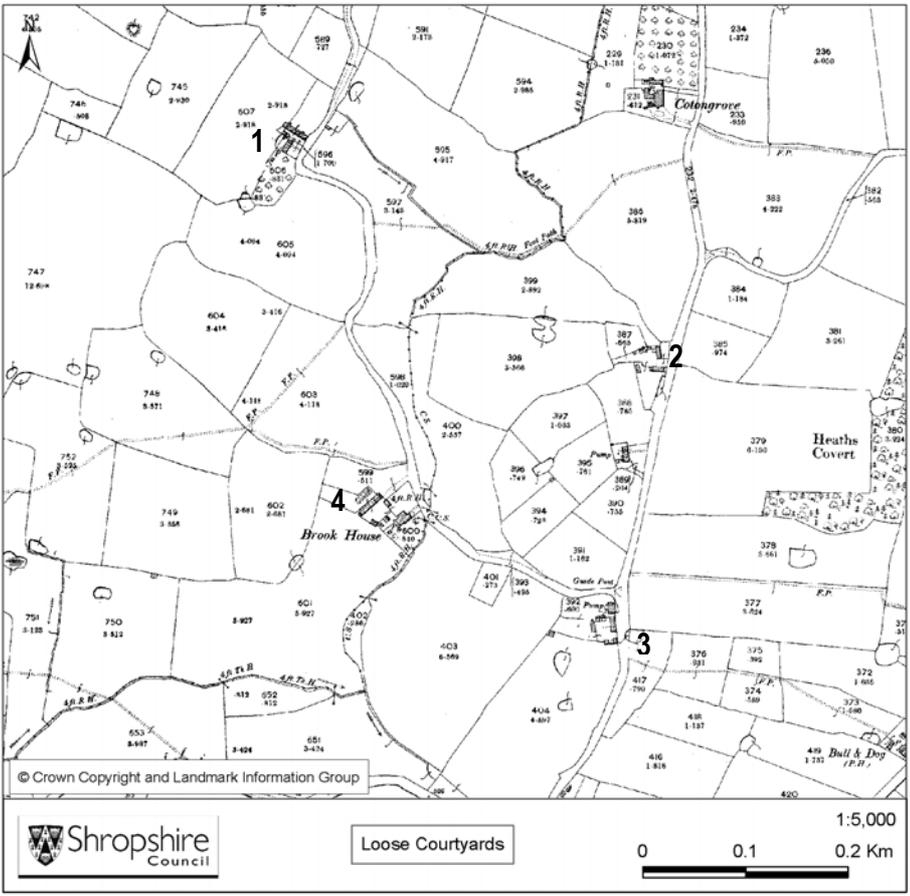
#### *Loose courtyard with three or four working building*

The loose courtyards with buildings to three or four sides (LC3, LC4) are generally larger in size. These often appear to exhibit a degree of planning, particularly in the north and east of the county in areas dominated by larger regular courtyard plans. Larger loose courtyard plan types are far less common making up 21.5% of the loose courtyards across the county and 6.3% of all plans. Most still sit within small irregular field systems, with a small number in industrial areas. They still however maintain common edge locations, in both lowland and upland areas. Clusters are apparent around Baggy Moor and the Weald Moors in the Shropshire Plain NCA. In the Mid Severn Plateau NCA they cluster along the Severn gorge river valleys and settlements taking advantage of both upland pasture and arable land by virtue of their location, but still set away from the main agricultural land of the sandstone plateau.

The smaller loose courtyards are concentrated in areas of small farms in landscapes of small irregular fields; often small-scale irregular and assarted fields enclosed directly from woodland and common pasture. Significant numbers of the smaller loose courtyard farms are also found in common edge locations associated with smallholdings and squatter enclosure. The larger loose courtyard plans are generally positioned along the valleys and as a result are set within landscapes of ancient and piecemeal enclosure.

#### *Loose courtyards including L-plan ranges*

Loose courtyard plans which incorporate an L plan range make up the remaining 17.2% of loose courtyard plans found across the county. Whilst their number is similar to that of the larger loose courtyard farms, their distribution is more readily comparable to the small LC2 plan types. They occur in slightly larger numbers in the northern western half of Shropshire Plain, associated with the dairying areas and also in areas of the Shropshire Hills particularly around the Clee Hills. Their distribution also appears to avoid the main estate lands across the central Shropshire Plain, away from areas of the most profound landscape change. There is however a significant distribution of the larger LCL4 on the Sandstone Plateau.



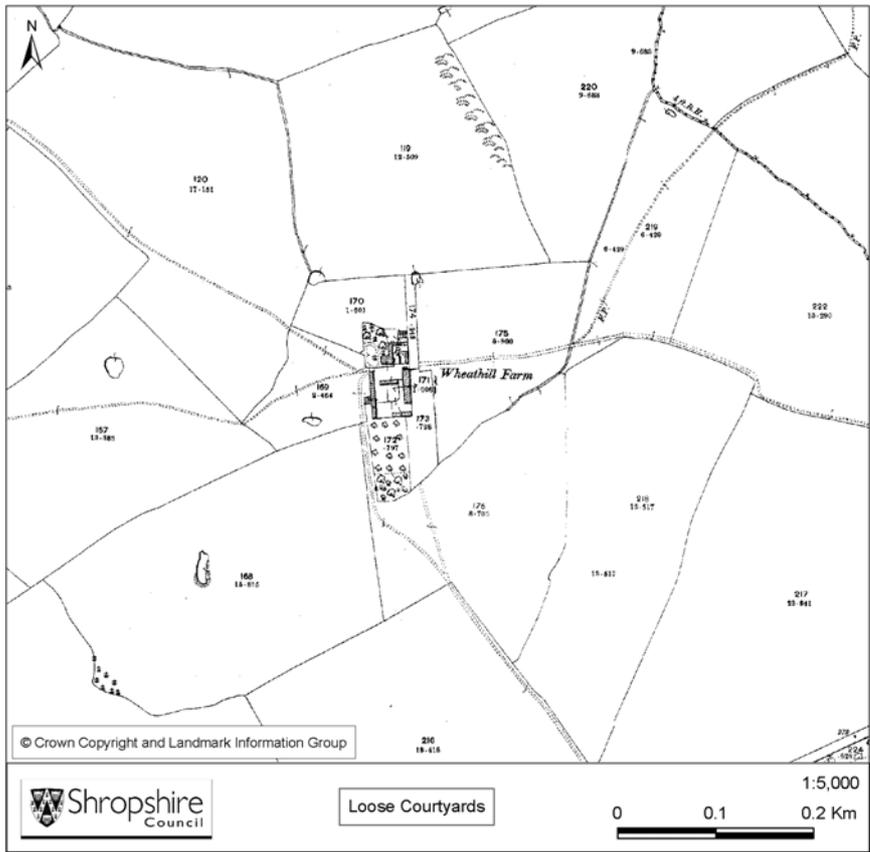
**Figure 32**

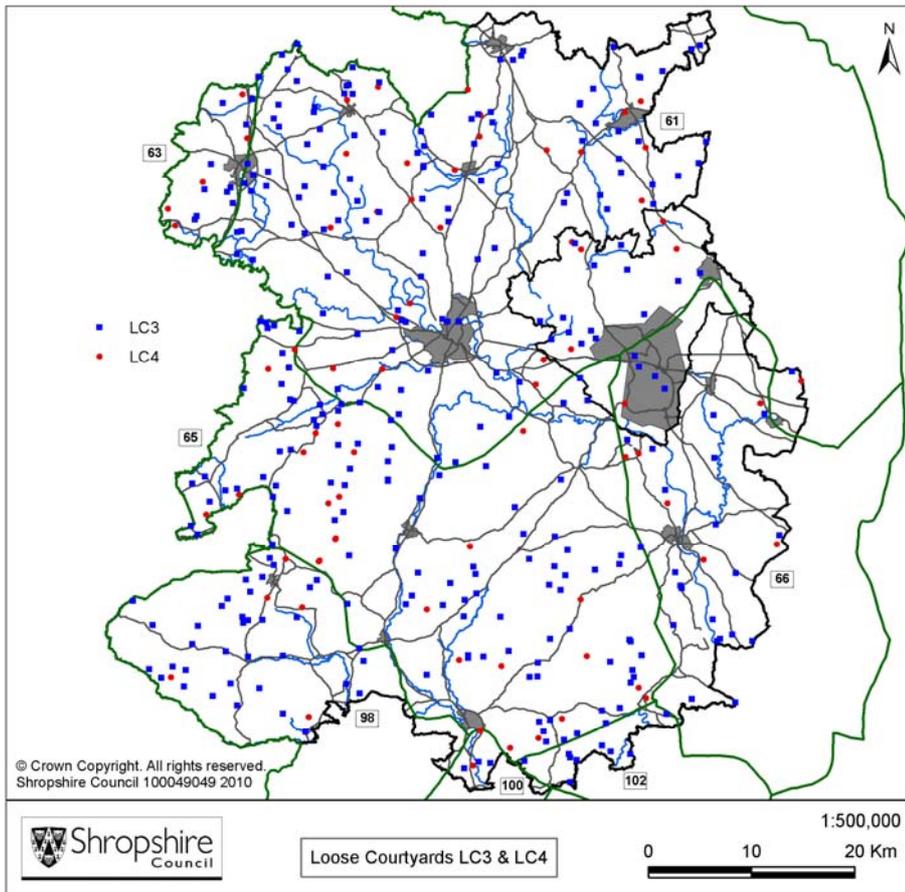
Set within a landscape of small assarts are some examples of small/medium loose courtyards. Within this small area Lower House Farm (1) forms an LC1, Yew Tree Farm (2) forms an LC2, Brook House Farm (3) forms an LC3, and White Lion Farm (4) forms an LC4.

**Figure 33**

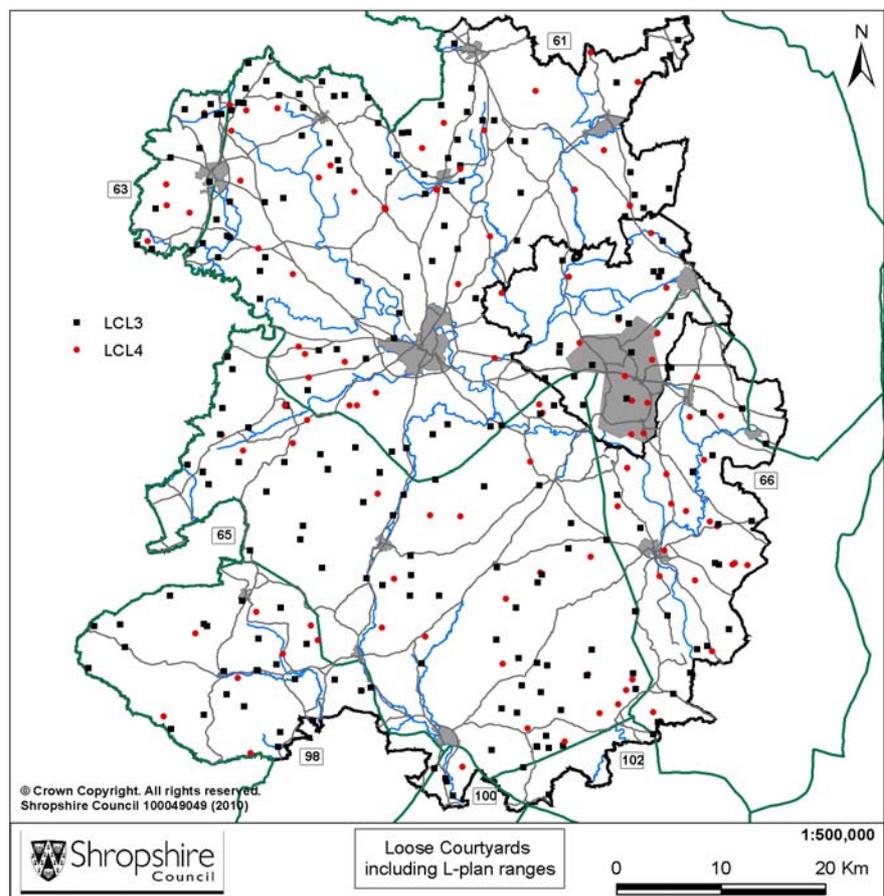
Here set within reorganised piecemeal enclosure Wheathill Farm is organised into a fairly substantial LC4 with the house set away from the main yard.

It must therefore be borne in mind that although broad distinctions in size can be made with the individual plan types, at a local level it is often the landscape which reflects the size of the farm.





**Left, Figure 34**  
 Map showing the distribution of loose  
 Courtyard farmstead with working  
 buildings to three and four sides  
 LC3 & LC4



**Right, Figure 35**  
 Map showing the distribution of Loose  
 Courtyard Farmsteads which include  
 L-ranges and buildings to the third and  
 fourth side (LCL3 & LCL4)